

2022 Survey of Member School Principals RE: Non-Enrolled Student Participation

Q.1

- Students attending a traditional public school currently do not have an option to participate at a different school if the school in which they are enrolled does not offer the specific sport they want to play.
- Due to legislative intervention, this opportunity is different than that offered for students attending non-public schools, STEM schools or community schools which may not offer a sport.
- The OHSAA is currently gathering feedback on whether or not to place this issue on the May 2022 ballot for a referendum vote. The member school principals will have the final say on whether or not any rule changes are implemented.
- Please take a few moments to provide your feedback on whether or not you believe the OHSAA Office should explore this participation expansion option for students attending a traditional public school that may not offer a sport.

Q.2 If traditional public school students were permitted to play a sport that is not offered by their school elsewhere, do you feel the options of where the student could compete should be limited?
(Select all that apply)

school	I do not support the idea of public school students playing sports at a different	130
	Yes, participation should be limited to schools in a neighboring district	108
	Yes, participation should be limited to schools within a set mileage range	45
	Yes, participation should be limited by Superintendent agreement	50
	No limit, participation should be extended to any school which offers the sport	24

Q.3 What concerns, if any, would you have if this type of exception were created? (*Select all that apply*)

Will hurt participation levels in other sports at school where students attends	152
Will disincentivise schools from trying to offer a sport with low numbers since they know students can go elsewhere to play	144
Will take away value of education-based athletics and create non-interscholastic program atmosphere	143
Will be taking away participation opportunities from students who actually attend a school (displacement)	182
Will be difficult to manage on an administrative level	163
Will be abused to create powerhouse teams	178
Other (Please specify on slide 5)	11
No concerns	25

Q.4 One of the primary arguments for expanding participation opportunities for students attending a traditional public school is that state law already offers this option for home educated students and students attending a non-public school, STEM school and/or charter school that may not offer a sport.

Knowing the concerns addressed on the last slide and knowing the inequities which currently exist as a result of state law:

Would you support a new exception that would allow traditional public school students whose school does not offer a specific sport an option to play at a different high school where they are not enrolled?

NOTE: The student would still be maintaining enrollment in the same school, he/she would just be playing a sport(s) at a different school.

Yes	116
No	132
Undecided	47

Q.5 Please provide any feedback on this topic you wish for the OHSA Office to consider (*If none, click next*):

People Answered

55

Opinions of Support

Small schools need an option like this

We should always have our students best interest in mind and provide as many opportunities as we can for them.

I believe the exceptions should be the same for public school students.

Short of repealing the parts of ORC that allow this participation by STEM/non-public/etc, expanding it to other public school students is the next best option.

I am sure this could create cases where students build relationships with coaches and players from other schools leading to transfer's. While this is a slight concern I still think the positives outweigh the negatives.

I believe this is long over due. Homeschool students have been allowed to do this for years.

I support this because students should have an opportunity to play the sport(s) of their choice regardless of school they attend, but must be monitored by OHSA.

Opinions Continued on Next Page...

Misc Comments

Could this be limited to specific sports and/or divisions? For example, gymnastics, competitive cheer, hockey is not offered in many schools; maybe these sports only are allowed to do this. Or schools that are too small to field an 11-man football team. .

It should only be allowed if the other district borders the home district

Does a school have the right to accept or deny athletes from coming to your school to play a sport not offered at the home school? Is there any funding that would go to the school receiving athletes from other schools?

Football has been an area of participation concern. I believe this would allow students to stay in their home district, but play football in another district if it is not offered at their home school.

A student should have to play at the public school closest to your residence.

The goal should be to allow students to participate in the sports of their choosing along with sensible guardrails to prevent exploitation as well as a relatively simple process for school administrators to navigate.

This should have been allowed when the exception for private was allowed

The only way that I would consider this is to match what those that are not attending a public school are able to do. My preference would be that legislation is adjusted to no longer allow the non-public attendees to do so.

All transportation should be the responsibility of the individual. The student must play the sport in a school closest in distance to the home school.

Truly undecided on this topic. Worried this might open the door for issues we haven't even thought of yet. Like so many other things - once you open the door....

For divisional breakdown purposes, it may be worth considering the differential in school enrollment vs. eligibility to participate enrollment.

The difference is that home schooled students and non-public students will still play in the district where their tax payer dollars are assigned.

Opinions Continued on Next Page...

Opinions of Concern

Once you start allowing students to participate in sports outside their own school district, you create a pathway for removing sports from schools all together. Then it's about city athletic programs, and scholarship goes out the window.

I know you cannot control state law, but I don't agree with non-traditional students being able to do this--I certainly will not support traditional public school students having this option.

Not in favor of Co-Op teams.

Schools who have small struggling programs may eliminate them and tell students to play elsewhere. Some small programs like swimming and bowling can be expensive, so schools could eliminate them and give students the option to play elsewhere.

This would simply encourage more recruiting that is already running rampant throughout the state

Funding concerns

Our AD has concerns: funding, battle for students (recruiting), how would schools determine neighboring districts, transfer eligibility, comp. balance

Rule should be you play sports where you attend school if that sport is not offered you have a choice move or do not play the sport. Way too many exceptions to the OHSAA rules and regulations.

I think the devaluation and purpose of interscholastic opportunities is greatly diminished by any movement in this direction.

I understand the disparity, but the solution is frankly far worse than the actual problem.

Working in a small rural high school, we are struggling getting participants out for the sports we are already currently offering in grades 7-12.

I prefer, to encourage our students to participate in a sport that we offer. To represent the school and community that we raised these children in.

The unintended consequences may be unreasonable and unfavorable. For instance, could there be a Title IX issue because of the side effects of such a decision.

It's time to create public school and private school divisions. Each should have their own championships and tournament structure.

Would this new legislation specify girl/boy sports...for example, if your school offered only a boys soccer team could a girl go to a neighboring district to play on a girls' team.

Opinions Continued on Next Page...

Opinions of Concern Continued...

How will this relate to competitive balance numbers?

I do not want this to happen. If a student wants to play a specific sport at another school then they need to move or open enroll to that school.

This is a bad idea for many reasons.

students have open enrollment opportunity if they want to play bad enough

Open enrollment already exists; if someone wants to play that bad, they can open enroll.

We understand the inequity and believe that students should compete at their assigned school only...be it public or private

It is the opinion of the athletic director and myself that all students (public, stem, private) should only participate in sports at the school they attend.

This would be a bad idea.

We do not wish to allow any students not enrolled in our school to participate in interscholastic athletics. Providing athletics to students not enrolled in our school is not fair to our tax payers. These are unfunded mandates.

The biggest concern is that people would manipulate the rule to create a power house. There would need to be a lot more detail put into the referendum before we could make an educated decision.

A private school student can only play a sport if offered by the public school district that they reside in. Your proposal will create much animosity between school districts.

Expenses are incurred by other school and turns school sports in to club sports

This is ridiculous to even consider!

If passed, why would the school without the program ever add it?

Q.7

Would you support an exception that allows two or more high schools to combine in order to create one team in a specific sport? *(Select all that apply)*

Yes, but no tournament entry for those teams	33
Yes, but only for schools with a combined enrollment count under a set number (i.e. smaller schools)	70
Yes (no limitations)	11
No	172
Undecided	35

Q.8 What is the maximum combined base enrollment by gender that should be in place in order for schools to combine to form one team?

(Example: Schools should only be allowed to combine if they have less than 100 combined boys in their schools.)

I do not support this Co-Op idea of combining at the high school level	176
50 combined students (by gender)	25
100 combined students (by gender)	30
150 combined students (by gender)	15
200 combined students (by gender)	17
There should be no base enrollment requirement in order for schools to combine teams	28

Q.9 Should schools in multi-high school districts be permitted to combine with schools outside their district?

Yes	14
Yes, but only if there are less than 5 schools within the multi-HS district	11
No	242
Undecided	24

Q.10 Please provide any feedback on this topic you wish for the OHSAA Office to consider (*If none, click next*):

People Answered

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Opinions of Support

This would be a huge help to our school to combine with another non public and be able to offer football

Misc Comments

Instead of enrollment, I think limiting the sports where a combined team was permissible would be more effective at meeting student interest levels across the state.

I'd rather focus our energy/resources on fighting the law that allows kids at these other types of schools to participate at a different school. But I know that's an uphill battle.

This exception would need to be closely monitored by OHSAA

The co-op program shouldn't look at overall gender enrollment but instead look at how many kids are wanting to participate in a sport.

Enrollment numbers should be adjusted based on the sport. One player in basketball has a greater impact than one player in football. Even small schools in NW Ohio could combine and create great basketball teams, but still struggle in football.

This should have been allowed when the exception for private was allowed

The enrollment cap should possibly vary from sport to sport. So 100 for ALL sports, but a greater enrollment number for sports like baseball/softball, soccer, and particularly football.

Districts with multiple buildings may be encouraged to create "super teams" if allowed to combine. For less popular sports, there is merit though. Determination of which would be allowed to combine could be problematic, but should be explored.

Opinions Continued on Next Page...

Opinions of Concern

While I'm not opposed to the European model of a community-sanctioned athletic program to replace all public school operated athletic programs, I think that any steps toward that hurt public school sports programs.

This is scary--and a slippery slope that will kill education-based athletics in the State of Ohio. We need to be fighting AGAINST this type of thinking, not supporting it.

Allowing schools to combine is a slippery slope. I could envision scenarios where students are discouraged from participating so that schools could combine.

This is a terrible idea. Will only create super teams. If this is the route OHSAA is heading, what separates them from AAU and club sports?

I think the devaluation and purpose of interscholastic opportunities is greatly diminished by any movement in this direction.

I do not support this idea at all. It puts athletics as the priority and their education is on the back burner.

If students are permitted to play in a sport not offered in their current school at another school then there would be no need to permit coop teams. The logistics for this would be difficult and could have many unintended consequences.

Open enrollment already exists; if someone wants to play that bad, they can open enroll.

We are strongly opposed to this

This would also be a bad idea.

This is a terrible idea that will be abused and be a nightmare. This will lead to the end of interscholastic sports.

Once again, this is ridiculous to even consider!

We don't support this Co-Op idea in any form