

# OHSAA BYLAW 4-7-2, TRANSFER, EXCEPTION GUIDE

This guide is designed to assist you and your administration in determining whether your transfer student meets one of the 11 enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer. This is **not** an exhaustive document in regard to the intricacies of these exceptions, but is merely a starting point when considering the matter.

To start, you must determine the following: First, did the student change schools after establishing eligibility by playing in a high school contest prior to the start of the 9th grade or after the 5th day of the 9th grade year? Second, did the student play an OHSAA sport at ANY high school in the 12 months immediately preceding the date of transfer into the new high school? If the answer to both of these questions is YES, the next step is to determine if the student meets one of the 11 enumerated exceptions to this bylaw.

## Exception 1-Bona Fide Change of Residence

The student and the **entire, immediate** family must make a bona fide change of residence into a new school district. Further, they must maintain that residence for at least one year from the time of the ruling. The requirement of the entire family moving may be waived under circumstances of a completed legal divorce, or a divorce being in process **prior to** the move. An *Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence* must be completed and can be found at <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/Affidavit-BonaFideResidence.pdf>.

## Exception 2-Legal Change of Custody

To apply this exception, legal change of custody must occur between the student's parents who live in two different school districts, and this change in custody must be what compelled the transfer. If custody is changed to a non-parent, evidence of abuse, neglect or delinquency/unruliness must be present. Note: This exception **cannot** be used when a student moves from one parent to another within a shared parenting plan.



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## Exception 3-School Closure, Discontinuation of HS Program, or Annexation/Consolidation

If a chartered public high school or a chartered non-public high school in which the student was enrolled closes or discontinues its entire high school program after grade nine, that student may enroll in any school and become immediately eligible at that school. Further, if the student's parents' residence is annexed to a different school district or consolidated within a school district, the student may be ruled eligible upon transfer to a school in the annexed or consolidated district.

## Exception 4-Self-Supporting Status

If the student does not live in the same district as his/her parents and is financially self-supporting, he/she may be ruled eligible at the school in which the student resides. Self-supporting documentation must be submitted for approval every 30 days. Note: Living with and/or being employed by a relative does not qualify for this exception.

## Exception 5-Transfer to State School for the Blind/Deaf

If the student transfers to the State School for the Blind or the State School for the Deaf, he/she shall be ruled eligible upon enrollment.

## Exception 6-Home Not Ready for Habitation

The Executive Director's Office may waive the residency requirement for a student who has been enrolled while his/her family's contracted domicile is not ready for habitation.

## Exception 7-Bullying, Harassment, Intimidation

If the student, parents and previous district supply sufficient, documented evidence that the student was a victim of pervasive harassment, intimidation or bullying as defined in ORC §3313.666, the student may have part, or all, of the 50% ineligibility period waived.

## Exception 8-International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

A student who transfers to take advantage of an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program may be ruled eligible upon approval. However,

if the student drops the program, that student will be immediately ineligible and is subject to sanctions in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties.

## Exception 9-One Time Transfer Back into the Student's Residential District

Each student is entitled to one transfer to the public high school located in which the student's parents' residence is located. This can be applied regardless of whether the student is transferring from a public or nonpublic school. Note: This exception **cannot** be used when a student moves from one parent to another within a shared parenting plan. The Exception 9 form must be completed and it can be found at [http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/Bylaw4-7-2\\_Exc9.pdf](http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/Bylaw4-7-2_Exc9.pdf).

## Exception 10-Discontinuation of Athletic Programs

If the student's school decides to effectively cease its sponsorship of each of its athletic programs, the student may transfer to any other district/system and have his/her eligibility restored. Further, that student may transfer back to the original district if it decides to resume its sponsorship of its athletic programs.

## Exception 11-Death in Immediate Family

If the student has experienced a death of an immediate family member and, because of this loss, it becomes necessary for the student to transfer, so long as the transfer occurs within a reasonable amount of time after the death, the Executive Director's Office may waive part, or all, of the 50% ineligibility period.

Again, this document is intended to provide you with a starting point when considering which exception **may** be applied to your student's transfer. It does not provide all of the necessary information when considering the matter. Each exception and its guidelines regarding required documentation and how to request a ruling from the Executive Director's Office can be found at <http://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer>. Please contact us if you have any questions.