



Ohio High School Athletic Association
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Situations Requiring Approval of the Commissioner's Office

For the 2011-2012 School Year

NOTE: In order to be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics in an Ohio member school, a student must comply with ALL requirements found in Bylaw 4 (4-1-1).

4-2-1-Exceptions 1 & 2-Age-High School-Student with a Disability; Student Retained in Grades K-3

If a student enrolled in high school attains the age of 19 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

EXCEPTION 1: If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated there under, and the student's specific disability has contributed significantly to the student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student **may be declared eligible by the Commissioner** if, in the Commissioner's sole discretion, the Commissioner determines that: (see criteria a-d below exception 2)

EXCEPTION 2: If a student has repeated any grade from Kindergarten through grade 3 at the recommendation of the student's teachers or other educational professionals and for purely academic reasons and, as a result of repeating any of these grades, the student cannot meet the age limitations of this bylaw in the student's senior year of high school, **the Commissioner's Office may declare the student eligible** notwithstanding this bylaw 4-2-1 if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner's Office, the following criteria can be met:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student's participation does not affect the principles of competitive equity; and
- d) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

Click here to view the checklist: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/Disability.pdf>

Please submit all documentation included in the checklist to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore. Please insure that the names and email addresses of persons who have knowledge of the student's athletic ability are included. This process requires a 30 day evaluation, and there is no guarantee of approval.

4-2-2-Exceptions 1 & 2-Age-Grades 7-8-Student with a Disability; Student Retained in Grades K-3

If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7-8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

EXCEPTION 1: If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated there under, and the student's specific disability has contributed significantly to the student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student **may be declared**

eligible by the Commissioner if, in the Commissioner's sole discretion, the Commissioner determines that: **(see criteria a-d below exception 2)**

EXCEPTION 2: If a student has repeated any grade from Kindergarten through grade 3 at the recommendation of the student's teachers or other educational professionals and for purely academic reasons and, as a result of repeating any of these grades, the student cannot meet the age limitations of this bylaw in the student's eighth grade year with the 7th and 8th grade school, the **Commissioner's Office may declare the student eligible** notwithstanding this bylaw 4-2-2 if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner's Office, the following criteria can be met:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student's participation does not affect the principles of competitive equity; and
- d) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

Click here to view the checklist: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/Disability.pdf>

Please submit all documentation included in the checklist to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore. Please insure that the names and email addresses of persons who have knowledge of the student's athletic ability are included. This process requires a 30 day evaluation, and there is no guarantee of approval.

4-3-3 - Eight Semesters

After a student completes the eighth grade, or is otherwise eligible for high school athletics pursuant to Bylaw 4-2-3, the student shall be eligible for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not. A student in grade 7 or 8 who attains the age of 15 before August 1 shall be eligible only at the high school level for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.

4-3-3 – Exception 1 – Completion of a Sports Season

EXCEPTION 1: **The Commissioner or the Board of Directors may permit** a student who completes the eighth semester of eligibility during the season of a sport to complete the sports season of the sport in which the student is participating provided the student is enrolled in school. If such extension is granted, the student is ineligible for further interscholastic participation when the sports season, regular and tournament, has ended.

4-3-3 - Exception 2 – Eight Semesters – Student with a Disability

EXCEPTION 2: If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated there under, and the student's specific disability has contributed significantly to the student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that **student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner** if, in the Commissioner's sole discretion, the Commissioner determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student's participation does not affect the principles of competitive equity; and
- d) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty

.Click here to view the checklist: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/Disability.pdf>

Please submit all documentation included in the checklist to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore. Please insure that the names and email addresses of persons who have knowledge of the student's athletic ability are included. This process requires a 30 day evaluation, and there is no guarantee of eligibility.

4-3-4 – Semesters Disregarded

A student who is enrolled 15 or more school days in any semester, or who participates in an interscholastic contest prior to or in a semester, shall have that semester count as one semester of eligibility.

Exception: **The Commissioner may, in the exercise of the Commissioner's sole discretion, disregard a particular semester of "enrollment" if extenuating circumstances of such enrollment are presented and are shown to have existed through no fault of the student-athlete.**

Such students are ineligible until the Commissioner's office has ruled on the circumstances.

Please submit a letter of explanation regarding the circumstances which precluded the student from attending the school where enrolled to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore.

1-6-4- Combining 7-8th Grade Schools

Member schools containing grades 7 and 8 may combine students from two or more schools within the school district to form one interscholastic team in a sport. **Requests for permission to combine students from two or more schools in the same non-public or public school system must be submitted annually to the OHSAA in writing** by the superintendent of the non-public or public school system. The written request must contain the following:

- 1 — Names of schools involved.
- 2 — Total number of students from each school involved in the sport.
- 3 — Total number of boys or girls in each grade of each school in the combination.
- 4 — The name of the Principal, name of the School and the complete address of the Administrator responsible for the conduct and operation of the combined team or teams.

The superintendent shall submit this request on school district letterhead to the attention of Sharon Shoemaker at the OHSAA office.

4-4-1 – Exception 1 – Waiver of Five-Credit Requirement for Seniors

The Commissioner's office may waive the requirement of the senior student's having passed five one-credit courses in the preceding grading period in the following circumstances:

- 1) Student has accumulated a sufficient number of credits to have graduated the preceding semester;
- 2) Student maintains a grade point average in the top 10% of the class;
- 3) Student can demonstrate that the underlying purposes of this bylaw have been otherwise fulfilled.
This means that the student is not purposely choosing to select fewer than five courses in which to be enrolled in the preceding grading period.

Please submit this request on school letterhead with the above listed documentation to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore.

4-4-1 – Exception 2 – Waiver of Preceding Grading Period Enrollment Requirements

The Commissioner's Office may waive the enrollment requirements of Bylaw 4-4-1 (Scholarship) provided the student has been withdrawn or removed from school because of circumstances due to personal accident, illness or family hardship. **An appeal for such waiver must come from the principal of the school and be in writing. The appeal for waiver shall contain documents with school and medical supporting evidence.**

The principal shall submit all school and medical documentation to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore.

4-4-1 – Exception 3 – Restoration of Eligibility for an Incomplete

If a student's failure to meet the requirements of this bylaw are due to an "incomplete" given in one or more courses which the student was taking during the grading period in question, **the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Commissioner's Office once the "incomplete" has been changed to a passing letter grade provided:**

- (i) the failure to complete the required course work during the grading period was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician; and
- (ii) the "incomplete" was given in accordance with Board of Education/other governing board adopted policies and procedures and is applicable to all students in the school; and
- (iii) the previously scheduled work and/or exams is/are completed within the time period provided in Board policy for completing work required to convert an "incomplete" into a letter grade; and
- (iv) there is no evidence that the "incomplete" was given in order to afford the student extended time in order to provide the student tutoring or other educational services simply to avoid a failing grade.

NOTE: this exception only applies where an "incomplete" has been issued and not a letter grade that is subsequently changed as a result of the extended time/additional work.

Please submit all documentation included in enumerated items above to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore.

4-4-2 – Restoration of Scholastic Eligibility for Student with a Disability

If, either through the due process procedure or the direct mediation process established by the Ohio Department of Education in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, it is determined that a school has failed to provide all of the support services as identified in a student's IEP as necessary for the student to receive a "free and appropriate public education," AND the Commissioner's office determines that this failure to provide these necessary services caused the student to fail to meet the requirements of Bylaw 4-4-1, the student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner upon the student's successful completion of the appropriate compensatory education as ordered by the Independent Hearing Officer (I.H.O.) or through the mediation process. **Note: Student is ineligible until the compensatory work is satisfactorily completed and the OHSAA rules the student eligible.**

Please submit all documentation including the ruling from the IHO or the mediation agreement to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore.

4-4-3 – Exception 2 – Ineligible Students may be declared eligible 24 hours after the school district's Mandatory Grade Reporting Date

Although this exception does not require OHSAA approval, the exception does require Board of Education action to adopt a mandatory credit reporting date after each grading period which is applicable to all students in all schools in the district. Click here to access a template that can be used by a BOE to adopt this policy http://www.ohsaa.org/members/4-4-3_Exception2_MandatoryGradeReport.doc

4-6-3 – Exception 1 – Parents who reside outside of Ohio but within the USA

The Commissioner's office may declare a student who is the subject of a custody order issued by a court of proper jurisdiction conferring custody upon a grandparent, aunt, uncle or sibling who resides in Ohio, if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner's office, the Commissioner's office determines that the purpose of this change in custody was not for athletic reasons, but for purely the best interest of the student in terms of the student's mental, physical and educational well-being.

Note: Upon enrollment of a student whose parents live outside the State of Ohio but within the United States, or if the parents move outside the State of Ohio prior to or during the student's high school career, the principal of that school in which the student is being enrolled shall notify the Commissioner's Office of

said enrollment, and the facts and circumstances regarding any change of custody so that the Commissioner's Office can make an informed decision regarding the student's qualifications under this exception.

Please submit a copy of the court ordered change of custody along with a letter of explanation indicating 1) the reason(s) why the student's parents cannot care for him or her in the home state; 2) verification that the new custodian does live in Ohio and that the student will live full time with that custodian; and 3) affirmation that this change of residence is not for athletic reasons to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore.

4-6-3 – Exception 7 – Parents who are in the military and reside outside of Ohio but within the USA

A student who has been enrolled in an Ohio school pursuant to the Interstate Compact of Educational Opportunities for Military Children may be declared eligible at a member school upon submission of a special power of attorney, relative to the custody or guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law. **The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner's office.**

Please submit a copy of the special military power of attorney to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore. Click here to retrieve the POA: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/ByLaw4-6-3-Exc7.pdf>

4-7-2 – Interdistrict Transfer – Note: In order to take advantage of any of the transfer exceptions, a student's parent(s) (biological or adoptive) must reside in Ohio (4-6-3) or meet one of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-6-3

If a student transfers after the fifth day of the student's ninth grade year or after having established eligibility prior to the start of school by playing in a contest (scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament contest), the student will be ineligible for one year from the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred. **A student is considered to have transferred whenever enrollment is changed from one school to another school, or whenever the student participates in a practice, scrimmage or contest with a school sponsored squad of a school in which the student has not been enrolled.**

4-7-2 - Exception 1 – Parents' Bona Fide Move

If the parents or legal guardian have made a bona-fide legal change of residence from one public school district to another public school district and **such move has taken place within the last calendar year**, the student may enroll in either the public school within the boundaries of that public school district that includes the new residence of the parents or legal guardian or any non-public school. **The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioners' office upon submission of an accurately completed Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence and accompanying guidelines and the OHSAA is satisfied that the bona fide move was not accomplished in order to circumvent the transfer bylaw.** Parents making a bona fide legal change of residence into the state of Ohio for the first time may enroll the student in any school that accepts that student. That student shall be eligible insofar as transfer is concerned in accordance with this bylaw. Note 1: These forms can be found at <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/Affidavit-BonaFideResidence.pdf> Note 2: See the definition of a bona fide residence in Bylaw 4-6-1.

Please submit a copy of the Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore. Please review the ABRF to insure that it is complete and that each question requiring an affirmative answer has been answered correctly. Failure to complete or affirm each answer will require the parents to resubmit.

4-7-2 - Exception 2 - Change of Custody

If the student is the ward of a court-appointed guardian, and there is a subsequent change in that guardian that **results in a change of school district and the OHSAA is satisfied that the change of custody was not accomplished in order to circumvent the transfer bylaw**, the student shall be eligible in the district of

residence of the new guardian or at any non-public school provided the student **lives with the guardian for a minimum of one year.**

Likewise, if the student is the child of parents who were never married or have had their marriage terminated and there is a court ordered change of custody, the student shall be eligible in the district of residence of the new custodial parent or at any non-public school provided the student lives with the new custodial parent. For purposes of this exception, the term "parent" means the biological or adoptive parents of the student or, as the case may be, the person to whom parenting rights and responsibilities have been allocated pursuant to court order. In the event a student has been temporarily or permanently removed from the home, "parent" means the person or government agency with legal or permanent custody. **When a change of residential parent or legal custodian results in a change of school district, the student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.**

To receive a ruling the principal or athletic administrator shall send to Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore:

1. A copy of the court order changing the custodianship signed by either a judge or magistrate (affidavits for school attendance are not acceptable)
2. Cover letter verifying that 1) the parent(s) of the student live in Ohio; 2) the person named in the custody document is a bona fide resident of the new public school district into which the student has transferred (or non-public school if that option is selected); and 3) the student will live with the custodian.
3. An explanation as to the reason for the change of custody. Please include the name of the school from which the student is transferring so that we can verify this explanation.

A note on shared parenting

ORC § 3109.04 (L)(6) provides, in part, that:

" . . . if an order is issued by a court pursuant to this section and the order provides for shared parenting of a child, each parent, regardless of where the child is physically located or with whom the child is residing at a particular point in time, as specified in the order, is the 'residential parent,' the 'residential parent and legal custodian,' or the 'custodial parent' of the child.

Many have argued that a "reallocation" or re-designation of the residential parent in an existing shared parenting plan constitutes a change of custody, thus triggering Exception 2. However, the statute supersedes any language of a court ordered shared parenting plan and insofar as the statute declares both parents the "legal custodian," "residential parent" and "residential parent and legal custodian," **no language "reallocating" rights under a shared parenting plan changes the legal status afforded a parent under this statute.**

Thus, in order to effect change in the legal status of a parent in this situation, the shared parenting plan must be **dissolved or terminated** (thus rendering this Code section inapplicable) and one or the other parent be designated the sole custodian and residential parent of the child. Furthermore, in order for Exception 2 to apply, that child must reside with the newly-designated, sole custodial parent for a minimum of one year

4-7-2 – Exception 3 – Shared Parenting

EXCEPTION 3 — If, and only if, either one of the parents in a Shared Parenting Plan, notwithstanding any provisions therein to the contrary, makes a bona-fide legal change of residence from one public school district into another public school district and **such move has taken place within the last calendar year**, the student shall be immediately eligible insofar as transfer is concerned in the public school located in the residential district of either parent or any nonpublic school. **See Exception 1 for the requirements for completing the Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence.**

Click here to retrieve Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/Affidavit-BonaFideResidence.pdf>

Please submit a copy of the Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore. Please review the ABR to insure that it is complete and that each question requiring an affirmative answer has been answered correctly. Failure to complete or affirm each answer will require the parent to resubmit.

4-7-2 –Exception 5 – School Annexation or Consolidation

EXCEPTION 5 — If the bona fide residence of the student's parents 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 subject to modification by formal action by the Boards of Education concerned. **A copy of such action by Boards of Education must be on file in the Association office before the Commissioner's Office can rule the student eligible.**

Please submit a copy of the BOE action and request for eligibility to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore.

4-7-2 –Exception 6 – Transfers into Public School in Parents' Residential District

EXCEPTION 6 — A student shall be entitled to one transfer into a public high school located in the public school district within which the student's parent residence is located regardless of from where the student is transferring except that such a transfer shall not be permitted if the student has previously utilized the superintendent's agreement which was previously set forth in exception 6 to transfer from that same public high school. **Use of this exception requires the submission of the Exception Six Form to document the transfer as set forth in the exception. This exception shall not be used to transfer from one high school to another high school within the same multi-high school district**

Click here to retrieve the Form: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/Exc6.PDF>

Please submit a copy of the exception six form to Brandy Young at the OHSAA office. This documentation does not require a ruling of eligibility but must be submitted as soon as the student has enrolled in the public high school.

4-7-2 – Exception 7 – Transfer to a Non-Public School

A student may return to non-public education by transferring from the public high school located in the district of residence of the parents to a non-public high school and have her/his eligibility restored at the discretion of the Commissioner's office provided the following conditions have been met:

1. That the transfer from the non-public high school to the public high school was not done for athletic reasons but for purely academic reasons or family circumstances beyond the control of the student and/or his/her parents; and
2. The student had been continuously enrolled in the same system of non-public education (e.g., Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of Independent Schools, Association of Christian School International or other category as denoted by the State Department of Education) beginning in the 6th grade and continuing thereafter through and including the eighth grade **and either:**
 - a. **The student began grade nine in a high school within the same non-public system and shall transfer back to that same non-public high school or**
 - b. **The student began grade nine in the public school located in the residential district of the parents and the transfer back to a high school within the same non-public school system in which the student was enrolled from grades 6-8 shall occur prior to the start of the student's tenth grade year.**

3. The student has been ruled eligible by the Commissioner's office.

The principal or athletic administrator shall submit a letter documenting each of the conditions set forth in this exception to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore.

4-7-2 - Exception 8 – Self-Supporting Status

EXCEPTION 8 — A student who does not live in the same school district as parents or legal guardian (**Note: parents must reside in Ohio**) and who is financially self-supporting may be ruled eligible upon approval of the Commissioner at a school in the district where the student resides. The Commissioner is empowered to establish requirements for the student to be determined to be self-supporting. These requirements shall be established for each school year by May 15th of the preceding year. Self-support documentation must be submitted for approval every 30 days. **The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.**

Click here to retrieve the form: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/selfsupport.pdf> **Note: Living with and/or being employed by a relative does not qualify for self-support under this exception.**

Please submit a copy of the Self Support form and all documentation including bank statements to the attention of either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore. The form and all documentation are due to the office every 30 days.

4-7-2 – Exception 10 – Home not ready for Habitation

EXCEPTION 10 — The Commissioner shall have the discretionary power to waive the Residence requirements in only those cases of students whose parents live outside the school district and whose contracted domicile is not available for their habitation. **The students are ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.**

To receive a ruling the principal or athletic administrator shall send to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore:

1. Copy of purchase or lease agreement indicating the prospective date of habitation. **Note: site plans or zoning permits do not constitute purchase agreements.**
2. Cover letter verifying that the person named in the agreement is currently an Ohio resident and will be a bona fide residence of the new public school district into which the student has transferred (or non-public school if that option is selected).
3. **Note: The OHSAA will approve this eligibility for 90 days only.**

4-7-2 - Exception 11 – School District Completely Discontinues all Sports Programs

EXCEPTION 11 — During the period of time, and only if, a school district ceases to sponsor its entire interscholastic athletic programs, a student from that district may transfer to any other school district/system and **have her/his eligibility restored upon application to the Commissioner's Office.** Furthermore, if the district from which such student transferred resumes with its sponsorship of interscholastic programs and the student wishes to transfer back to the district from which she/he transferred, he/she may do so and have her/his eligibility restored in accordance with Exception 6 of Bylaw 4-7-2, and notwithstanding Bylaw 4-7-3, provided the transfer back occurs prior to the start of the next school year following the school year in which resumption of sponsorship of interscholastic programs occurred.

In consideration of all applications for the restoration of eligibility pursuant to this Exception, the Commissioner's Office shall give due consideration to all factors relating to the transfer and particularly the timing of the transfer in relation to the effective date on which sponsorship of interscholastic athletics ceases and/or resumes

The principal or athletic administrator shall make application by submitting the names of all students transferring under this exception to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore. Such application shall include the name of the school from which the student is transferring.

4-7-2 – Exception 12 – Transfer from a Domestic Exchange Program

The membership approved an exception to the transfer bylaw which now permits an Ohio student, who has transferred for the purpose of studying in a domestic exchange program with which the Ohio high school has partnered, to transfer back to the same Ohio high school from which the student originally transferred.

Several conditions must be met in order for the transfer back to the Ohio high school to be approved:

- 1) The domestic exchange program must **exist primarily for academic and educational learning** experiences (Note: sports academies would not meet this requirement)
- 2) The student **must receive credits that apply toward graduation** at the Ohio school for his/her work at the domestic exchange program.
- 3) If the student does participate in interscholastic athletics while enrolled in the domestic exchange program, the **athletics participation is secondary to the academic and educational reasons** for participation in the domestic exchange program.
- 4) The program has, in its curriculum guide, a **structured beginning and ending**.
- 5) The student is **ineligible until declared eligible** by the Commissioner's office upon submission of the designated approval form.

The new form is entitled *"Request for Eligibility of a Student Returning to the Previous High School from a Domestic Exchange Program – Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 12"* and can be found on the OHSAA website under the Eligibility Tab and by clicking here: http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/ByLaw4-7-2_Exc12.pdf

Please submit the form to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore.

4-7-3 – Transfer during a sport's season

Although there is no approval process connected to this bylaw, members are reminded that a student who transfers schools during the season of the sport, after having participated in a **regular season** contest in that sport, is ineligible to participate in the same sport at the new school unless the parents have made bona fide move into a new school district (Exception 1 of Bylaw 4-7-2), and the new school selected is more than 50 miles from the school from which the student has transferred as measured by www.mapquest.com.

4-7-4 – Intradistrict Transfer

The **superintendent** or person delegated by the superintendent of either a non-public or public school system may transfer students within the system without jeopardizing their eligibility only in the following circumstances. **Such transfers are eligible only after approval by the Commissioner's office.**

- 1) *The parent(s) or legal custodian of the student have made a bona fide move from one attendance zone into a new attendance zone within the school district and such move entitles the student to attend another district high school OR*
- 2) *There has been a court-ordered change of legal custody from one individual to another individual living within a new attendance zone within the school district and the student shall live with the new custodian in the new attendance zone OR*
- 3) *The school closes or there was a mistake made in the student's initial placement*
- 4) *The student is a child with a disability whose program as prescribed by the student's I.E.P. has been changed to another high school*

- 5) *The student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing unsafe schools or academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the superintendent that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons.*

The superintendent of the district or his/he designee shall send a letter to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore listing the students and the schools from which and into which they are transferring, as well as documentation as to the reason for the transfer in accordance with the provisions listed above.

4-7-5 – Transfer from Poor Performing Schools – Note: Student’s parents must reside in Ohio. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 4-7-2 and 4-7-4, if a student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing unsafe schools or academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Commissioner’s office that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons, the Commissioner’s office may declare such transferring student eligible upon application to the Commissioner’s office. **The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner’s office.**

Click here to retrieve the instructions: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/Bylaw4-7-5.pdf>

Note: This transfer provision may be used just one time during a student’s high school years.

Please submit the request for eligibility to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore. Please follow the guidance stipulated at the end of the list of schools indicated in the link above.

4-7-6 – Intradistrict Transfer at the beginning of the year – Public School Systems

If a student transfers to a high school within the same public school district within which the school from where the student transferred is a part, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Commissioner’s office provided the following conditions have been met:

- 1) The student **has been reassigned to the high school by the School District as a result of redistricting or a specific change of program**; and
- 2) The **transfer takes place prior to the beginning of the school year**; and
- 3) The District **petitions the Commissioner’s office for the restoration of eligibility** for the student **no later than 15 days after the start of the school year**.
- 4) The **student is ruled eligible by the Commissioner’s office**.

The superintendent or his/her designee wishing to request a transfer shall direct a letter to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore stipulating the reason for the as proscribed in item #1 above. The student shall make the transfer no later than the first day of the new school year, and the superintendent has until the 15th day of the school year to request the transfer eligibility.

4-7-7 – Intradistrict Transfer at the beginning of the year – Non-Public Schools within a specific category

If a student transfers to a high school located within the jurisdiction of a non-public multiple high school system (e.g., Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of Independent Schools, Association of Christian Schools International or other category as denoted by the State Department of Education) from another high school within that same system, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Commissioner’s office provided the following conditions have been met:

- 1) The **student has been reassigned to the high school by the superintendent** or other administrative authority of that school system **as a result of a specific change of academic program**; or a **material change in economic circumstances so as to create a hardship**; or a **material change in transportation circumstances so as to create a hardship**; and
- 2) The **transfer takes place prior to the beginning of the school year**; and

- 3) The Superintendent or other administrative authority of the system petitions the Commissioner's office for the restoration of eligibility for the student no later than 15 days after the beginning of the school year verifying in detail the specific reason for the transfer in accordance with item #1 and certifying that the transfer is not for athletic reasons; and
- 4) The student is ruled eligible by the Commissioner's office.

The superintendent or his/her designee wishing to request a transfer shall direct a letter to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore stipulating the reason for the as proscribed in item #1 above. The student shall make the transfer no later than the first day of the new school year, and the superintendent has until the 15th day of the school year to request the transfer eligibility.

4-8-1- International and Exchange Students

An International Student is a student from a country or Province from outside the United States. International Students are ineligible for interscholastic athletics in Ohio unless they can meet one of the exceptions below.

4-8-1 – Exception 1 – Parents move to the USA

EXCEPTION 1: An International Student may be declared eligible if the student's parents have made a bona fide legal change of residence into Ohio, and International Student is enrolled and attending an Ohio member school. **The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner's office.**

The Principal shall submit a letter to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore verifying that the parents are legal residents of Ohio.

4-8-1 – Exception 2 – International Students in Visitor Exchange Programs

EXCEPTION 2: The International Student who is a participant in a recognized visitor exchange program may be eligible for interscholastic athletics subject to the restrictions and conditions set forth below:

- a. The International Student may be eligible for a maximum of one school year which is the first year of enrollment at the Ohio member school.
- b. The International Student has not previously participated in any other ~~foreign~~ visitor exchange program in the United States. If the International Student has participated in another visitor exchange program in Ohio or any other State, the period of participation in that other program shall count against the one year maximum eligibility set forth in (a) above.
- c. The International Student is in this country pursuant to a **J-1 Visa**. No other visa type, passport or other documentation shall qualify the student for eligibility under this exception.
- d. There shall be no evidence of a direct placement for athletic purposes into a specific member school in Ohio.
- e. No more than five (5) International Students from the same visitor exchange program, in one member school, shall be permitted to be eligible.
- f. The member school at which the International Student wishes to be declared eligible for interscholastic athletic participation must submit the appropriate forms to the Commissioner's Office, and the student and school must cooperate with the Commissioner's Office in determining that all other requirements for eligibility have been satisfied.

The International Student described in this Exception 2 shall be **ineligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's office** upon submission of the appropriate form. **Click here to retrieve:**
<http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/FEelig.pdf>

The principal or administrative designee must complete the first part of the request for eligibility form affirming that the student has not been graduated from his/her secondary school in the home country; that the student is eligible in accordance with Ohio's age, scholastic and semester standards; that the student possesses the J-1 visa and that the sponsoring program has not placed more than five students from the same program at the high school. The student will then complete the second part of the form. As in the past, all completed forms shall be sent to the OHSAA office to the attention of Molly Downard (mdownard@ohsaa.org) either via email, fax or by US mail. Due to the large number of students, it is not possible for our staff to call or email you with a response. As soon as the eligibility has been approved by Assistant Commissioner Roxanne Price, the form will be returned to your school via the US mail.

4-8-1 –Exception 3 - Adoption

EXCEPTION 3: A student from a country or province outside the United States may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics upon the submission of a court approved document certifying the student's adoption by a legal resident of the school district in which the student is attending. **The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner upon submission of the appropriate court documents.**

To receive a ruling the principal or athletic administrator shall send to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore:

1. Copy of the court entry approving the adoption and signed by either a judge or magistrate
2. Cover letter verifying that the person named in the adoption document is a bona fide resident of the new public school district into which the student has transferred (or non-public school if that option is selected) and the student will live with the adoptive parent.

4-8-1 – Exception 4 – Parents are USA Citizens living outside the USA

EXCEPTION 4: A student from a country or province outside the United States may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics when the student's parents are citizens of the United States who reside outside the United States. **The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner upon submission of the appropriate court documents.**

Principal shall submit letter requesting a ruling and citing circumstances to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore.

4-8-2 – Ohio Student Return from an International Exchange Program

An Ohio student returning from an international exchange program may resume interscholastic competition in the same Ohio member school from which the student left at the point of interruption of the student's Ohio education provided the student did not receive credits toward graduation while participating in the exchange program and provided the student meets all requirements relative to age, semesters of eligibility as well as preceding grading period scholastic requirements upon return to the member high school. **Such a student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner's office**

The Principal shall submit a letter requesting the restoration of eligibility citing circumstances of the student's situation to either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore.