



Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214

BUSINESS RULES FOR PARTICIPATION OF NON-ENROLLED STUDENTS IN MULTI- HIGH SCHOOL/7-8th GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Created: 2007-08 School Year

Updated and re-approved by OHSAA Board of Directors: August 2018, April 2017

Introduction:

Bylaw 4-3-1 states, "All students participating in a school-sponsored sport must be enrolled in and attending full-time in accordance with all duly adopted Board of Education or similar governing board policies of that school." There are currently six exceptions to this Bylaw and this document will focus on the placement of students utilizing exception four (Non-traditional/specialty school students) and exception six (Home educated students, Community school students, STEM school students and Non-public school students)

WITHIN A MULTIPLE HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT.

To clarify, the **term non-traditional/specialty school is used throughout this document to reference students attending an alternative school, digital school, magnet school and/or virtual school sponsored by a district.** An "alternative school," as defined within the ORC §3313.53, is one which is created to serve students who are on suspension, who are having truancy problems, who are experiencing academic failure, who have a history of class disruption, who are exhibiting other academic or behavioral problems specified in the resolution, or who have been discharged or released from the custody of the department of youth services. The OHSAA, however, defines "alternative school" to include, **but not be limited to the ORC definition**, which is why we use the term "non-traditional/specialty." **The designation of "non-traditional" does not refer to comprehensive high schools which are simply non-member schools.**

Please note that these "non-traditional/specialty" schools 1) are NOT community or STEM schools, 2) are sponsored by a public-school district and 3) have been assigned an IRN. Students attending these types of schools, and who live within a multiple high school district, shall be assigned to participate in athletics at a high school located in their parent's district of residence (or the district high school closest to the parents' residence if the parents do not live within the school district) in accordance with the following business rules.

Likewise, students who attend community (also referred to as charter schools, many of which are digital/online schools) or STEM schools sponsored by a school district (which, as explained above, are different than non-traditional/specialty schools), as well as those students who are home educated or attend a non-public school that does not offer a specific sport - these students are permitted to participate only in the district of residence of their parents as per Ohio law. There are exceptions for the home educated and nonpublic school student (see below). Students who receive their education through one of the aforementioned means, and who live within a multiple high school district, have the same option as a student who attends a non-traditional/specialty school, and all these students will be assigned to participate in sports at a member high school in accordance with these same business rules (regardless of whether that member school is poor performing). For non-enrolled students whose parent(s) live outside the district, school administrators will also need to ensure the student continues to have a parent in Ohio to be in compliance with Bylaw 4-6-3.

Please note that students who are physically present in a brick-and-mortar member school building during the day, but attend a non-traditional school with different a IRN number **housed within that same building**, have a participation opportunity at the school where they are physically present during the school day, regardless of their parent's place of residence. This assignment to the primary brick-and-mortar school does not include students who receive their education through an online platform. If any one of these multiple schools housed in the same building is a community or STEM school, the participation opportunity is governed by state law and the residence of the parents is paramount as outlined below.

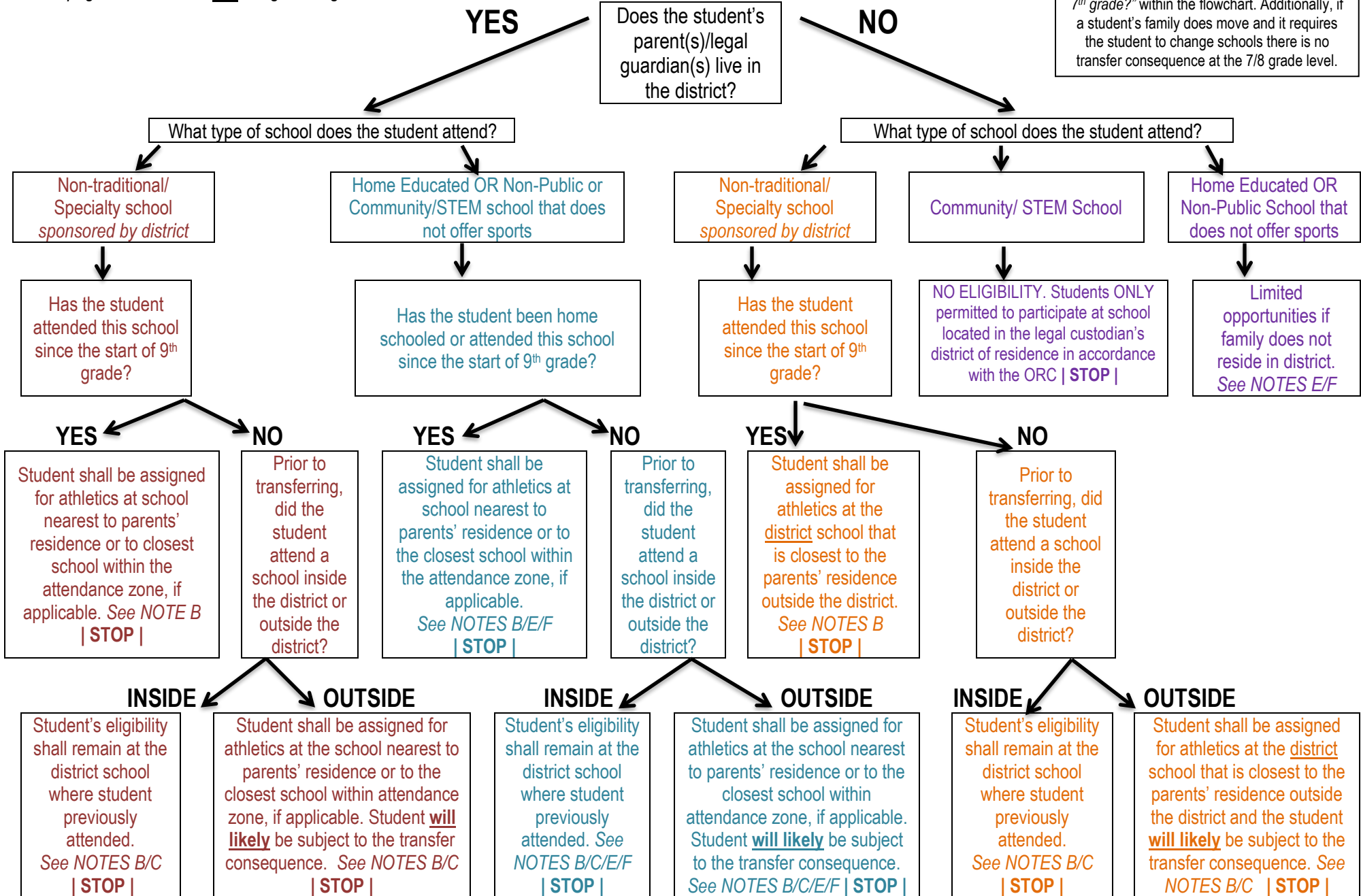
PLEASE CALL A MEMBER OF THE OHSAA COMPLIANCE STAFF WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR TO DISCUSS A SPECIFIC SCENARIO.

*For students residing in a residence **with** their legal custodian

See page 4 for students **not living with legal custodian

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**For 7/8 grade students, use: "Has the student attended this school since the start of 7th grade?" within the flowchart. Additionally, if a student's family does move and it requires the student to change schools there is no transfer consequence at the 7/8 grade level.



Supplemental Notes:

NOTE A: FOR SCHOOLS NOT OFFERING SPECIFIC SPORTS- After adhering to the above detailed placement assignments, if the closest member high school to the parents' residence does not sponsor the sport in which the non-enrolled student wishes to participate, the student may be assigned to participate at the next closest high school that does sponsor the sport within the District, regardless of whether that member school is poor performing, in that sport only. Upon coming back to the student's properly assigned school to play a different sport that the school DOES offer, NO TRANSFER CONSEQUENCE WILL BE APPLIED.

NOTE B: If the student's parents make a move between attendance zones, or move closer to a different high school within the district (for districts that do not have assigned attendance zones), that student is permitted, but not required, to transfer his/her athletic eligibility to the new closest high school, within the attendance zone if applicable. However, the district Superintendent or his/her designee is required to notify the OHSAA office via a formal letter of the change in participation opportunity placement (**due to the family's move**) prior to the student's participation at the new school. If the student does not transfer his/her eligibility to the new school closest to the parent's residence, the student's eligibility will simply be maintained at the school where he/she established initial eligibility.

NOTE C: If a student transfers from a school inside the district to another non-traditional/specialty school sponsored by the district of residence then the student's eligibility is simply maintained at the school where they were previously enrolled (as stipulated in above flowchart) because both schools are sponsored by the district. However, if a student transfers from a school inside the district to home education, a community school, a STEM school or a non-public school (at the high school level) and the parents live in the district, then the student stays assigned to the school they were formerly enrolled for athletic purposes (as stipulated in above flowchart) BUT will be subject to the transfer consequence because they are transferring to a non-district school.

NOTE D: Non-enrolled students are NOT permitted to transfer their participation opportunity from one high school to another high school the district unless stipulated by a move into a new attendance zone (see note B). However, if the **superintendent of the multiple high school district** decides that the student's participation opportunity should be changed from the high school nearest to the residence of the parents to a different high school within the district due to the need to protect the student's physical or psychological well-being or such other extenuating circumstance as the superintendent deems appropriate, the following shall be required:

- a. The superintendent shall petition the Executive Director's Office for a change of participation high school
- b. The superintendent shall clearly and specifically define the rationale for the request and the circumstances which created the need for the request.
- c. The superintendent shall request reassignment to the high school that is next closest to the parents' residence within the district.
- d. The student shall remain ineligible until ruled eligible, insofar as athletic placement is concerned, by the Executive Director's Office.

NOTE E: In addition to the residential district, non-public school students also have a participation opportunity at the public HS **in the district where the non-public school is physically located**. Once the student has established eligibility at one of those public HS options (where their parents live OR where the non-public school is located), any transfer of eligibility to the other option would require the student to fulfill the transfer consequence.

NOTE F: If the sport that a home educated student wishes to play is not sponsored by any school in the residential district, the student MAY be permitted to participate at another school district subject to the sole discretion of that district's superintendent. Once the student has established eligibility at one of those public HS options (where their parents live OR in another district where their parents do not reside) any transfer of eligibility to the other option would require the student to fulfill the transfer consequence. **Consequently, the family of a home educated student should fully consider all potential ramifications of participating at a non-residential district school.** Note that if the residential district school offers a certain sport then, in accordance with ORC 3313.5312, the home educated student is permitted to participate in that sport at that school **ONLY**. Therefore, if a student participates at a non-residential school but is required by state law to participate in a different sport back at their residential district then the student will be held accountable to the transfer consequence each time the participation option changes (i.e. sitting out the second half of the season and the OHSAA tournament).

NOTE G: (For students residing in a residence without their legal custodian) If the student/individual with POA/Caretaker Affidavit makes a move between attendance zones, or move closer to a different high school within the district (for districts that do not have assigned attendance zones), that student is permitted, but not required, to transfer his/her athletic eligibility to the new closest high school, within the attendance zone if applicable. However, the district Superintendent or his/her designee is required to notify the OHSAA office via a formal letter of the change in participation opportunity placement (**due to the move**) prior to the student's participation at the new school. If the student does not transfer his/her eligibility to the new school closest to the new residence, the student's eligibility will simply be maintained at the school where he/she established initial eligibility.

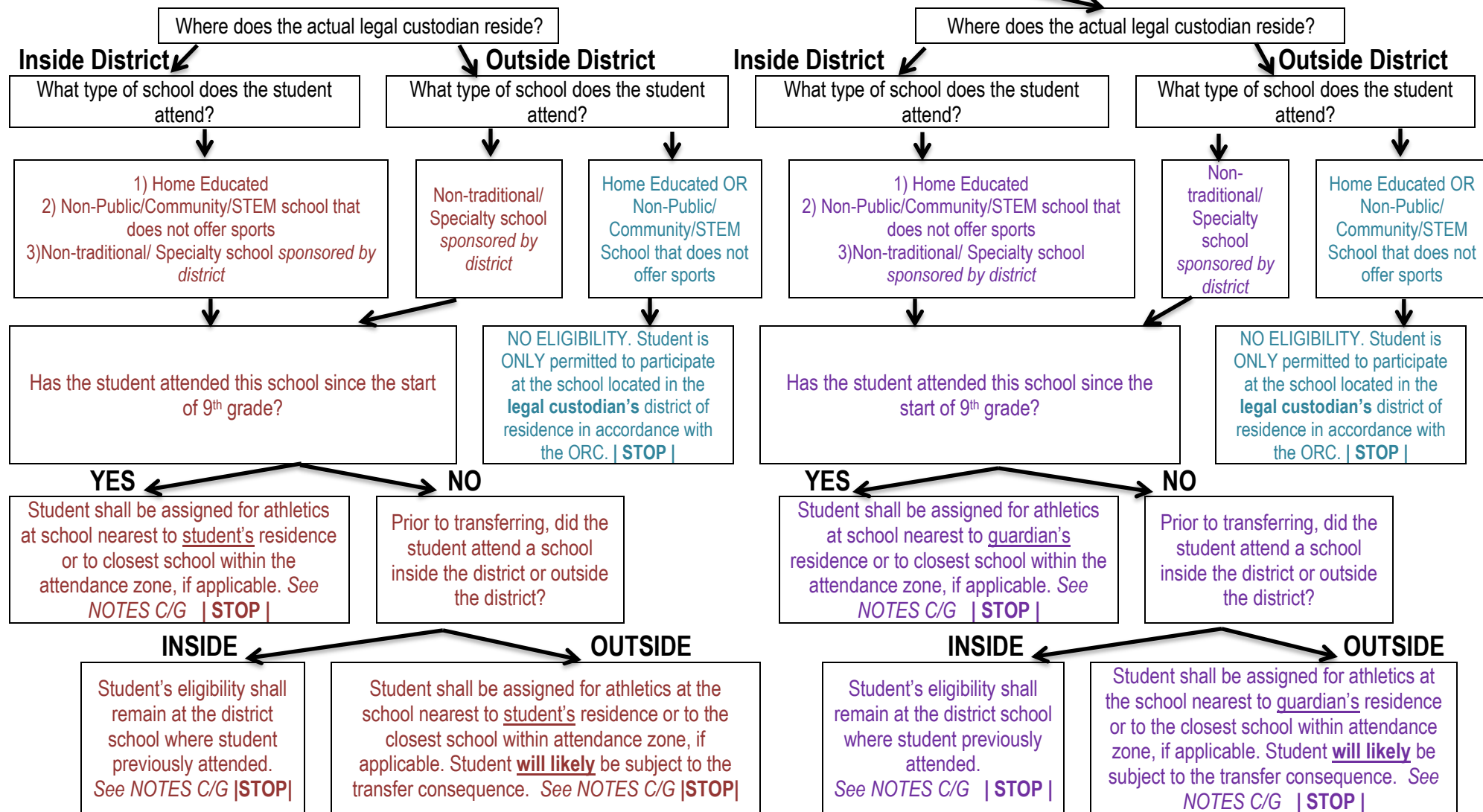
*For students residing in a residence without their legal custodian

Self-Support

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How has the student established residency within the district?

Living with Individual with POA/Caretaker Affidavit



** These assignment using a POA and/or Caretaker Affidavit are done in accordance with ORC 3313.64, 3313.537, 3313.5312, 3313.531. For 7/8 grade students, use: "Has the student attended this school since the start of 7th grade?" within the flowchart. Additionally, if a student's family does move and it requires the student to change schools there is no transfer consequence at the 7/8 grade level.