

Student Transfers & Athletic Eligibility - Frequently Asked Questions

The following scenarios are those most frequently seen in regards to student transfers and high school athletic eligibility. This list is not complete or all-encompassing. Please check with your school's athletic director or the Office of Student Life/District Athletic Director for specific information.

The [Washington Interscholastic Activities Association \(WIAA\)](#) have recently updated their webpage to include tools for students and families to make decisions regarding school transfers. Follow the links below for more information:

CHANGING / TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS: <i>What happens to my eligibility if I transfer schools?</i>	
Before You ENROLL	Prior to enrolling a student-athlete into a new school, this form will help to determine athletic eligibility at the new school.
Before You WITHDRAW	Prior to withdrawing a student-athlete from a school, this form will help to determine athletic eligibility at the new school.
New Student Packet	When a new student-athlete joins a school without 1 (one) year of continuous enrollment in the school, the AD will work with the new student and family to complete this packet in order to determine eligibility.
Window of Transfer Form	For students accessing the Window of Transfer

Transfer and eligibility guidelines follow both [Washington Interscholastic Activities Association \(WIAA\)](#) and [Tacoma Public Schools \(TPS\) rules and regulations](#). Specific rules are referenced below where applicable.

- **Student-athlete attended a TPS middle school as an 8th grader and enrolled in a comprehensive TPS high school outside of their area of residence during the “Window of Transfer”.** This student-athlete would be deemed **eligible** for varsity competition provided:
 - *Meet all other eligibility criteria.*
- **Student-athlete previously attended a TPS high school before moving with his/her/their entire family unit to attend another TPS high school (WIAA rule 18.11.2.A).** This student-athlete would be deemed **eligible** for varsity competition provided:
 - *Meet all other eligibility criteria.*
 - *Sign a [WIAA residency contract](#) and provide proof of new residence.*
 - *Previous school provides a completed [Previous School Statement](#) upon request by the new school.*
- **Student-athlete previously attended an out-of-district high school before moving with his/her/their entire family unit and enrolling at TPS high school (WIAA rule 18.11.2.A).** This student-athlete would be deemed **eligible** for varsity competition provided:
 - *Meet all other eligibility criteria.*
 - *Sign a [WIAA residency contract](#) and provide proof of new residence.*
 - *Previous school provides a completed [Previous School Statement](#) upon request by the new school.*
- **Student-athlete previously attended a TPS high school before requesting an optional enrollment/parent-initiated transfer to another TPS high school (without changing residence).** This student-athlete would be considered **ineligible** for varsity competition and would have the following options:
 - *Participate at the JV/C-team level ONLY for one (1) calendar year at their new school.*
 - *Provide proof through a completed [Previous School Statement](#) that he/she has not participated in athletics at the school/club/community level for the past calendar year (WIAA 18.25.3).*

- Complete a [Request for Appeal](#) packet and go through an appeal with the West Central District (WCD). Your school athletic director would work with you on this process.
 - During the appeal, be able to [prove hardship](#) per WIAA guidelines.
- **Student-athlete previously attended another high school before changing residences and attending a TPS high school. The student-athlete did not move with the entire family unit (and therefore did not meet the WIAA residence rule requirement (18.10)). This student-athlete would be considered **ineligible** for varsity competition and would have the following options:**
 - Participate at the JV/C-team level **ONLY** for 1 calendar year at his/her/their new school.
 - Meet one of the rule requirements outlined in WIAA 18.11.2, which includes the allowance of 1 transfer between legally separated parent/guardians.
 - Provide proof through a completed Previous School Statement that he/she has not participated in athletics at the school/club/community level for the past calendar year (WIAA 18.25.3).
 - Complete a [Request for Appeal](#) packet and go through an appeal with the West Central District (WCD). Your school athletic director would work with you on this process.
 - During the appeal, be able to [prove hardship](#) per WIAA guidelines.
- **Student-athlete previously attended private high school while living within the TPS boundaries before transferring to a TPS high school without changing residences. This student-athlete would be considered **ineligible** for varsity competition and would have the following options:**
 - Participate at the JV/C-team level **ONLY** for 1 calendar year at his/her new school.
 - Provide proof through a completed Previous School Statement that he/she has not participated in athletics at the school/club/community level for the past calendar year (WIAA 18.25.3).
 - Complete a [Request for Appeal](#) packet and go through an appeal hearing with the West Central District (WCD). Your school athletic director would work with you on this process.
 - During the appeal, be able to [prove hardship](#) per WIAA guidelines.
- **Student-athlete attends a TPS high school without athletics (Oakland, SAMI, SOTA, etc) as a non-resident student and wishes to participate in athletics at a TPS high school. This student-athlete has athletic eligibility at his/her RESIDENT high school and would be considered **ineligible** at any TPS high school. In order to participate at a TPS high school, they must:**
 - Formally request a transfer of athletic eligibility with the [Director of Athletics and Activities](#) (District Policy 2151 and 2151R).
- **Student-athlete attends a TPS high school without athletics (Oakland, SAMI, SOTA, etc) while living in-District and wishes to participate in athletics at a TPS high school OTHER than his/her resident high school. In order to participate at a non-resident TPS high school, they must:**
 - Formally request a transfer of athletic eligibility with the [Director of Athletics and Activities](#) (District Policy 2151 and 2151R).
 - If a transfer of athletic eligibility is granted by the District, the student-athlete may still be subject to the WIAA/WCD appeal process in order to participate in varsity competition or will be limited to JV/C-team competition for 1 calendar year (this process includes students entering their 9th grade year).
- **Student-athlete is a home-school student while living within the TPS boundaries. This student-athlete would be deemed **eligible** for varsity competition at their RESIDENT high school provided:**
 - Contact your neighborhood high school to register as a home-school student with the District.
 - Completed [WIAA home-based instruction contract](#).
 - Work with the building athletic director to ensure athletic eligibility.
- **Student-athlete lives within the TPS boundaries and attends a private school without athletics, a charter school, online virtual academy or another non-TPS alternative education program (WIAA 18.5.2). This student-athlete would be deemed **eligible** for varsity competition at his/her/their RESIDENT high school provided:**
 - Proof of residence for participation at his/her/their resident TPS high school.
 - Completed [WIAA alternative education contract](#) (if applicable).
 - Work with the building athletic director to ensure athletic eligibility.