Submission #12

Submission information

Form: 2017-2021 Alignment Adjustment Request
Submitted by Anonymous (not verified)
Mon, 11/05/2018 - 10:16
152.26.210.33

School Name North Henderson High School

Principal's name John McDaris

Superintendent's name Bo Caldwell

Current Classification 3A

Current Conference 3A Western Mountain 3A

Proposed Classification 2A

Proposed Conference, if different 2A Mountain 6 2A

Conference Approved? Yes

Request

Please state your request
North Henderson High School is formally requesting to have our current 3A classification adjusted to a 2A classification for the remainder of the 2017-2021 alignment period. Our supporting documents are attached.

Criteria
Closure of major businesses or other employer(s)

Files Uploaded

Remember: all information that supports, defines and/or explains the request must be submitted with this form. Up to 3 files can be uploaded and attached to this request.

Document 1 Realignment Appeal 2018 (1).pdf

Document 2 McDaris-NHHS 1 of 2.pdf

Document 3 McDaris-NHHS 2 of 2.pdf

Email Address jrmcdaris@hcpsnc.org

October 30, 2018

NCHSAA Board of Directors
222 Finley Golf Course Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Re: 2017-2021 Realignment Adjustment Request

I am writing to you on behalf of North Henderson High School to formally request that our 3A classification be adjusted to reflect a 2A classification. I want to thank you in advance for taking the time to carefully consider our request and the reasons behind it.

By-Law VI of the NCHSAA Constitution states that:

"Classification is to be guided but not bound by the ADM figures averaging the daily membership in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 for the first month as submitted to the State Department of Public Instruction."

Given that our classification is not bound by the first month ADM numbers, my hope is to provide supplemental information to support our belief that we should be moved from a 3A classification to a 2A classification.

During the last realignment North Henderson High School was reclassified from 2A to 3A based on our 2015 Day 20 ADM number, which was 1,082 students. This number put us approximately 45 students above the line between 2A and 3A. As part of our realignment we became members of the Western Mountain Athletic Conference with AC Reynolds, Asheville, Erwin, Enka, North Buncombe, TC Roberson, Tuscola, and West Henderson.

Our concern at the time of realignment was that North Henderson's student population and membership numbers beyond Day 20 reflect challenges that were not considered as part of the reclassification process. A significant portion of the North Henderson High School population is transient. Migrant students, McKinney-Vento students, among others represent a large enough population that North Henderson experiences extreme drops in ADM throughout each school year. The drops are significant enough that each year we drop well below the line between 2A and 3A.

A look at the yearly ADM numbers at our school demonstrates this problem. The numbers, by year, are as follows:

ADM	20 Day	End of Year
2015-2016 ADM	1,082	1,031
2016-2017 ADM	1,096	1,001
2017-2018 ADM	1,070	982
2018-2019 ADM	1,066	

As you can see a significant portion of our population leaves each year, and Day 20 numbers are not an accurate reflection of our actual school population. While I recognize that there is not a 10% drop in our Day 20 ADM from 2015 to this year, I implore you to consider the reality of our school that the Day 20 numbers do not highlight. Day 20 numbers are taken during the peak of our local apple season, which is far and away the largest industry in our district. By the end of the fall apple season our ADM numbers begin to reflect our school population more honestly. The apple industry here is a significant source of income and jobs in our community. The end of apple season marks a significant loss of migrant jobs every year. We are projected to finish the 2018-2019 school year with even fewer students than the 982 with which we finished last school year. As you can see, our ADM numbers are in decline overall and are consistently reflective of a school with a 2A population, which was even the case in 2015-2016.

An adjustment from a 3A classification to a 2A classification, specifically into the conference currently known as the Mountain Six, would put us into a conference with a more equitable disparity of students between the largest school and the smallest. The current difference between our school and the largest in our current conference is over 500 students. The disparity grows when our special student populations leave and we are left with our actual student population.

This adjustment would also reunite our school and community with more traditional rivalries, both in and outside of Henderson County. We believe that the protection of both historic and geographic rivalries is of paramount importance. Moving to the Mountain Six would re-establish our East Henderson and Hendersonville rivalries as conference rivalries. We would also regain our former long-time conference rivalries in a litany of sports with Pisgah, Brevard, Franklin, and Smoky Mountain. No such geographic or historic rivalries exist between us and any other Western Mountain Athletic Conference opponent apart from West Henderson High School.

A reduction in the overall number of teams in the Western Mountain Athletic Conference is also ideal for all schools involved. I currently serve as the president of the Western Mountain Athletic Conference and it is has been a common topic of discussion among conference ADs that a nine-team conference presents scheduling constraints that smaller conferences do not have to deal

with. We have found that a nine-team conference poses constraints on our ability to schedule non-conference games in all sports, which I believe puts all of us at a unique disadvantage compared to our peers in smaller conferences.

A realignment adjustment that results in us moving to a different conference would not only provide us with a more equitable classification and placement, but it would also have no discernable negative impact on our current conference, the Western Mountain Athletic Conference. In fact, some of the issues presented above, most notably that of scheduling, would be mitigated for all parties involved.

It is our belief that it is in the best interest of the students at North Henderson High School to be adjusted back to a 2A classification, given the reason stated above. I appreciate you taking the time to carefully consider our request with an open mind and understanding.

As a final note, questions regarding aspects of the significant population drops that our school experiences yearly can also be addressed by Laura Beatty, AD at TC Roberson, who was a member of the NCHSAA realignment committee. Mrs. Beatty can be reached by phone at (828) 775-7267 or by email at laura.beatty@bcsemail.org.

Best,

John McDaris
Assistant Principal
Athletic Director
North Henderson High School

CC:
John Shepard
Principal
North Henderson High School

Bo Caldwell
Superintendent
Henderson County Public Schools

Scott Rhodes
Chief Human Resources Officer
County Athletic Director
Henderson County Public Schools

October 31, 2018

NCHSAA Board of Directors
222 Finley Golf Course Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Re: North Henderson 2017-2021 Realignment Adjustment Requests

We are writing to you on behalf of the 2A schools in the Mountain Six Conference to formally acknowledge our openness to, support of, and agreement for North Henderson High School to join the Mountain Six Conference as a result of their realignment adjustment request. We collectively agree that the addition of North Henderson would reunite us with both an historic and geographic rival and their addition to the Mountain Six Conference would be to the overall benefit of all parties involved for the reasons detailed in their realignment adjustment request.

Best,

David Pressley
President
Mountain Six Conference

Casey Kruk
Assistant Principal
Athletic Director
Pisgah High School

Clint Connor
Principal
Pisgah High School

Blair King
Assistant Principal
Athletic Director
Franklin High School

Barry Woody
Principal
Franklin High School

Brandon Scott
Assistant Principal
Athletic Director
East Henderson High School

Carl Taylor
Principal
East Henderson High School

Adam Phillips
Athletic Director
Smoky Mountain High School

Evelyn Graning
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Hendersonville High School does not appear on this document as the HHS principal, Mr. Bobby Wilkins, is part of the NCHSAA Board of Directors.

Brevard High School does not appear on this document as they have indicated that they do not intend to sign in support of this move.