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## HIGH SCHOOL

# AHSAA private schools form a unified voice, not splitting from AHSAA



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Montgomery Advertiser

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## Key Points

- Alabama private schools met to discuss the AHSAA's decision to split them from public schools for postseason play.
  - The schools decided to remain in the AHSAA and form a unified voice to address challenges from the new structure.
  - Key concerns include increased travel costs and difficulties in creating competitive schedules for geographically isolated schools.
  - Private school representatives plan to meet with the AHSAA to advocate for adjustments to the reclassification.
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The [Alabama High School Athletic Association member private schools](#) held a meeting on Friday, Jan. 30 at Faulkner University in Montgomery to discuss the AHSAA's decision to split private and public schools for postseason competition for the next two academic years.

After a little more than two hours of meeting, there wasn't a decision to pursue legal action or leave the AHSAA altogether. In fact, the private

schools still remain committed to the AHSAA.

The meeting was used as a space for private schools to form a unified voice, rather than leaning on a multitude of issues that face individual [AHSAA private schools](#). The consensus of the meeting is the belief in the idea of staying together with AHSAA.

"We're going to force some effort to try to advocate for some of the challenges that were presented with the reclassification," Montgomery Catholic President Justin Castanza said after the meeting concluded.

"We want to stay together, we want to stay committed and ultimately these independent private schools want to have the best voice possible, and a unified voice is the best way to do that."

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So what's next for private schools in the AHSAA? The first step according to Castanza is to take the opportunity to have conversations with the AHSAA to discuss the challenges facing private schools after recent restructure.

Glaring issues involves the logistics of travel cost and the idea that, geographically, some private schools do not have the opportunity to field a competitive schedule the way that schools in metropolitan areas might.

"There were schools represented today that said regardless of where we go, if we stick just private independent schools, we would be over two hours from our nearest competitor. That's the challenge," Castanza said.

"Small adjustments could be made to address some of those issues and concerns, and that's where we may be able to focus. Having the support from the lieutenant governor's office, from the AISA and from the AHSAA."

In the next couple of weeks there will be a smaller group of private school representatives that will meet and continue conversations on what will be next for the near future of AHSAA private schools.

The Alabama High School Athletic Association made the [biggest decision of the organization's history](#) when it split member private and public schools for postseason and championship play for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fall sports. The decision passed after a vote of 13-2 by AHSAA Central Board of Control.

The multiplier and competitive balance formula that was attached to private schools was also terminated. AHSAA executive director Heath Harmon also went on to say that funds from the CHOOSE Act would not impact athletic ineligibility.

Representatives met with the AHSAA Central Board of Control before reclassification was announced to present such issues facing member private schools.

Now with an armed unified voice, the private schools are planning to have that same chance again to do what's best for the student athletes

