

HIGH SCHOOL

AHSAA reclassification under a public-private split: Our projections, class by class



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Tuscaloosa News

Jan. 21, 2026, 4:02 a.m. CT

The Alabama High School Athletic Association is set to make a decision this week that could reshape the landscape of high school athletics in the state, and if a [public-private split becomes reality](#), the AHSAA classification map could look very different.

AHSAA officials are scheduled to meet Friday, Jan. 23, to determine the state's reclassification structure of fall sports for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years. Among the possibilities on the table would be one of the most sweeping changes the AHSAA has considered in recent memory: [separating](#) public and private schools.

The discussion has grown over the past several months as private school leaders have [raised concerns](#) about policies they believe disproportionately impact private programs, including the 1.35 enrollment multiplier, the

competitive-balance formula and questions surrounding the interpretation of the CHOOSE Act, Alabama's private school tuition tax credit program.

If such a split were implemented, it would ripple through the state. Public schools would be reclassified across Classes 1A-7A based on new enrollment cutoffs, while private schools could potentially compete in their own separate classifications, likely divided into two classes between larger and smaller schools.

With that possibility in mind, we reviewed projected enrollment numbers to map out what reclassification could look like under a split model.

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In this educated guess, both charter and magnet schools were grouped with public schools because they are publicly funded, although it is not clear how they would be classified under a public-private split model since such schools, like private schools, can draw from beyond a restricted geographic area as public schools do.

Below are projected class breakdowns for football in both a private-school league and a public-school-only alignment, based on current enrollment projections and the assumption that independent schools would be removed from the AHSAA's traditional 1A-7A structure, rather than just for a postseason split. Schools have been listed based on projected and previous enrollment numbers.

This model stayed with Class 7A for public schools being the 32 schools with the highest projected enrollment and 6A being the next 32 by projected enrollment, with the other public schools split up with a different number of schools in each class for competitive balance. This model also goes with a nearly even split of private schools into two classes.

AHSAA large private class projection

McGill-Toolen Catholic

Faith Academy

John Carroll Catholic

Briarwood Christian

UMS-Wright

St. Paul's Episcopal

St. John Paul II Catholic

St. Michael Catholic

LAMP

Randolph

ACCEL Academy

Westminster Christian Academy

American Christian Academy

Montgomery Catholic

Indian Springs

Madison Academy

Saint James

Prattville Christian Academy

Bayside Academy

Mobile Christian

Lee-Scott Academy

Montgomery Academy

Westbrook Christian

Northside Methodist Academy

Glenwood

Houston Academy

Cottage Hill Christian Academy

Altamont

Whitesburg Christian Academy

Alabama Christian Academy

AHSAA small private class projection

Trinity Presbyterian

Providence Christian

St. Luke's Episcopal

Westminster School At Oak Mountain

Mars Hill Bible

Cornerstone Schools Of Alabama

Bayshore Christian

Tuscaloosa Academy

Holy Family Catholic

Lindsay Lane Christian Academy

Pike Liberal Arts

Decatur Heritage Christian Academy

Holy Spirit Catholic

Victory Christian

Coosa Christian

Sumiton Christian

Oakwood Adventist Academy

Autauga Academy

Athens Bible

Shoals Christian

Saint Bernard Prep

Faith Christian

Emmanuel Christian

Pickens Academy

Covenant Christian

Cullman Christian

Jacksonville Christian Academy

Jefferson Christian Academy

Ellwood Christian Academy

AHSAA Class 7A projection

Shifts to note: Hazel Green, Spain Park and Gadsden City move up from Class 6A.

Auburn

Hoover

Sparkman

Carver-Montgomery

James Clemens

Enterprise

Vestavia Hills

Baker

Bob Jones

Thompson

Central-Phenix City

Huntsville

Prattville

Mary G. Montgomery

Grissom

Smiths Station

Alma Bryant

Oak Mountain

Tuscaloosa County

Hewitt-Trussville

Daphne

Hazel Green

Johnson Abernathy Graetz (JAG)

Spain Park

Opelika

Dothan

Gadsden City

Fairhope

Foley

Davidson

Robertsdale

Buckhorn

AHSAA Class 6A projection

Shifts to note: Florence, Hillcrest-Tuscaloosa, Albertville and Austin move down from Class 7A.

Florence

Hillcrest-Tuscaloosa

Helena

Mountain Brook

Athens

Percy Julian

Homewood

Clay-Chalkville

Wetumpka

Pell City

Albertville

Oxford

Theodore

Austin

Murphy

Paul W. Bryant

Chelsea

Hueytown

Stanhope Elmore

Northridge

McAdory

Saraland

Pelham

Hartselle

Russell County

Spanish Fort

Gardendale

Brookwood

Huffman-Magnet

Mattie T. Blount

A.H. Parker

Pinson Valley

AHSAA Class 5A projection

Shifts to note: Calera, Cullman, Decatur, Columbia, Baldwin County, Minor, Jasper, Gulf Shores, Mortimer Jordan, Lee, Pike Road, Mae Jemison, Muscle Shoals, Park Crossing, Southside, Chilton County, Central-Tuscaloosa, Rehobeth, Fort Payne, Bessemer City, Benjamin Russell, Jackson-Olin, Shades Valley and Woodlawn move down from Class 6A.

Calera

Cullman

Decatur

Columbia

Baldwin County

Minor

Jasper

Gulf Shores

Mortimer Jordan

Lee

Pike Road

Mae Jemison

Muscle Shoals

Park Crossing

Southside

Chilton County

Central-Tuscaloosa

Rehobeth

Fort Payne

Bessemer City

Springville

Russellville

Benjamin Russell

Jackson-Olin

Arab

Boaz

St. Clair County

Ramsay

Elberta

Douglas

East Limestone

Wenonah

Shades Valley

Scottsboro

Valley

Citronelle

Center Point

Woodlawn

Moody

A.P. Brewer

Marbury

Eufaula

LeFlore Magnet

Jemison

Crossville

Hayden

Leeds

Selma

Holtville

Lincoln

Sylacauga

Carroll

Charles Henderson

Williamson

Ardmore

Vigor

B.C. Rain

Brewbaker Tech Magnet

West Point

AHSAA Class 4A projection

Shifts to note: Central-Clay County, Sardis, Sipse Valley, Fairview, Shelby County, Beauregard, Guntersville, Priceville, Lawrence County, G.W. Carver-Birmingham, Elmore County, Northside, Booker T. Washington, Greenville, Demopolis, Jacksonville, Andalusia, Montevallo and Corner move down from Class 5A; Lauderdale County moves up from Class 3A.

Central-Clay County

Sardis

Sipse Valley

Fairview

Shelby County

Beauregard

Guntersville

Good Hope

Priceville

Lawrence County

Carver-Birmingham

Elmore County

Northside

Booker T. Washington Magnet

Greenville

Demopolis

Brooks

Satsuma

Jacksonville

Deshler

Andalusia

Montevallo

West Morgan

Alexandria

Anniston

Dale County

Dora

Fairfield

Orange Beach

New Brockton

Hamilton

Straughn

Holt

Oak Grove

Cherokee County

Tallassee

Ashford

West Limestone

Pleasant Grove

Corner

Fultondale

Cleburne County

North Jackson

Etowah

Madison County

Haleyville

Central-Florence

Cordova

White Plains

Oneonta

Bullock County

Bibb County

Lauderdale County

Booker T. Washington-Tuskegee

Talladega

Opp

New Hope

AHSAA Class 3A projection

Shifts to note: Headland moves down from Class 5A; Escambia County, West Blocton, East Lawrence, Wilson, Hokes Bluff, Plainview, Munford, Curry, W.S. Neal, Ashville, Pike County, Danville, DAR, Geneva, Handley, Fayette County, Jackson, Tarrant, Daleville, Hatton and Randolph move down from Class 4A; Susan Moore, Reeltown and Lanett move up from Class 2A.

Escambia County

Elkmont

Flomaton

West Blocton

East Lawrence

Wilson

Hokes Bluff

Plainview

Munford

Geraldine

Curry

W.S. Neal

Childersburg

Ashville

T.R. Miller

Hanceville

Pike County

Susan Moore

Headland

Danville

DAR

Geneva

Handley

Asbury

Rogers

Fayette County

Beulah

Slocomb

Jackson

Oakman

Vinemont

Tarrant

Clements

Winfield

Hale County

Daleville

Weaver

Glencoe

Colbert Heights

Wicksburg

Excel

Sylvania

Holly Pond

Wilcox Central

Dallas County

Piedmont

J.B. Pennington

Gordo

Monroe County

Sheffield

Hatton

Brindlee Mountain

Collinsville

Randolph County

Reeltown

Walter Wellborn

Midfield

Lanett

Carbon Hill

AHSAA Class 2A projection

Shifts to note: Greensboro, Phil Campbell, Thomasville, Colbert County, Fyffe, Thorsby, Ohatchee, Hillcrest-Evergreen, Saks, Locust Fork, Sumter Central, Dadeville, B.B. Comer and Southside move down from Class 3A; Ider, Maplesville and Winterboro move up from Class 1A.

Greensboro

Phil Campbell

Pleasant Valley

Thomasville

Colbert County

Ariton

Lexington

Cleveland

Fyffe

Tharptown

Greene County

Falkville

Central-Coosa

Thorsby

G.W. Long

Lamar County

Ohatchee

Hillcrest-Evergreen

Highland Home

Southeastern

J.U. Blacksher

Ranburne

Saks

Locust Fork

Chickasaw

North Sand Mountain

Sumter Central

Zion Chapel

Cottonwood

Dadeville

Goshen

Isabella

Horseshoe Bend

B.B. Comer

Cold Springs

Southside-Selma

Clarke County

Luverne

Tanner

Ider

Aliceville

Gaston

Vincent

Geneva County

West End

Houston County

Winston County

Pisgah

Sand Rock

Section

Red Bay

Barbour County

Maplesville

Loachapoka

Samson

Winterboro

Washington County

AHSAA Class 1A projection

Shifts to note: Sulligent, Lafayette, Belgreen, Abbeville, Calhoun, Central-Hayneville and Cedar Bluff move down from Class 2A.

Brantley

Woodland

Sulligent

University Charter

Verbena

Appalachian

Lafayette

Kinston

Pleasant Home

Belgreen

South Lamar

Billingsley

Abbeville

Fayetteville

Leroy

Floral

Calhoun

Central-Hayneville

Spring Garden

Skyline

Hackleburg

Addison

Donoho

Red Level

Cedar Bluff

Woodville

R.C. Hatch

Valley Head

Elba

Berry

Sweet Water

Lynn High

Millry High

Choctaw County

Pickens County

Meek

McKenzie

Cherokee

Linden

Francis Marion

Marion County

Phillips

Hubbertville