

KHSAA:

This letter is concerning the proposed high school football redistricting for the 2015 season. My school, Henry County High School is scheduled to be aligned in the following new district: Boyle, Garrard, Henry County, Western Hills and Lexington Catholic. This proposed district creates a substantial travel issue for our school system (estimated 251 miles one-bus, one-way from home school to away schools and we always take more than one bus). We would be leaving our current district of Louisville area schools for this 2015 realignment. In terms of mileage, it makes much more sense for us to play in the realigned district that features Bardstown, Thomas Nelson, Central, Moore and Waggener. I do not know how feasible six team districts are in terms of your realignment efforts (there are other proposed six-team districts), but that would be the logical realignment on our end.

If your efforts are to maintain five-team districts, then just by having us switch places with Bardstown, putting them in the aforementioned Boyle, Garrard and Lexington Catholic district (estimated 159 miles one-bus, one-way for Bardstown from home school to away schools), the realignment process makes much more sense in terms of mileage. For Henry County to travel to the three Louisville schools would be approximately 121 miles one-bus, one-way home school to away schools.

Here is a look at an excel representation of those numbers previously mentioned:

	Boyle County	Lexington Cath.	Garrard County
Bardstown	1:17 (42 mi.)	0:59 (59 mi.)	1:08 (58 mi.)
Henry County	1:30 (69 mi.)	1:20 (63 mi.)	1:50 (81 mi.)
	Central	Moore	Waggener
Bardstown	1:09 (42 mi.)	0:55 (30 mi.)	1:09 (35 mi.)
Henry County	0:51 (39 mi.)	0:59 (47 mi.)	0:47 (35 mi.)

While there isn't always a huge disparity in the mileage, the time is noticeable due to routes we would have to take to travel Central Kentucky (whereas Bardstown would basically travel on a straight shot down the Bluegrass Parkway). Henry County, like so many other schools, is under huge budgetary constraints when it comes to athletic travel. I have let my coaches know that they should not request to schedule and hence travel any distances to Lexington and beyond (within 1 hour from school) for a sporting event. We consider games in Jefferson County a logical opportunity due to its close distance. In fact, our football team is a member of the Greater Louisville Football Association (scheduling out freshman and JV teams who play in a Louisville Area League).

I also realize that Bardstown is anticipated to be placed in a district with not only the Louisville schools mentioned, but also fellow Nelson County School, Thomas Nelson. You may be hesitant to switch these districts around and tamper with this natural in-county rivalry within the district. If this is unavoidable, then bring both schools into the proposed "District 4" and move Henry County along with Western Hills into "District 3". The overall time / mileage in a comparison between Thomas Nelson and Western Hills are very similar as you can see below:

	Boyle County	Lexington Cath.	Garrard County
Thom. Nelson	1:06 (42 mi.)	1:03 (59 mi.)	1:35 (58 mi.)
Western Hills	1:08 (40 mi.)	0:46 (28 mi.)	1:38 (54 mi.)
	Central	Moore	Waggener
Thom. Nelson	1:08 (42 mi.)	0:55 (30 mi.)	1:10 (35 mi.)
Western Hills	0:57 (52 mi.)	0:53 (49 mi.)	0:50 (45 mi.)

Thank you for your consideration in this endeavor. Our goal in athletics is to do what is best for the student-athletes. For Henry County student-athletes to have maximum opportunities through efficient management of district athletic and travel monies, the moves I have outlined would be of benefit. I look forward to your attention to the matter and your response.

Thank You

Todd Gilley