



## EXCEPTION TO RULE 8

The basic rule of eligibility remains, students are eligible in the district where the parent or court appointed guardian resides.

Eligibility is established at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level or above by first participation. Participation is defined in Rule 7-2: *A student shall be considered to have participated when the student has appeared in uniform at an interscholastic contest, including an interschool scrimmage, regardless of whether the student physically participates during the contest.*

Students of families making a bona-fide move into a different public school district are eligible for participation at any level provided the student is in compliance with all eligibility requirements.

Students whose families maintain more than one residence are required to complete paperwork for dual residence and will not be considered for varsity eligibility until the student and the student's family are in compliance with the residency requirements.

Exceptions to Rule 8 will be considered for students who change schools provided one of the following apply:

- The student has not changed schools since entering the 9<sup>th</sup> while residing in the same residence and participated at any level in more than one school.
- The student continues to reside with the parent or court appointed guardian.
- The receiving school (new) can provide documentation that the student was either approved for enrollment at the receiving (new) school or placed on a waiting list at the receiving (new) school on or before July 15.

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### Rule 8 Exception – Points of clarification

#### **1. Any transfer that occurs prior to July 1 will be subject to the current eligibility criteria.**

- A student who transfers this semester (Spring 2024) and participates at any level would be required to sit out 365 days to gain varsity eligibility.
- If a student transfers this semester and does not participate at any level, they could be considered for the new Rule 8 Exception after July 1.

#### **2. A student who has already gained eligibility at a second school since the 9<sup>th</sup> grade will not meet the criteria for the new exception.**

- A student who has established their initial eligibility at one school and has since changed to a second school and participated, will not be considered for the exception.

#### **3. Students who apply for a transfer at a school and are placed on a waiting list could be considered for the exception at a later time when the school had an open spot for the**

**student. The school would be required to produce documentation showing that the student had been placed on the waiting list on or before July 15.**

- Students who change schools after the school year has begun and are granted the exception during the school year would not be eligible to participate in the same activity for two different schools during the current school year. Example: If a football player gained eligibility in October at a different school, they would not be able to participate in football at the new school.

**4. Students applying for this exception must show that they continue to live with the parents/guardians where eligibility was last established.**

**5. Paperwork is required to be submitted to the OSSAA prior to allowing participation at the varsity level.**

**6. Students could still apply for an exception to Rule 8 (Hardship Waiver).**

- Criteria to approve is reduced to an unusual, unforeseen, or unavoidable circumstance that compelled a change of schools. Examples could be a court ordered change of custody, movement of military families, or families moving to Oklahoma from out of state.

<b>A student WOULD be Eligible to apply for an Exception to Rule 8 if:</b>	<b>A student would NOT be eligible to apply for an Exception to Rule 8 if:</b>
The student has not changed schools since entering the 9 <sup>th</sup> grade and has not participated (at any level) in more than one school.	The student is enrolling at a third school since entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade (while residing in the same residence) and/or has participated at two or more schools (at any level).
The student changes schools and continues to reside with the same parent/guardian.	The student who, due to the change of schools, will not reside with the parent or court-appointed guardian.
The student was either approved for enrollment at the receiving (new) school or placed on a waiting list at the receiving (new) school on or before July 15.	The student applied for a transfer or changes schools after July 15.
The student changed schools during the 2023-24 school year and did <b>not</b> participate at any level at the new school.	The student changed schools during the 2023-24 school year and participated at any level at the new school.