



Ohio High School Athletic Association  
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### **Guidance for Member Schools Regarding Districts That Have Completely Discontinued Interscholastic Sports Programs**

Due to the many questions being fielded by OHSAA staff recently regarding options for transfer when a school district has discontinued its sports programs, this series of questions is offered.

Q. Can a student retain eligibility at another high school if the school has dropped all sports?

A. Yes. Exception 11 of Bylaw 4-7-2 allows for a transfer under the following circumstances:

1. The school district has completely discontinued all sports programs at all secondary schools.
2. The student transfers at the beginning of the next school year or at the start of the first grading period after the district drops its programs.
3. The student is approved for eligibility by the OHSAA office prior to participating in a contest.
4. It is important to note that this exception permits a student to play only those sports in which he or she participated in the former school for the first year of transfer.
5. It is entirely up to the receiving school as to whether to accept the student.
6. The student may not transfer back into the same school from which he or she transferred without a one year period of eligibility.
7. A student established eligibility in the new school by attending school for one day or by participating in a contest. Note that participation in a contest must receive approval from the OHSAA office.

Q. May a family establish eligibility by getting an apartment or temporary housing in a district and having one parent move with the student to the new district while leaving the family's principal domicile in the former district?

A. No. Such a move does not constitute a "bona fide residence" as stipulated in the OHSAA Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence and could be construed as fraud against a school district as well falsification for the purpose of establishing eligibility.

Q. How do I get more information on this issue?

A. Please contact your school principal or athletic administrator.