

**SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE**  
**P.O. BOX 211575**  
**COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221-6575**  
**January 28, 2020**

The AAAA Classification Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League met on January 28, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at the SCHSL Office, 121 Westpark Blvd, Columbia, South Carolina. The following members were present: Chad Evans, Joe Monmonier, Erin Keen, Jack Kosmicki, Joey Moore, Michelle Yeater, Edward Moore, and Jeremy Holland

Chad Evans called the meeting to order.

**Appeals:**

**Ridge View High School** (Brend Mack-Foxworth, Principal; Keith Price, Assistant Superintendent Richland Two; Brandon Ross, Assistant Principal; Brian Rosefield, Athletic Director)

Ridge View High School requested an open session for the change classification and region appeal.

Brian Rosefield presented the case for appeal for Ridge View High School which requested a change from Class AAAAA – Region 4 to Class AAAA Region 4. Mr. Rosefield stated that they believed the method in which the 45-Day ADM was not equitable due to variances in the way the data is reported by the schools. Ridge View found that the number they reported to the State Department (#1292) is not the number reflected on the State Department's website (#1285).

They also believe variances occur in the method of coding schools use to report data and that some schools were able to code 4th-year students as 12th graders regardless of how many credits they have earned. Richland School District Two does not do this. In Richland Two, students who have otherwise met the requirements for promotion to grade 12, but need to make up a single credit, are flagged as retained until they make up that course. At that point, they are immediately promoted and are eligible to graduate the same year. They refer to those students as "Super Juniors". This is the case for 4<sup>th</sup>-year students that are still classified for 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade based on their earned credits.

Mr. Rosefield stated that he sent a survey to all schools of which 94 completed the survey. Thirteen of the responding schools stated that 4th-year students would show as 12th grade regardless of where they were academically. Based on this method, Ridge View High School has 39 students that are 4<sup>th</sup>-year students but do not have enough earned credits to be considered 12<sup>th</sup> graders. They believe a more accurate 45-Day ADM number for Ridge View would be 1,246 putting them below Myrtle Beach High School in Class AAAA.

They submitted five proposals for region placement in Class AAAA with Region 4 having the least impact on realignment and other schools.

Mr. Rosefield was asked if they did any research into the discrepancy with the State Department. He did not but once it was realized they conducted the school survey to gather information about how other schools reported their data.

Discussion was held regarding the method used by the SC High School League for reclassification/realignment. Mr. Singleton stated that the League followed the guidelines given by the Guidelines committee, using the SC State Department 45-Day ADM for ranking the schools largest to smallest. Consensus of the committee was that the process was fair and accurate based on the data received from the SC State Department and that variability occurs for every school.

A motion made by Ed Moore, seconded by Jeremy Holland, to deny the appeal for a change in classification and region placement passed 8-0 (8 members present).

**Irmo High School** (Dr. Robin Hardy, Principal; Ray Canady)

Irmo High School requested an open session for region placement appeal.

Mr. Canady presented the case for a change in region placement from Class AAAA – Region 5 to Class AAAA – Region 4. He stated that Irmo High School is not trying to gain a competitive advantage but they have three areas of concern for the current placement.

The first area of concern is the impact on education for the school and students. The current placement has a total travel distance to all of the schools in the region of 253 miles or 4 hours and 27 minutes of travel time. Region 4 would only have a total travel distance of 101 miles or 2 hours and 14 minutes of travel time. This time is based on car travel time. Bus travel would be approximately 10-15 minutes longer each way. This could add an additional 30 minutes of time missed from school due to having to leave school earlier to get to the games on time. Four of the five region teams would be approximately 1 ½ hours away.

The second area of concern is the impact on the well-being of the programs and the students. Students need time to travel, eat, get dressed and warm-up prior to games. The travel distance would decrease the amount of time available for these things. They also believe that athletic participation might decrease since as many as 175 – 225 Spring Hill students that participate in athletics at Irmo already travel to get to school.

The final area of concern was the impact on school and district finance due to the travel distance.

Mr. Canady was asked about the feedback he had received from Region 5. He stated that he had not received any negative feedback. Dr. Hardy stated that she had personally spoken with all of the principals in Region 4, she provided two letters of support and stated that others said they would provide them if necessary.

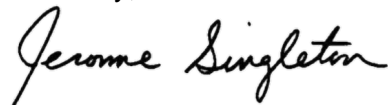
Mr. Singleton was asked why Irmo was placed in Region 5. His response was that the League tried to balance upper and lower state and the regions as much as possible.

The committee agreed that while close travel is a luxury and they empathize with the travel distance and time, they didn't see any undue burden for Irmo High School. The committee would have liked more feedback from Region 4. Ms. Yeater stated that she polled Region 5 and all said "no" to Irmo leaving the region.

A motion made by Joey Moore, seconded by Erin Keen, to deny the request to move from Class AAAA – Region 5 to Class AAAA – Region 4 passed 8-0 (8 members present).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,



Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

**Note: In all votes, the President only votes in the event of a deciding vote.**