

# Louisville duPont Manual High School

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SUBJECT: 2011-2014 FOOTBALL REALIGNMENT FOR CLASS 6A

October 14, 2010

Mr. Julian Tackett  
Commissioner  
Kentucky High School Athletic Association  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Mr. Tackett,

This letter is written in reference to the 2011-2014 football realignment recently received from you on behalf of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association. Per your instructions for reconsideration of this proposal, to follow is feedback from our school, along with a workable solution for realignment in Class 6A, Districts 3, 4, and 5.

To preface our feedback and proposed solution, it is the sincere belief of duPont Manual High School, one of the original member schools of the KHSAA, that our association's Board of Control will vote for an alignment that is fair, consistent, and equitable for all schools involved.

After seeing the proposed alignment on Monday, October 4, you were sent an email seeking the criteria and rationale behind the placement of schools into districts. Also requested were minutes from the Ad Hoc Committee's meeting if available. This information was needed in order for our school to decide whether we would suggest alignment changes to the draft proposal. Your initial email reply on that same day suggested you were the person to contact, but you did not provide any specific information surrounding the draft. A subsequent email indicated you were in Bowling Green for the state golf tournament and would reply when you had more time to provide a thorough answer. Finally, on Monday, October 11, a week later and four days before the deadline for school feedback, we received your email with specifics regarding the proposed district alignment that you created and recommended to Board of Control's Ad Hoc Committee on Football. Considering the impact that realignment of football has on individual schools, it seems to us that every effort should have been made to provide feedback from your office in a timely manner, in order for schools to prepare an appropriate response.

Since no additional information was provided beyond your email, it is our assumption that the reasons listed in your email were the sole reasons used. To follow are inconsistencies that we hope to clarify for the Board of Control prior to any final vote on realignment in Class 6A Districts 3, 4, and 5.

Your email indicated *"the primary criteria was travel (sometimes referred to as geography but in reality, travel) and no other criteria was specified or to be used"*. With that in mind, it is difficult for us to believe that was used as the "primary criteria". We agree with you in that Oldham County is the logical starting point when creating the proposed districts in question, and we also agree that based on proximity to Oldham County, Ballard and Eastern should be in their district. We disagree with your reasons for selecting Fern Creek as the fourth team in that district instead of Trinity. *"Travel is made easier by them*

*(Oldham County) being able to stay on Snyder (just like Eastern), but go a little further down and get to Fern Creek. Just seemed like the best travel choice versus fighting over to Seneca, or fighting Shelbyville Road early afternoons to get to Trinity. Travel seemed better to Fern Creek.*" According to the MapQuest link provided on the KHSAA website, Oldham County is 18 miles away from Trinity and 28 miles away from Fern Creek. Also, with the new Westport Road exchange off of I-264, you can drive to the football complex at Trinity without ever being on Shelbyville Road and in a much shorter time. The reality is Oldham County can get to Trinity quicker than and just as conveniently as they could to Fern Creek.

Although we are still trying to understand how it can be used in this situation, your email also mentioned basketball regions and districts were considered when placing some of the schools. *"I knew that Butler, PRP and Southern were all sixth region schools as was developed in the last geographically based basketball alignment, and that St. Xavier, Manual and Male were all in the same basketball district, so those two groupings seemed natural out of the pool of eight remaining. That left Seneca and Trinity to place, and I didn't want to vault Trinity over top of Seneca to pair them with teams, as the travel didn't make sense. The same thing was done for every other district in the state in every class in trying to make any dividing decisions based on travel."*First, Seneca is also in the 7<sup>th</sup> Region in basketball, and we are still trying to understand how you would be vaulting Trinity over Seneca by placing them in that district based on travel. Additional input there would be greatly appreciated from Jefferson County residents and drivers.

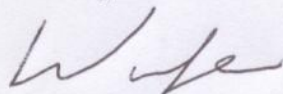
If an additional criterion was needed, we would suggest the rivalries that have formed between schools in the current district alignment be considered when making this decision. Manual currently has a great relationship and healthy rivalry with our district members, St. Xavier, Pleasure Ridge Park, and Butler and would love to continue building upon those for future years. We are sure that other local schools feel the same about their current district makeup. With that in mind, we suggest the following workable solution for realignment based on geography.

#### **SUGGESTED WORKABLE SOLUTION**

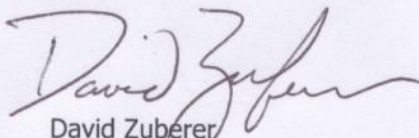
CLASS 6A, DISTRICT 3 – Butler, duPont Manual, Pleasure Ridge Park, St. Xavier  
CLASS 6A, DISTRICT 4 – Fern Creek, Male, Seneca, Southern  
CLASS 6A, DISTRICT 5 – Ballard, Eastern, Oldham County, Trinity

Lastly, as much we have tried to believe that geography was the primary reason for the proposed district alignments, it is difficult to not conclude that there were additional reasons beyond geography to form a "Super District" as a method to achieve a perceived competitive balance across the state. We truly hope that perception is not the reality. We look forward to the opportunity to address the KHSAA Board of Control on Monday, October 18, 2010.

Sincerely,



Larry Wooldridge  
Principal

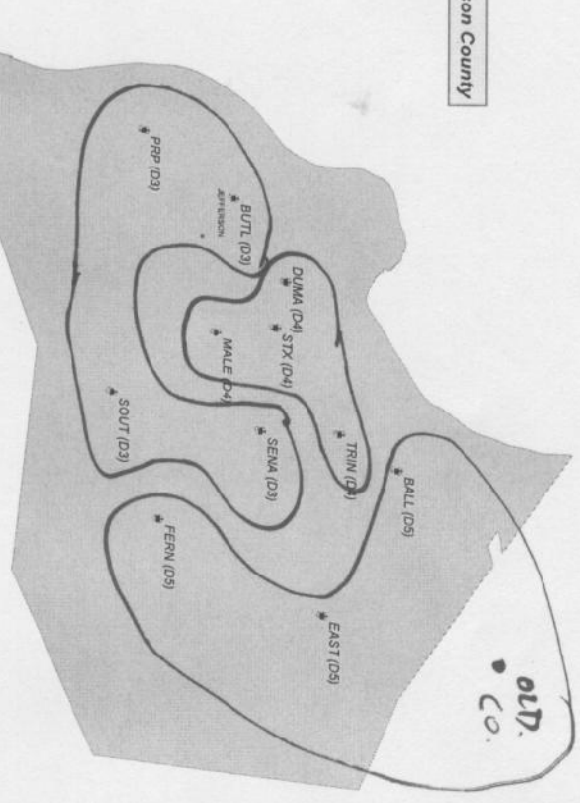


David Zuberer  
Athletic Director

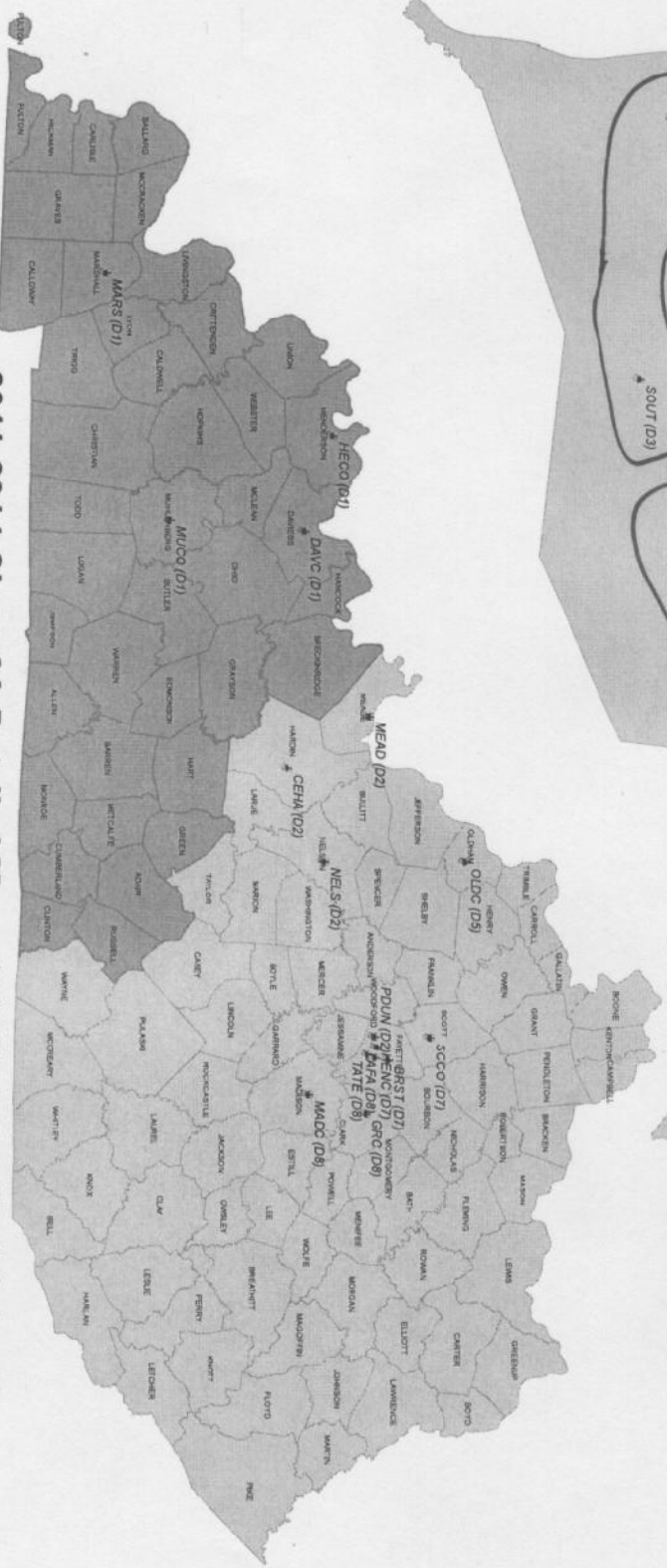
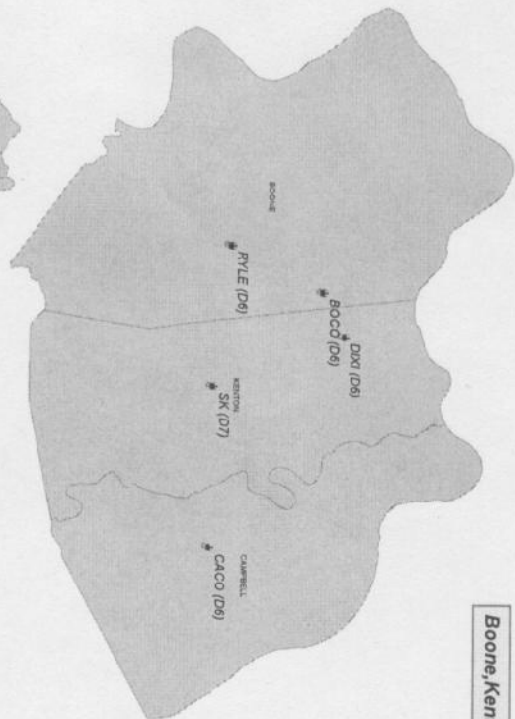


KHSAA CURRENT PROPOSED ALIGNMENT  
 CLASS 6A, DISTRICTS 3, 4, 5

Jefferson County



Boone, Kenton, Campbell



2011-2014 Class 6A Detailed Map of KHSAA Football Schools