

C. Reclassification Enrollment Policy

Every third spring, the board will analyze enrollments of member schools based on that school year's October OASIS report, while adding the participation numbers of alternative education program students participating under AS.14.30.365 and AS 14.45.350.

D. Request to Compete at a Higher Classification

Member schools may request to “opt up” one classification level in a specific activity. To be approved:

1. The request must be made during the regular three-year reclassification cycle.
2. The request must apply to both genders of the activity.

Once approved, the opt-up status remains in effect through the entire three-year cycle, unless unforeseen circumstances arise. A school may later choose to opt back down by notifying ASAA by September 1 of the reclassification year.

E. Request to Compete at a Lower Classification – Competitive Factors

Schools may request to “opt down” one classification level in an activity (for both or a single division) based on competitive performance. To be considered:

1. The request must be made during the three-year reclassification cycle.
2. Only competitive factors will be considered, including:
 - Win/loss record vs. current classification opponents over the past 3 years
 - Win/loss record vs. lower classification opponents over the past 3 years
 - Student enrollment numbers

If approved, the following conditions apply:

- Year 1: Ineligible for post-season play
- Years 2 & 3: Eligible for post-season play
- If the team qualifies for the state tournament in either Year 2 or Year 3, it will not be eligible to petition for placement at a lower classification during the next reclassification cycle. However, the school may request to remain at the same classification level in which it competed during the prior cycle. If that request is granted, the team will be eligible for post-season play during all three years of the new cycle.

Unless there are unforeseen circumstances, once granted, the request remains in effect for the full three-year cycle. Schools return to their original classification level at the end of the cycle unless a new request is submitted by September 1 of the reclassification year.

F. Request to Compete at a Lower Classification – Financial, Geographic, or Scheduling Factors

Schools may request to “opt down” one classification level in an activity based on financial, travel, or scheduling challenges. To be considered:

1. The request must be made during the reclassification cycle.
2. The Association will consider:
 - Competitive factors (see Section E)
 - Regional support
 - Financial, geographic, and scheduling impacts

If approved, the team is eligible for state tournament participation during all three years of the cycle. Requests must be submitted by September 1 of the reclassification year.

G. Ineligible 5th Year Students:

If a school’s enrollment for grades 9-12 for the previous school year is higher than thirty (30) students due to enrolled, ineligible 5th year seniors, as verified by the superintendent, and if the school would otherwise qualify to have 8th grade students participate under Article 12, Section 2.D., (Use of Junior High or Middle School Students), the superintendent may request that the ineligible 5th year seniors not be included in the total number enrollment for the purposes of this section.

After forgiveness for ineligible 5th year students has been granted, schools will be assigned to classifications. Schools which will be reclassified to a higher level under this policy may appeal the reclassification based on the average enrollment data for the current and 2 previous years. Schools which are reclassified will remain in their current classifications until the beginning of the second school year, at which time they will move to their new classifications. Schools will remain in their new classifications for three years; at which time the cycle begins again.

H. Unforeseen Circumstances: The Association may consider a request from a member school by the school’s superintendent for the Association to make an allowance for a specific school for unforeseen circumstances of the classification policy outlined in 1A-B.1. An example for when an allowance may be granted would include emergency transfers that increase a school’s classification.

I. Classification Policy Cycle:

April 2026 – check enrollments/reclassify schools/schools may appeal

2026-27 – schools remain at current classifications

2027-28 – schools move to new classifications

2028-29 – schools remain at current classifications

April 2029 – check enrollments/reclassify schools/schools may appeal

2029-30 – schools remain at current classification

2030-31 – schools move to new classifications

2031-32 and thereafter – schools remain at current classifications

April 2032 – check enrollments/reclassify schools/schools may appeal

2032-33 – schools remain at current classification

2033-34 – schools move to new classifications

2034-35 and thereafter – schools remain at current classifications

Narrative Example:

Smith High School is a 2A school with an enrollment of 155 in April of 2026 (including alternative education program students). There is no request for forgiveness, so the board reclassifies Smith High School to 3A beginning in 2027-28 (the school remains at the 2A level in 2026-27). Smith High School is a 3A school in 2027-2028, 2028-2029, 2029-2030.