



Education Freedom Act: Athletic Eligibility

A student with an athletic record at a TSSAA school who takes advantage of funds from the Educational Freedom Act and subsequently transfers to another school will have a pathway to immediate varsity eligibility, provided they meet all transfer eligibility requirements as stated in the TSSAA Bylaws.

FAQ

Q: How is athletic eligibility impacted if a family wishes to take advantage of the funds available from the Educational Freedom Act and transfer to an independent school?

A: Eligibility for athletics will depend on the rules of the governing body of the activity taking place at the independent school. The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) permits a one-time transfer for academic purposes, provided that the sending school's principal does not indicate that the move is related to athletics or is due to disciplinary action. It must also be verified that the student meets all other eligibility requirements at the time the student is seeking eligibility (i.e. the student has earned enough credits at his previous school to be academically eligible, the student has met the age requirements for participation, the student has not been enrolled more than eight semesters since enrolling in the 9th grade, the school has not illegally recruited the student, etc.) A comprehensive list of eligibility rules can be found in Article II of the [TSSAA Bylaws](#).

We can not speak to the transfer eligibility rules of other interscholastic athletics governing bodies. Examples of other associations that govern interscholastic competition that may have transfer rules to consider are below:

[Tennessee State Independent Athletic Association](#)

[Tennessee Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association](#)

[Greater Nashville Area Scholastic Hockey](#)