



## **Information for Parents Concerning GHSA Eligibility When Considering School Choice Options**

*(The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) is the state organization that supervises all competitive athletics in Georgia. All member high schools in the state must follow the rules as set forth by this organization. The Cobb County School District does not make the rules but does support the GHSA as the governing organization).*

The following information is for students requesting a transfer in order to attend a high school outside of the one districted for their residence.

1. All entering 9th grade students are eligible for GHSA sports and activities whether or not they reside in that high school attendance zone. They will be eligible there for 4 years as long as they maintain academic eligibility. Eighth (8th) grade students who live in the attendance zone for a specific high school may participate in spring practice/tryouts only for that high school. The exception would be an 8th grade student who attends a private school which has a high school (those students may not participate in spring practice/tryouts). For students already in high school, they may only participate in spring practice/tryouts at the school they currently attend.
2. Once a student attends a high school (whether outside of their attendance zone or not) they **establish their GHSA eligibility at that school**. If they transfer to another high school without a corresponding “bona fide move” of residence, they will be classified as a migratory student and ineligible for all varsity competitions for one calendar year. They will be allowed to compete on sub-varsity teams (freshman and JV) for that calendar year. For instance, if a student started at Pope and through a School Choice transfer, or any other reason, they were allowed to transfer to Hillgrove, they will be a migratory student at Hillgrove and not allowed to compete on the varsity level for one calendar year.
3. If a student has attended a high school outside of their attendance zone (for any reason) and decides to transfer to the one in their attendance zone, whether for the first time or returning, they will be migratory. For instance, if a student living in the Kell attendance zone attends Wheeler through a District approved transfer and then after attending Wheeler decides to attend Kell they will then be a migratory student and not eligible for varsity for one calendar year. The reason is they established their eligibility at Wheeler and changed high schools without a corresponding bona fide move of their residence.

All questions concerning GHSA eligibility should be directed to the local high school athletic director/administrator, or Don Baker, CCSD Director of Athletics.