CLASSIFICATION PROPOSALS

2025



March 25, 2025

**Proposal 29**

**§127-3-10. Classification.**

127CSR3

APPENDIX 1

This considers the following factors: enrollment, ~~location~~ and out of area attendance ~~and economics~~. ~~These factors are given~~

~~individual scores, which are then given a weighted aggregate total. All individual scores (scores for~~

~~enrollment, location, and economics) are normalized using maximum-minimum normalization using~~

~~feature scaling, wherein their values fall between 0-1. Individual scores are calculated in the following~~

~~ways:~~

~~• The enrollment score takes enrollment data and normalizes it on a scale from 0-1.~~

~~• The location score is calculated by finding the distance from the school to the closest city with a~~

~~population of 10,000 or more, then normalized between 0-1.~~

~~• The economic score is determined by first calculating a county score where the z-score of the~~

~~county's median household income is added to the z-score of the county's poverty rate and the~~

~~sum is normalized between 0-1.~~

~~o For all schools located within single high school counties, the county economic score serves~~

~~as the school economic score.~~

~~o For all schools located within multi-high school counties, Direct Certified numbers on students~~

~~eligible for free or reduced lunch are used to scale the county economic score. The scaling is~~

~~accomplished by comparing the Direct Certified numbers of each individual school with the~~

~~county average.~~

~~Weights are applied to each score that are determined based on qualitative assessment by the WVSSAC~~

~~Competition Balance Committee. All county data (population, median household income, and poverty~~

~~rate) are from the most recent US Census American Community Survey's Five Year Estimates and the~~

~~distances are determined using Google Maps.~~

A School enrollment shall be determined using the following formula:

1. School enrollments will be collected every 2 (two) years using information available through systems such as WVDE, WVEIS, RenWeb, Veracross, FACTS, Sycamore, Etc….
2. A student residing in the attendance area of the school they are competing for will be assigned a value of 1 (one).
3. A student residing outside of the designated attendance area, but in the same county shall be assigned a score of 1.5
4. A student residing outside of the county shall be assigned a score of 2.0
5. A student residing outside of the state shall be assigned a score of 2.5

The total number of students in each category shall then be totaled and a number calculated.

Classifications shall be based on this number.

There shall be 4 classifications in the following sports:

Football, Basketball, Cheer, Volleyball, Baseball, Softball

There shall be 3 classifications in the following sports:

Golf, Cross Country, Wrestling, Track, Soccer

There shall be 2 classifications in the following sports:

Tennis, Swimming

Wyatt O’Neil, Principal

Cameron High School

**Proposal 30**

**§127-3-10. Classification.**

10.1. Each member high school shall be classified as either AAAA, AAA, AA, or A based on the total ~~score given by the classification model that considers the factors of enrollment, location, and economics.~~ enrollment of the student body as listed in WVEIS. The designation shall be done after the end of the second school month of the odd numbered year preceding the classification~~. For an explanation of the classification model, and how scores are assigned, see Appendix 1.~~ Classification will be determined by multiplying the enrollment of the largest school within the classification by 60% (.6) to determine the lower limit of the classification. Therefore, the largest school enrollment in the state will be the top of AAAA. The bottom limit of AAAA will be the largest school’s enrollment x 60% (.6). The enrollment of the next school outside of the AAAA calculation will be the largest school in AAA. The lower limit of AAA will be the largest AAA enrollment x 60% (.6). The upper limit of AA is then the enrollment of the next school below that cut off. The lower limit of AA will be the largest A enrollment x 60% (.6). The upper limit of A is then the next school below the cutoff. As the WVSSAC and WVDE does not deal in partial students, if any dividing line (60% of largest in class) is a decimal, the result will be rounded up to determine the cut line. See attached example.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1753 x .6 = 1051.8 therefore 1052 cut line** | Enrollment |  |  |
|  |  | Score |  |  |
| 1753 | MORGANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL  | 100.0% | AAAA | 1 |
| 1725 | MUSSELMAN HIGH SCHOOL  | 98.4% | AAAA | 2 |
| 1661 | HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL  | 94.8% | AAAA | 3 |
| 1638 | CABELL MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL  | 93.4% | AAAA | 4 |
| 1544 | SPRING MILLS HIGH SCHOOL  | 88.1% | AAAA | 5 |
| 1505 | MARTINSBURG HIGH SCHOOL  | 85.9% | AAAA | 6 |
| 1486 | PARKERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL  | 84.8% | AAAA | 7 |
| 1457 | WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL  | 83.1% | AAAA | 8 |
| 1431 | JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL  | 81.6% | AAAA | 9 |
| 1425 | WHEELING PARK HIGH SCHOOL  | 81.3% | AAAA | 10 |
| 1372 | PARKERSBURG SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL  | 78.3% | AAAA | 11 |
| 1371 | UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL  | 78.2% | AAAA | 12 |
| 1346 | HEDGESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  | 76.8% | AAAA | 13 |
| 1284 | WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL  | 73.2% | AAAA | 14 |
| 1145 | GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL  | 65.3% | AAAA | 15 |
| 1141 | HURRICANE HIGH SCHOOL  | 65.1% | AAAA | 16 |
| 1066 | BUCKHANNON UPSHUR HIGH SCHOOL  | 60.8% | AAAA | 17 |
| 1057 | OAK HILL HIGH  | 60.3% | AAAA | 18 |
| 1057 | RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL  | 60.3% | AAAA | 19 |
| 1056 | PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL  | 60.2% | AAAA | 20 |
| 1048 | CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL  | 59.8% |  |  |

**1048 x .6 = 628.8 therefore 629 cut line**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1048 | CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL  | 100.0% | AAA | 1 |
| 1048 | JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL  | 100.0% | AAA | 2 |
| 981 | GREENBRIER EAST HIGH SCHOOL  | 93.6% | AAA | 3 |
| 946 | SPRING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  | 90.3% | AAA | 4 |
| 924 | PRINCETON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  | 88.2% | AAA | 5 |
| 882 | SAINT ALBANS HIGH SCHOOL  | 84.2% | AAA | 6 |
| 874 | SOUTH CHARLESTON HIGH SCHOOL  | 83.4% | AAA | 7 |
| 835 | FAIRMONT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  | 79.7% | AAA | 8 |
| 818 | NITRO HIGH SCHOOL  | 78.1% | AAA | 9 |
| 817 | BRIDGEPORT HIGH SCHOOL  | 78.0% | AAA | 10 |
| 782 | HERBERT HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL  | 74.6% | AAA | 11 |
| 774 | LINCOLN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 73.9% | AAA | 12 |
| 768 | RIPLEY HIGH SCHOOL  | 73.3% | AAA | 13 |
| 754 | SHADY SPRING HIGH  | 71.9% | AAA | 14 |
| 752 | BROOKE HIGH SCHOOL  | 71.8% | AAA | 15 |
| 747 | ELKINS HIGH SCHOOL  | 71.3% | AAA | 16 |
| 743 | WINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL  | 70.9% | AAA | 17 |
| 739 | HAMPSHIRE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  | 70.5% | AAA | 18 |
| 708 | NICHOLAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 67.6% | AAA | 19 |
| 703 | LEWIS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 67.1% | AAA | 20 |
| 687 | ROBERT C BYRD HIGH SCHOOL  | 65.6% | AAA | 21 |
| 687 | POINT PLEASANT JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL | 65.6% | AAA | 22 |
| 686 | EAST FAIRMONT HIGH SCHOOL  | 65.5% | AAA | 23 |
| 671 | NORTH MARION HIGH SCHOOL  | 64.0% | AAA | 24 |
| 665 | KEYSER HIGH SCHOOL  | 63.5% | AAA | 25 |
| 657 | GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL  | 62.7% | AAA | 26 |
| 645 | CHAPMANVILLE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  | 61.5% | AAA | 27 |
| 629 | PIKEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL  | 60.0% | AAA | 28 |
| 622 | MINGO CENTRAL COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL  | 59.4% |  |  |

**622 x .6 = 373.2 therefore cut line 374**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 622 | MINGO CENTRAL COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL  | 100.0% | AA | 1 |
| 617 | BLUEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL  | 99.2% | AA | 2 |
| 597 | INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL  | 96.0% | AA | 3 |
| 582 | WEIR HIGH SCHOOL  | 93.6% | AA | 4 |
| 581 | BERKELEY SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL  | 93.4% | AA | 5 |
| 564 | SCOTT HIGH SCHOOL  | 90.7% | AA | 6 |
| 564 | SISSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  | 90.7% | AA | 7 |
| 549 | LOGAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  | 88.3% | AA | 8 |
| 527 | LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL  | 84.7% | AA | 9 |
| 524 | WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL  | 84.2% | AA | 10 |
| 520 | PHILIP BARBOUR HIGH SCHOOL COMPLEX  | 83.6% | AA | 11 |
| 520 | CLAY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 83.6% | AA | 12 |
| 507 | WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL  | 81.5% | AA | 13 |
| 490 | ROANE COUNTY HIGH  | 78.8% | AA | 14 |
| 488 | FRANKFORT HIGH SCHOOL  | 78.5% | AA | 15 |
| 481 | BRAXTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 77.3% | AA | 16 |
| 480 | MOOREFIELD HIGH SCHOOL  | 77.2% | AA | 17 |
| 469 | OAK GLEN HIGH SCHOOL  | 75.4% | AA | 18 |
| 460 | JAMES MONROE HIGH SCHOOL  | 74.0% | AA | 19 |
| 458 | LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 73.6% | AA | 20 |
| 446 | WYOMING COUNTY EAST HIGH SCHOOL  | 71.7% | AA | 21 |
| 410 | POCA HIGH SCHOOL  | 65.9% | AA | 22 |
| 401 | PETERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL  | 64.5% | AA | 23 |
| 398 | RIVER VIEW HIGH SCHOOL  | 64.0% | AA | 24 |
| 397 | MIDLAND TRAIL HIGH  | 63.8% | AA | 25 |
| 397 | RAVENSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  | 63.8% | AA | 26 |
| 382 | BUFFALO HIGH SCHOOL  | 61.4% | AA | 27 |
| 379 | WILLIAMSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL  | 60.9% | AA | 28 |
| 368 | TYLER CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL  | 59.2% |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 368 | TYLER CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL  | 59.2% | A | 1 |
| 367 | 6-12 SUMMERS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE HS  | 59.0% | A | 2 |
| 365 | SOUTH HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL  | 58.7% | A | 3 |
| 355 | DODDRIDGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 57.1% | A | 4 |
| 350 | GREENBRIER WEST HIGH SCHOOL  | 56.3% | A | 5 |
| 346 | LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 55.6% | A | 6 |
| 344 | TOLSIA HIGH SCHOOL  | 55.3% | A | 7 |
| 333 | WEBSTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 53.5% | A | 8 |
| 328 | RITCHIE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 52.7% | A | 9 |
| 320 | MAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  | 51.4% | A | 10 |
| 316 | SHERMAN HIGH SCHOOL  | 50.8% | A | 11 |
| 315 | TUG VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  | 50.6% | A | 12 |
| 313 | WHEELING CENTRAL CATHOLIC | 50.3% | A | 13 |
| 309 | ST. MARYS HIGH SCHOOL  | 49.7% | A | 14 |
| 298 | RICHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  | 47.9% | A | 15 |
| 295 | MOUNT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL  | 47.4% | A | 16 |
| 279 | TUCKER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 44.9% | A | 17 |
| 276 | WAHAMA JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  | 44.4% | A | 18 |
| 276 | POCAHONTAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 44.4% | A | 19 |
| 275 | MAGNOLIA HIGH SCHOOL  | 44.2% | A | 20 |
| 275 | WIRT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 44.2% | A | 21 |
| 255 | CALHOUN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL  | 41.0% | A | 22 |
| 253 | GILMER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  | 40.7% | A | 23 |
| 251 | PENDLETON COUNTY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL  | 40.4% | A | 24 |
| 211 | TYGARTS VALLEY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL  | 33.9% | A | 25 |
| 203 | EAST HARDY HIGH SCHOOL  | 32.6% | A | 26 |
| 197 | CHARLESTON CATHOLIC  | 31.7% | A | 27 |
| 187 | CLAY-BATTELLE HIGH SCHOOL  | 30.1% | A | 28 |
| 175 | MONTCALM HIGH SCHOOL  | 28.1% | A | 29 |
| 171 | CAMERON HIGH SCHOOL  | 27.5% | A | 30 |
| 128 | HANNAN JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  | 20.6% | A | 32 |
| 124 | VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  | 19.9% | A | 33 |
| 115 | TRINITY | 18.5% | A | 34 |
| 104 | CHANDLER ACADEMY  | 16.7% | A | 35 |
| 101 | PADEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL  | 16.2% | A | 36 |
| 80 | MADONNA | 12.9% | A | 37 |
| 77 | WOOD COUNTY CHRISTIAN | 12.4% | A | 38 |
| 72 | PARKERSBURG CATHOLIC | 11.6% | A | 39 |
| 70 | NOTRE DAME | 11.3% | A | 40 |
| 90 | VAN JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  | 14.5% | A | 41 |
| 65 | HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL  | 10.5% | A | 42 |
| 59 | UNION EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX  | 9.5% | A | 43 |
| 52 | GREATER BECKLEY | 8.4% | A | 44 |
| 49 | PAW PAW HIGH SCHOOL  | 7.9% | A | 46 |
| 31 | HARMAN ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL  | 5.0% | A | 49 |

Rationale: Those schools that proposed classification changes met to work through the 20+ proposals in an effort to amalgamate the best ideas proposed. This use of percentages was decided as one of two possible proposals that gave a mathematical line, but does not give definition that can be manipulated with October enrollment numbers. The group also determined that no school should be required to compete against schools so significantly larger that it might eliminate fairness of competition (ie double the student enrollment). Based on the adjustability of this calculation for reclassification purposes, there is no set number of schools within a classification, nor a set number delineating classification boundaries. This also allows for changes in the student populations of all schools to determine competitive classifications.

Principals from Cameron, Fairmont Senior, George Washington, Greenbrier East, John Marshall, Lincoln, Oak Hill, Weir, and Williamstown

**Proposal 31**

**Appendix 1**

~~This considers the following factors: enrollment, location and economics. These factors are given individual scores, which are then given a weighted aggregate total. All individual scores (scores for enrollment, location and economics) are normalized using maximum-minimum normalization using feature scaling, wherein their values fall between 0-1. Individual scores are calculated in the following ways: • The enrollment score takes enrollment data and normalizes it on a scale from 0-1.~~ • ~~The location score is calculated by finding the distance from the school to the closest city with a population of 10,000 or more, then normalized between 0-1. • The economic score is determined by first calculating a county score where the z-score of the county's median household income is added to the z-score of the county's poverty rate and the sum is normalized between 0-1. o For all schools located within single high school counties, the county economic score serves as the school economic score. o For all schools located within multi-high school counties, Direct Certified numbers on students eligible for free or reduced lunch are used to scale the county economic score. The scaling is accomplished by comparing the Direct Certified numbers of each individual school with the county average. Weights are applied to each score that are determined based on qualitative assessment by the WVSSAC Competition Balance Committee. All county data (population, median household income, and poverty rate) are from the most recent US Census American Community Survey's Five Year Estimates and the distances are determined using Google Maps.~~

Rationale:

The use of the competitive balance model was a lot of work for not much reward. Take out the 20% of the equation that does not add value to determining competitiveness. First, SES levels are not specifically indicative of the school’s ability to produce competitive teams. Secondly, proximity to a city of 10,000 also doesn’t indicate any increased or decreased ability for a school to produce competitive teams. For example, Fairmont is a city of 10,000 but offers no advantages in facilities or recreational leagues that one assumes will exist for a “large” city. Even division of classifications removes confusion and controversy about how schools were placed for competition. Top athletes are anomalies in the general student population, therefore large schools have a greater total number of anomalies than a smaller school. Alignment by school enrollment maximizes the reliability of equality of competition due to similar student populations from which to draw athletes.

Jim Green, Principal

Fairmont Senior High School

**Proposal 32**

**§127-3-10. Classification.**

10.4. ~~The Board of Directors may structure the WVSSAC tournament series in each sport by classification (AAAA-AAA-AA-A). Each sport will be structured according to the level of interest and accommodation for tournament alignment. The WVSSAC will conduct a survey of the membership prior to any change of structure of any given sport.~~

The following structure will be used for tournament alignments:

Sports considered “high participation” (Football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, cheer) – All schools will participate in the tournament for their assigned classification via the approved WVSSAC classification rule.

All other sports considered “low participation” (golf, cross country, track, soccer, wrestling, tennis) will follow the schedule: AAAA schools compete in the assigned AAAA tournament; AAA schools compete in the assigned AAA tournament; AA/A schools compete in a combined AA/A tournament.

Rationale:

The previous rule allowed for decisions to be made for classification and competition by a committee of individuals with no defined parameters for setting classification participation. The delineations were made for participation without use of the approved classification system. The issue of lower participation rates for the listed sports occurs in the AA and A classifications. Adjusting the classifications for low participation sports is unnecessary at the AAAA and AAA levels as those schools fully participate. Changing alignment for schools within those upper classification s brings in personal bias and competition disparity which is eliminated through use of the approved classification system. Combining Aa and A for tournament play provides a more complete tournament at those classification levels.

Jim Green, Principal

Fairmont Senior HS

**Proposal 33**

**§127-3-10. Classification.**

10.2. Classification of member high schools shall be determined every ~~four~~ two years ~~on the even numbered years~~ and will remain in effect for a ~~four~~ two year period unless the school experiences a 20% change in enrollment using WVDE enrollment figures at the end of the second school month. Classification changes due to a 20% change in enrollment becomes effective next academic year.

Rationale: We believe that changing the reclassification period to two years vs four allows for more accuracy within the system. We understand that enrollment come in waves. This change prevents member schools from being classified (both up or down) where they do not belong for a long period of time.

Orie Pancione, Principal

Frankfort HS

**Proposal 34 §127-3-10. Classification.**

10.1. Each member high school shall be classified as either AAAA, AAA, AA, or A based on the total ~~score given by the classification model that considers the factors of~~ enrollment~~, location, and economics. The designation shall be done after~~ of grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 using West Virginia Department of Education enrollment figures at the end of the second school month of the ~~odd numbered~~ year preceding the classification.

10.1.a. Sports shall be separated using the following model:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AAAA | Enrollment of 1050 or more |
| AAA | Enrollment of 625 – 1049 |
| AA | Enrollment of 351 – 624 |
| A | Enrollment of 350 or less |

 10.1.b Swimming will use 1 class due to the smaller number of participating schools.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School**  | **Type** | **Total Headcount****23-24** | **TOTAL HEADCOUNT****24-25** | **CLASS** |
| **Morgantown High School** | **Secondary** | **1,823** | **1753**  | **AAAA** |
| **Musselman High School** | **Secondary** | **1,780** | **1725** | **AAAA** |
| **Huntington High School** | **Secondary** | **1,717** | **1661** | **AAAA** |
| **Cabell Midland High School** | **Secondary** | **1,712** | **1638** | **AAAA** |
| **Spring Mills High School** | **Secondary** | **1,549** | **1544** | **AAAA** |
| **Martinsburg High School** | **Secondary** | **1,466** | **1505** | **AAAA** |
| **Parkersburg High School** | **Secondary** | **1,559** | **1486** | **AAAA** |
| **Washington High School** | **Secondary** | **1,384** | **1457** | **AAAA** |
| **Jefferson High School** | **Secondary** | **1,394** | **1431** | **AAAA** |
| **Wheeling Park High School** | **Secondary** | **1,493** | **1425** | **AAAA** |
| **Parkersburg South High School** | **Secondary** | **1,384** | **1372** | **AAAA** |
| **University High School** | **Secondary** | **1,375** | **1371** | **AAAA** |
| **Hedgesville High School** | **Secondary** | **1,407** | **1346** | **AAAA** |
| **Woodrow Wilson High School** | **Secondary** | **1,268** | **1284** | **AAAA** |
| **George Washington High School** | **Secondary** | **1,187** | **1145** | **AAAA** |
| **Hurricane High School** | **Secondary** | **1,228** | **1141** | **AAAA** |
| **Buckhannon Upshur High School** | **Secondary** | **1,120** | **1066** | **AAAA** |
| **Riverside High School** | **Secondary** | **1,126** | **1057** | **AAAA** |
| **Oak Hill High** | **Secondary** | **1,088** | **1057** | **AAAA** |
| **Preston High School** | **Secondary** | **1,120** | **1056** | **AAAA** |
| **John Marshall High School** | **Secondary** | **1,071** | **1048** | **AAA** |
| **Capital High School** | **Secondary** | **1,041** | **1048** | **AAA** |
| **Greenbrier East High School** | **Secondary** | **1,013** | **995** | **AAA** |
| **Spring Valley High School** | **Secondary** | **985** | **946** | **AAA** |
| **Princeton Senior High School** | **Secondary** | **967** | **924** | **AAA** |
| **Saint Albans High School** | **Secondary** | **900** | **882** | **AAA** |
| **South Charleston High School** | **Secondary** | **913** | **874** | **AAA** |
| **Brooke High School** | **Secondary** | **844** | **848** | **AAA** |
| **Fairmont Senior High School** | **Secondary** | **779** | **835** | **AAA** |
| **Nitro High School** | **Secondary** | **798** | **818** | **AAA** |
| **Bridgeport High School** | **Secondary** | **814** | **817** | **AAA** |
| **Herbert Hoover High School** | **Secondary** | **783** | **782** | **AAA** |
| **Lincoln County High School** | **Secondary** | **837** | **774** | **AAA** |
| **Ripley High School** | **Secondary** | **785** | **768** | **AAA** |
| **Shady Spring High** | **Secondary** | **787** | **754** | **AAA** |
| **Elkins High School** | **Secondary** | **740** | **747** | **AAA** |
| **Winfield High School** | **Secondary** | **792** | **743** | **AAA** |
| **Hampshire Senior High School** | **Secondary** | **814** | **740** | **AAA** |
| **East Fairmont High School** | **Secondary** | **686** | **722** | **AAA** |
| **Nicholas County High School** | **Secondary** | **697** | **708** | **AAA** |
| **Lewis County High School** | **Secondary** | **730** | **703** | **AAA** |
| **Point Pleasant Junior/Senior High School** | **Secondary** | **719** | **687** | **AAA** |
| **Robert C. Byrd** | **Secondary** | **696** | **687** | **AAA** |
| **Bluefield High School** | **Secondary** | **636** | **677** | **AAA** |
| **North Marion High School** | **Secondary** | **715** | **671** | **AAA** |
| **Keyser High School** | **Secondary** | **662** | **665** | **AAA** |
| **Grafton High School** | **Secondary** | **666** | **657** | **AAA** |
| **Chapmanville Regional High School** | **Secondary** | **664** | **645** | **AAA** |
| **Pikeview High School** | **Secondary** | **610** | **629** | **AAA** |
| **Mingo Central High School** | **Secondary** |  | **622** | **AA** |
| **Independence High School** | **Secondary** | **592** | **597** | **AA** |
| **Weir High School** | **Secondary** | **570** | **582** | **AA** |
| **Berkeley Springs High School** | **Secondary** | **603** | **581** | **AA** |
| **Sissonville High School** | **Secondary** | **573** | **564** | **AA** |
| **Scott High School** | **Secondary** |  | **564** | **AA** |
| **Logan Senior High School** | **Secondary** | **554** | **549** | **AA** |
| **Lincoln High School** | **Secondary** |  | **527** | **AA** |
| **Wayne High School** | **Secondary** | **575** | **524** | **AA** |
| **Philip Barbour High School Complex** | **Secondary** | **588** | **520** | **AA** |
| **Clay County High School** | **Secondary** | **534** | **520** | **AA** |
| **Westside High School** | **Secondary** | **557** | **507** | **AA** |
| **Roane County High** | **Secondary** | **518** | **490** | **AA** |
| **Frankfort High School** | **Secondary** | **476** | **488** | **AA** |
| **Braxton County High School** | **Secondary** | **507** | **487** | **AA** |
| **Moorefield High School** | **Secondary** | **492** | **480** | **AA** |
| **Oak Glen High School** | **Secondary** | **495** | **469** | **AA** |
| **James Monroe High School** | **Secondary** |  | **460** | **AA** |
| **Liberty High School--RALEIGH** | **Secondary** | **459** | **458** | **AA** |
| **Wyoming County East High School** | **Secondary** | **452** | **446** | **AA** |
| **Poca High School** | **Secondary** | **432** | **410** | **AA** |
| **Petersburg High School** | **Secondary** | **403** | **401** | **AA** |
| **River View High School** | **Secondary** | **389** | **398** | **AA** |
| **Ravenswood High School** | **Secondary** | **410** | **397** | **AA** |
| **Midland Trail High** | **Secondary** | **396** | **397** | **AA** |
| **Buffalo High School** | **Secondary** | **376** | **382** | **AA** |
| **Williamstown High School** | **Secondary** | **359** | **379** | **AA** |
| **Tyler Consolidated High School** | **Secondary** | **368** | **368** | **AA** |
| **Summers County High School** | **Secondary** | **381** | **367** | **AA** |
| **South Harrison High School** | **Secondary** | **348** | **365** | **AA** |
| **Doddridge County High School** | **Secondary** | **338** | **355** | **AA** |
| **Greenbrier West High School** | **Secondary** | **385** | **350** | **A** |
| **~~Liberty High School--HARRISON~~** | **~~Secondary~~** | **~~442~~** | **~~346~~** | **~~A~~** |
| **Tolsia High School** | **Secondary** | **342** | **344** | **A** |
| **Webster County High School** | **Secondary** | **342** | **333** | **A** |
| **Ritchie County High School** | **Secondary** | **348** | **328** | **A** |
| **Richwood High School** | **Secondary** | **322** | **322** | **A** |
| **Man Senior High School** | **Secondary** | **337** | **320** | **A** |
| **Sherman High School** | **Secondary** | **325** | **316** | **A** |
| **Tug Valley High School** | **Secondary** | **335** | **315** | **A** |
| **Wheeling Central Catholic High School** | **Secondary** | **286** | **313** |  |
| **St. Marys High School** | **Secondary** | **298** | **309** | **A** |
| **Mount View High School** | **Secondary** | **326** | **295** | **A** |
| **Tucker County High School** | **Secondary** | **293** | **279** | **A** |
| **Wahama Junior/Senior High School** | **Secondary** | **255** | **276** | **A** |
| **Pocahontas County High School** | **Secondary** |  | **276** | **A** |
| **Magnolia High School** | **Secondary** | **303** | **275** | **A** |
| **Wirt County High School** | **Secondary** | **286** | **275** | **A** |
| **Calhoun Middle/High School** | **Secondary** | **265** | **255** | **A** |
| **Gilmer County High School** | **Secondary** | **242** | **253** | **A** |
| **Pendleton County Middle/High School** | **Secondary** | **257** | **251** | **A** |
| **Tygarts Valley High School** | **Secondary** |  | **211** | **A** |
| **Charleston Catholic High School** | **Secondary** |  | **207** | **A** |
| **East Hardy High School** | **Secondary** | **215** | **203** | **A** |
| **Charleston Catholic High School** | **Secondary** | **206** | **197** |  |
| **Valley High School** | **Secondary** | **139** | **124** | **A** |
| **Clay-Battelle High School** | **Secondary** | **193** | **187** | **A** |
| **Montcalm High School** | **Secondary** | **191** | **175** | **A** |
| **Cameron High School** | **Secondary** | **182** | **171** | **A** |
| **Hannan Junior/Senior High School** | **Secondary** | **157** | **128** | **A** |
| **Meadow Bridge High School** | **Secondary** | **134** | **119** | **A** |
| **Trinity High School** | **Secondary** | **70** | **115** | **A** |
| **~~Paden City High School~~** | **~~Secondary~~** | **~~107~~** | **~~101~~** | **~~A~~** |
| **St. Joseph’s High School** | **Secondary** | **91** |  | **A** |
| **Van Junior/Senior High School** | **Secondary** | **94** | **90** | **A** |
| **Weirton Madonna High School** | **Secondary** | **113** | **80** | **A** |
| **Parkersburg Catholic High School** | **Secondary** | **78** | **72** | **A** |
| **Notre Dame High School** | **Secondary** | **130** | **70** | **A** |
| **~~Hundred High School~~** | **~~Secondary~~** | **~~77~~** | **~~65~~** | **~~A~~** |
| **Union Educational Complex** | **Secondary** | **66** | **59** | **A** |
| **Paw Paw High School** | **Secondary** | **52** | **49** | **A** |
| **Harman Elementary/High School** | **Secondary** | **35** | **31** | **A** |
| **Pickens Elementary/High School** | **Secondary** | **9** | **7** | **A** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Rationale: The present rule has spawned a series of appeals to classification, which has resulted in a Board of Review mandate to move schools down a classification in football for the 2024 season only. This affected the landscape immediately in football, with corresponding court injunctions that delayed the start of the playoffs in 2024. This proposal would simplify our structure of classes, and simplify the cutoff numbers while maintaining a reasonable competitive balance of schools per class.

Principals from Cameron, Fairmont Senior, George Washington, Greenbrier East, John Marshall, Lincoln, Oak Hill, Weir, and Williamstown

**Proposal 35**

**Appendix 1**

~~APPENDIX 1~~

~~This considers the following factors: enrollment, location, and economics. These factors are given individual scores, which are then given a weighted aggregate total. All individual scores (scores for enrollment, location, and economics) are normalized using maximum-minimum normalization using feature scaling, wherein their values fall between 0-1. Individual scores are calculated in the following ways:~~

~~• The enrollment score takes enrollment data and normalizes it on a scale from 0-1.~~

~~• The location score is calculated by finding the distance from the school to the closest city with a population of 10,000 or more, then normalized between 0-1.~~

~~• The economic score is determined by first calculating a county score where the z-score of the county's median household income is added to the z-score of the county's poverty rate and the sum is normalized between 0-1.~~

~~o For all schools located within single high school counties, the county economic score serves as the school economic score.~~

~~o For all schools located within multi-high school counties, Direct Certified numbers on students eligible for free or reduced lunch are used to scale the county economic score. The scaling is accomplished by comparing the Direct Certified numbers of each individual school with the county average.~~

~~Weights are applied to each score that are determined based on qualitative assessment by the WVSSAC Competition Balance Committee. All county data (population, median household income, and poverty rate) are from the most recent US Census American Community Survey's Five Year Estimates and the distances are determined using Google Maps.~~

Rationale: The appendix is no longer needed if enrollment is used as the sole criteria for classification.

Jim Crawford, Principal

George Washington High School

**Proposal 36**

**§127-3-10. Classification.**

10.2 Classification of member high schools shall be determined every ~~four~~ two years on the evennumbered yearsand will remain in effect for a ~~four~~ two year period unless the school experiences a 20% change in enrollment using WVDE enrollment figures at the end of the second school month. Classification changes due to a 20% change in enrollment becomes effective the next academic year.

Rationale:

We have had serious controversy surrounding the shift to four classes, and the various formulas considered and implemented to determine those classes. It is in the best interest of all parties-the schools, the WVDE, and the WVSSAC, that whatever system is ultimately implemented in transparent and clear, with a focus on maximum accuracy. There is no logical reason for us to only look at enrollment every four years, when two years is available. If so, it is entirely possible a student plays their entire athletic career in a class that their school really doesn’t fit in.

The clear, logical choice is for an enrollment-only classification system to look at numbers every two years, in order to restore confidence in the system and ensure the most accurate classifications. The WV BOE made it clear in public comments following their denial of the Spring Valley Proposal that the 2-year lookback period was “a good idea”. The 2- year period needs implemented.

Katie Hayes, Principal

Oak Hill High School

**Proposal 37**

**§127-3-10. Classification.**

 ~~10.7. The WVSSAC Board of Directors is authorized to grant a waiver to a classification assignment when it determines the rule fails to accomplish the purpose for which it is intended.~~

Rationale: The ability for schools to appeal classifications that have been voted on and approved has proven detrimental to the democratic process upheld by the WVSSAC Board of Control. While no system can fully satisfy every member school, the principles of athletics call for setting an example by respecting the collective decisions of our membership. Accepting these outcomes without resorting to appeals helps maintain stability and prevents the scheduling uncertainties and delays that appeals create in interscholastic athletics.

Kari Vicars, Principal

Shady Spring High School

**Proposal 38**

**§127-3-10. Classification.**

 10.1. Each member high school shall be classified as either AAAA, AAA, AA, or A based on ~~the total score given by the classification model that considers the factors of enrollment, location, and economics. The designation shall be done after the end of the second school month of the odd numbered year preceding the classification. For an explanation of the classification model, and how scores are assigned, see Appendix 1.~~ the percentage of member high schools. AAAA (20%), AAA (26%), AA (26%), and A (28%).

AAAA – Morgantown – Spring Valley (24 schools)

AAA – Princeton – Sissonville (31 schools)

AA – Logan – Man (31 schools)

A – Sherman – Paw Paw (34 schools)

Rationale : To provide equity among classes, particularly with smaller schools.

Steve Wamsley, Principal

Tygarts Valley High School

**Proposal 39**

**§127-3-10. Classification.**

§127-3-10.1

~~“based on the total score given by the classification model that considers the factors of enrollment, location, and economics. The designation shall be done after the end of the second school month of the odd numbered year preceding the classification. For an explanation of the classification model, and how scores are assigned, see Appendix 1.”~~

**New Language:**
“based solely on its reported enrollment number. The 16 schools with the highest enrollment shall be designated as AAAA, and the remaining schools shall be divided as evenly as possible among the classifications of AAA, AA, and A in descending order of enrollment.”

Section §127-3-10.2 – Frequency of Classification
~~“Classification of member high schools shall be determined every four years on the even numbered years and will remain in effect for a four year period”~~

“Classification of member high schools shall be determined every two years on even-numbered years and will remain in effect for a two-year period”

Section §127-3-10.5 – Reclassification Following Consolidation

~~“based on the total score given by the classification model that considers the factors of enrollment, location, and economics.”~~

“based solely on its reported enrollment number.”

Rationale:

The state board of education previously voted down a proposal due to the overly complicated formulas that led to frequent appeals. Similarly, a rule change passed by the WVSSAC in October was rejected because there was no universal collection method to ensure that the complex formulas could be accurately measured, resulting in numerous classification appeals. This proposal preserves the essential intent of the October proposal—establishing a four-class system—while simplifying the methodology by basing classification solely on enrollment figures. Maintaining exactly 16 schools in the AAAA classification reflects the significant enrollment differences among the largest schools in that class, ensuring fair competition.

Summary:

* Four Classifications based solely on enrollment
* Restricted size for AAAA due to enrollment differences
* 2-year re-classification instead of 4-year

Ted Arneault, Principal

Weir High School