

# Paola High School

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Jeff T. Hines, Principal  
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## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Jeff T. Hines

Paola High School- Principal

KSHSAA Board of Directors Member- Frontier League Representative

KSHSAA Private/Public Study Committee Member

I am offering written testimony as a proponent for adoption of the KSHSAA approved Classification System Multiplier Rule Change based on both Data AND Membership Support.

### What is the Purpose of a Classification System?

In my opinion, the primary function of a classification system should be to provide a competitive postseason tournament, both in terms of championships won and appearances in postseason play.

A review of the last 10 years of post-season play reveals that ***competitive balance does not exist*** in our current system. The competitive imbalance has been well documented over time and was validated in 2007 by a Private/Public Study Committee that was sanctioned by the KSHSAA.

### What does KSHSAA's Current Classification System Look Like?

The current classification system being used in Kansas has 6 classes and was adopted in 1979 and most recently ***modified in 2017*** .

*Precedent has already been set by the membership to "modify" the classification system when a competitive imbalance has been found.* Throughout the history of the KSHSAA our classification system has been based strictly on enrollment. Schools cannot leave a classification to find a more appropriate level of competition like they can in a league. It has become increasingly evident over time that "other factors" must be taken into consideration when classifying schools in Kansas if the goal exists to create a level playing field for the membership.

### Do other states utilize a multiplier or some form of private school modifier?

Yes. More than half of states have implemented some type of enrollment modifier for private schools. Once adopted ***NO STATE HAS EVER REVERTED BACK*** to their previous system. Modifications may be necessary over time as work continues to create the best possible system for Kansas.



Home of the Panthers



### **Do KSHSAA Member Schools Support a Private School Modifier?**

Yes! In June 2022 KSHSAA conducted a vote to modify the classification system. Schools had the **option** to cast a ballot with a response rate of 76.8%.

- Out of the 353 member schools only 14.7% actually returned a ballot with a **NO** vote.
- Of the 271 schools that returned a ballot 80.8% cast a **YES** vote.
- 6A was the only classification that had a majority of schools vote **NO**. (5A was 18-18)
- 6A cast the same number of **NO** votes as 2A, 3A and 4A combined.
- **Note:** 6A is the only classification without a private school.

An independent survey of all member schools, which was conducted by myself and Randy Heatherly in December of 2016, indicated widespread support for change. As a result of these findings support was well documented for change and work intensified to bring focus on the best solutions available to positively change the classification system. Survey Highlights are listed below:

Note the similarities between our 2016 Independent Survey and the Final “Votes” Tallied.

- 80% of member schools responded to the survey.
- 82% of respondents indicated support for a private school modifier.
- 103 out of 105 Kansas Counties included school districts that support a modifier.

KSHSAA conducted a sanctioned survey in response to our initial findings and discovered overwhelming support for changes to the current classification system that is still in use.

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## Independent Survey Data found that 82% of Kansas Schools Support a Modifier



### Summary

- Private schools comprise less than 8% of the membership but win nearly 40% of the championships that they are eligible for. *The problem is significant!*
- The proposal went through a rigorous review which included:
  - KSHSAA Private/Public Committee
  - KSHSAA Executive Board
  - KSHSAA Board of Directors
  - KSHSAA Membership Schools
  - Input received from Public Comment at Board Meetings
  - Input received from the KSHSAA Student Advisory Team
- The proposal is *UNIQUE TO KANSAS* and focuses on competitive balance while avoiding penalizing private schools that are not successful.

I ask that you support the endorsement of high schools across the state of Kansas that have spoken clearly that change is needed and pass the KSHSAA Rule Change on for final review and adoption by the Legislative and Executive Branches.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff T. Hines".

Jeff T. Hines  
Principal  
Paola High School