



*The information provided below is intended to help Athletic Directors navigate the various academic environments families wish to access for their children while maintaining athletic eligibility. The current landscape of academic offerings and family choice is changing rapidly so please note that the examples below are not exhaustive nor intended to cover all possible scenarios. Please contact the WIAA Eligibility Team ([eligibility@wiaa.com](mailto:eligibility@wiaa.com)) with questions or clarifications as needed.*

**RESIDENT DISTRICT** - the district in which the student's residence is located.

**NON-RESIDENT DISTRICT** - the district in which the student is enrolled or is seeking entrance and in which the student's residence is not located.

**Alternative Learning Experience (ALE)** - Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) is public education where some or all of the instruction is delivered outside of a regular classroom schedule.

**Public / Regular School** - education offered by the public school system in which the students FTE goes to the public school. Traditionally held in the brick-and-mortar school or a program offered as an extension of the school.

**Private School** - education offered by a certified private school. The student does not have an FTE, rather pays a tuition to the school in exchange for the educational offerings. Students choosing private school are making a choice to not attend their resident district.

#### **Reminders**

- 18.5.0 Students must be a regular member of the school they represent in order to participate. Regular member of a school is indicated by being enrolled 50% or more.
- If a student were to withdraw from their resident public school / school of record and later return to the resident public school they would be treated as a “new student” and subject to the new student packet.

***Parents are opting for their student-athlete to attend an alternative (or online) school via another school district but want to access athletics at their resident school/current school.***

**Question to ask: Does this “alternative school” have a separate [OSPI School Code](#).** This would indicate that the school is a registered school via OSPI. Having an OSPI code indicates the school is it’s own separate school.

- Answer: **YES**
  - This would suggest that the program is its own school and would meet the WIAA standards of being an alternative school.
  - This school will have its own transcript with a school name that reflects the name of the alternative school.



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- Answer: **NO**
  - This would suggest that the program is an extension of a public school system or private program and would not meet the WIAA standards of being an alternative school.

### **Question to ask; Does this school offer any athletics**

- Answer: **NO**
- 18.5.2 A full time student in a public alternative school without athletics may participate at the resident public school that the student would normally attend or that student's public school of record.
- Answer: **YES**
- 18.5.0 At the time the family makes the transfer to the alternative school, they have the option to remain eligible at the resident public school/school of record or access the alternative school /alternative school district as a transfer student.

### ***Parent calls to let AD know that they are opting to attend BYU online for academics this semester.***

This student will be withdrawing from the public school system.

This student would NOT be enrolling in another public school system.

These academic offerings are not part of the OSPI educational system.

Per WIAA guidelines, this would be home schooling and would need to follow home school expectations (18.5.1) and [RCW 28A.200.011\(1\)](#)

### ***Parents call to let the AD of the private school that they are interested in doing Running Start but still do sports at the private school.***

- Running Start is a public-school offering. This student would need to transfer to their resident public school to access Running Start. If the family chooses to do this 60% of the time or more, their student would be transferring their eligibility to the resident public school with corresponding transfer rules. If the family were to return to the Private school after 1 quarter (mid-December), they would still be subject to the transfer rules because they did not have continuous enrollment at the private school and instead have moved enrollment to the resident public school.
- Option for the family: Enroll 50% Running Start and 50% private school to maintain enrollment at the private school.
- 18.5.0 - Students must be a regular member of the school (50% enrolled or more) they represent in order to participate in an interscholastic athletic activity.

### ***Student is a choice student into your district and has been a choice student for several years. The family has opted to home school their student. Do they have to return to their resident public school as a transfer student to access home school?***

- Washington state law recognizes the desire of some parents and families to seek a home-based instruction for their children. RCW 28A.200.011(1) states that each person whose child is receiving



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home-based instruction under [RCW 28A.225.010\(4\)](#) must file annually a signed declaration of intent that he or she is planning to cause his or her child to receive home-based instruction.

- Each parent shall file the statement by September 15th of the school year or within two weeks of the beginning of any public-school quarter, trimester, or semester with the superintendent of the public school district within which the parent resides or the district that accepts the transfer, and the student shall be deemed a transfer student of the nonresident district.
- 18.5.2 Q and A 3 - Athletes can be released from their public school of residence and then register with the non-resident school district as a homeschooled student.
- Remember in this scenario, the student already established the “choice” school as the school of record so would not be subject to any transfer rules. If the student was choosing a “new” school, they would be subject to transfer rules.