

APPLICATION FOR HARDSHIP EXCEPTIONS

A waiver of the AAA eligibility rules is possible under Rule 15, Hardship Exception for Eligibility, and may be considered if conditions exist or existed causing a student to be in violation of a rule. There cannot be an exception made for the Age Rule. Hardships must be applied for and approved by the Executive Director before a student participates in interscholastic competition. Hardships shall not be retroactive.

Please complete the form below and furnish the additional information needed to develop acceptable proof that the student should be considered for this waiver.

1. Name of student _____

2. School applying for exception _____

Address _____

3. Name of supt./principal applying for exception _____

Phone Number _____

4. List the name, address and phone number of last school attended and principal's name if a transfer student

5. For which rule are you requesting an exception? (Check One):

Residence/Transfer _____ **Semester** _____ **Scholarship** _____ **Drop Out** _____

6. Include a grade and attendance record, if it is needed to support the request.

7. Include a brief narrative explaining the situation and why you feel this student should be considered for the exception. Keep in mind the items on the back that must be considered in granting such an exception.

8. Include written statements from individuals that have **personal knowledge** of the facts. We need those persons in authoritative positions such as; school officials, including principals, superintendents, counselors, etc., doctors, social workers, employers, ministers, etc. Include their names and phone numbers.

9. Include written statements from the parents and provide their address and phone number.

10. If necessary can you bring the student to the AAA office for a personal interview?

____ Yes ____ No

Signature of Superintendent or Principal

Date

Rule 15. Hardship Exceptions for Eligibility - Upon petition from a student's school administrator, the Executive Director is authorized to waive the requirements of all eligibility rules except the age rule if the school develops acceptable proof for such a waiver.

A. Residence/Transfer Exceptions -

1. After an investigation, a court of law has removed the student from his parents or guardians and subsequently assigned the student a place of residence.
2. The student is an orphan or there is no record of his parent's whereabouts.
3. The student's parents are out-of-state residents and the student is attending school in a school district where his parents maintain a legal residence (military, etc.).
4. The student's parent(s) have abrogated their responsibility toward him as parents.
5. The student's parent's employment requires absence from home a great portion of the time the student is home and have arranged residence with relatives or friends for the purpose of supervision.
6. The student is married and living with a spouse, having a parent with residence in school district, or a spouse who had an established residence in the district one year previous to the marriage.
7. A student, after having lived three continuous years at any time in his life as a bona fide member of a family, may establish the family heads as substitute parents with respect to the resident rule.
8. An extreme and unusual circumstance exists that is no fault of the student or his parents. If the need however, arises because of a parents' negligence this fact may be considered.

NOTE: Furthermore, the Executive Director is authorized to specify limitations or contingency conditions as needed when giving approvals, to insure that such student shall not be induced to another school district or played under the pretense of being eligible should his status change.

NOTE: The petition shall not be authorized if the Director obtains reliable information that the student is transferring to the petitioning school primarily for athletic purposes or as a result of inducement or recruitment.

B. Exception to other Eligibility Requirements

1. There has been an extreme and unusual circumstance that is no fault of the student, his parent, or his school that has prevented school attendance sufficient to cause that student to be in violation of the dropout rule or scholarship rule or the semester rule.
2. The student has been identified as being in need of special education or other special programs of study as authorized by the Arkansas Department of Education regulations, but is subsequently required by the school to participate in non-recommended courses.

NOTE: If negligence or irresponsibility on the part of the parent or school has a significant influence relative to the student being ineligible, such negligence or lack of responsibility may be considered.