

Dear 8th Grade Parents and Guardians,

This letter is an important update regarding a new Virginia High School League (VHSL) eligibility rule that takes effect on **July 1, 2026**.

Beginning with students who are **rising 8th graders and will enter 9th grade in fall 2027**, students must attend the **designated feeder middle school** associated with their future high school to be eligible to participate in VHSL athletics as freshmen, unless they qualify for one of the established exceptions.

Please be aware that students who do not attend the appropriate feeder middle school during 8th grade and do not meet the criteria for an exception will be **ineligible to participate in VHSL athletics for 365 consecutive calendar days** upon entering high school.

Please note: This new rule **does not affect current 8th grade students who will be entering 9th grade this fall**. It applies only to students who are **rising 8th graders** and will begin high school in **fall 2027**.

If you have questions about this new VHSL requirement or whether it applies to your student, please contact your school's administration.

Thank you for your attention to this important information.

Sincerely,

School Administration

For our website



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, 8th grade students must attend the feeder middle school associated with their high school to be eligible for athletics as a freshman in fall 2027, unless a student meets one of the established exceptions.

Students who do not attend the appropriate feeder school as an 8th grader and who do not meet the criteria for an eligibility exception will be ineligible for 365 consecutive calendar days.

Ref: VHSL Rule 28A-7-2

