

Conference and District Assignment Policies and Procedures 2026-27 and 2027-28 Realignment

The policies and procedures for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 Reclassification and Realignment process have been updated since the last Realignment process so please read carefully. Below you will find information on how to determine and report your school's enrollment, including students in alternative education schools/programs, conference and district placement, and the appeal process. As always, if you have any questions regarding any step in the Realignment process, please contact UIL.

I. GENERAL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

The League office shall obtain enrollment data in grades 9-12 for participant schools and verify the enrollment submissions.

Schools shall be assigned to a conference on the basis of enrollment on a date from October in an odd numbered year.

A. Enrollment Calculation Formulas

1. Fulltime students, students receiving an average of four (4) hours or more of instruction per day, shall be counted as one (1) student each. Students attending school less than fulltime, students receiving less than four (4) hours of instruction per day, shall be counted as a half (1/2) student each. Students who have **graduated from high school**, but continue to receive services from your district **SHOULD NOT** be included in your enrollment submission. The PEIMS coding for these student should confirm the student has been graduated after meeting all graduation requirements. Students enrolled in grades nine through twelve who have **NOT** graduated from high school **SHOULD** be included in your enrollment submission regardless of age.

Homeschool students are not counted in the snapshot count for realignment purposes.

2. Schools with four (4) high school grades (9-12), or three (3) high school grades (10-12) which can easily determine the ninth graders the school will receive, shall calculate enrollment as follows:
 - a. Enrollment = Grades 9 + 10 + 11 + 12
 - b. For schools wishing to play Conference A football, see *II UIL Conferences, A. Conference Makeup(3b)* below.
3. Schools with three (3) high school grades (10-12) which cannot easily determine the ninth graders the school will receive shall calculate enrollment as follows:
 - a. Enrollment = Grades (10 + 11 + 12) x 1.33
4. Schools with only grades 11-12 which cannot easily determine the tenth graders the school will receive shall calculate enrollment as follows:
 - a. Enrollment = Grades (11 + 12) x 2
5. Schools that opened during the current alignment period and are currently participating in activities will take the number of grades they currently have and enrollment will be calculated as follows:

- a. Enrollment = Grades (9 + 10) x 2
- b. Enrollment = Grades (9 + 10 + 11) x 1.33

6. New schools

- a. New schools opening or entering competition in the first year of an alignment period shall have their conference assignment determined by the following:
 - i. Opening or entering with one (1) grade: Enrollment (projected or actual) multiplied by 2.
 - ii. Opening or entering with two (2) grades: Enrollment (projected or actual) multiplied by 1.33.
 - iii. Opening or entering with three (3) grades: Enrollment (projected or actual) multiplied by 1.33.
 - iv. Opening or entering with four (4) grades: Enrollment (projected or actual)
- b. New schools opening or entering competition in the second year of an alignment shall have their conference assignment determined (for varsity activities in which they participate) by the enrollment (projected or actual) with which they open.
- c. Existing schools affected by the opening of a new school, which will open or did open in the first or second year of an alignment period, will have their conference assignment determined based on their projected enrollment for the coming school year.

7. Students in Alternative Schools

For purposes of UIL Reclassification and Realignment, generally, alternative schools are schools without defined attendance zones. Alternative schools include (but may not be limited to): discipline alternative education programs, juvenile justice alternative education programs, juvenile detention centers, county jails, drop-out prevention and drop-out recovery schools, credit recovery schools, schools of choice, ISD charters, high school equivalency (GED) programs, career and technical education campuses, early college campuses, T-STEM campuses, men's/women's leadership academies, multiple school district cooperative schools, virtual/hybrid campuses, or other ISD schools that do not have defined attendance zones from which they draw their students.

Whether or not an alternative school/program has its own Texas Education Agency (TEA) Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) code is, for UIL enrollment reporting purposes, not relevant when determining the school at which a student should be counted. All students enrolled in a school district should be counted at a participating UIL member school.

- a. **UIL Member Alternative Schools**
 - i. Alternative schools that are participating member schools in UIL will have all of their students count toward the enrollment at the member alternative school.
 - ii. Member alternative schools, which allow students to return to a traditional school to compete in a division of UIL activities, must account for all of those students who return to a traditional school for participation with a completed New Student Eligibility

Questionnaire (page 1 of the Previous Athletic Participation Form). Each of those students shall count in the alternative school enrollment and the traditional school enrollment at which the student participates.

b. **Non-member Alternative Schools**

- i. Alternative schools that are not participating member schools in UIL are required to report students toward the enrollment of the traditional school each student would have attended based on the residence of the parents of said student or to the school the student would attend by ISD policy if they were not enrolled in the alternative school.

- c. For school districts with only one traditional high school, the enrollments for any alternative schools will be added to the traditional high school's enrollment for determining the conference assignment for the traditional high school.

- 8. Single gender schools shall double the total number students enrolled in grades 9-12.

II. UIL CONFERENCES

A. Conference Makeup

- I. Conference 6A shall consist of a minimum of 220 schools and a maximum of 250 schools participating in football, not including schools choosing to opt up to 6A.
- II. Conferences 2A through 5A shall consist of a minimum of 200 schools, to the best extent possible, such that the enrollment ratio in grades 9-12 between the largest school and the smallest school in that conference is approximately 2.0.
- III. Conference A shall consist of all schools with an enrollment of 104.9 or lower (grades 9-12 enrollment numbers.)
 - I. Football Exception
 - a. Schools with 104.9 or fewer students in grades 9-12 may choose to:
 - i. participate in Conference A (six-man) football, or
 - ii. participate in Conference 2A (eleven-man football) but remain in Conference A for other applicable activities.
 - II. Schools with over 104.9 in grades 9-12, AND that are CURRENTLY participating in six-man football, may use an alternative calculation method to determine if they may continue in Conference A football. Alternative calculation methods (football only) are:
 - a. Grades 8-11
 - b. Grades 7-10

- c. Grades 9-10 doubled
- III. These alternative calculations apply only to six-man football. For all other activities, schools are placed in 2A based on their grades 9-12 enrollment.

B. Conference Determination

With the exceptions below, schools shall be placed into conferences in even numbered years based on enrollment.

Schools will not be changed in conference because of gaining or losing enrollment after the enrollment submissions are verified. Schools gaining or losing enrollment because of consolidation, where two (2) or more schools are combined, may have their conference and district assignments changed during the two-year alignment period.

1. Multi-school Districts

- a. Not including any Non Disciplinary Alternative School(s) (NDAS), an independent school district with schools in more than three (3) conferences, may have their schools placed only in the three (3) largest conferences for which their schools qualify.

- I. A school elevated in conference under this rule shall receive an automatic appeal to UIL staff related to conference assignment.

- II. Decisions of UIL staff may be appealed to the District Assignment Appeals Committee.

2. Charter Schools

- a. Charter schools may be reassigned to a higher conference if actual enrollment is larger than the submitted enrollment projections.
- b. Charter Schools shall not be assigned to a football district unless they provide evidence to UIL staff that they have participated previously.
- c. Charters schools located within the boundaries of a school district may be assigned up to the same conference as the high school in that school district with the lowest enrollment. If the charter school is located within the boundaries of a school district with schools in more than two (2) conferences, and the charter school's enrollment qualifies it for at least the conference of the smallest school in the school district, the charter school may be placed no more than one conference higher than the conference for which the school's enrollment qualifies.
 - i. A charter school elevated in conference under this rule shall receive an automatic appeal to UIL staff related to conference assignment.
 - ii. A charter school may be assigned to different conferences for different divisions of UIL activities. UIL divisions are academics, music and athletics
 - iii. Decisions of UIL staff may be appealed to the District Assignment Appeals Committee.

3. Alternative Schools

For purposes of UIL Reclassification and Realignment, generally, alternative schools are schools without defined attendance zones. Alternative schools include (but may not be limited to): discipline alternative education programs, juvenile justice

alternative education programs, juvenile detention centers, county jails, drop-out prevention and drop-out recovery schools, credit recovery schools, schools of choice, ISD charters, high school equivalency (GED) programs, career and technical education campuses, early college campuses, T-STEM campuses, men's/women's leadership academies, multiple school district cooperative schools, virtual/hybrid campuses or other ISD schools that do not have defined attendance zones from which they draw their students.

- a. For school districts with multiple traditional high schools, non-disciplinary alternative schools that are participating members in UIL may be placed in the same conference as the traditional high school in that school district with the largest enrollment.
 - i. A non-disciplinary alternative school elevated in conference under this rule shall receive an automatic appeal to UIL staff related to conference assignment.
 - ii. A non-disciplinary alternative school may be assigned to different conferences for different divisions of UIL activities. UIL divisions are academics, music and athletics
 - iii. Decisions of UIL staff may be appealed to the district assignment appeals committee.
4. A new school may be assigned to a conference, based on enrollment, on a non-honors basis in football for one (1) two-year alignment period.
5. Any school may request to be elevated one (1) conference, or one (1) division for football, provided notification is submitted to the League office simultaneously with enrollment figures.

C. Conferences for Activities

1. There shall be six (6) conferences for the following activities:
 - a. Cross Country, Football, Basketball, Music, Academics, Golf, Tennis, Track and Field, and Volleyball.
 - b. Conferences A-5A Football schools shall be further divided into two divisions, Division 1 for the larger schools in each conference, Division 2 for the smaller schools in each conference.
2. There shall be five (5) conferences for the following activities:
 - a. Baseball and Softball.
3. There shall be three (3) conferences for the following activities:
 - a. Team Tennis, Swimming and Diving, and Soccer.
4. There shall be two (2) conferences for the following activities:
 - a. Wrestling.
5. There shall be one (1) conference for the following activities:
 - a. Water Polo.

III. UIL DISTRICTS

A. Districts within Conferences

1. Number of Districts
 - a. With the exception of academics, wrestling, Conference A-5A football, and in activities that do not have enough schools, there shall be thirty-two (32) districts.
 - b. For Conferences A-5A football, there shall be sixteen (16) districts each for Division 1 and Division 2.

B. District Assignments

1. Factors for Grouping Schools into Districts
 - a. Schools shall be placed into football districts in even numbered years. Schools shall be placed into districts annually for all other activities.
 - b. Except in urban areas, geographically contiguous schools shall be placed into districts of no more than ten (10) schools, unless approved by the District Assignment Appeals Committee.
 - c. There shall be no attempt to perpetuate or avoid "old rivalries."
 - d. Socioeconomic factors are not considered.
 - e. A school may be placed in different districts for different activities to alleviate travel burdens.
 - f. Multiple High School Districts
 - i. School districts with eleven (11) or more schools in the same conference shall have its schools assigned to two (2) or more UIL districts, unless requested otherwise by the superintendent and approved by the UIL Executive Director. Any UIL district resulting from this division with seven (7) or fewer schools may have additional schools assigned to the UIL district by the League office.
 - ii. School districts with seven (7) or fewer schools in the same conference shall have its schools assigned to the same UIL district. Other schools may be assigned to this UIL district by the League office.
 - iii. School districts with schools in different conferences may opt to have one (1) or more of its schools elevated one (1) conference to have its schools assigned to the same UIL district.
2. Changes to Districts
 - a. If there is a clerical error in assignment, or if a school has been omitted, UIL staff is authorized to correct the error or omission and will notify effected districts of the correction.
 - b. Appeals to District Assignment
 - i. For the first level of appeal, a school may seek to change its district assignment by receiving a majority vote from the schools in both the assigned district and the district to which the school desires to be assigned.
 - ii. If a school is unsuccessful in the first level of appeal, the school may appeal their district assignment to the District Assignment Appeals Committee. All schools will be notified of the deadline for this appeal.

3. Numbering of Districts
 - a. District numbering begins in the north or west and culminates in the southern part of the state.
 - b. Schools may be assigned to different regions for different activities.

IV. OTHER RELATED POLICIES

1. A school may be disqualified from district honors for up to two years in that sport for contracting games prior to finalizing the reclassification and realignment by all UIL appeal committees. Athletic schedules will not be considered official until approved by the superintendent of the member school district.
2. Schools may play their first football game the last Thursday in August. Beginning practice dates will remain the same for all conferences. Schools will be limited to no more than ten regular season games.
3. Schools which are assigned to an athletic district and fail to participate may be suspended by the State Executive Committee in the germane activity, see section 27 of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules.