



# Minnesota State High School League

Update to 2017 Evaluation Report

February 2018

## Problems Identified

- **Rulemaking and Appeal Processes Not Transparent.** The League's student transfer appeal and fair hearing processes lacked transparency, and the League had not been consistent in granting hearings. Also, the League did not provide reasonable notice and opportunities for public response to changes in transfer student policies and procedures.
- **Inconsistent and Inadequate Guidance.** Many League appeal decisions took more time due to deficient League transfer regulations and communications by League staff. Some League rules were poorly worded, unclear, or unreasonable. Also, the League made inconsistent eligibility decisions among some cases involving similar transfer situations.
- **Board Oversight Lacking.** The League Board of Directors and Eligibility Committee provided insufficient oversight and limited review of League determinations regarding transfer appeals and requests for hearings, particularly for those involving intolerable conditions. Also, many high school activities administrators wanted the Board of Directors to be more involved in appeal processes.

## Changes Implemented

- **Board Oversight Improved.** The Board's Eligibility Committee provides more extensive and timely reviews of transfer appeals through committee meetings held biweekly and prior to a potential review by an independent hearing officer. According to League representatives, there have been no referrals to an independent hearing officer since the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.
- **Improved Access to Transfer Requirements.** In August 2017, the League enhanced its website to provide more direct access to transfer eligibility requirements and appeal processes. The revised League website includes a section for proposed changes in eligibility rules and upcoming Board and Committee meetings. Also, the League clarified some transfer appeal policies and expanded the circumstances for granting transfers.

## Action Needed

- **Discretionary Legislative Review.** The Legislature should amend state law to provide for discretionary review by the Legislative Coordinating Commission of complaints regarding League eligibility bylaws, rules, and procedures.
- **More Oversight by MDE.** The Legislature should amend state law to require more involvement and oversight by the Minnesota Department of Education in the League appeal and fair hearing processes. Also, the Legislature should amend state statutes to address deficiencies in League procedures for amending bylaws, policies, and procedures and for conducting fair hearings of transfer eligibility determinations.