

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION CHANGES**

As you may or may not remember, middle schools are allowed to request a change in conference if enrollment numbers fluctuate enough either up or down. I have received this information for all schools in Plano, McKinney, and Wylie.

Based on the guidelines below, if your school enters a group in the Middle School Choir contest (entry deadline date is February 3). ALL other music groups from the school must enter in the same conference that the choir entered (C, CC or CCC), regardless of subsequent changes in enrollment. If your school does not have a choir entry, the next entry deadline date is for orchestra, February 4. Middle school bands with no choirs or orchestras may declare their classification by the March 6 entry deadline.

IT IS THE DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO VERIFY ACCURACY OF CONFERENCE FOR UIL MUSIC ENTRIES.

You can go the Region Directory on the Region 25 Website to see what conference is currently listed for your school and then check with your principal to make sure the conference is listed correctly based on the enrollment numbers in #1 below. If not, then I will need a letter from your principal (or fine arts director) requesting a change to the correct conference. This request should be submitted as early as possible before entry deadlines.

### **GUIDELINES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCES:**

1. Middle schools are assigned annually to conferences by the superintendent according to the following:

**Conference C Middle School:** 0-249 enrollment in grades 7 and 8.

**Conference CC Middle School:** 250-649 enrollments in grades 7 and 8.

**Conference CCC Middle School:** 650 or more enrollment in grades 7 and 8.

2. A middle school/junior high will go into a new school year as the same classification as the previous year, UNLESS the executive secretary is notified in writing (by the school principal or fine arts director) of the new enrollment numbers indicating a change in conference assignment (either up or down). That new conference assignment then becomes official for the year.

3. If a school's enrollment numbers change and a change in conference is requested, the school principal (or fine arts director) must submit the request prior to the entry deadline for the first UIL music contest for that school (whether it's band, choir, or orchestra). The new conference assignment then becomes official for all groups entering UIL music contests that school year.

***The procedures that are in place for determining conference assignments for middle schools and junior highs are based on the schools' self-reporting – these procedures are meant to help those few schools that seem to always be on the cusp between two different classifications. It is not in the spirit of the***

***rules for a school to blatantly ignore changes in enrollment numbers in order to remain in one conference or another.***

Let me know if you have questions!