

## WIAA DEFINITION OF HARDSHIP

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The student must provide information, in detail, as to what hardship condition, as defined below, prevented the student from complying with WIAA rules.

***18.26.1 Any waiver of student eligibility regulations shall be based upon extenuating circumstances, beyond the student's, or where applicable, the parents' or legal guardian's control, that are deemed to have significantly influenced or contributed to the student's non-compliance to the eligibility regulation(s) involved.***

***(The following criteria shall be used to determine if a hardship exists):***

- A. A hardship exists when some unique circumstances concerning the student's physical or emotional status exist and only when such circumstances are not the result of acts or actions by the student or family unit.
- B. There must be no reason to believe that the decision and/or the execution of the decision concerning the student's transfer was for athletic purposes.
- C. The circumstances must be totally different from those that exist for the majority or even a small minority of students (e.g., usual maturation problems or family situations that do not cause severe and abnormal emotional problems and academic or athletic deficiencies in a school's curriculum or extracurricular activities do not constitute a hardship).
- D. The burden of providing evidence that a hardship exists shall be borne by the student.
- E. There shall be a direct, causal relationship between the alleged hardship and the student's inability to meet the specific eligibility rule(s).

***18.26.2 Exceptions to student eligibility regulations based upon a hardship shall be subject to the following limitations:***

- A. Loss of eligibility in itself or an injury in itself that prevents the student from being able to participate are not to be considered hardships. In addition attending a school that does not offer interscholastic activities is not to be considered a hardship, nor shall it justify extending eligibility beyond the four (4) consecutive year period allowed.
- B. A hardship exception shall not be granted if there is sufficient evidence to make it reasonable to believe that the non-compliance to the eligibility rule in question was motivated by the student's parents or school's efforts to gain a desired athletic outcome or to intentionally circumvent a rule, or
- C. To grant additional eligibility based upon a hardship condition, a student must demonstrate that normal progression toward graduation has been significantly interrupted as a result of a long-confining illness (which can include a learning disability), an injury, or a family hardship, and that the interruption prevented the student from graduating in four (4) consecutive years.