Question:

Because of family circumstances, we enrolled our daughter in the 9th grade at a school after her completion of the 8th grade. She was unable to and did not begin attending until a month after school started. Because she was so far behind, we waited until the 2nd semester of that year for her to actually start attending classes. When does her 8 semesters begin?

Answer:

NOTE: California Ed Code section 58200 et seq. provides that each person between the ages of 6 and 18 years is subject to compulsory full-time education unless the person is statutorily exempt. However, If during that first semester, she was not enrolled in any coursework of any kind in any school, and she was not home schooled and she was not taking any kind of courses on-line, through any Independent Study Program or in any other program of coursework, her first semester of

Question:

My son was struggling in the 8th grade. After he completed the 8th grade we decided that he needed some remedial work in order to enter the 9th grade at his local high school. Following his 8th grade year of school, we enrolled him in the fall in a (a) Independent Study Program; (b) home schooling; (c) on-line course work. He only took a few credits of remedial work. The following school year we enrolled him as an "official" 9th grader. When does his 8 consecutive semesters begin?

Answer:

As soon as a student completes 8th grade as a result of completing their 8th grade course work, or because they have graduated from 8th grade, all subsequent coursework, no platter where it is earned (a, b or c above), is considered to be high school comses. Whether the student is enrolled fulltime or part time in any such goursework, their 8 consecutive semesters begin in the semester immediately subsequent to their completion of 8th grade in the spring. (typically with a spring the grade completion, the next fall semester—this does not include symmetric school)

Eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility including and immediately following the first semester as described in (a) above, are available to the student whether or not the student is enrolled in school, participates in or is eligible for, interceptalestic participation. (CIE Bylat 204)

- interscholastic participation. (CIF Bylaw 204
- Enrollment standard establishing students as a transfer: CIF bylav 20

high school eligibility would begin at the 2nd semester.

- Students shall be considered to be a transfer students then:
 - the student has been on the attendance roll of peir former school (Sphool A) for 15 days or more for classes occurring at School A, whether or not they have been in attendance during those 15 days or not; ANDIOR
 - the student has played in an athletic contest for their former school
 - the student has the out for or practiced with a team prior to the beginning the school year for 5 days or more
 - that sudent withdrays from School A or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled in at School A, so that student is no longer enrolled in any way at School A AND
 - that student enrolls as a full-time student in a new school (School B).

that student shall be determined to be enrolled in and having transferred to School B if all conditions of 201.A.(1) above are men

 Students may not practice with or participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for the new school prior to establishing earn ment in the new school meeting the enrollment standards contained herein, except if they are transferring at the beginning of the school year and practice for that season of sport begins prior to the first day that classes begin for the new school. These conditions must be met even if, prior to this, such a student has registered for classes and/or paid a nonrefundable registration fee to the new school. Registering for classes and paying a non-refundable registration fee or tuition does not constitute enrollment in the new school for transfer purposes.

- c. For eligibility purposes, students cannot have dual enrollment in two different school at the same time. During the time a student, who is intending to transfer schools, has registered for classes at the new school and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee at the new school, but still remains enrolled in the former school, the student will be considered to be enrolled in the former school. Only at such time as the student has withdrawn from or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled at the former school, and is no longer enrolled in any way at the former school, shall that student be considered as having "transferred" to the new school. This applies to 8th graders matriculating the following school year to 9th grade in a CIF member school.
- d. No one associated with the athletic program at the new school may perpetrate any violation of CIF 510 or have inappropriate pre-enrollment contact as outlined in CIF bylaw 207.B or 510.B. prior to their enrollment in the new school as defined herein.
- (4) Enrollment standards for purposes of CIF Bylaw 510 (pre-enrollment contact) (CIF Bylaw 510)
 - General information about athletic programs, physicals, summer activity, camps etc. may be distributed to middle school students only by a CIF member school Administrator or Athletic Director

QUESTION: What may representatives of a senior high school do as far as contact with junior high/middle school students is concerned?

ANSWER:

Because a graduate of a junior high/middle school may enter any high school in California and may be residentially eligible in accordance with all CIF rules, contact by senior high school representatives is regulated. Individual coaches cannot visit of initiate contact with junior high/middle school students, but it would be permissible for the school administrator or athletic director (not the coach) of a senior high school to visit the junior high/middle school campus for the purpose of informing students of the total athletic program at the senior high school.

However, it is legal on a school day for a high school coach to be part of a total open house and/or school orientation (academics, activities, but not athletics by itself) where a student is part of a general of the ing of students on the high school campus and such activity has the approval of the high school and junior high/middle or elementary school principal

- b. 8th graders who have not graduated from the 8th grade may not participate in my athletic meetings conducted by any high school coach that is not part of a school-wide high school presentation. The student may not part ice or compare in any contest at any high school, even if they have registered for classes and/or paid a non-refundable negistration fee, until they have graduated from the 8th grade.
- c. Contact between corches (and others associated with the athletic program) and students or their parents during summer activity conducted by a CIF member school, shall not be considered pre-enrollment contact requiring disclosure, if the student has, previous to that summer, registered for classes at the CIF member school and in the case of a private school, also paid a non-refundable registration fee and has officially withdrawn from the previous school as long as the contact does not oscillately withdrawn from the etudent's former school's year end. Such contact is not required to be disclosed. All other contact not covered in this circumstance between spaces (and others a sociated with the athletic program) and students or their parents must be disclosed as required in CIF Bylaw 206, 207 and 510.
- (5) Enrollment in Multi-Campus Schools: Furollment of students in a school with an existing multi-campus agreement may be residentially eligible only as provided in Bylaws 303, 304 and 306. (See Related Bylaws: 305 Home Study/Home Schooling; 306 Independent Study Programs/Schools

202, 203 No Changes

202 ACCURATE INFORMATION

203 AGE REQUIREMENT

204 8 semester

NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES—ONLY LANGUAGE CHANGED TO MIRROR THAT IN 201 AND EXPANDED TO CLARIFY CURRENT INTERPRETATIONS AND APPLICATION OF THE CURRENT BYLAWS.

Expanded clarifying language added in B. and in C. (2) & iv.

204. EIGHT CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS REQUIREMENT- (See also 201.A.2)

A. Definition of a Semester of Attendance

Repeat of exact language in 201.A.(2)

The first time any student has been entered on the attendance roll for 15 school days in the 9th grade, and/or in any classes taken subsequent to the completion of the 8th grade, at any school whether the student has physically been in attendance at those classes for all 15 days or not, or has played in an interscholastic athletic contest, the CIF will count that as the student's first semester of high school eligibility.

Once a student has been entered on the attendance roll for 15 school days in the 9th grade at any school, or a student has played in an interscholastic athletic contest (scrimmage or game), the CIF will count that as a student's first semester of high school eligibility.

- (1) Enrollment and/or attendance for 15 school days or more shall count as one of the eight semesters.
- (2) Participation in one or more interscholastic athletic contests shall count as one of the eight semesters.

B. Eight Consecutive Semester Rule

A student who first enters the 9th grade of any school following the student's completion of the 8th grade in any school may be eligible for athletic competition during a maximum period of time that is not be exceed eight consecutive semesters following the initial enrollment in the 8th grade of any school and/or in any classes taken subsequent to the completion of the 8th grade whether or not the student is enrolled in school, whether or not the student is academically or otherwise eligible and whether or not the student avails them selves of the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports during this time. The first allows only a consecutive semesters of eligibility available to the student, and Eligibility is only available must be used during the student's first eight consecutive semesters of anyollment in high school (grades 9-12) at that school or any other school.

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C. Section Waivers:

- (1) Waiving Semester Limitation: Each Section may, at its discretion, establish rules and procedures for waiving the limit tion on a semesters of eligibility providing:
 - The student is required by the student's school principal to eturn to grade eight om grade nine and the student did not take part in an interscholastic contest while in the 9th grade, for the first time; OR
 - The student, because of mid-year completion of an oth grade or a mid-year completion of the 9th grade in a junior high school, is required by the student's school principal to repeat a semester of work in order to conform to a school program being annual terms, AND
 - he student has not taken past in an interscholastic athletic contest while enrolled for the first time in the semester which the student's school principal required the student to recent

(2) Waivers of the Charge of a Semester of Attendance

- a. Other than paragraph (1) and (2) abov, relief under this rule may only be granted when the conditions set forth in Bylaw 204.C. below are found to be present. Any other or past rationales or basis for relief under this bylaw are disappreved invalidated. (Approved May 2001 Federated Council)
- b. Each Section may waive the charge of one or more of the eight consecutive semesters of eligibility for a letic competition due to a hardship condition that causes the student's absence from school or to extend the student's attendance in school beyond eight consecutive semesters, PROVIDED:
 - That a hardship condition exists that, in the judgment of the Section, warrants a waiver. "Hardship" is defined in CIF Bylaw 214; <u>AND</u>
 - (ii) The hardship caused the student to remain out of school for more than half of any semester during his/her high school career; <u>OR</u>
 - (iii) The hardship is the direct and sole cause of the student extending his/her attendance beyond eight consecutive semesters even though the student

- was in attendance for those eight consecutive semesters. Further, the student's extension of his/her attendance beyond eight semesters has no athletic motivation. AND
- That the student was eligible under all rules in the semester immediately prior to either his/her absence or the onset of the hardship condition that is the direct and sole cause for extending his/her attendance beyond eight semesters; AND
- Such a waiver would not grant more than four years' participation in any sport; (See CIF bylaw 513 and 514); AND
- (vI) Hardship applications may not be submitted prior to the conclusion of the student's 7th semester in high school.
- (3)All other eligibility requirements apply
- APPEALS: A decision to deny such a waiver by the Section Commissioner may be appealed only to the Section and n accordance with the provisions set (4)forth in Bylaw 1101.

NOTE: Failure to satisfy the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), California course requirements (e.g. Algeria I), a d/o end of course requirements shall not be considered pardship.

205. SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

Initial Scholastic Eligibility

NO CHANGE

- B. Continuing Scholastic Eligibility
 - Minimum Requirements (1)

NO CHANGE

(2)Probationary Period

(3)

The grading period is not time when all students in a school are graded. If two grades are given at the end, a grading period, schoolastic eligibility shall be established according to the grade issued for pedit.

Schools or Districts or Jeagues or Sctions must establish an eligibility date following the manediately previous grading period in compliance with their respective CIF/Section Policy. This is the date on which all students become eligible and ineligible based on their officially posted grades in the immediately previous grading period.

Grades cannot be changed following the grading period for purposes of addressing any deficiency in an individual student's scholastic eligibility.

(c) Only grades changed prior to the established eligibility date and changed in accordance with all CA State Education Code requirements and approved by the principal may be used for purposes of determining scholastic eligibility.

(d) **Incomplete Grades**

> A grade(s) of "Incomplete" shall not be considered a passing grade under this bylaw unless, by operation of a school grading policy. "Incomplete" grade shall become a passing letter or (numeric) grade without further achievement or accomplishment by a student, at a certain time. When an "Incomplete" grade is issued which does not automatically become a passing grade, as indicated immediately above, such "Incomplete" grade shall not satisfy the requirement of this bylaw until academic deficiency which gave rise to such "Incomplete" grade shall have been satisfied and a passing grade has been substituted for the "Incomplete" grade. Upon such substitution, the substituted grade shall be considered in determining scholastic eligibility as established by evaluation of previous grading period grades and the substituted grade. A scholastically ineligible student may become immediately scholastically eligible upon such evaluation.

NEW LANGUAGE clarifying the requirement of an changing grades

(e) Physical Education Credits

Credits earned in physical education may count toward the 20 semester credits of work requirement.

(f) Summer School Credits

Summer school credits shall be counted toward making up scholastic deficiencies incurred in the grading period (semester) immediately preceding. Summer school courses failed shall not impair an athlete's scholastic eligibility achieved in the semester immediately preceding. A course taken by contract or independent study during the summer must meet the following four criteria:

- (1) The course(s) must be approved by the local board of trustees as a valid part of the district's school program;
- (2) The student receives a passing grade in the courses taken:
- (3) The personnel providing the instruction and course supervision are approved by the board of trustees;
- (4) The school credit is recorded on student's transcript.
- (g) Scholastic Eligibility for Students in Non-Traditional Programs

In chools operating on other than the traditional program (i.e., for chools such as those with a modular or flexible scheduling, special programs for the physically-disabled, or continuous progress programs) the principal stall certificant the established eligibility date as to the scholastic eligibility of each student based upon satisfactory progress in accordance with the standards defined above. Students may apply college course units to satisfy the 20 semester credits of work requirement and the grace point average requirement. Students who are eligible for differential standards of proficiency pursuant to Section 51412 of the Education Sode are covered by that Section.

NOTE: For crediting purposes the grading period closes with the last day of school in the given grading period. In determining eligibility, one grading period does not end until the next one begins.

Wa ver of the Requirement of Passing 20 Semester Credits of Work

206

NO SUSSTANTIVE OHANGES in the changes included herein. However, if Proposals 206-1 or 206-2 are approved by separate action, they would be inserted as indicated in the body of this document as approved.

206 As written herein ONLY DEALS WITH Initial Residential Eligibility and Valid Change of Residence—anything that requires a 207/51 application that was in this bylaw has been moved to 207. (i.e. married, boarding schools, military, foster, return to previous school, court order)

- Rearrange the order of items in 26 C. Valid Change of Residence
- Add some language for clarification and to refer to changes made in 201.A. (Standards of Enrollment)

206. RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY

A. Initial Residential Eligibility

A student has residential eligibility upon initial enrollment in: (See also CIF Bylaw 201.A for definition of enrollment)

- The 9th grade of any CIF high school, a CIF junior high school, or a junior high school under provisions of Bylaw 303; OR
- (2) The 10th grade of any CIF high school from 9th grade of a junior high school in California.

- B. Continuing Residential Eligibility –(See also CIF Bylaw 201.A)
 A student retains residential eligibility as long as he/she is continuously enrolled in the CIF-member high school in which the student initially enrolled;
- C. Sections may require paperwork for the following provisions:

VALID CHANGE OF RESIDENCE:

A student may be determined to be residentially eligible, when a student, whose parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility at the prior school (School A) completes a valid change of residence as described herein when the following conditions are met:

- (1) A valid change of residence must be made FROM a residence located in the public high school attendance area, (School A's attendance area) even if the student is not currently attending nor ever has attended, the school in which attendance area they reside, TO another public high schools' attendance area. (School B's attendance area).
- (2) School A may be a CIF-member school or a Non-CIF-member school or may be a school located outside of the United States.
- A valid residence is defined as the location where the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver (with whom eligibility has been established) live with that student and thereby have the use and enjoyment of that location as a residence Avalid change of residence for eligibility purposes requires the former esidence to have been vacated by the entire family for use as its residence. For athletic eligibility purposes a student (with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) caregiver with whom residential eligibility has been established may only have one primary valid residence at one time.
- (4) DETERMINATION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A VALID CHANGE OF RESIDENCE Determination of what constitutes a valid change of residence depends upon the facts in each case. In determining that a valid change of residence occurred, the following facts must exist:
 - a. The original residence must be abandoned as a residence by the immediate family. The new school is responsible for validating this fact; AND
 - b. The student's entire implediate family must make the change of primary residence and take with them the household goods and furniture appropriate to the circumstances. For eigibility purposes, a amily unit may not maintain two or more residences; more than one primary residence AND:
 - c. The change of <u>primary</u> residence must be genuine, without fraud or deceit, and with permanent intent; AND
 - A student whose family makes a valid change of residence neve into a new school's attendance area (See "iv" below) is immediately may be residentially eligible for varsity competition upon receipt and recording of a CIF 206 Form by the CIF/Section of the student's new school. A sub-equent move into a different school boundary by the family (or other family members) during the next 12 calendar months will result in the student being declared ineligible until cleared for competition by the Section Commissioner.
 - A request for transfer eligibility based on a valid change of residence by the student's entire immed'ately family must be supported by documentation. Documentation may be cumulative and no single document or any combination of documents listed below will be considered as definitive that a valid change of residence occurred. The documents must support a finding by the Section that a valid change of residence by the student's entire immediate family occurred prior to participation at the new school; that the previous residence was vacated as required above in paragraphs a. b and c. and that the family no longer has the use and enjoyment of that former residence. The Section Commissioner and school may request additional documents they deem necessary to establish that a valid change of residence occurred as defined above. Evidence may include:
 - Property tax receipts;
 - Bank account statements;
 - Credit card statements



Other documentation that a Section and/or school/district may require that establishes that the new address is a person's primary residence is living at the new address. The Section Commissioner and/or school has the discretion to request additional documents that he/she deems necessary to confirm change in residency. Examples may include:

- Real estate documents indicating and verifying a change of residence (sale and purchase, for instance);
- Court documents indicating a change of residence:
- Declaration of residency executed by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/ caregiver; Operative telephone and utility service at the student's new residence and terminated he former residence;
- fility service receipts;
- Proof of paying for utilities at the new residence including phone, gas, electricity, water able television, and garbage collection;

 Proof Laubmitting a change of address to the U.S. Postal Service to receive mail at
- Proof of transfer of the parents)/guardian(s)/caregiver and age-appropriate student's motor rehicle registration;
- Proof of changed sudress on the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver and age-appropriate student driver's license;

 Valer registration listing the new address;

 Proof of intering a long-term leade; (minimum of 12 calendar months)

Rent payment recepts:

Declaration of resilipricy expected by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/ caregiver;

The Section Commissioner and or school has the discretion to request additional documents that by she deems pecessary to confirm residency.



If a student transfers to a high school in advance of the anticipated change of residence by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the audent was living when the student established residential eligibility, student all become eligible when the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver actually complete a

alid change of residence to that school's attendance area.

CHOICE OF SCHOOLS AFTER A VALID CHANGE OF RESIDENCE: A student choosing a school after making a valid change of residence in ccordance with CIR's definition of valid change of residence Such a student has a choice for residential eligibility among as follows:

- Bemaiping at the same School: Continued attendance at the previous school (School A) maintains residential eligibility at School A that same school as long as the student has remained enrolled in the same school under a district/school approved enrollment process (i.e., inter or intra or senior privilege etc. district/school program) OR
- Changing Schools: A student must make a valid change of residence out of the public school (School A) attendance area in which their former family residence was located and into another public school's attendance area (School B) (this is true even if the student was not attending public school A but was enrolled in a private school or a charter school). Changing schools following such a valid change of residence will result in full residential eligibility if the following conditions are met:

PROPOSALS 206-1, 206-2 if either is approved would insert here. If neither 206-1 nor 206-2 pass, then status quo would appear here:

- (i) Student enrolls, attends, and/or is carried on the attendance roll at the new public school (School B) into whose attendance area the family moved or a private school or a charter school within the boundaries of School B's attendance area;, AND
- (ii) The student changes schools immediately following the family valid change of residence or no later than the beginning of the next school year following that family move; AND
- The new school verifies the family valid change of residence of the family: AND



- (iv) A CIF form 206 documenting the new school's verification of a the family's valid change of residence is completed by the new school and family and received by the CIF Section within 30 days of the valid change of residence and recorded by the respective CIF Section.
- (7) VALID CHANGE OF RESIDENCE AFTER A DISCIPLINE SITUATION.

 Such a student will not be granted residential eligibility except as outlined in CIF 210 if the student is changing residence and schools, voluntarily or if compelled by the former school or district, as a result of a disciplinary situation at the previous school. (See also Bylaw 210)

 PRE-ENROL MENT CONTACT:
- Such a student will not be granted residential eligibility until the Pre-Enrollment Contact Affidavit with the 206 form is completed by the family and school, received, and recorded by the CIP Section verifying there is no evidence of the use of undue influence (recruiting) by anyone associated with either school in order to procure the student's enrollment in the new school. (See also # 10 below and CIF Bylaw 510)
 - (3) c. School Choice Following a Valid Change of toolderse
 A student, whose parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was
 living when the student established esident a eligibility at the prior school move
 from a residence in public high school attendance area "A" to residence in
 public high school attendance area "B," has a choice among continued
 attendance at the previous school, attendance at School B," attendance at a
 charter school within the boundaries of School "B" or attendance at a private
 school. The student is eligible if the student remains in School "A," or if the
 student annotes and attends class immediately or no later than the beginning of
 the next school year in School "B", a charter school within the boundaries of
 School "B" or a private school.

SAME PORT AT TWO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS

No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two different schools in the same school year unless the student changed schools as a result of a valid change of residence by the student and his parent/s//guardian(s) caregive in the event of a change of schools due to a valid change of residence, a student will be allowed to participate in the same sport at two different schools not to exceed, in total, the maximum number of contests in that sport as actabilished by the Section

<u>CIF and/or</u> the CIF/Section. (Revised May 2010 Federated Council) <u>ATHLETICALLY-MOTIVAZED VALID CHANGE OF RESIDENCE</u>

If a student completes a valid change of residence as provided in Paragraphs 206.1 & 2, a student may not be eligible to participate at the varsity level if there is evidence the move was athletically motivated or the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons (See Bylaw 200; 207(c) 510.B-G)

Q: What is meant by an athletically motivated move or transfer?

A: Based on the CIF philosophy that the "student attend school to receive an education first; athletic participation is secondary" (Bylaw 200 B), individual Section Offices may limit eligibility for a student when there is evidence the transfer, or move is made to acquire athletic participation at "School B." Such evidence of an athletically motivated move may be, but is not limited to: Evidence of parental or student dissatisfaction with a coach or a coaching decision at the former school.

- Evidence the student's move would result in the assurance the student would gain varsity participation at the new school or result in more playing time.
- A move to a school by the student that is believed (objectively or subjectively) to be more competitive or athletically "visible".
- A demonstrated move or transfer that is prompted by association with club programs or outside agencies that use the facilities of the new school.
- A demonstrated move or transfer to a school with which the student has had an athletic association.
- A move or transfer to a school by a student who is associated with outside agencies that use the facilities or personnel at the new school of attendance.
 - The preponderance of credible evidence the move was not made in good faith to secure greater educational advantage for the student.

Moved to 206.C.3 Valid Change of Residence

Moved from 206.2.C.

The standard applied to the evidence of "athletic motivation" is that which is associated with a student move or transfer proffered to a hearing officer or Section Commissioner is that which a responsible person acting in a thoughtful manner would judge be with "athletic motivation"

207 & 208 Transfers & Hardships

NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO 207 OR 208
ATTACHED PROPOSAL FOR SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE TO LIMITED AND HARDSHIP
TRANSFERS WOULD BE INSERTED AT SPOT(S) INDICATED BELOW.

- Moved 209.B here
- Copied Standards of enrollment for transfer students same as written in 201
- Moved some transfer categories formerly in 206 which required 207/510 transfer applications from 206 to 207 (i.e. married, foster, military etc.)
- Using consistent language (for example: limited, unlimited, determined to be, residential etc.)
- Struck through "immediate" language since these transfer require 207/510 clearance by the CIF Section.

207 TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY

A. DETERMINATION OF TRANSFER STUDENT STATUS-STANDARDS OF ENROLLMENT (SEE ALSO 201.A.3.)

A student shall be considered to be a transfer student y nen:

- the student has been on the attendance roll of their former school (school A) for 15 days or more for classes occurring at School A, whether a not they have been in attendance during those 15 days or not;

 AND/OR
- the student has played in an athletic contest for their former school; ANDIOR
 - the student has tried out for or practiced with a team prior to the semining of the school year for 5 days or more

AND

- that suden withdraws from School A or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled in at School A, to that student is no longer enrolled in any way at School A;
- that student enrolls as a full-time student in a new school (School B).

that student shall be determined to be enrolled in any naving transferred to School B if all conditions of 201.A.(1) above are met.

- 2. Students may not practice with or participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for the new school prior to establishing enrollment in the new school meeting these enrollment standards except if they are transferring at the beginning of the school year and practice for that season of sport begins prior to the first day that school and classes begin. These conditions must be met even if prior to this such a student has registered for classes and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee to the new school. Registering for classes and paying a non-refundable registration fee or tuition does not constitute enrollment in the new school.
 - a. For eligibility purposes, students cannot have dual enrollment in two different schools at the same time. During the time a student, who is intending to transfer schools, has registered for classes at the new school and/or paid a non-refundable registration fee at the new school, but still remains enrolled in the former school, the student will be considered to be enrolled in the former school. Only at such time as the student has withdrawn from or has completed the courses in which they were enrolled at the former school, and is no longer enrolled in any way at the

#1 is same language repeated from 201.A(3)

former school, shall that student be considered as having "transferred" to the new school. This applies to 8th graders matriculating the following school year to 9th grade in a CIF member school.

No one associated with the athletic program at the new school may perpetrate any
violation of CIF 510 or have inappropriate pre-enrollment contact as outlined in CIF
bylaw 207.B or 510.B. prior to their enrollment in the new school as defined above.
(See also CIF Bylaw 201.A (4)

B. CIF TRANSFER RULE

All students transferring at any time during their enrollment in high school, to a CIF member school after their initial enrollment in the 9th grade in any school (referred to as Former School or School A) shall have their eligibility determination made in compliance with the following 207 B. bylaws except:

- those making a valid change of residence (CIF Bylaw 206); OR
- those transferring to or from a CIF member school under the auspices of a CIFapproved foreign exchange program (CIF Bylaw 209); OR
- those transferring as a result of discipline (CIF Bylaw 210).

Notes:

Emancipated Minors: This sylaw also applies to students 18 years of age or older and emancipated minors. AND

No Child Left Behind Act: Students transferring to another school under any provision of the federal legislation "No Child Left Behind Act" are not residentially eligible at their new school. However, a student may become eligible under the provisions of the appropriate Section and State CIF Constitution and Bylaws.

Boarding School: A high school student who transfer to or from the status of stull time resident at a 24-hour boarding school shall be subject to all provisions of sylaw 207.

MANDATORY APPLICATIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

All such transfer students addressed in 207 must complete the respective CIF/Section-required 207/510 Application form. This form must be submitted to the CIF/Section for an eligibility determination. No transfer student is eligible to compete for their new school of enrollment until a determination has been made by their respective CIF/Section. (See also CIF Bylaw 501, 510 and 700.)

- 2. PRE-ENROLLMENT DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS
 - (Please see also 201.A.1 & 4 and 510.)

Any and all pre-enrollment copy act of any kind whatsoever with a student must be disclosed by the student, payent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, and the schools involved to their respective CIF/Section office on a complete. CIF Pre-Enrollment Contact Affadavit (CIF Form 510). Pre-enrollment contact may include, but is not limited to: any communication of any kind, directly or indirectly, with the student, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, relatives, or friends of the student about the athletic programs at a school; orientation/information programs, shadowing programs; at endance at outside athletic or similar events by anyone associated with the school to observe the student; participation by the student in programs supervised by the school or its associates before enrollment in the school per CIF Bylaw 201.A. 1 & 4.

- 3. TRANSFERS TO A CIF-MEMBER SCHOOL (described as New School or School B) FROM SCHOOLS (described as Former School or School A) LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES, A U.S. TERRITORY, CANADA OR A U.S. MILITARY BASE (Referred herein as Domestic Transfers)
 - Such transfer students who meet all other requirements for eligibility outlined in CIF Bylaws, will be granted unlimited residential eligibility in all sports at all levels at the new school EXCEPT
 - in any sport(s) in which the transfer student has competed at any level at the former school(s), in the twelve calendar months immediately preceding their transfer to the new school. The student will be limited to sub-varsity (limited) eligibility in those sports; AND
 - no student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two different schools in the same school year.
 - c. if the transfer is <u>determined to be</u> athletically motivated. Athletically motivated transfers may be considered prima facie evidence that the student enrolled in that

b added here from old 206.B. 11 school in whole or in part for athletic reasons and cause the student to be ineligible for participation in those sports in which the student participated at the former school as outlined in CIF Bylaw 510 and 207.C.3 & 4. (See also CIF 510.)

The student shall have <u>unlimited residentially eligibility for all sports at all levels</u> become varsity eligible <u>under Bylaw 207</u> the rule after <u>having been enrolled for</u> 12 calendar months from the date of transfer to the new school. one calendar year from the date of first attendance at the new school

4. FOREIGN TRANSFERS NOT IN A CIF-APPROVED FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM (referred herein as Foreign Transfers)

<u>Students who</u> transfer to a CIF Member school (described as New School or School B) from:

- any schoole (described as Former School or School A) which is located outside of the United States, a U.S. Territory, U.S. Military Base or Canada; AND
- who are not enrolled <u>in the CIF member school</u> under the auspices of a CIFapproved foreign exchange program; <u>AND</u>
- · who meet all other requirements for eligibility in CIF Bylaws,

will may be granted unlimited esidential eligibility in all sports at all levels at the new school EXCEPT:

- a. in any sport(s) in which the transfer student has competed at any level for a club or school team, in the twelve cale day months immediately preceding their transfer to the new school. The student will be limited to sub-varsity (limited) eligibility in those sports. For the purpose of this bylate any and all or lanized sports programs (e.g. youth teams, community teams, club teams, national teams at any level or individualized instruction for competition in development schools at programs) in which the international student competed on, or participated within the last 12 months, will be considered by the CIF in determining whether the student participated in the equivalent of interscholastic competition; AND
- b.

 no student shall be eligible to participate in the same special two different schools in the same school year. no student who has participate with a club of school team as described in a., shall be eligible to participate in the same school within the same 12 month period, AVD

 c. if the transfer is determined to be athletically profivated. Athletically motivated
 - if the transfer is <u>determined to be</u> athletically motivated. Athletically motivated transfers may be considered prima facie evidence that the student enrolled in that echool in whole or in pat for athletic reasons and cause the student to be ineligible for participation in those sports in which the student participated at the former school. (See also CIF 510)

the student may be granted shall have unlimited residentially eligibility for all sports at all levels become variety eligible under Bylaw 207 the rule after having been enrolled for 12 calendar month from the date of transfer to the new school. one calendar year from the date of first attendance at the new school

IN ADDITION SUC FOREIGN RANSFERS MUST

- d. possess a valid visa, allowing them to attend school, issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service or be a U.S. citizen who has been attending the equivalent of a United states high school secondary educational program outside of the United States; AND
- e. provide to the principal of the school he/she attends an official un-translated transcript and a transcript that is translated into English, by an agency acceptable to the Section from the National Association of Credential Evaluation Service (NACES) membership, which indicates work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled; the grade level equivalent in the United States as if the international student had completed all courses attempted satisfactorily; and the California grade-point average equivalent; AND
- if required, the foreign transfer student must pay tuition to the school/school district he/she attends as prescribed in Education Code Section 48052 et seq.; AND
- g. be subject to the maximum of eight consecutive semesters bylaw (204); AND
- h. be subject to the age requirement bylaw (203) AND
- not have graduated from high school. If they should have graduated, or have completed the equivalent coursework for graduation from high school/secondary school, the student is ineligible to participate in CIF competition; AND
- j. not have the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, serve as the

moved to notes under 207.8

resident family for the foreign transfer student.

Boarding School: Foreign transfer students who transfer to or from the status of a full-time resident at a 24-hour boarding school shall be subject to all provisions of Bylaw 209.B.(1)

All foreign transfer students shall submit the appropriate waiver application(s) for approval as required by their respective Section under Bylaw 209.

Hardship Waiver: A hardship waiver of 209.B. (1) may be granted to a foreign transfer student pursuant to the conditions of Bylaw 208.

NOTE: CIF Sections may require individual students to have their school records/transcripts from the school from which they are transferring evaluated by an outside agency at the students or school expense.

> SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES THAT ARE INCLUDED FOR SEPARATE ACTION START AT THIS POINT AND, IF APPROVED, WOULD REPLACE 207.5, 207.E AND 208-as written herein SEE ATTACHED 207/208/510 b LIMITED AND UNLIMITED PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE

APPLICATIONS FOR AN EXCEPTION TO WALVER OF TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY 5. LIMITATIONS

a. - e. moved from 206 Commissioners agreed we ali reguire a 207/510 form on such transfers. Therefore, they should be listed in

207 not 206

Waivers of Exceptions to the determination of limited eligibility under 207. 8 (application for unlimited residential eligibility in all sports) may be applied for by the new school (CIF Form 207/510) on behalf of the student and consideration for unlimited residential eligibility will be given by the respective CIF/Section upon review of the polication under the following conditions:

Foster Children (Domestic Transfers Only)

A student under the court ordered supervision of the California Foster Cal System who has changed residences pursuant to a court order and as result, has transferred schools, shall be determined to be immediately residentially engible or unlimited participation in interscholastic athletics provided all other CIT rules and regulations are met. A change of residence ordered by a social worker of the California Foster Care System shall be acceptable provided all other CIF rules and regulations are met. (Approved May 2009 Federated Council.)

Military Sourice (Domestic Transfers Only
A student shall be determined to be Immediately residentially eligible for unlimited participation inter cholastic athletics when returning from military service provided:

- a. The student was eligible when the student entered into the Armed Forces: AND
- b. The student enrolls in the same school which the student attended before leaving for the service, or en alls in the school in the district in which the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/ caregiver reside, AND
- c. The student enrolls in the school notater than the succeeding semester after being discharged; AND
- d. Provided student did not receive a dishonarable discharge; AND
- e. The student is fully eligible under all other rules of the CIF.

Married Status (Domestic & Foreign Transfers)

A student who marries and lives with the student's spouse shall be determined to be immediately residentially eligible for unlimited participation in interscholastic athletics in the school in the attendance area in which the student and their spouse resides.

Return to Previous School (Domestic & Foreign Transfers)

immediate language is stricken these students would need to file 207 forms like other tra **Maibility after accrova**

When a student eligible in School A transfers to School B and is residentially not eligible, the student may return to School A and shall be determined to be Immediately residentially eligible for unlimited participation in interscholastic sports provided the student did not participate in an interscholastic athletic contest while at School "B" and provided the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/ caregiver still reside in School "A's" attendance area.

NOTE: The Section may require some paperwork.

Intra-district and Inter-district Transfers/Open Enrollment Each Section shall adopt rules and procedures that address eligibility pursuant to the provisions of the State Education Code sections 35160.5(b)(1) et seq. and 48300 et seq. ("open enrollment" and school choice legislation). However, the Section Commissioner shall make all final determinations of transfer eligibility. (See Bylaw 207.B.) Court Order

If court agreen requires a student to transfer from one school to another when there has been no corresponding valid change of residence on the part of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver with whom the student was living when the student will be incligible at the new solded unless approved by action of the Section under the provisions CIE VIAW 207

A student at any grade level may transfer from a lov achieving school, as defined by the State Department of Education and on the annual published list, without limitation upon receipt of a valua 207 Form. Any student transferring under the provisions of this bylaw must preet an other applicable eligibility guidelines [see Bylaws 203, 204, 205, 207.8 (1) 10]. Students may not receive unlimited eligibility if there is evidence that the transfer is athletically motivated or there is undue influence or pre-enrollment contact, (See ylaw 207.C.) All requests for athletic transfer eligibility (Bylaw 207) must be accompanied by a copy of their district-approved transfer documentation/form under the applicable district guidelines. Students transferring under the provisions of Bylaw 207.B (3) may transier to a public school, including a charter school (that is or is not on the list of low achieving schools) as long as the school to which a student transfers has higher API than the student's current school. The school to which the student transfers must be to either the geographically closest public school or the geographically clasest charter school to the residence of the student and to the perent(s)/guardans(s)/caregive (s) with whom the student was living when the student established residential eligibility at the low achieving school. To obtain athletic eligibility at a school ther than the closest public or charter school, a student must apply for and be granted, a hardship waiver pursuant to other CIF eligibility rules.

: Why are charter schools included?

A: Charter schools are considered public schools and are included on the list of Low Performing Schools and are subject to this bylaw.

Q: Does this bylaw apply to private schools?

A: No. Private schools do not have an API score and therefore there is no score to measure where they stand.

Q: My school is on the low achieving school list. I want to go to a school that is not the geographically closest higher performing school. Am I eligible?

A: No. This bylaw indicates you are eligible at the next geographically closest higher performing school.

Q: What if the next geographically closest school is impacted and closed to new students?

A: You would be eligible at the next geographically closest school as long as that school is a higher performing school.



g. **Since we all agreed**

f.

foreign & domestic
transfers the same whenever
possible, this now includes
the 1st time before
sophomore year transfer waiver

in concept to treat

Board of Education Ruling: (Domestic Transfers Only) A student, or group of students, who transfer as a direct result of a ruling by the Board of Education of a school district that has two or more high schools and which mandates a change of school attendance boundaries shall be determined to be Immediately residentially eligible for unlimited participation in interscholastic athletics in the school in the attendance area in which the student(s) are required to attend, provided the Board of Education Ruling is not a result of a disciplinary situation. Students transferring for the first time before their third semester in high school: (Domestic & Foreign Transfers)

A student may be granted unlimited residential have transfer eligibility provided the student moves from any school (foreign or domestic) to a CIF school due to a family decision to transfer the student prior to the first day of the student's third consecutive semester (typically the first semester of the sophomore year) of attendance since the initial enrollment when the following conditions are met:

- This is the first transfer of this student since his/her initial enrollment in the 9th grade; AND
- 2. The student is not transferring as a result of a disciplinary situation (See also Bylaw 210); AND

The stident was scholastically and otherwise eligible at the forme school immediately prior to the transfer. A student who was scholastically ineligible at their previous school will not be eligible to compete at the new school until the requirements in sylaw 205 are met and the new school has completed a radior period to verify that the student has most the CIF and school district scholastic eligibility requirements. A student cannot be placed on probation at the new school of fulfil this requirement.; AND

There's no evidence that the transfer, it whole or part, athletically motivates (See also Bylaw 510.b); AND The CIF Form 510 re-Enrollmen Contact Affidavit is completed verifying that here is no evidence of the use of undue influence (recruiting) by anyone associate, with either school;

The CIF Form 207 Athletic Transfer Pligibility Application and CIF Form 510 Pre-Enrollment ontact Affidavit have been approved by the Section.

No student shall be eligible to participate in the same sport at two different schools in the same school year unless the student changed schools as a result of a valid change of residence by the student and his/her

nament(s) guardian(s)/caregiver. In the event of a change of schools due to a valid change of residence, a student will be allowed to participate in the same sport at two different schools of the exceed, in total, the maximum number of contests in that sport as established by the Section.

All 9th grade students who are transferring for a second time, or any 10th, 11th or 12th grade students at any time may be granted unlimited residential have transfer eligibility provided the student moves from any school (foreign or domestic) to a CIF school due to a family decision to transfer the student based on hardship circumstances pursuant to CIF in Bylaw 208 AND when the following conditions are also met:

- A student who was scholastically ineligible at their previous school will not be eligible to compete at the new school until the requirements in Bylaw 205 are met and the new school has completed a grading period to verify that the student has met the CIF and school district scholastic eligibility requirements.
 A student cannot be placed on probation at the new school to fulfill this requirement.
- A student will be declared ineligible for one calendar year from the date of transfer if he/she is transferring for disciplinary reasons as defined in Bylaw 210.

for foreign transfers



4.

ige in A

h.

- There is evidence of a violation of Bylaw 510.
 - The student shall become varsity eligible under the rule after one calendar year from the date of first attendance at the new school.
- **Boarding School**

A high school student who transfers to or from the status of a full time resident at a 24-hour boarding school shall be subject to all provisions of Bylaw 207

- Hardship Waiter
 - Sections may waive the limited eligibility of a student pursuant to Bylaw 208 Transfer Hard hip.(Revised May 2010 Federated Council)
- PRE-ENROLLMENT COMMUNICATION OR CONTACT (Domestic & Foreign Transfers) C. A student who transfers from School A" to Smool "B," as discribed in Bylaws 207.A. and 207.B. above, shall not be eligible for intrischolastic athletics at School "B" until application, under the

appropriate CIF/Section procedures, is completed victoring the following:

(1) Mandatory Former School Attestations (Certification?)

The principal and athletic director of School "A" shall attest that the best of their knowledge they have no credible evidence* of any person, who is connected with the athletic department of School "B;" who is part of the boost of club of School "B;" or who is acting on their behalf, having communication, directly or indirectly, through intermediaries or otherwise, with the transfer student, student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver, or anyons acting on behalf of the student, prior to the completion on the enrollment process.

Definition of Credible Evidence

credible evidence is considered as evidence which proceeds from a trustworthy source; evidence which is so natural, reasonable and probable as to make it easy to believe; information which is obtained from authentic sources or from the statements of persons who are rot only rustworthy, but also informed as to the particular matter; that which is not mere speculation, or rumor Mandatory N w School Certification

- - The principal, athletic director apprhead-eeach of School "B" shall certify that to the best of their knowledge no person: who is connected with the athletic department of School "B;" who is part of the booster chip of School 'B;" or who is acting on their behalf, has had communication, directly of indirectly, through intermediaries or otherwise, with the transfer student, student's parent(s)/guardian(s)/ouregiver, or anyone acting on behalf of the student, prior to the completion of the enrollment process.
- Club Coach Association with new School (student transfers to a new school which a coach from the student's non-CIF sports participation experience is associated

The transfer of a student from his or her current school of attendance with or without a valid change of residence (CIF Bylaw 206) corresponding change of residence to any CIF member high school where the student participated or participated, during the previous 24 months, on a non-school athletic team, (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club team, etc.) that is associated with the new school in the sports previously participated in shall be considered prima facie evidence ("sufficient evidence") of undue influence/recruiting by the school to which the student transfers. Such transfer may be considered prima facie evidence ("sufficient evidence") that the student enrolled in that school in whole or part for athletic reasons. A team associated with the school is one that is organized by and/or coached by any member of the coaching staff at, or any other person associated** with, that school and/or on which the majority of the members of the team (Participants in practice and/or competition) are students who attend that school. When a prima facie case ("sufficient evidence") of undue influencing/recruiting exists, the student shall be ineligible to represent the new school in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one calendar year from the date of the student's enrollment in the new school in all sports in which the student participated at the former school at any school In the last twelve months and/or the sport with which the coach referenced herein is associated, unless sufficient proof is presented to the satisfaction of the Section Commissioner that rebuts or disproves the evidence of undue influence/recruiting for

DEFINTION OF PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH SCHOOL

athletic reasons.

**Defined as: Persons "associated" with a school include, but are not limited to; current or former coaches, current or former athletes, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver of current or former student/athletes, booster club members, alumni, spouses or relatives of

of the bylaw was

coaches, teachers and other employees, coaches who become employed, active applicants for coaching positions, and persons who are employed by companies or organizations that have donated athletic supplies, equipment or apparel to that school.

Relocation of former high school coach: (Domestic & Forlegn Transfers) A student at any grade level who transfers to a new school within one calendar year of the relocation of his/her former high school coach to that school with or without a corresponding valid change in residence shall be considered prima facie evidence ("sufficient evidence") of undue influence/recruiting by the school to which the student transfers or may be considered prima facie evidence ("sufficient evidence") that the student enrolled in that school in whole or in part for athletic reasons (See CIF Bylaw 510). When a prima facie case ("sufficient evidence") of undue influence/recruiting exists, the student shall be ineligible to represent the new school in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one calendar year from the date of the student's enrollment in the new school in all sports in which the student participated at the former any school in the last twelve months and/or the sport with which the coach referenced herein is associated, unless sufficient proof is presented to the satisfaction of the Section Commissioner that reports or disproves the evidence of undue influence/recruiting for athletic reasons.

(5)Disclosure:

Any pre-enrollment communication as described above must be disclosed in full, and in writing, to the appropriate Section. The Section Commissioner shall determine if the preenrollment communication is a violation of Bylaw 510.

Clearance of Pre-Enrollment contact

(6)

A student with whom contact or communication has occurred, as described in paragraph "a." above, and who meet all other cIF/Section transfer waiver requirements, may become eligible upon determination that:

- the communication was completely unrelated to any aspect of School B; AND was of a type that, from the objective point of view of a reasonable person disinterested in the win loss record of School B, does not have an effect upon the integrity of interscholastic at lietics a School A or School B.

Penalties

Fallure to disclose pre-enrollment communication with School B pason, identified in C.(2) above, to disclose any pre-enrollment contact, or communicate it writing to the appropriate Section as described in C.(3) above may result in:

- A forfeiture of all games in which the student participated; AND/OR
- Disqualification from playoff and championship corpetition for all seasons in which
- the student is a member of the school's team. (A student shall be considered a member of the school's team if he or she participated in any aspect of an interscholastic contest, no matter how brief such participation may have been); AND/O
- Divestment from the school of all trophies, banners and other indicia of athletic success obtained while the student was a member of the school's team.

D. Moved to D. 207.B. in a Note

EMANCIPATED MINORS This bylaw also applies to students 18 years of age or older and emancipated ming

moved to 207:B.

NOTE: Students transferring to another school under any provision of the federal legislation "No Child Left Behind Act" are not residentially eligible at their new school. NCLB NOTE However, a student may become eligible under the provisions of the appropriate Section and State CIF Constitution and Bylaws. (Revised May 2010 Federated Council)

APPEALS

Appeals of residential eligibility determinations made by a CIF/Section involving transfer students must be in accordance with all relevant provisions of the CIF appeal process as set forth in Bylaw 1100. (Revised May 2010 Federated Council

208. HARDSHIP WAIVERS DEFINITION

The following definition of hardship in conjunction with the other required aspects of 207 will be used in the consideration of a hardship exception for transfer students. The CIF recognizes that, in certain circumstances, students may transfer from one school to another due to a compelling need or situation beyond a student's control. In such cases the Section may waive the transfer limitation imposed on a student when the case meets the definition of a hardship. (See "A." below.) Consideration of any hardship request under this bylaw requires documented proof of the hardship circumstance, and all facts to be considered must be submitted at the time of application. Consideration will be given to those situations in which there is no evidence of athletic motivation, undue influence, pending disciplinary action or falsification of information (See also Bylaw 202).

- A hardship is defined as an unforeseeable, unavoidable and uncorrectable act, condition or event that causes the imposition of a severe and non-athletic burden upon the student or his/her family. Sections may only waive the transfer limitation if the conditions of hardship are met, and there is sufficient documentation to support the hardship claim. Sections may not waive the applicable rule if the conditions of hardship are not met.
- Consideration of any hardship request to a Section requires documentation. B. Such documents may include sut not be limited to copies of current transcripts, financial documents, medical statements and/or supportive statements from the previous school attended.

HARDSHIP DEFINITIONS AND Q & A HAT FOSLOW 208 WOULD NOT CHANGE

Moved 209.B. to 207

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

A foreign exchange student is a transfer student from one so lool to another thout a valid change of residence (See CIF bylaw 206.2 under the uspices of a foreign exchange program.

STUDENTS TRANSFERRING TO A CIF MENTER SCHOOL UNDER THE AUSPICES OF A CIF-APPROVED FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM. Foreign Exchange students transferring under the auspices of a CIF-approved foreign exchange program from a school located outside the United States, a U.S. Millary Base, a U.S. Ferritory or Canada to a CIF member school may be granted unimited residential elimbility for all CIF athletic competition if all of the following onditions apply:

(1) Such student must be under the auspices of, and be placed with a host family in the United States by, a foreign exchange program that meets all the requirements listed below: The program has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET); AND The program has examilited a signed CIF Foreign Exchange Program Approval Request form:

> Stating that their placement procedures for foreign exchange students are purely random with respect to athletic participation and school placement; AND

Stating that there shall be no school, coach, community, relative or friend contact related to athletics regarding the enrollment of any student in a particular school; AND

Has been approved by the CIF; AND

The program has been recognized by the U.S. State Department and the California Attorneys' General Office, and the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET); AND Any CIF-approved foreign exchange program that fails to

fulfill the State CIF conditions for exempt status shall be subject to immediate suspension of its exempt status

b.

CSIET added here as reflected in NOTE below