



MPSSAA CLASSIFICATION & REGIONAL RE-ALIGNMENT BREAKDOWN

Every two years the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA) Classification Committee finalizes a new two-year cycle in which all schools are assigned a classification and region/section alignment for each sport. Classifications (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A) are determined based on school enrollment figures for grades 9, 10, and 11 with Class 1A consisting of the lowest enrollment all the way up to Class 4A - largest school enrollment.

After classifications are set for all public schools across the state; the committee then uses the following three criteria in baseball to group schools into four regions (North, South, East, West) and furthermore two sections (Region I and Region II) within each region. Regional Alignment Criteria: 1. Regions/sections shall be numerically balanced as best as possible, 2. Regions/sections shall be geographically clustered as best as possible, and 3. Schools within the same city/county/conference shall be aligned in the same region whenever possible. The geographic and numerical balance is aimed to group schools together based on location to minimize travel and ensure a roughly equal number of schools in each region for what becomes the first three rounds of the State Tournament.

This season marks the start of a new cycle in which several schools have either gone up or down in classifications and or changed regions/sections. For schools across the state, re-classification and region/section re-alignment can be seen as either a positive or a negative, depending on how the change in competition affects their chances of making a run at a regional or state championship.

With the regular season less than two weeks away and excitement building, we've put together a comprehensive breakdown of all the classification and regional changes. This includes which teams are moving in, which teams are moving out, and which programs have switched regions.

We also examine the potential impact these moves could have for teams within each classification, and rank every region within each classification from the toughest (1) to the easiest (8).

MPSSAA CLASS 4A

WEST REGION	NORTH REGION	SOUTH REGION	EAST REGION
3 REGION I	5 REGION I	7 REGION I	6 REGION I
THOMAS JOHNSON (Frederick)	DULANEY (Baltimore County)	PAINT BRANCH (Montgomery)	MERGENTHALER (Baltimore City)
URBANA (Frederick)	DUNDALK (Baltimore County)	MONTGOMERY BLAIR (Montgomery)	GLEN BURNIE (Anne Arundel)
CLARKSBURG (Montgomery)	KENWOOD (Baltimore County)	ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (Prince George's)	MEADE (Anne Arundel)
NORTHWEST (Montgomery)	PARKVILLE (Baltimore County)	HIGH POINT (Prince George's)	NORTH COUNTY (Anne Arundel)
SENECA VALLEY (Montgomery)	PERRY HALL (Baltimore County)	LAUREL (Prince George's)	SEVERN RUN (Anne Arundel)
SOUTH HAGERSTOWN (Washington)	WOODLAWN (Baltimore County)	NORTHWESTERN (Prince George's)	SEVERNA PARK (Anne Arundel)
1 REGION II	4 REGION II	8 REGION II	2 REGION II
BETHESDA-CC (Montgomery)	ALBERT EINSTEIN (Montgomery)	BLADENSBURG (Prince George's)	ANNAPOLIS (Anne Arundel)
GAITHERSBURG (Montgomery)	JAMES HUBERT BLAKE (Montgomery)	CHARLES H. FLOWERS (Prince George's)	BROADNECK (Anne Arundel)
QUINCE ORCHARD (Montgomery)	JOHN F. KENNEDY (Montgomery)	DR. HENRY A. WISE (Prince George's)	CROFTON (Anne Arundel)
WALT WHITMAN (Montgomery)	RICHARD MONTGOMERY (Montgomery)	DUVAL (Prince George's)	NORTH POINT (Charles)
WALTER JOHNSON (Montgomery)	SPRINGBROOK (Montgomery)	PARKDALE (Prince George's)	BOWIE (Prince George's)
WINSTON CHURCHILL (Montgomery)	WHEATON (Montgomery)	SUITLAND (Prince George's)	LEONARDTOWN (St. Mary's)

Class 4A Breakdown

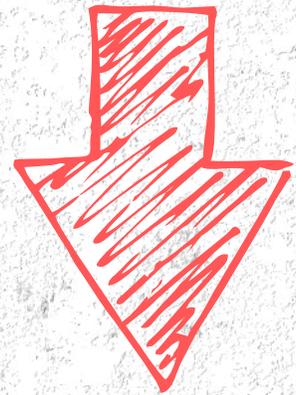


Schools Entering 4A

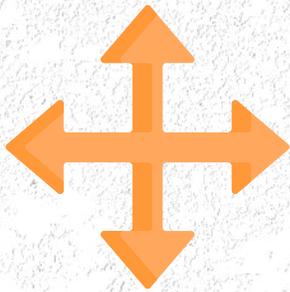
Blake (3A South Region II → 4A North Region II)
Dulaney (3A North Region I → 4A North Region I)
Severn Run (3A South Region I → 4A East Region I)
Severna Park (3A East Region I → 4A East Region I)
South Hagerstown (3A West Region I → 4A West Region I)

Schools Leaving 4A

Frederick (4A West Region I → 3A West Region I)
Northwood (4A South Region I → 3A West Region II)
Old Mill (4A East Region I → 3A East Region II)
Reservoir (4A South Region I → 3A South Region I)



Schools Switching Regions in 4A



Crofton (4A East Region I → 4A East Region II)
Eleanor Roosevelt (4A South Region II → 4A South Region I)
Mergenthaler (4A North Region I → 4A East Region I)
Paint Brach (4A North Region II → 4A South Region I)
Suitland (4A East Region II → 4A South Region II)

Dulaney and Severna Park headline a group of five schools moving up to 4A, with both programs returning after spending one classification cycle in 3A. Dulaney, last year's 3A North Region I champion, moves back into 4A North Region I alongside several familiar Baltimore County opponents—a region the Lions previously dominated with back-to-back regional titles in 2021 and 2022.

Severna Park also returns to 4A after a difficult two-year run in a highly competitive 3A East Region I, where the Falcons fell in the regional championship game in consecutive seasons. The move back to 4A provides a fresh start for a program that has enjoyed significant success at the classification. Most recently, Severna Park captured regional titles in 2021 and 2022, and advanced to the state championship game both years.

For the first time since 2019, **Blake** gets a bit of relief with its move up to 4A this cycle—without neighboring Sherwood joining them. The Bengals have spent the past five seasons battling a Warriors program that produced one of the most dominant runs in modern MPSSAA history. During that stretch, Blake fell to Sherwood twice in regional championship games while the Warriors went on to capture three consecutive state titles.

Crofton also makes a significant change by switching regions. The Cardinals avoid Severna Park but jump over and join an already crowded and stacked East Region II with fellow Anne Arundel County power Broadneck (last year's regional champion) and Leonardtown out of the SMAC (the 2023 regional champion and eventual 4A state champion) headlining the group.

Another notable shift is **Eleanor Roosevelt's** move into the South Region I. Over the past decade, Prince George's County's winningest program has captured six regional titles (2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025). However, the Raiders could face a tougher road this cycle with Montgomery County contender Blair in the mix.

MPSSAA CLASS 3A

WEST REGION	NORTH REGION	SOUTH REGION	EAST REGION
2 REGION I	7 REGION I	3 REGION I	6 REGION I
WESTMINSTER (Carroll)	MILFORD MILL (Baltimore County)	ATHOLTON (Howard)	CHESAPEAKE (Anne Arundel)
FREDERICK (Frederick)	OVERLEA (Baltimore County)	GUILFORD PARK (Howard)	NORTHEAST (Anne Arundel)
LINGANORE (Frederick)	PATAPSCO (Baltimore County)	MOUNT HEBRON (Howard)	CITY (Baltimore City)
OAKDALE (Frederick)	TOWSON (Baltimore County)	OAKLAND MILLS (Howard)	POLY (Baltimore City)
TUSCARORA (Frederick)	ABERDEEN (Harford)	RESERVOIR (Howard)	DIGITAL HARBOR (Baltimore City)
NORTH HAGERSTOWN (Washington)	EDGEWOOD (Harford)	SHERWOOD (Montgomery)	PATTERSON (Baltimore City)
4 REGION II	5 REGION II	8 REGION II	1 REGION II
MAGRUDER (Montgomery)	CATONSVILLE (Baltimore County)	ST. CHARLES (Charles)	ARUNDEL (Anne Arundel)
DAMASCUS (Montgomery)	FRANKLIN (Baltimore County)	LARGO (Prince George's)	OLD MILL (Anne Arundel)
NORTHWOOD (Montgomery)	NEW TOWN (Baltimore County)	OXON HILL (Prince George's)	SOUTH RIVER (Anne Arundel)
ROCKVILLE (Montgomery)	CENTENNIAL (Howard)	POTOMAC (Prince George's)	NORTHERN (Calvert)
WOOTTON (Montgomery)	HOWARD (Howard)	CHOPTICON (St. Mary's)	JAMES M. BENNETT (Wicomico)
WATKINS MILL (Montgomery)	MARRIOTTS RIDGE (Howard)	GREAT MILLS (St. Mary's)	STEPHEN DECATUR (Worcester)

Class 3A Breakdown

Schools Entering 3A



Frederick (4A West Region I → 3A West Region I)
Northwood (4A South Region I → 3A West Region II)
Old Mill (4A East Region I → 3A East Region II)
Reservoir (4A South Region I → 3A South Region I)



Down From 4A

Up From 2A/1A



Patapsco (2A North Region I → 3A North Region I)
Centennial (2A West Region II → 3A North Region II)
New Town (2A North Region II → 3A North Region II)
Potomac (2A South Region I → 3A South Region II)
Largo (1A South Region II → 3A South Region II)

Schools Leaving 3A



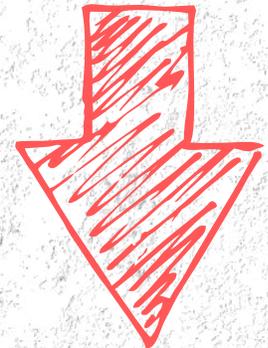
Moving to 4A

Blake (3A South Region II → 4A North Region II)
Dulaney (3A North Region I → 4A North Region I)
Severn Run (3A South Region I → 4A East Region I)
Severna Park (3A East Region I → 4A East Region I)
South Hagerstown (3A West Region I → 4A West Region I)



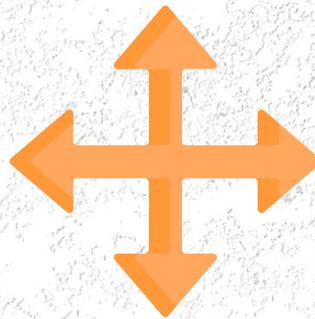
Moving to 2A

Lansdowne (3A North Region I → 2A North Region I)
Bel Air (3A North Region II → 2A East Region I)
Long Reach (3A South Region II → 2A West Region II)
River Hill (3A South Region II → 2A West Region II)
Manchester Valley (3A West Region I → 2A North Region I)



Schools Switching Regions in 3A

Aberdeen (3A North Region II → 3A North Region I)
Edgewood (3A North Region II → 3A North Region I)
Catonsville (3A North Region I → 3A North Region II)
Franklin (3A North Region I → 3A North Region II)
Howard (3A South Region I → 3A North Region II)
Marriotts Ridge (3A South Region I → 3A North Region II)
Atholton (3A South Region II → 3A South Region I)
Oakland Mills (3A South Region II → 3A South Region I)
Sherwood (3A South Region II → 3A South Region I)
St. Charles (3A East Region II → 3A South Region II)
Oxon Hill (3A East Region II → 3A South Region II)
Chopticon (3A East Region II → 3A South Region II)



Great Mills (3A East Region II → 3A South Region II)
Chesapeake-AA (3A South Region I → 3A East Region I)
Northeast-AA (3A South Region I → 3A East Region I)
City (3A North Region II → 3A East Region I)
Poly (3A North Region II → 3A East Region I)
Digital Harbor (3A North Region II → 3A East Region I)
Patterson (3A North Region II → 3A East Region I)
Arundel (3A East Region I → 3A East Region II)
South River (3A East Region I → 3A East Region II)
James M. Bennett (3A East Region I → 3A East Region II)
Stephen Decatur (3A East Region I → 3A East Region II)

Class 3A always seems to bring the most movement during reclassification cycles, and this new alignment is no exception. A classification known for its year-to-year parity has plenty of changes to sort through. We'll start with **Reservoir**, last year's 4A South Region I champion and state semifinalist. The Gators had an outstanding season behind dominant right-handers Gavin Metrick and Matt Russell, but both have since graduated. Reservoir now drops into the 3A South Region I, where they will be grouped with perennial state powerhouse Sherwood.

3A North Region II will look completely different this cycle, featuring a balanced mix of three Howard County schools and three Baltimore County teams. It's a solid region overall with **Catonsville**, **Marriotts Ridge**, **Howard**, and now **Centennial** moving up to 3A - all capable of taking home the crown.

The western regions remain largely unchanged. 3A West Region II will once again feature perennial contenders **Damascus**, **Magruder**, and **Wootton**, while Region I continues to be made up primarily of schools from perennially one of the state's toughest conferences, the Central Maryland Conference (CMC). The West Region I also includes Carroll County's largest and most storied program **Westminster**.

The biggest shakeup of this cycle comes out East as we are treated first with two blockbuster rivalries within the same region - Region I, between Anne Arundel County's **Chesapeake (AA)** and **Northeast (AA)**, and Baltimore City's **Baltimore 'City' College** and **Poly**.

With the group of Baltimore City programs shifting into the East Region I, East Region II becomes top to bottom one of the deepest the most competitive regions in the class and state for that matter. That group now includes historically three of Anne Arundel County's strongest programs in **Arundel**, **Old Mill**, and **South River**; familiar Bayside opponents from last cycle - **Stephen Decatur** and **James M. Bennett**, and the addition of **Northern-Calvert** from the SMAC who lost in the regional title game last season to eventual State Runner-Up, Chopticon.

Speaking of **Chopticon**, amid all the movement, the Braves may just be the biggest beneficiary in this new cycle shifting into the South Region II, which—at least on paper—appears to provide a much more favorable path through the region.

MPSSAA CLASS 2A

WEST REGION	NORTH REGION	SOUTH REGION	EAST REGION
2 REGION I	7 REGION I	8 REGION I	1 REGION I
CENTURY (Carroll)	HEREFORD (Baltimore County)	CROSSLAND (Prince George's)	BEL AIR (Harford)
WINTERS MILL (Carroll)	LANSDOWNE (Baltimore County)	FAIRMONT HEIGHTS (Prince George's)	C. MILTON WRIGHT (Harford)
MIDDLETOWN (Frederick)	OWINGS MILLS (Baltimore County)	FREDERICK DOUGLASS (Prince George's)	NORTH HARFORD (Harford)
WALKERSVILLE (Frederick)	RANDALLSTOWN (Baltimore County)	FRIENDLY (Prince George's)	ELKTON (Cecil)
WILLIAMSPORT (Washington)	CARVER VO-TECH (Baltimore City)	GWYNN PARK (Prince George's)	NORTH EAST (Cecil)
POOLESVILLE (Montgomery)	MANCHESTER VALLEY (Carroll)	SURRATTSVILLE (Prince George's)	RISING SUN (Cecil)
3 REGION II	6 REGION II	4 REGION II	5 REGION II
SOUTHERN (Anne Arundel)	CHESAPEAKE (Baltimore County)	CALVERT (Calvert)	NORTH CAROLINE (Caroline)
HAMMOND (Howard)	EASTERN TECH (Baltimore County)	HUNTINGTOWN (Calvert)	KENT ISLAND (Queen Anne's)
LONG REACH (Howard)	SPARROWS POINT (Baltimore County)	LA PLATA (Charles)	QUEEN ANNE'S CO. (Queen Anne's)
RIVER HILL (Howard)	FOREST PARK (Baltimore City)	MCDONOUGH (Charles)	EASTON (Talbot)
WILDE LAKE (Howard)	DUNBAR (Baltimore City)	THOMAS STONE (Charles)	PARKSIDE (Wicomico)
GLENELG (Howard)	FALLSTON (Harford)	WESTLAKE (Charles)	WICOMICO (Wicomico)

Class 2A Breakdown

Schools Entering 2A

Lansdowne (3A North Region I → 2A North Region I)
Bel Air (3A North Region II → 2A East Region I)
Long Reach (3A South Region II → 2A West Region II)
River Hill (3A South Region II → 2A West Region II)
Manchester Valley (3A West Region I → 2A North Region I)



Down From 3A

Up From 1A



Forest Park (1A South Region I → 2A North Region II)
Friendly (1A South Region II → 2A South Region I)
Surrattsville (1A South Region II → 2A South Region I)

Schools Leaving 2A



Moving to 3A

Patapsco (2A North Region I → 3A North Region I)
Centennial (2A West Region II → 3A North Region II)
New Town (2A North Region II → 3A North Region II)
Potomac (2A South Region I → 3A South Region II)
Largo (1A South Region II → 3A South Region II)

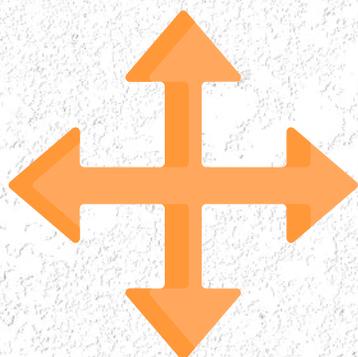


Moving to 1A

Francis Scott Key (2A West Region I → 1A West Region II)
Lackey (2A South Region I → 1A South Region II)
Patuxent (2A South Region II → 1A South Region II)



Schools Switching Regions in 2A



Poolesville (2A West Region II → 2A West Region I)
Hereford (2A North Region II → 2A North Region I)
Owings Mills (2A North Region II → 2A North Region I)
Randallstown (2A North Region II → 2A North Region I)
Carver Vo-Tech (2A North Region II → 2A North Region I)
Chesapeake-BC (2A North Region I → 2A North Region II)
Eastern Tech (2A North Region I → 2A North Region II)
Sparrows Point (2A North Region I → 2A North Region II)
Dunbar (2A North Region I → 2A North Region II)
Fallston (2A East Region I → 2A North Region II)

Of the schools moving into Class 2A this cycle, **River Hill** has to be where we start. The Hawks are coming off another strong season, falling to eventual state champion Sherwood in the 3A South Region II championship game. Prior to that, River Hill captured back-to-back 3A regional titles, highlighted by a 3A state championship in 2023. While the Hawks no longer have to navigate those recent postseason battles with perennial powerhouse Sherwood, their new home in the 2A West Region II will still be far from easy. Defending regional champion **Southern-AA** remains in the region, along with Howard County rival **Glenelg**, which has been on a strong run of its own—winning the 2022 Class 2A state title and finishing as state runners-up in 2024.

In the East, **Bel Air's** drop to 2A creates a ripple effect. To maintain regional balance, **Fallston** shifts out of the highly competitive UCBAC-heavy East Region I and moves into North Region II, where they will face a mix of Baltimore County and Baltimore City programs. The change sets up some intriguing matchups, including potential battles with defending regional champion **Eastern Tech** and **Sparrows Point**, which has captured four of the last five regional titles.

Meanwhile, in the West, **Poolesville**—Montgomery County's smallest school—also changes regions. However, the move is largely a wash in terms of difficulty, as the Falcons will now compete against another strong collection of programs from Carroll, Frederick, and Washington counties.

MPSSAA CLASS 1A

WEST REGION	NORTH REGION	SOUTH REGION	EAST REGION
3 REGION I	4 REGION I	7 REGION I	2 REGION I
ALLEGANY (Allegany)	CARVER A&T (Baltimore County)	COPPIN ACADEMY (Baltimore City)	BOHEMIA MANOR (Cecil)
FORT HILL (Allegany)	LOCH RAVEN (Baltimore County)	EDMONDSON-WESTSIDE (Baltimore City)	PERRYVILLE (Cecil)
MOUNTAIN RIDGE (Allegany)	HARFORD TECH (Harford)	FREDERICK DOUGLASS (Baltimore City)	COLONEL RICHARDSON (Caroline)
NORTHERN (Garrett)	HAVRE DE GRACE (Harford)	PIKESVILLE (Baltimore County)	NORTH DORCHESTER (Dorchester)
SOUTHERN (Garrett)	JOPPATOWNE (Harford)	WESTERN TECH (Baltimore County)	KENT COUNTY (Kent)
HANCOCK (Washington)	PATTERSON MILL (Harford)	CMIT-NORTH (Prince George's)	ST. MICHAELS (Talbot)
1 REGION II	6 REGION II	8 REGION II	5 REGION II
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY (Carroll)	LIBERTY (Carroll)	PATUXENT (Calvert)	CAMBRIDGE-SD (Dorchester)
BRUNSWICK (Frederick)	SOUTH CARROLL (Carroll)	HENRY E. LACKEY (Charles)	CRISFIELD (Somerset)
CATOCTIN (Frederick)	LAKE CLIFTON (Baltimore City)	CENTRAL (Prince George's)	WASHINGTON (Somerset)
BOONSBORO (Washington)	NAF (Baltimore City)	CMIT-SOUTH (Prince George's)	MARDELA (Wicomico)
CLEAR SPRING (Washington)	ACCE (Baltimore City)	INT. HS - LANGLEY PARK (Prince George's)	POCOMOKE (Worcester)
SMITHSBURG (Washington)	REGINALD LEWIS (Baltimore City)	INT. HS - LARGO (Prince George's)	SNOW HILL (Worcester)

Class 1A Breakdown

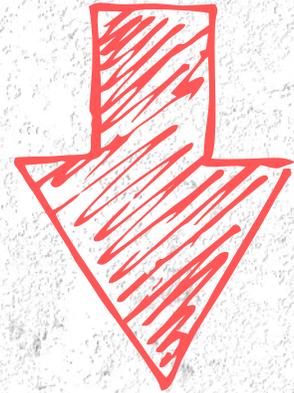


Schools Entering 1A

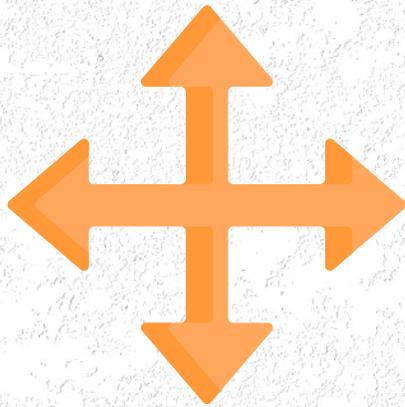
Francis Scott Key (2A West Region I → 1A West Region II)
Lackey (2A South Region I → 1A South Region II)
Patuxent (2A South Region II → 1A South Region II)

Schools Leaving 1A

Forest Park (1A South Region I → 2A North Region II)
Friendly (1A South Region II → 2A South Region I)
Surrattsville (1A South Region II → 2A South Region I)



Schools Switching Regions in 1A



Hancock (1A West Region II → 1A West Region I)
Carver A&T (1A North Region II → 1A North Region I)
Loch Raven (1A North Region II → 1A North Region I)
Bohemia Manor (1A North Region I → 1A East Region I)
Perryville (1A North Region I → 1A East Region I)
Pikesville (1A North Region II → 1A South Region I)
Western Tech (1A North Region II → 1A South Region I)
Lake Clifton (1A South Region I → 1A North Region II)
NAF (1A South Region I → 1A North Region II)
ACCE (1A South Region I → 1A North Region II)
Reginald Lewis (1A South Region I → 1A North Region II)
CMIT-North (1A South Region II → 1A South Region I)
Cambridge-SD (1A East Region I → 1A East Region II)

The biggest storyline in the Class 1A re-alignment this cycle is clearly **Patuxent** dropping down from 2A. The Panthers, a perennial SMAC powerhouse under 23rd-year head coach Keith Powell, enter the classification highly motivated after last season's regional semifinal loss ended a remarkable run. Prior to that setback, Patuxent had captured four consecutive regional titles, along with back-to-back 2A state runner-up finishes in 2022 and 2023, followed by a state semifinal appearance in 2024. The Panthers also slot into a very winnable region which, barring an upset of seismic proportion, means they should once again find themselves among the final eight teams when the state tournament reaches its final three rounds.

Another very motivated squad entering 2026 is **St. Michaels** under longtime head coach Brian Femi, now in his 36th-year at the helm. The Saints, winners of five state championships during Femi's illustrious tenure are eager to run it back following a loss to Allegany in last year's state title game. But shifts in the regional re-alignment could make their return trip a little more difficult this season as both Cecil County schools-**Bohemia Manor** and **Perryville**-move from the North into the Saints East Region I which also features longtime Bayside Conference rival **Colonel Richardson**.

Another notable regional shift will play a major role in shaping which eight schools advance to the state quarterfinals in the new cycle as **Pikesville** moves into the South Region I, separating them from Carroll County's **Liberty** high school. During the last alignment cycle—when Liberty dropped down to 1A—the two programs became regional rivals in the North Region II, splitting the last two regional championships. Now in separate regions, both programs could have a clearer path to another regional title. Each has been largely successful in recent years, with Pikesville winning regional championships in 2021, 2023, and 2025, and Liberty capturing titles in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

The West remains strong as ever with geographical rivalries and tremendous depth dominating both Region I and Region II. It continues to be a war of attrition just to make it through the regional rounds out in the mountains.

CONFERENCE/COUNTY (TOTAL # OF SCHOOLS)	4A	3A	2A	1A
Anne Arundel County (14)	8	5	1	-
Baltimore City (15)	1	4	3	7
Baltimore County (24)	6	7	7	4
Bayside Conference (18) (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester)	-	2	6	10
Carroll County (7)	-	1	3	3
Central Maryland Conference (17) (Frederick, Washington)	3	5	3	6
Howard County (13)	-	8	5	-
Montgomery County (25)	17	7	1	-
Prince George's County (25)	11	3	6	5
Upper Chesapeake Bay Athletic Conference (15) (Cecil/Harford)	-	2	7	6
Western Maryland Athletic Conference (5) (Allegany, Garrett)	-	-	-	5
Southern Maryland Athletic Conference (14) (Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's)	2	4	6	2

Table: Breakdown of the number of schools from each Conference/County in each classification in the new re-alignment cycle.