



# EVER WONDERED HOW LHSAA CLASSIFICATION WORKS?



Classification and districting are changed in odd years to become effective in even years. Changes in classification and districting are made at regular two-year intervals.

***Classification from 2025-26 to go into effect for the 2026-27 & 2027-28 school years.***



# STEP 1: ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

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SCHOOLS SUBMIT CERTIFIED ENROLLMENT NUMBERS BY OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

LHSAA STAFF **VERIFIES ENROLLMENT NUMBERS.**

FOR BASIC CLASSES, SCHOOLS ARE SPLIT INTO FOOTBALL SCHOOLS & NON-FOOTBALL SCHOOLS





# STEP 2: BASIC CLASSES ARE CREATED

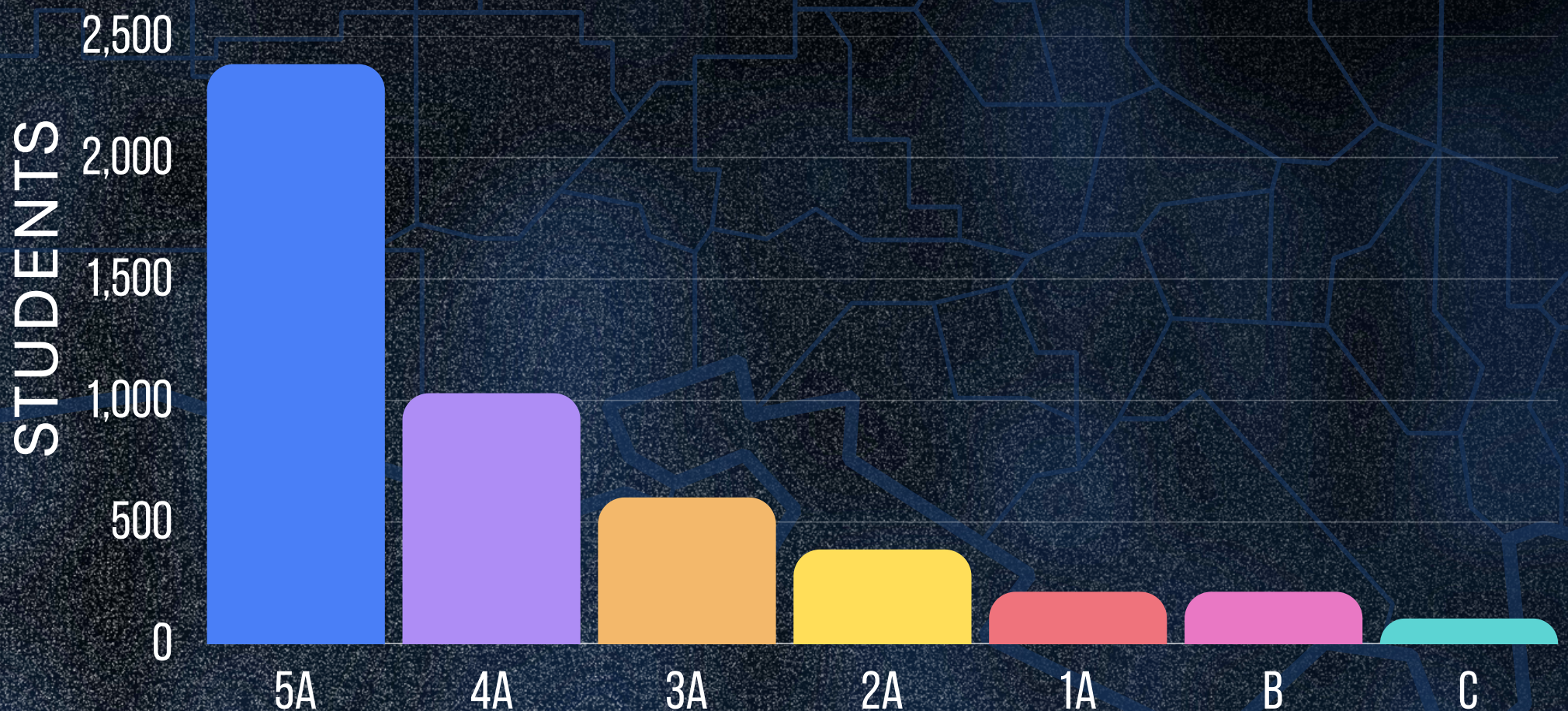
**FOOTBALL SCHOOLS:**

**5A - 4A - 3A - 2A - 1A**

**NON-FOOTBALL SCHOOLS:**

**B - C**

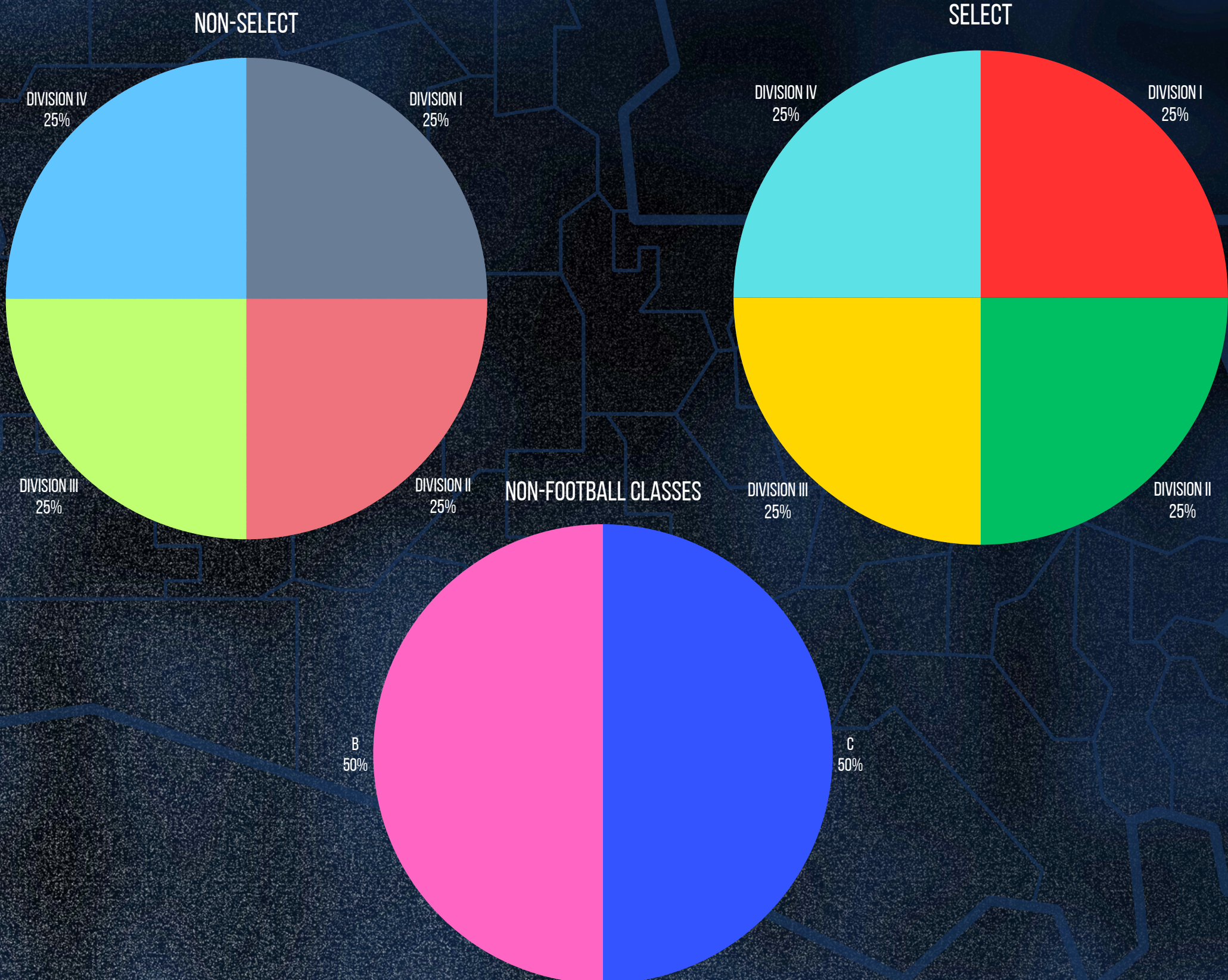
SCHOOLS ARE ORDERED FROM SMALLEST ENROLLMENT TO LARGEST ENROLLMENT AND THEN **DIVIDED TO CREATE EQUAL OR NEARLY EQUAL CLASSES**. SCHOOLS HAVE THE OPTION TO PLAY UP IN CLASSIFICATION OR DIVISION.





## STEP 3: SPLIT INTO DIVISIONS/DISTRICTS BY SPORT

AFTER BASIC CLASSES ARE MADE, SCHOOLS ARE THEN SPLIT INTO DIVISIONS BASED ON HOW EACH SPORT IS STRUCTURED. POSTSEASON DIVISIONAL GROUPINGS ARE SPECIFIC TO THE SPORTS OF FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, AND SOFTBALL FOR THE POSTSEASON. FOR EXAMPLE, BASKETBALL IS SPLIT AS SEEN BELOW.

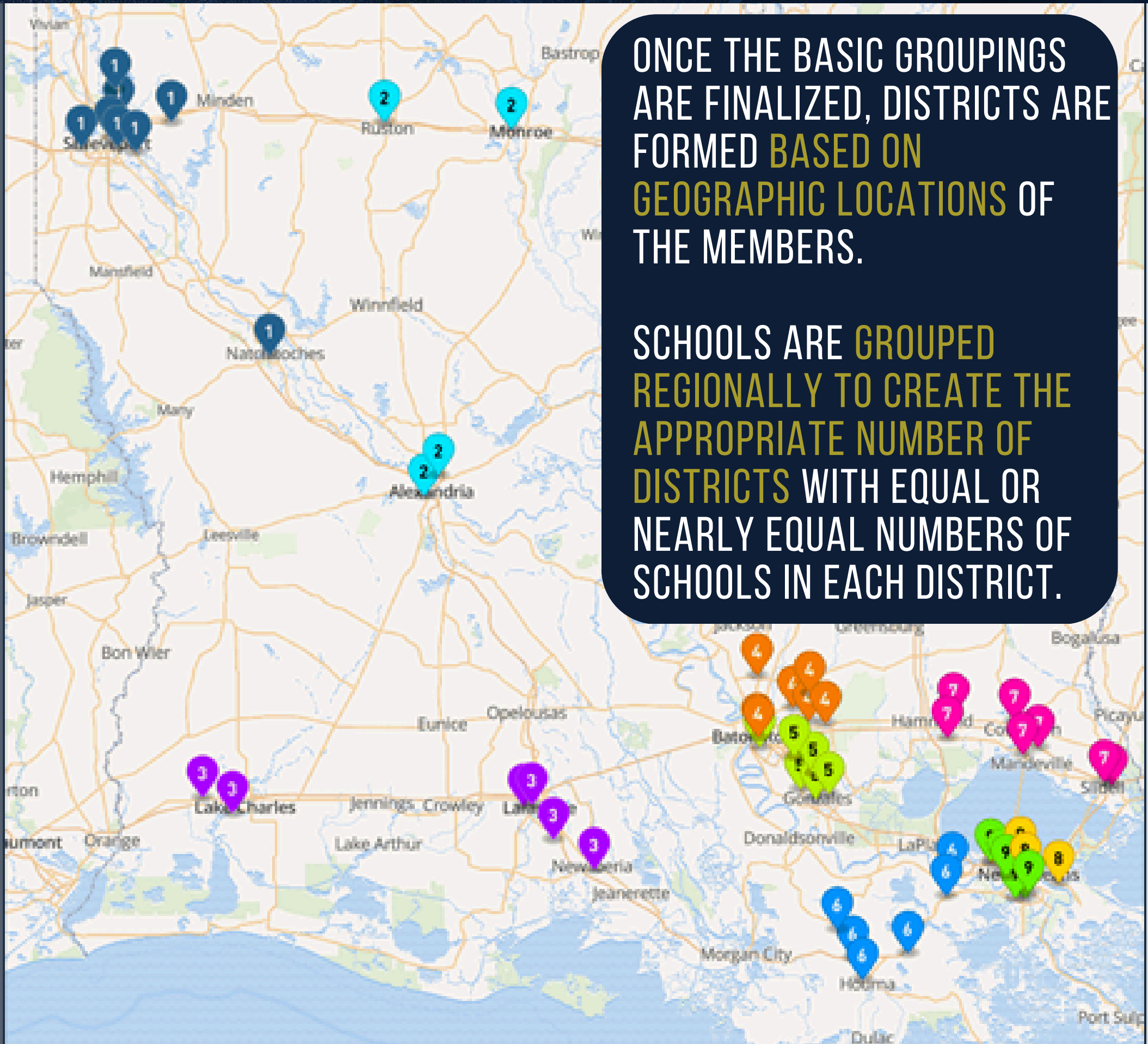




## STEP 4: MAKING DISTRICTS

ONCE THE BASIC GROUPINGS ARE FINALIZED, DISTRICTS ARE FORMED **BASED ON GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS** OF THE MEMBERS.

SCHOOLS ARE **GROUPED REGIONALLY** TO CREATE THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF **DISTRICTS** WITH EQUAL OR NEARLY EQUAL NUMBERS OF SCHOOLS IN EACH DISTRICT.





## STEP 5: CLASSIFICATION MEETING PROCESS

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THE CLASSIFICATION AND DISTRICTING PROCESS CAN INCLUDE UP TO THREE MEETINGS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE THAT ARE **OPEN TO MEMBER SCHOOLS AND THE PUBLIC.**

DURING THESE MEETINGS, ENROLLMENTS ARE VERIFIED, CLASSIFICATIONS ARE CREATED, DISTRICT PROPOSALS ARE REVIEWED, AND **SCHOOLS ARE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK OR APPEAL PLACEMENTS** BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GIVES FINAL APPROVAL.





## STEP 6: FINALIZATION

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ONCE APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE CLASSIFICATION AND DISTRICTING PLAN BECOMES **FINAL**.

ONCE ALL CLASSES, DIVISIONS, AND DISTRICTS ARE FINALIZED, **THEY REMAIN IN PLACE FOR TWO YEARS** UNTIL THE NEXT RECLASSIFICATION CYCLE.

THIS CLASSIFICATION PROCESS IS TEDIOUS AND EXTENSIVE, AS THE LHSAA STAFF **WORKS COLLABORATIVELY WITH MEMBER SCHOOLS AND THE CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE** TO ENSURE EVERY SCHOOL IS PLACED IN THE BEST POSSIBLE CLASSIFICATION BASED ON ENROLLMENT, LOCATION, AND SCHOOL TYPE.

THE APPEAL PROCESS **GIVES SCHOOLS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD** AND ALLOWS THE COMMITTEE TO RECONSIDER WHERE SCHOOLS WILL BE PLACED FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THESE CLASSIFICATIONS ARE NOT MADE OVERNIGHT AND REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF HARD WORK AND PREPARATION FROM ALL PARTIES INVOLVED.