



RE: FAIR CAPACITY FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

Fair Capacity for Athletic Events

Full capacity at the Fair is easily 20,000+. Full capacity at the largest MAIS stadium venue is only 3,500, but under your current order it is limited to 875. How is that fair?

You are permitting the State Fair to open at full capacity by classifying it as a “business operation” because fair revenues fund the fairground. Private school athletic events are also business operations; their revenues fund schools. In particular, for many schools, football revenues fund other athletic programs that are not self-supporting, such as girls soccer, volleyball, tennis, golf, archery, etc.

We agree with you that “small businesses and their employees are the backbone of our economy.” According to the 2019 PEER Staff Legislative Assistance memo, Mississippi’s private schools have a \$210 million economic impact on the state, plus represent \$240 million in cost avoidance to the state treasury. Therefore, we implore you to lift the restrictions on private schools’ freedom to operate their businesses at capacity. When these small businesses cannot operate at capacity, you deprive them of much needed revenue and potentially devastate their fragile economic positions. Closure would mean great harm to the children, families, employees, and other businesses in their communities and to the state's economy as a whole.

Whereas private schools are small businesses and depend on event revenue to fund their operations (just like the State Fair), we petition Governor Reeves to recognize that private school events should be classified as “business operations,” thus not subject to the 25% capacity limit for gatherings.

<https://www.votervoice.net/MSAIS/Petitions/2419/Respond>