



The Lighthouse School
" Lighting the way to a brighter future."
1500 16th Street, Suite 1
North Bend, Oregon
(541) 751-1649



February 17, 2016

Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol St Ne
Salem, OR 97310-0203

RE: Petition for Waiver

Specific Waiver Requested

The Lighthouse School, a public charter school within the North Bend School District, petitions to the board the request for a waiver ORS 338.125 regarding student admissions for the 2016-2017 school year.

Cause for Request

The Lighthouse School will be relocating from the North Bend School District to the Coos Bay School District by August 2016. We feel as though the same students currently enrolled should have the first priority to enroll in the fall. Once a new charter agreement is in place with the Coos Bay School District, Coos Bay residents will then take priority over North Bend residents, and current waiting lists will reflect this change. Open "spots" will be given to Coos Bay resident families.

As The Lighthouse School looks to relocate to a facility that will no longer be required to share its facilities with another school, the outcomes and impact on our children will be huge. We do feel as though there will be a slight population shift that will lean more towards Coos Bay residents. Currently, we have about 52% North Bend students, 45% Coos Bay students, and another 3% from other districts (Reedsport, Coquille). It is expected that over time the Coos Bay/North Bend numbers will switch.

The North Bend School District has been very gracious and patient with us. The Lighthouse School will furnish numbers of North Bend families that intend on staying within their schools.

As a public charter school, we are open to everyone. Transportation for sponsoring district students is provided. This means all of those Coos Bay families that previously drove their children to school will now have busing provided at no cost. Similarly, those North Bend families that have had busing provided will now need to either carpool or drive their children. A survey was sent out to all Lighthouse School families asking if they would follow us to Coos Bay, and over 90% came back stating that they would follow us anywhere.

Thank you for your consideration,

Wade Lester, Director