



Matt Utterback
Superintendent

utterback@nclack.k12.or.us
4444 SE Lake Road
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222
503-353-6001
www.nclack.k12.or.us

Mr. Rob Saxton
Deputy Superintendent
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol Street NW
Salem, OR 97310

June 5, 2014

Dear Deputy Superintendent Saxton:

Emily Nazarov recently requested additional information relating to North Clackamas School District's waiver for the 2014-15 school year from OAR 581-022-1131 (130 clock hour requirement for high school credits). I am writing to provide the additional, requested information.

BASIS OF WAIVER REQUEST:

The North Clackamas School District is seeking a waiver due to the complexity of overhauling high school master schedules within a two-month timeframe. Without ample time to research and assess new schedule options, design new courses (including the development of curriculum guides, syllabi, and necessary student assessments), reforecast 5,000 high school students, and thoughtfully respond to our unique career and technical education program, North Clackamas Schools would not be prepared to provide a quality education to our students in September. Rushing into a truncated high school schedule planning process would harm our students, staff, and community. The heart of our waiver request is based in the responsible provision of high quality instructional programming to our students and is not based on financial hardship or an inability to provide a full school year.

STATUS OF INSTRUCTIONAL FULGOURH DAYS:

An issue raised in Emily's communication was North Clackamas School District's use of furlough days. The furlough days are neither the basis of our waiver request nor the underlying reason why our high school schedules do not net the 130-hour requirement. Even with a full school year, our current high school schedule would fail to meet the 130-hour requirement. As outlined in our original waiver request, the North Clackamas School District is committed to adopting a new high school schedule for the 2015-16 school year that captures at least 130 instructional hours for each course.

Over the past four years, the North Clackamas School District has reduced the number of instructional furlough days from a high of ten instructional furlough days in the 2010-11 school year to five instructional furlough days in the 2013-14 school year. Next year, our district plans to restore an additional three instructional days and is hopeful for a full school year in 2015-2016 to coincide with the implementation of a new high school schedule.

My staff and I are available for any questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Matthew Utterback
Superintendent

cc: Emily Nazarov, Oregon Department of Education, emily.nazarov@state.or.us