



## David Douglas School District

August 28, 2014

Rob Saxton  
Deputy Superintendent  
Oregon Department of Education

Don Grotting, Superintendent  
1500 SE 130th • Portland, Oregon • 97233-1719  
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### RE: Waiver of 130 Hour Division 22 Requirement

Dear Mr. Saxton:

I am writing to request a waiver for David Douglas School District regarding the 130 hour Division 22 requirement. David Douglas High School is the largest high school in the State of Oregon with over 3,000 students attending.

Our high school will have approximately 120 classroom instructional hours for the 2014-15 school year. The high school shortage is due to current bond projects at the high school and promoted release time for teachers to participate in Professional Learning Teams. After being hired four years ago, I requested our School Board to incorporate a weekly early release time, with the purpose of improving student achievement and providing job-embedded professional learning for staff. Each week teachers meet in teams throughout our district to identify content standards for instruction, develop formative assessments, analyze results, collaborate around research-based instructional strategies, and reflect on outcomes.

David Douglas maintains this time is crucial in helping us close the achievement gap and providing equity in one of your highest poverty and most diverse school districts in the state. For contractual reasons, this PLT time is included during the contractual day. Moreover, our high school is realizing success. Our graduation rates have increased, and we are making progress in closing the achievement gap. I can attribute much of this success to our PLT time as teachers are improving and adjusting their instructional practices to meet the needs of their students.

The district also recently negotiated a new certified contract which adds back two instructional days to bring us closer to the 130 hour requirement. Due to the size of our high school, our passing time is 10 minutes as our high school is spread out on over 40 acres. We are on a block schedule and our size and infrastructure provide both opportunity and limitations. In addition, our high school is being renovated for the next two summers and we had to provide days for moving. Work will end during the 2015-16 school year.

We will also be negotiating with our bargaining unit to add minutes or change schedules to increase instructional hours. In addition, we are researching all non-instructional time to include assemblies, passing time, etc, to increase instructional time. Finally, David Douglas is investigating and developing proficiency standards for our entire district.

I appreciate your consideration to award a waiver to our district, and apologize for this late request. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Don Grotting  
Superintendent

Visit our web page: [www.ddouglas.k12.or.us](http://www.ddouglas.k12.or.us)

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