

# Nyssa Public Schools

*"Going for Great"*

804 Adrian Blvd. School District #26  
Nyssa, Oregon 97913-3689

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Superintendent: JANINE WEEKS  
Asst. Supt/Curric.Dir.: JANA IVERSON  
Principals: LARRY RAMIREZ, High School  
GENO BATES, Middle School  
SHAWN JENSEN, Elementary School

Rob Saxton, Deputy Superintendent  
Oregon Department of Education

November 18, 2014

## **RE: Waiver of 130 Hours per Credit Division 22 Requirement**

Dear Mr. Saxton,

I am writing to request a waiver for the 130 hours per credit requirement in Division 22. I would like to provide some background regarding this request.

Our school calendar is a carefully defined balance of meeting the requirements for instructional time, staying within contractual calendar stipulations, and working to provide opportunities for staff development and collaboration.

- We have an 8-period day at the high school which means that our students must attend more days to meet 130 hours per credit. All district students (K – 12) receive 1043 hours of instruction over the course of the year because with our size, our busses make two runs (morning and afternoon) for all our students regardless of grade level. This number does **not** include teacher professional development, assemblies, or parent-teacher conferences.
- In order to stay within our teachers' contract stipulations, we cannot have teachers work more than 190 days. Because of the need for a maximum number of instructional days, our district has few professional development days. At this point, we have one day in October, ½ day in January, and one day in April. We have 25 Fridays where students leave at 1:05 PM. Teachers have staff meetings or training from 1:35 PM to 3:00 PM on those Fridays.
- Last Friday, November 14, we had a snow day. This day was meant to be a full day of instruction for students with 49 minutes per class period, because we had Veterans Day off. Therefore, as a result of the snow day, we will fall short of 130 hours per credit by .42 of an hour. (130.4 hours per credit in our calendar minus .82 hours missing from the snow day)

Our only option to add the missing time would be to do so on a Friday when students are released at 1:05 PM. The concern with doing this is that we would lose some of our limited time for staff meetings or trainings.

In conclusion, I request your consideration of awarding Nyssa School District a waiver for the 130 hours per credit requirement. Because time for teachers to meet, learn, share, etc., is vital but lacking, we request you consider allowing us to drop to approximately **128** hours per credit (127.94 exactly). This would provide an additional two days of professional development for our staff and an additional snow day if necessary. The overall instructional time would be reduced to 1031 hours (**not** including professional development, assemblies, or parent-teacher conferences) for grades K – 12, which, as you know, is well above the requirements for 990 hours of instruction.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Janine Weeks