



Hood River County School District Board of Directors

1011 Eugene Street Hood River, OR 97031

Board Chair: Liz Whitmore; Vice-Chair: Mark Johnson

Board Members: Jan Veldhuisen Virk, Kateri Osborne Lohr, Julia Garcia Ramirez,
David Russo, Bob Danko, and Ex-Officio Board Member Rob Brostoff

Ms. Emily Nazarov, State Board Coordinator
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97310-0203
emily.nazarav@state.or.us.

May 13, 2014

Dear Sir Chair and Members of the Board,

I am writing to request a waiver from Oregon Administrative Rule 581-022-1131: Credit Options for the 2014-15 school year. The Hood River County School District is currently out of compliance with the requirement to "offer students the option for earning each credit required for the diploma or a modified diploma by successfully completing classroom or equivalent work (e.g., supervised independent study, career-related learning experiences, project based learning) in a course of at least 130 clock hours in accordance with OAR 581-022-0102."

Our high school currently offers a minimum of 124 clock hours per credit. We run an A/B block schedule. Classes are 89 minutes long each period. The primary benefit of the block schedule is it maximizes the students contact time with their classroom teacher. Teachers utilize this extended learning time to enrich their curriculum by engaging students in high-order project-based learning opportunities. Additionally, teachers are able to differentiate their instruction so struggling learners have the requisite time to gain skills necessary to meet the high school graduation expectations.

Our current high school program is comprehensive. The schedule enables us to continue to offer a wide-ranging curriculum that is engaging for students. Having an 8 period block schedule puts a priority on both core academic programs as well as a rich and varied elective course offering. This varied course offering is critical to peaking student interest in school and fostering a sense of belonging on campus.

There are several items which draw on our schedule and reduce our instructional hours from the 130 requisite hours. Primarily, we provide one-hour per week to staff members for work in their Professional Learning Communities. This professional development time has been prioritized as a key initiative within our district's strategic plan. Professional Learning Communities provide staff the time they need to hone their craft and grow professionally while at the same time identifying struggling students so interventions can be put in place.

Additionally, the numerous student-activities, community service days and orientation days, draw us out of the traditional classroom setting, but thrust us into enriching our school culture,

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
5780 SOUTH CAMPUS DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

PROFESSOR [Name]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

Dear Professor [Name]:
I am writing to you regarding the [topic] of your recent paper published in [Journal]. I found the work very interesting and would like to discuss it further. I am particularly interested in the [specific aspect] of your study.

I have been following your work in this area for some time and have been impressed by the depth of your research. I believe that your findings have significant implications for the field. I would like to know more about the [methodology] you used and the [results] you obtained.

I am currently working on a project related to [topic] and I believe that your work provides a valuable perspective. I would like to schedule a meeting to discuss your work in more detail and to explore potential collaborations.

I am available for a meeting at any time that is convenient for you. Please let me know what dates and times work best for you. I can be reached at [phone number] or [email address].

I look forward to hearing from you and to the possibility of working together. Thank you for your time and consideration.

The professional learning communities, various school activities and community service days are critical to our school climate and culture. The block schedule allows us the ability build meaningful connections with our students while providing an enriching, varied and diverse high school program. During the 2014-15 school year, our high school and district administration will work together to adjust the school calendar and schedule to ensure 130 clock hours per credit in the 2015-16 school year while not compromising who we are and what we believe in. We are considering various adjustments to meet this requirement and need the upcoming school year to make the adjustments in a way that is thoughtful and meaningful.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Liz Whitmore
Hood River County School Board Chair