

Banks School District 13

12950 NW Main Street

Banks, Oregon 97106

District Office

503-324-8591
503-324-6969 Fax

April 17, 2014

Bob Huston
Superintendent

Emily Nazarov
Board Administrator

Joni Spencer
Business Manager

State Board of Education
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol Street NE

Kyle Merritt
Technology Data Mgmt

Salem, OR 97310-0203

Student Services

503-324-5151
503-324-6969 Fax

RE: Banks School District 13 and Application for Waiver - Time Needed to Meet Division 22 Standard under OAR 581-022-1920

Shelley Mitchell
Director

Dear Emily,

Elementary School

503-324-2772
503-324-3333 Fax

Shawnda Sewell
Principal

I have attached the correspondence sent to you to date regarding the District's request for a waiver. The request is for an extension of the deadline for meeting the Division 22 Standard for providing 130 hours per High School course. The District respectfully requests an implementation date for this standard for the fall of 2015-16 instead of the fall of 2014-15. Given our current schedule, we will be offering 123 hours per High School course for the fall of 2014-15. The District has implemented a 189 day school year for 2014-15 and will do all it can to increase the number of instructional hours between now and next fall. However, we are not confident we can meet the standard for 130 hours by next fall

Junior High School

503-324-3111
503-324-6969 Fax

Shelley Mitchell
Principal

This begs an obvious question. How are our high school students going to better served by the District being granted such a waiver for allowing a one year delay in implementation as opposed to not having the waiver granted?

Banks High School

503-324-2281
503-324-8221 Fax

Mark Everett
Principal

Jacob Pence
*Assistant Principal
Athletic Director*

As explained in the prior correspondence, the Banks School District fully embraces the need to meet the 130 hours for each High School Course. However, to do this in a thoughtful and collaborative manner, the District is requesting time during the 2014-15 school year to meet with parents and students for the purpose of receiving their input on creating a new model or amending the current block schedule. This input needs to be gathered, analyzed and imbedded in a new design model to meet the 130 hours. This input will be invaluable as we work with our staff to find the best scheduling model possible for meeting the 130 hours. Our local Education Association also fully supports this waiver for delayed implementation.

School Board:

Norie Dimeo-Ediger
Kathy Edison
Ron Frame
Raymond Mott
Laurie Schlegel

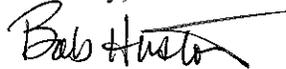
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Employer*

Our Mission: To provide the best facilities, most challenging curriculum, highest qualified, dedicated staff and broadest variety of opportunities

Most importantly, the District believes this is larger than simply meeting instructional the hours per se. This is as an opportunity for the District to embark upon a very significant formative change process, which will lead to not just more time for student learning, but higher quality learning time for students. Maintaining the current block schedule for 2014-15, the District will work with staff to increase and improve instructional assessment strategies for students. This will provide for more frequent and more focused checks for student understanding and more feedback for students. We believe more timely feedback greatly benefits student learning. Additionally, the intent is to provide feedback that is more closely aligned with a standards based assessment system which we want to begin to implement this fall. We believe these efforts will help to mitigate the fact that we are not meeting the 130 hour standard. The District believes this will allow for greater individualization and gains in student learning during the 2014-15 school year while we work to meet the threshold for meeting the 130 hours for the fall of 2015-16.

Finally, given that our CBA with our Education Association, our District will be compelled to bargain over any changes to hours, length of school day and preparation time issues. It will take some time to define the issues and attempt to resolve this challenge in midst of developing a new schedule for meeting the 130 hours. We do not feel it is possible to resolve these issues and be ready to implement a new scheduling system, and actually have students scheduled this May or early June and be ready for full implementation by the fall of 2014-15. Thank you for your consideration of this waiver request.

Sincerely,



Bob Huston
Superintendent, Banks School District

Attachments: 2



Banks School District 13

12950 NW Main Street

Banks, Oregon 97106

District Office
503-324-8591
503-324-6969 Fax

March 27, 2014

Bob Huston
Superintendent

Rob Saxton
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction
Oregon Department of Education

Joni Spencer
Business Manager

255 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97310-0203

Kyle Merritt
Technology Data Mgmt

Dear Mr. Saxton:

Student Services
503-324-5151
503-324-6969 Fax

The Banks School District High School does not meet Division 22 Assurance 581-022-1620 for Required Instructional Time as it relates to the standard high school courses providing 130 hours of instructional time. The District has provided notice of being in non-compliance with this standard via its Division 22 Assurance report. We are currently at approximately 126 hours. From a length of school day perspective only, this translates to having to add about 25 minutes to each school day to meet 130 hours.

Shelley Mitchell
Director

Elementary School
503-324-2772
503-324-3333 Fax

Accordingly, the District is now exploring all affordable and practical ways to meet this standard in a timely manner. However, given that the Licensed CBA includes hours for the teacher work day, the District is compelled to bargain over the impact of any change in established hours and related working conditions. With our current block scheduling in place at the High School, we are looking at numerous alternatives, all of which are highly likely to have an adverse financial impact on our budget for 2014-15 and the Board's plan for recovering some lost staffing since 2008. Some options currently under review include, but may not be limited to:

Shawnda Sewell
Principal

Junior High School
503-324-3111
503-324-6969 Fax

Shelley Mitchell
Principal

- Adding about 25 minutes to each school day; and/or
- Converting the student fall orientation day for 7th and 9th graders to an instructional day; and/or
- Increasing the school year calendar from 189 days up to 193 days; and/or
- Eliminating or reducing late start days for staff development; and/or
- Replacing our block schedule with a 7 period day or other alternative model; and/or
- Other options yet to be determined.

Banks High School
503-324-2281
503-324-8221 Fax

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Principal

Jacob Pence
*Assistant Principal
Athletic Director*

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Kathy Edison
Ron Frame
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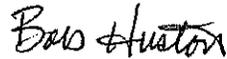
Unfortunately, this does not appear to be an easy, quick or inexpensive fix for our District.

Our District is faced with making some very important decisions with long range implications. The District is in need of time to thoughtfully plan with all stakeholders to come up with a prudent and sustainable plan for meeting the requirements for this standard. The District is also on the cusp of formulating its budget for the 2014-15 school year and must now prepare for the unanticipated financial cost for meeting this standard, which may also have an impact on its staffing priorities for 2014-15. The need for additional time to do this well is critical.

Therefore, the District hereby requests a one year waiver relative to the timeline for implementation of this standard for the 2014-15 school year, thereby granting the District a one year extension for meeting the standard for the beginning of the 2015-16 school year.

Thank you for your review and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Bob Huston
Superintendent, Banks School District

C: Board of Directors

District Administrative Team

Email to District Staff

Bob Huston

Apr 2

to BSD, Kathy, Laurie, Norie, Raymond, Ron

Wow, the rumors are really flying as to how the District is going to meet compliance with HS courses offering 130 hours of seat time. Please let me clarify a few things.

Currently, we are still defining the scope of the problem. The next step is for the principals to meet with their staff and brainstorm all possible way to meet the 130 hours while being respectful to the opinions and desires of all staff. Your building principal will be setting up a brainstorming session with you to accomplish this. This means that **all** suggestions will be on the table for review and discovery. All of these suggestions will be gathered and brought back to the administrative team. I will then share the suggestions with all of you. I met your Association leadership this morning to review this process.

In my letter to Rob Saxton, our Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, in which I ask that our District be granted a one year extension to resolve this, I shared a few thoughts with him. Here are some very initial thoughts for addressing this concern. It is obvious that we may need to do "a bit of everything" to find hours.

With our current HS class schedule and with no changes to late starts or other non student contact days, we are at about 122.5 hours per course. If we eliminate all late starts we are at 126 hours. If we add 6 half days for reducing grading days to half days and have students the other half of the day, we are at about 128.25. If we also eliminate the 7th and 9th grade orientation days in the fall we are about there with meeting the 130 hours.

However, these are substantial changes with a rather far reaching adverse impact on what we know to be good practices. Additionally, given that all of the above impact wages, hours or conditions of employment, the District has an obligation to bargain over any such changes during the current bargain. If we add more days to the school year to resolve this, with no other changes, we are looking at adding about 6 school days which is a significant budgetary impact. Each additional school day comes with a price tag of just under \$30,000.

If we replace the current block schedule with a 7 period day we would meet the required hours and still be able to maintain all of our late starts. However, this is a very significant change to the way we deliver instruction for 7-12 classes and provide for study labs. Additionally, we need to recognize the impact on staff working at those grade levels and any resultant staffing needs. Again, everyone will have their own perspective on the pros and cons of a 7 period day. However, it is an option that can be put into the mix of ideas.

I share these initial thoughts with all of you to give you some background information which will hopefully be helpful in having you start your thought process for coming up with your ideas to help us. When you meet with your principal to discuss this, all ideas count so please openly share what you have.

I am confident that we will be able to collectively come up with a reasonable way to meet this challenge of delivering 130 hours per course, in a manner that is good for students and staff.

Thanks for your review of this.
Bob Huston
Superintendent
Work: 503-324-5692
Personal Cell: 920-242-7172

"As an educator we cannot do everything. We must choose what we can do and do it extraordinarily well."