



TILLAMOOK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
2510 First Street
Tillamook, Oregon 97141

Randy Schild
Superintendent
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April 23, 2014

Rob Saxton
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol St, NE
Salem, OR, 97

Re: Request for Waiver from Minimum Instructional Hours per Course

Dear Superintendent Saxton,

Please accept this letter as a written request from the Tillamook School District to be granted a waiver from the Minimum Instructional Hours per Credit requirements for the 2014-15 school year.

When ODE announced their findings of the Portland Public School credit hours investigation, it was the first time that the Tillamook School District looked carefully at the 130 hours per credit requirement. Prior to that finding, we had only ensured that we were meeting the hours per year requirement.

After calculating the hours per credit at the high school level, we realize now that we are short by approximately 10 hours per credit in almost all of our courses. This shortfall was created in the last two years when we implemented a school remediation opportunity for all students. We now provide all our remediation, essential skills opportunities, eligibility study tables, freshman on-track support and other general classroom help for students during this time. Additionally, a large number of our staff use this time for data team work to better serve students. The creation of this valuable opportunity for students and staff has shortened our class periods, and caused us to fall below the state requirement. Although we have not met the minimum hour requirement per credit, we have certainly created a system where students get significant support for their classes, outside of the regular class time.

I understand that our current schedule does not meet the letter of the law, therefore I am requesting a waiver from this rule for the 2014-15 school year. At this point in the year, it would be almost impossible to completely reconstruct a new high school schedule for the 14-15 school year. Over the next year, we will have more time to address the shortfall and create a plan that meets the law, as well as the needs of our students.

Tillamook School District is committed to providing the best learning opportunities possible for our students. We have been a state leader in our commitment to not cut school days, or to reduce student contact time. We believe we are currently doing what is best for the success of all students, but are willing to make changes in the future to also meet the requirements of the law.

Thank you for considering our request. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Randy Schild
Superintendent