

## David Douglas School District

April 22, 2014

Rob Saxton  
Deputy Superintendent  
Oregon Department of Education

Don Grotting, Superintendent  
1500 SE 130th • Portland, Oregon • 97233-1719  
(503) 252-2900 • Fax (503) 256-5218

### RE: Waiver of 990 Hour Division 22 Requirement

Dear Mr. Saxton:

I am writing to request a waiver for David Douglas School District regarding the 990 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 975 hours of instructional hours for the 2014-15 school year. The high school shortage is due to allowed and promoted release time for teachers to participate in Professional Learning Teams. After being hired three years ago, I requested our School Board to incorporate an early release time weekly 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.

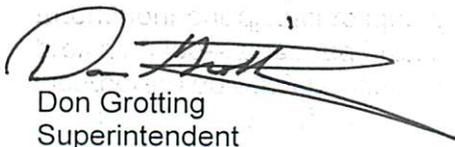
David Douglas maintains this time is crucial in helping us close the achievement gap in one of your highest poverty and most diverse school districts in the state. For contractual reasons, this PLT time is included during the contractual day. Moreover, our high school is realizing success. Our graduation rates have increased and we are making progress in closing the achievement gap. I can attribute some 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 to the 975 hour mark. 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 provides both opportunity and limitations.

It is also important to note that our K-5 students significantly exceed the hourly requirement, having 913 instructional hours. In addition, our middle school students in grades 6-8 exceed the minimum hourly requirement, having 944 instructional hours. David Douglas also provides full day kindergarten.

In closing, we believe our PLT time is making a positive difference for our students and we request your consideration to award a waiver to our district. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Don Grotting  
Superintendent

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