



Lake Oswego School District

2455 Country Club Road
PO Box 70
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

June 11, 2014

Mr. Rob Saxton
Deputy Superintendent
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol Street NW
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Deputy Superintendent Saxton:

We recently received a request from Emily Nazarov for additional information regarding the Lake Oswego School District's request for a Division 22 waiver for the 2014-2015 school year.

Reason for Request:

LOSD remains completely committed to meeting the state's course hour requirements, but is seeking a one-year waiver because there is not sufficient time to change schedules, with all that entails, before the start of the next school year:

- There is insufficient time for the inclusive and comprehensive process involving all stakeholders that will be necessary to successfully effect changes to our master high school schedule.
- A new high school schedule will likely have implications for negotiated employee contract agreements and the district's budget, both of which are in place for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Enacting a schedule change for the coming school year would require re-forecasting course selections for all high school students in a very short timeframe, as well as adjustments in teacher lesson plans for class periods that would likely vary in length from the current alternating schedule.
- We want to revise schedules while also preserving course opportunities for students. Our current 8-period alternating block schedule provides students with many course options. A hastily considered decision to move to a 7-period schedule in the next two months would be one avenue towards meeting the 130 clock hour requirement per course, but would allow fewer coursework opportunities and would be in conflict with our objective to provide the best program options for students.

Instruction and Furlough Days:

As we continue to implement Common Core curriculum and prepare for Smarter Balanced Assessments, the Lake Oswego School District has been focusing its efforts on instruction, and on providing teachers with adequate time for collaborative preparation and data teamwork. The district has three furlough days in its schedule next year that are part of our negotiated employee contract agreements. This has enabled the addition of staff positions dedicated to providing specialized instruction time and targeted extra support for students, and improving opportunities for all students to be successful. We expect to eliminate furlough days as we move forward, and hope to retain this additional staffing. These furlough days are not the basis of our waiver request.

This waiver request has the support of the Lake Oswego School Board and our teachers, the Lake Oswego Education Association. We remain committed to meeting the state's course hour requirements, and to protecting student coursework and learning opportunities. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Korach".

William Korach, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: Lake Oswego School District Board of Directors
LOEA President Laura Paxson-Kluthe