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WALLOWA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 27, 2015

Dear OSSA Executive Board:

Wallowa High School is requesting an eligibility waiver for Noah K. Allen who does not meet the OSAA Rule 8.1.2- satisfactory progress towards graduation. Noah Allen is a senior with 16 credits, one credit shy of the new OSAA requirement.

Noah has experienced a great deal of hardship throughout his life. He was born to very young parents and has been surrounded by turmoil of many realms- poverty, substance abuse, and domestic issues. He has lived primarily with his mother, with several moves between various communities. He is estranged from his biological father who currently lives three blocks from him. During the last academic year, his mother and step-father divorced breaking apart step siblings, which is a constant concern for Noah.

Bottom line Noah has had many hard breaks. He has not had a perfect academic record at Wallowa, but upon starting high school here he has stayed above a 2.0 GPA and earned credit in the vast majority of his classes. It was the first semester of his freshman year that caused him problems in terms of eligibility. He enrolled late in the Baker Web Academy and earned only .75 credits in a semester. Noah did not have the parental supervision required or structured lifestyle to make online schooling effective.

Noah is not perfect and has made some mistakes, however, since coming to Wallowa High School and being active in athletics, FFA and having a supportive student body, he has made a great deal of growth academically and personally. Being an athlete is his safe haven and his prime motivation for staying in school. I believe that granting him eligibility will impact him in a positive manner, help him to continue towards graduation and possibly contribute to his chances to escape a cycle of negativity and poverty.

Noah has a great relationship with his teammates and a particularly good relationship with his head football coach, who has taken him under his wing and has helped him grow immensely as a player, leader and young man. Athletics and Wallowa High School are the largest positive constants in his life.

In an additional document, you will see his credit recovery plan. Not only is Noah ready and willing to tackle this plan, he has several adults ensuring his success. He will have structured study time prior to football practice on a daily basis, he has a senior teacher who has committed to working with him on his online credit recovery classes and his grades will be checked weekly by me. Even if you grant the waiver, if he is failing a class when grades are checked weekly, he will sit out from games until the grade is at the passing level. It should also be noted that Noah has successfully completed online courses in our school with the proper structure in place. I believe we have set up a system that will ensure his ability to make up needed credits (one) and graduate at the end of this school year.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at any time.

Sincerely,

Beccy Nordtvedt
Principal/AD
Wallowa High School