



WEST SALEM HIGH SCHOOL
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Christy Perry, Superintendent

Date: September 22, 2015

To: Tom Welter, Executive Director, OSAA

From: Bill Wittman, Athletic Director – West Salem High School

Re: eligibility request – Rafael Saavedra

I am writing this letter in support of the on-line eligibility request for Rafael Saavedra.

Rafael did not meet the “on track to graduate” at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year (he needed 17.0 and has 14.0), nor did he earn 2.5 credits from last semester (he earned 2.0).

Rafael came to the United States from Mexico at the age of 10 ½ . He had no formal schooling in Mexico prior to that. As you can imagine, learning the language and cultural nuances at such an age can be challenging for students. Not having ANY formal schooling prior to that makes that task all the more difficult.

In addition, West Salem High is Rafael’s sixth school he’s attended since being in our district. This is due to his family situation and is in no way his fault. If you read further about Rafael’s family situation, you’ll learn about other things that have impacted him deeply.

Because of the uniqueness of his situation, Rafael was put on a Modified Diploma track.

Rafael is a good kid who does not get into trouble. He is well liked by his coaches and teammates.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bill Wittman
Athletic Director
West Salem High School