

Hardship Letter (OSAA)

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To: Dave Williams <dave.williams@bend.k12.or.us>;

Dear Mr. Williams and OSAA,

Throughout my high school career, I have had to overcome multiple setbacks. Some of these setbacks include; my parents separation that affected me most between the ages of 14 and 16, along with an expulsion from Bend High School that occurred near the end of the first semester of my sophomore year, which resulted in the loss of all progress on my classes that semester.

In December of 2013, I was expelled from Bend High for an incident involving the use of marijuana. Prior the expulsion, I was on track to graduate. Just days after the incident, I enrolled at COIC Alternative Education, in Bend. It was there that I was informed that I would not receive credit for the 7 classes I was taking, and passing. That left me with 3.5 credits to make up in order to be on track for graduation. I began COIC's credit recovery program and immediately got to work on making up credits. Because of the fact that I was expelled with only a month left in the semester, I had only a few weeks before the end of the term. I managed to earn a credit in that short time and then continued to work hard for the remainder of the year in order to get back to Bend High. Towards the end of the year, I had caught up to the point where I was then allowed on campus in the spring in order to attend spring practice and prepare for Gold Beach Football Camp. I was enrolled back at Bend High in the fall of 2014, as well as taking an online math class at COIC. During my junior year, I excelled in visual arts classes, and even obtained a Scholastic Art and Writing Award for photography. In the spring of junior year, I interviewed for Bend High Student Council. I wanted to seize the opportunity to give back and serve the school that helped me get back on track and give me a second chance. As a result, I was selected for student council for the 2015-2016 school year.

Since my expulsion, I believe that I have done an outstanding job of working hard and proving to my school and the community how I have overcome adversity. Since my hardship I have set and achieved goals in all aspects of my life. I have assumed leadership roles in the community in the time that I overcome my setback. These roles being at my church, at my school with both student council and football, and in the town of Bend as a Little League and travel baseball umpire, having already umpired 2 district tournaments, and invited to 2 state tournaments this past summer, only to choose going to church camp at Camp Tadmor instead, where I secured a spot on their team of counselors this coming summer.

Based on my achievements through the past year and a half, I have been productive and have overcome my hardship. As of last year, I was eligible for football this fall with 16.5 credits, due to the fact the Mr. Reese has set me up to earn a 24 credit diploma. However, as I am now aware, the minimum credit requirements have been raised to 17 credits. I was never once informed by my school counselor or any one at all about this change. This leaves me just HALF a credit from being eligible for my senior season of football. Please consider my hardship case as I have worked very hard at getting to where I am now.

Sincerely,
Joseph Koehler