



Oregon School Activities Association
25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite #1
Wilsonville, Or 97070

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of support for Dylan Miller in his attempt to be awarded eligibility for football during the 2015-16 school year. I am the principal at Kennedy Alternative High School, and have known Dylan since Winter Term of last year. During that time I have had the pleasure to work with him I have been consistently impressed with aspects of his character and his ability to work hard.

At Kennedy Alternative High School was created to help students that struggled in their comprehensive high school to find success in a different educational setting. The vast majority of students come to Kennedy being credit deficient and disenfranchised from their own education. By offering students a unique educational experience Kennedy encourages students to "drop back into" their high school education. This is done by having small class sizes that foster relationships with students and staff, making learning relevant to capture students' attention, and increasing rigor through project and place based education. This model has been successful for our students. It has enabled students that have struggled outside Kennedy to reach their potential while they are here.

The beginning of his time at Kennedy was a struggle as Dylan adjusted to the school. His attendance was far from stellar and he had behaviors which got him suspended from school. Over time Dylan's attitude improved, and with it so did his attendance and the level of his academic work. Dylan is clearly buying into the educational goals of Kennedy. He is improving his life, and has gone from being a behavioral problem to someone that we are counting on as a leader by example. He has recognized the importance of hard work and following the rules around school. He is building relationships with both students and staff in an effort to be the best that he can be.

I support Dylan in his effort to become eligible as it is a continuation of his turn around. He wants to play football because he wants to learn greater self-discipline, and knows that he will be a better person from what he will learn on the field. Dylan has played football before, and with the tutelage of the Cottage Grove High School football coach, Gary Roberts, he has the opportunity to learn lessons that he cannot learn in the classroom. This co-curricular activity will help enhance his improvement in academics.

Dylan's eligibility request is based on the fact that he has underperformed at his previous school, Cottage Grove High School, and is therefore not on track to graduate by state standards. Dylan's not being on track to graduate was a large part of why he was transferred to the district's alternative school originally.



While many alternative schools have moved to a 5 year graduation model, I believe that Dylan will be able to graduate in 4 years. In order to do this we have created a plan for him over the next two years. Dylan will need to pass all of his classes, with full credit, for each of the next 6 terms. In addition our plan will include additional work outside the classroom, which will include summer activities provided through Kennedy High School as well as completing additional work that are also graduation requirements. Below you will find a plan for Dylan will earn the 53.0 credits, which is more than the 45 credits that he still needs to graduate:

Fall Term 2015	8.5 Credits
Winter Term 2016:	8.5 Credits
Spring Term 2016:	8.5 Credits
Summer Crew Work:	2.0 Credits
Fall term 2016:	8.5 Credits
Winter Term 2017	8.5 Credits
<u>Spring Term 2017</u>	<u>8.5 Credits</u>
Total Credits Earned: 53.0 Credits	

It is my firm belief that, with support and guidance from caring adults, that Dylan has the ability to graduate in the spring of 2016-17. This will be a hard road to haul for Dylan, but I believe that we can provide the level of support that is needed to help him to accomplish his goal. This includes the structure and support that can be gained through being involved in football this fall.

Dylan has shown that he is willing to turn his life around and refocus his efforts on earning credits and in doing so has the ability to get back on track. Becoming eligible for the football team will help to reinforce that the changes that he is making are putting him on the right track in life.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to phone me at Kennedy High School (541-942-1962), at cell phone (541-285-0622), or contact me through e-mail (mike.ingman@slane.k12.or.us).

Thanks,

Michael J. Ingman
Principal
Kennedy Alternative High School