



# West Albany High School

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September 10, 2015

Tom Welter, Executive Director  
Oregon School Activities Association  
25200 SW Parkway Avenue Suite 1  
Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

Dear Tom:

I am writing in support of Donald Biehn in his quest to become eligible. Currently, entering his Junior year in school, "Donnie" has earned 9.25 credits toward graduation, putting him slightly behind the criteria of 10 credits entering year 3. Donnie is new to us, but from what I have gathered from his family, he has made significant progress in the last year and is strongly engaged in continuing down this path. Donnie comes from a split family, spending time with both his biological mother and father over the past several years. It seems that when he was living with his biological mother (during middle school and early high school), he was "homeschooled," but without much guidance from his mother. I also understand that there may have been some activities happening in this household that were not conducive to Donnie receiving a quality education, specifically being homeschooled. When Donnie began living with his biological father and step-mother, he experienced some difficulties due to the new "rules" that were put in place. In an effort to provide him with some guidance, discipline and credit recovery, Donnie began attending the Oregon Youth Challenge program in January of this year. Entering this program, he had earned exactly 0.00 credits toward graduation, but in his almost six months in this program, was able to earn 8.0 credits. As he began to experience success academically, he wanted to continue his progress, so he enrolled in the Northwest Youth Corps for five weeks this summer and earned 1.25 additional credits.

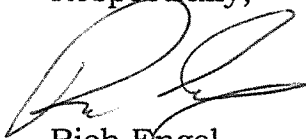
In addition to the academic success that he attained, Donnie discovered a passion for running while at the Oregon Youth Challenge. When he enrolled here at West Albany High School, he quickly discovered our Cross Country program and immediately began training with them. This has had a positive impact on his transition to a large comprehensive high school. We feel that his connection to this program has been, and will continue to be, a very positive influence on him emotionally, physically and academically.

In an effort to further progress his credits toward graduation, we currently have Donnie enrolled in 7 classes along with two Odysseyware classes (online

credit recovery program). While we are only a few days into the school year, Donnie has started off very well and has made significant progress in one of the two credit recovery classes he is enrolled in. We have instructed him to complete one class before he starts the next in order for him to see the tangible positive results quickly.

Our hope is that you will take into account the background Donnie came from, the significant progress he has made in one short year, and the efforts he and West Albany are making to get him back on track toward his ultimate goal of high school graduation when reviewing this request. If you have any specific questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Engel', with a stylized, flowing script.

Rich Engel  
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
West Albany High School