



## Oregon School Activities Association

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November 25, 2015

Amanda Ward  
Principal  
Chemawa Indian School  
3700 Chemawa Rd NE  
Salem, OR 97305

**Subject: Feather Mountain Sheep**

**Status: Not Eligible**

Dear Amanda:

I have thoroughly reviewed the Eligibility Request Form that has been submitted seeking a waiver of OSAA Rule 8.2 (Fifth Year). From the documentation that you have submitted I have concluded the following:

**Findings of Fact:**

1. Feather first entered the 9<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2011-12 school year at Hardin High School in Montana. Her four consecutive years of eligibility expired at the conclusion of the 2014-15 school year.
2. Feather has not graduated from high school. She has accumulated 19.5 credits thus far and still needs 5.5 required credits to graduate (Writing 1.0, CTE 1.0, Culture Cluster 1.0, Mathematics .5, Government .5, Health .5, Economics .5, SS-Elective .5).
3. Feather had the opportunity to be enrolled in school during each of her 8 consecutive semesters in high school. While her father moved around seeking employment during her 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade school years there were periods of time when she was not enrolled in school.

**Conclusions:**

OSAA Rule 8.2.4 lists specific criteria that must be considered when evaluating a request for a Fifth Year of eligibility. From the information submitted I conclude the following regarding these criteria:

1. The student has not graduated from high school. Feather meets this criteria as she still needs 5.5 credits to receive her high school diploma.
2. The student must meet one of the following criteria:
  - a. The Student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team has determined that the student has a "disability" as determined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and that the student was meeting the requirements of the student's IEP, yet was unable to graduate from high school within eight semesters after entering the 9th grade primarily because of the disability. There is nothing in the documentation submitted to indicate that Feather has a disability as defined under IDEA. Therefore, she does not meet this criteria.
  - b. Due to circumstances beyond the control of each of the student and the student's parent(s), there has been both a significant absence from school (not less than one semester) and an inability to obtain academic credit during that period of absence. Feather was not enrolled in high school during parts of her 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades when her father was moving around seeking employment. While this was a difficult time for the family there is nothing to indicate why she was not enrolled in school after these moves. There is nothing in the documentation submitted to indicate that this was due to

"circumstances beyond the control of each of the student and the student's parent(s)" that caused her absence from school that prevented her from graduating in four consecutive years. Therefore, Feather does not meet this criteria.

Since the student does not meet either of the above requirements, I conclude that the student does not meet the criteria for a fifth year of eligibility as outlined in Rule 8.2.4 and is NOT ELIGIBLE to participate in OSAA activities during the 2015-16 school year.

According to OSAA rules, "A decision of the Executive Director may be appealed to the Executive Board." If you would like to schedule an appeal, please forward a written request to the OSAA office. As per OSAA Executive Board Policy "Eligibility Appeal Filing Fee", there is a non-refundable \$100.00 filing fee to defray the costs of the appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Welter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Tom" on the top line and "Welter" on the bottom line, with a horizontal line extending from the end of "Welter".

Tom Welter  
Executive Director

TW/ar

cc: Gerald Mack, Athletic Director