



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

October 30, 2015

Department of Human Services

Child Welfare

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

RE: Hardship Exception for Shareya Scott (Garcia)

To Whom It May Concern:

Shareya has experienced undue hardship through no fault of her own. Shareya has been placed in the legal custody of the State of Oregon, Department of Human Services Child Welfare, residing in the home of her paternal grandparents, Sharlayne and Delbert Garcia. She has been placed in multiple foster care placements over the last year, and prior to coming into care, she was a primary caretaker for her three younger siblings. Becoming a first time mother earlier this year was another major life event which she has had to juggle with her school studies while moving multiple times—without historically consistent adult support. Due to these major life events, Shareya did get behind on her school credit, however, despite the challenges she is determined to graduate and she maintains good grades. She is successfully maintaining a full course load of core classes at Madras High School and is also enrolled in credit recovery to get her credits back on track for graduation. I am confident in Shareya's ability to successfully get caught up and improve her academic performance to meet the 10 credit requirement for high school athletics, as she is already so close.

While in substitute care, Oregon statute and the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights requires that Shareya have access to regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age/developmentally appropriate activities that she has expressed an interest in. Participation in basketball at Madras High School, is a core interest of Shareya's, and it allows her to also have a healthy outlet for self-care and will contribute to the success of her placement with her grandparents. In addition to providing an atmosphere to develop strong social connections and attachments, it is also providing Shareya with a strong incentive to improve her academic performance. This is Shareya's second non-consecutive year of playing basketball and she is excited about the prospect of playing the point guard position.

Please consider making an exception for this exceptional young woman, so that she can participate in the Madras High School basketball team this school year.

Respectfully,

Ava Hansen

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