



# Pacific High School

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Krista Nieraeth  
*Principal / Athletic Director*

Kari Engdahl  
*Secretary*

November 19, 2015

Tom Welter, OSAA Executive Director  
25200 SW Parkway Ave, Suite 1  
Wilsonville OR 97070

Re: Austin Brown

Dear Mr. Welter:

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Austin Brown since his first day of kindergarten. I have been his special education case manager since the 2006-2007 school year.

Austin has Down syndrome and has faced many challenges over the years. Austin has an intellectual disability, which is his primary eligibility for receiving special education services. He also has two secondary areas of eligibility: hearing impairment and speech/language impairment.

Austin did graduate from high school with a modified diploma in May of 2015. He and his family chose to have him return to Pacific High School this school year to work on life skills, social skills and skills that will help him find employment. Starting in December, Austin will be helping to make and sell smoothies as part of a new school based business.

The modifications and accommodations listed on Austin's IEP include a modified curriculum, preferential seating, FM system, visual supports, calculator, computer/word processor, educational assistant, frequent checks for understanding, repeat/simplify directions and wait/processing time. In addition to his speech/language and audiology goals, Austin has goals in the areas of Social Communication, Community Instruction, Functional Reading Comprehension and Functional Math. Austin is making good progress on his goals. However, he still has difficulty with social skills, particularly initiating a conversation with others about a topic of mutual interest.

It is my belief that being a part of a basketball team will enhance his social skills development and enrich his overall school experience. Being a team member will provide many opportunities to practice initiating a conversation. It will also boost his self esteem and provide necessary physical exercise.

Austin has been a part of the basketball team since his freshman year. He rarely experiences more than several minutes on the floor during a game, and then only if there is a significant difference in the scores. Because I truly believe Austin will benefit from the experience of being a part of the basketball team, I respectfully request an exception to the rule concerning the number of years a student may play high school basketball.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Chuck Mitchell  
Pacific High School Special Education Teacher