

To: Oregon School Activities Association

Fr: Joel and Debra Royal - 813-495-3277(cell); debraroyal@royalss.net

Dt: November 23, 2015

Re: Hardship Waiver Request for Patrick Royal (South Medford High School)



We would like to make a Hardship Request for our son, Patrick Royal, to be permitted to participate in the Wrestling Program at South Medford High School. The following is a short bio on Patrick:

- Has only 1 year of High School Wrestling: JV wrestling squad, Newsome HS, Lithia, FL Sophomore Year 2013-14
- Overall GPA Freshman and Sophomore Years, Un-weighted: 3.32
- Current GPA 3.6 - 1st Quarter 2015-16 School Year
- Took high school Honors Biology (grade of A) and Algebra I (grade of B) in 8th grade
- Currently enrolled in 3 AP, 1 Honors, and 2 regular courses
- Inducted National Honor Society - Sophomore Year May 2014
- Awarded Eagle Scout - March 2015
- Jr. ROTC - Freshman and Sophomore Years 2012-14
- Future Farmers of America - Freshman and Sophomore Years 2012-14

As a military family, serving 24 years in the Navy, we have just made our final move home to Oregon from our last duty station in Tampa, Florida.

A number of events combined to make last year an exceedingly difficult transition year for our family. We were unable to sell our home in Florida so we adjusted and arranged to rent the home out instead. There was an unexpected cancellation by the military family scheduled to rent the home that caused a significant delay for us. Getting to Oregon and enrolling Patrick in time to start his Junior Year 2014-2015 became impossible but we felt Patrick could start late and catch up with his classmates. Unfortunately, there was also an unexpected delay of our cross country move. This delay caused the timeframe to conduct a military relocation move (a professional moving company provided by the military) to expire and for financial reasons we ultimately moved ourselves.

Unable to move the entire house in one trip we drove twice from Florida to Oregon and relied on Patrick to help pack, move to temporary storage, load and unload, as well as drive both trips. By the end of the first trip it became clear that we would not be able to get settled in Oregon in time for Patrick to have a reasonable opportunity for success were he to start school so late in the year.

We contacted the Medford School District Superintendent's Office to ensure that Patrick would not miss any high school opportunities and would be allowed to enroll a year late for his junior year. We spoke on the phone numerous times and asked for a copy of the policy to verify that all would be well. We received the following policy via email:

"The Board shall admit otherwise eligible students who have not yet attained 21 years of age prior to the beginning of the current school year if they are shown to be in need of additional education in order to receive a diploma."

- J.ECA Admission of Resident Students, Jackson County School District 549C - School Board Policies; ORS 109.056, 327.006, 339.115, 339.133, 339.134, 433.267 Adopted: 11/5/91, revised 9/20/94, revised: 4/1800

The Superintendent's Office did not advise us of any policy or rule that would prohibit Patrick from participating in a complete high school experience that would include athletics. We hope that this waiver will be granted so that he can experience the teamwork, competition and character building that he wants from a good high school wrestling program.

Additional information:

When we realized Patrick would be significantly academically disadvantaged, miss a wrestling season and not be aligned to graduate with his class, we looked for alternative ways to enhance his development. He completed his Eagle Scout requirements and after earning the award he performed a significant amount of additional volunteer work. During the two cross country trips, Patrick was exposed to many historical and natural wonders of America, seeing many historic sites and exploring both the territory and history of our nation.

Patrick did not sit idle after our moves were completed. We took advantage of this time to fulfill one of Patrick's goals - to travel to Europe and visit historical sites. Patrick studied the regional history and laid out a travel plan. For six weeks, he and his dad had the opportunity to travel and meet people in German, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium, England, Scotland and Ireland. This once in a life time trip broadened Patrick's cultural appreciation and provided a wealth of knowledge and experience. His time at WWII battle sites and the American cemetery at Normandy caused him to reflect on both the causes and effects of wars.

While riding a train in France, they met an elderly widow whose husband was killed in Vietnam. As the conversation went on they discovered her house was in need of repairs. So Patrick and his dad spent several days fixing her windows, doors and shutters. They made a lifelong friend.

Patrick learned that the European region is becoming more diverse, and with that diversity come many different cultures and at times conflicting perceptions. He experienced a few of the disappointing aspects of human nature but also saw many acts of kindness as he took in many of the wonders of European history. Although he was neither able to attend school nor wrestle during this period, it was a valuable year of experience and learning and maturity for him.

Thank you for your time and consideration. In the event you require additional information to make your decision, we are available to meet in-person or via in writing as you prefer.