



ELMIRA HIGH SCHOOL

Fern Ridge School District 28J

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Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Principal

Brian Brands, Asst. Principal/AD

Sarah Schilling, Dean of Students

To: Tom Welter-OSAA Executive Director

From: Scott Shannon-Elmira HS

Re: Sabina Vallalba-Botello

December 10, 2015

Tom,

I rarely write these letters for my kids, but instead try to help them in this process on how advocate for themselves. However, in this case I feel it important for me to let you know about her. I have had many kids wrestle for me that come from this state ran program. We have several foster families in our district that participate in this program. Kids come straight from being detained to these families as they transition back into their own families or another home. Think of this as a halfway house concept that has a ton of restrictions. They have several case workers and attend many counseling sessions to help them in their transition. One of the outlets for these kids is extracurricular activities. Participating gives them a positive peer group and as you know athletics are great for kids.

Sabina is making the most successful transition of any of these kids I have coached. She is getting awesome grades and has been a good teammate. Sabina not only is getting great grades but has been moving up each day in her home based upon the criteria that the program sets. They get privileges for meeting certain goals and she is on track for those. Wrestling has been giving Sabina the positive outlet for all the extra stressors she has in her life being in this situation. Sabina is very coachable and extremely respectful.

Sabina has been advocating for herself to the program about getting permission to travel. Our girls team as a few overnight competition and she needs to have permission from the state to do so. Sabina has been proactive in this situation and has gotten the permission to go. In the past I have only had one kid get permission for an overnight this shows how well she is doing by already been given this privilege. I hope she can have this opportunity to continue to succeed because wrestling is very important to her and the driving force of positive choices.

Sincerely,

Scott

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