

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jacob Peterson, and I am the Special Education Case Manager for Habtamu Kudna. I am writing in support of finding Habtamu eligible for athletic competition this season.

Since moving to the United States, Habtamu has been receiving English Language Learner services. In his first year and a half at Newberg High School, Habtamu was not receiving Special Education services, and he earned just 6.5 credits towards graduation. At this point, he was already off track for graduating in four years.

On 10/24/14, he was found eligible for Special Education services. In the same year and a half time frame while receiving Special Education services, Habtamu has increased the amount of classes passed 2 full credits, earning 8.5 total credits. Additionally, his current report card will be his strongest yet, having only failed to earn credit in Algebra 2. He has also nearly completed credit recovery in two online classes. In the second semester of his senior year, I expect him to continue his recent trend of success and make more progress towards graduation requirements.

The IEP team has a developed plan to assist Habtamu in graduating. After this year, he will only need 4.5 credits to complete graduation requirements. Three of these credits will be in Language Arts, where he has struggled the most being an English Language Learner. These credits will be worked on through online courses and summer school. Habtamu is motivated to graduate, and he will complete everything needed to finish next year.

Habtamu should be eligible to compete in athletic competition. His progress over the last two years is enough to support this statement. He has had his back against the wall with eligibility, and he has still continued to work above his ability in school while showing up to every practice and event to support his teammates without being able to compete himself. When the discussion of a Modified Diploma was brought up to the IEP team, a route that would have found him eligible to participate this season, Habtamu and his family rejected the option because it is taking the easy way out, and he would not settle for a diploma option less than what he was capable of, even if it meant he wouldn't get cleared to compete this season. He is committed to his education first.

If there is anything further I can do to assist in this matter, please let me know. My phone number is 503-554-5291.

Sincerely,



Jacob Peterson  
Special Education Case Manager