



## PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### Roosevelt High School

Dear PIL Athletic Office,

My name is Kelsey Green and I serve as the Head Coach for softball at Roosevelt High School. In addition to my coaching responsibilities, I also work as a professional school counselor here at RHS. I met Kahlia Birden at the beginning of this school year in August. I work closely with Kahlia as both her school counselor and head softball coach. I sincerely feel like I can speak to her hardships, dedication and motivation as both a student athlete.

Kahlia's mom was incarcerated last spring while she was a freshman at Benson High School. Kahlia's mom served as her primary parent who raised Kahlia. Kahlia did not have a stable place to live and bounced around throughout last spring and last summer and was identified as Title X. When Kahlia's mom was released this fall, her mother unfortunately did not have a space large enough for Kahlia, her older brother, her younger brother and boyfriend. In August, Kahlia moved in with a friend's family and transferred to Roosevelt. Living with another family who is not related to Kahlia was not always very easy. Because of conflicts with the family that Kahlia was living with, she has now returned to her mother's home, which is a studio apartment with four other family members. She is also re-registered for Title X this school year.

For the first time in Kahlia's high school years, she is passing five out of eight classes. She is continuing to work on raising all of her grades. Kahlia's drive to be apart of our JV softball program has motivated her to get on track academically. Being apart of a team and surrounding herself around other peers who are driven to succeed has positively influenced Kahlia. Kahlia has attended all workouts and practices and is eager to get on the ball field. As her coach, I truly believe that a hardship can truly change the trajectory of Kahlia's future. The structure, discipline and focus on academic excellence within our softball program at Roosevelt have already making a positive influence on Kahlia's life.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for all the support you provide to our student athletes.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Green  
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