

Turner, Greg

To: Jeff Richards
Subject: RE: Emma's Hardship

From: Taunya Richards [mailto:tmrplace@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 9:15 PM

To: Jeff Richards

Subject: Emma's Hardship

We are requesting a hardship waiver of the OSAA mid-year transfer rule for our daughter Emma Richards.

Emma has been a registered homeschool student with the Northwest Educational School District since 2010. In 2011 we moved to Hillsboro, where we reside. As homeschoolers, we have never been required to register with the Hillsboro School District or our local neighborhood school. Emma has never been an enrolled student within the Hillsboro School District. She has never been a member of any sports league or team within the Hillsboro School district.

Our purpose for homeschooling is to provide the best academic/educational opportunity that meets the individual learning needs and styles of our children. Until this year, the best option for Emma was homeschooling at home.

Most homeschool high school families choose independent learning and this was our plan beginning September 2015. As it was Emma's first term of high school we agreed to revisit her educational goals on a per term basis. Upon completion of her first 10 weeks of school work Emma expressed frustration with the chosen curriculum. She has always struggled with math and found Algebra difficult. She expressed her desire to try learning within a lecturer-student environment.

We chose Faith Bible over our local high school because of the small teacher-to-student ratio, the alignment with our family values, support of homeschooling families and students transitioning from homeschool to a more traditional school environment and the curriculum. At the time we enrolled there was no expressed interest in sports.

She began Faith Bible the beginning of December 2015. As Emma has transitioned at Faith Bible she began to express interest in sports as a way to integrate herself into the culture of the high school. As she's never been on a sports team her options were limited. She chose track because she already runs daily to stay healthy.

As parents, we feel application of this rule to our homeschooled daughter unfairly penalizes us for making the right academic choice for her long-term success in high school. Per OSAA rules, had she remained schooling at home she would be able to choose either the local high school or a private school within the district if she wished to pursue sports.

We still consider ourselves homeschoolers although she is enrolled in Faith Bible. The choice to enroll her was purely for her academic benefit.

Emma is not a transfer student. Faith Bible is her first enrollment within the Hillsboro School District. She has never been a representative of any school, public or private or homeschool, within the Hillsboro District during the last 5 years.

We ask that you approve the hardship and allow her to compete with her teammates in the upcoming track meet season.

Jeff and Taunya Richards