

Letter of Explanation – Student

[Handwrite or attach separate page(s).]

Date: 5/4/15

To: OSAA/District Committee

From: Hannah Faye Monroy

Please Print – Student

Hannah Faye Monroy
Signature

The following questions need to be answered to the satisfaction of the principal, athletic director, and the OSAA or district committee. Explain thoroughly.

- 1. How is it that the student finds themselves in this situation?**
- 2. Why should an exception be made to the eligibility rules in this case?**

Dear OSAA/District Committee:

I greatly appreciate you taking the time to consider my case in regard to my eligibility in participating in the 2016 district choral competition. To address the first question, how I found myself in this situation, I would have to go back to the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. In the fall, I began attending at South Salem High School where I had the privilege and opportunity to sing in Mr. McLean's advanced choir. I immediately found good, productive relationships with other students in the choir and immersed myself into the carefully selected music that Mr. McLean taught and shared with us. Singing with the advanced choir was the highlight of every school day for me and overall improved my junior year experience during the fall semester.

Although I had choir to brighten every school day, I began to falter in my other studies at the end of the fall term as my attendance began to drop as well. I attribute this not to laziness, but to my deteriorating mental and emotional health. As the semester progressed and came to a close, I was able to communicate with my teachers and instructors and slid by with good, passing grades. However, it became apparent that it was necessary to change something within my routine to accommodate for my health.

I began attending another school where I was learning through online classes, and then I returned to South Salem High School for the rest of the spring term once my health became less of an issue and was reunited with all my choir mates. However, it became apparent that a seven-class schedule was too much for me to handle all at once. I became severely and constantly anxious and became physically ill due to the stress and anxiety that had accumulated. This caused me to miss several days of school while placing me even farther behind in my studies. After talking it over with my physician, therapist, and counselors, the decision was made to reduce my class schedule down to three classes in order to lower my stress and anxiety. For this reason, to my understanding, is why I

was not eligible to participate in the state choral competition of 2015. But with a letter very similar to this one, the OSAA board was gracious enough to allow me to perform with my choir.

This year, however, my issue remains quite similar to that of last year's. Due to my mental and emotional health my family and I, along with my counselors, have decided that I could do best in school by taking online classes to finish my required credits to graduate while also attending two choir classes which allow me to remain in touch with my friends and be a part of the choral community at South. While only taking two classes at South this makes me ineligible to compete with my choirs for the district competition.

To address the second question, why I believe an exception should be made to the eligibility rules to my case, I would have to address my mental health's history. My mental health issues are an organic problem that my life decisions did not cause in any way, which means I have no control over the state of my mental and emotional health. The accommodations that were made to help me be successful in school are what is holding me back from participating and singing with my choirs in a competition that I have been looking forward to since the beginning of this school year. I have found peace and a true home within the advanced choir at South as well as within the Chamber Women's choir, and in all the love and acceptance that my peers have offered me. Music, singing, and performing are some of my greatest passions, and I have been attempting to improve my skills for years to enjoy moments like competing at a district and hopefully a state level with incredible choirs that I love participating in and care about deeply. I hope the District Committee also carries that sense of care as well for its students. Thank you for considering my case.