



Staff Analysis and Report to the Board

Board Meeting Date: December 18, 2018

Senior Lead: Dr. Yvonne Curtis, Deputy Superintendent

Department Lead: Joe LaFontaine, Area Assistant Superintendent of High Schools

SUBJECT: Required Instructional Time Exemptions

I. BACKGROUND

In 2013, a group of Portland parents formed the Portland Parent Coalition to advocate for Portland high school students to take a full schedule of classes. The Parent Coalition filed a complaint with the district and the state to address these concerns. In the complaint, they cited that the district was out of compliance with the letter and spirit of OAR 581-022-1620 990 Instructional Hours and OAR 581-022-1131 Class Hours per Credit.

In 2015, the State Board enacted new instructional hours requirements. Those requirements mandated that in the 2018-19 school year 92% of students in the district and 80% of all students at each school be scheduled to receive annually the minimum hours of instructional time.

At the August 14, 2018 PPS Board meeting, staff recommended and the Board conducted a voice vote in support of the proposed OAR 581-022-2320 Required Instructional Time Exemptions to the State Board of Education. On September 26, 2018, the State Board amended OAR 581-022-2320 to include exemptions that local school boards could approve. See the Staff Analysis from August 14 for additional information.

On November 9, Governor Kate Brown directed Deputy Superintendent Colt Gill to require all school districts to provide student-level data that details the number of students exempted using each of the four “targeted flexibility” criteria. In addition, she asked for a deeper analysis from Portland Public Schools that includes advanced coursework, CTE, GPA, and ACT scores.

At the November 13, 2018 PPS Board meeting, staff came back and provided more information to the Board regarding data on Instructional Hours and Advanced Coursework.

II. RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES

OAR 581-022-2302 requires each school district to ensure that at least 92% of all students in the district and at least 80% of all students at each school receive the following minimum hours of instructional time:

- A) Grade 12 – 966 hours
- B) Grades 9-11 – 990 hours
- C) Grades K-8 – 900 hours

The State Board of Education has approved four exemptions that may be applied by local school boards to ensure program quality and flexibility:

1. Students who have fulfilled all state requirements for graduation under OAR 581-022-2000.

2. Students who at the start of their Senior year are on track to exceed all state requirements for graduation under OAR 581-022-2000 as determined by the number and type of credits earned by the student.
3. Students who are earning credits toward a diploma through accelerated learning classes, such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or classes at a post-secondary institution, internship, work-based learning, or credits by proficiency.
4. A school district may request permission to exempt an alternative education program.

III. ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

In 2017-18, PPS high schools had **70%** of High school students take a full schedule of 8 classes at the district's comprehensive high schools.

In 2018-19, PPS High Schools were verbally directed to have all freshmen, sophomores and juniors take a full schedule of eight classes. That directive resulted in raising this enrollment rate to 82% across all comprehensive high schools.

Currently the following percentages of PPS High School students take a full schedule of 8 classes at our comprehensive high schools:

- 100% of 9th graders
- 99% of 10th graders
- 87% of 11th graders
- 31% of 12th graders
 - 29% of 12th graders take 7 classes
 - 28% of 12th take 6 classes.

For the 2018-19 school year, the district is in compliance with the requirement that at least 92% of all students in the district are fully scheduled. We are out of compliance with the 80% rule since two comprehensive high schools are short of 80% of students taking a full schedule of 8 classes. They are Cleveland (79.1%) and Franklin (78.0%). Our alternative programs in Multiple Pathways to Graduation do not meet the requirement of 80% as these programs are designed to support students with more individualized plans to keep them engaged in school, which in some cases makes them fall short of the instructional hours requirements.

- Exemption 2 impacts about 2,200 students in the calculation to be in compliance with the 80% rule. Exempting these students puts us in compliance with the 80% rule. It does not allow these students to take fewer courses.
- Exemption 4 impacts students in alternative Multiple Pathways to Graduation programs and schools. Exempting these students allows them to receive their individualized supports

For the district to be in compliance with OAR 581-022-2302, the board would need to pass a resolution approving Exemptions 2 and 4. Board approval of Exemptions 1 and 3 are not needed for the district to be in compliance for 2018-19.

IV. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since 2012 we have had several community members engaged at the local and state level to oversee our progress at increasing the number of students fully scheduled at our comprehensive high schools.

At the November 13, 2018 Board Meeting, community provided public input regarding the Required Instructional Time Exemptions.

On December 5, 2018, District Staff met with representatives of the Parent Coalition. The Parent Coalition expressed concerns about having the Board vote on the exemptions to OAR 581-022-2302 and the impact that would have on students taking a full load. From the meeting, staff has committed to create a College and Career Advisory group with participation from members of the Parent Coalition to engage in improving the high school system to meet high expectations for all students.

V. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION

The Board must vote on Exemptions 2 and 4 for the 2018-19 school year on December 18, 2018. This will enable the district to provide the Division 22 Community Report at the January 4, 2019 Board Meeting stating that PPS is in compliance with the Required Instructional time OAR.

VI. BOARD OPTIONS WITH ANALYSIS

To make the district compliant with OAR 581-022-2302, the Board needs to approve exemptions 2 and 4 for the 2018-19 school year.

With approval of Exemption 2, PPS will meet Division 22 compliance with Required Instructional Time with 80% of students at all comprehensive high schools having a full schedule.

With approval of Exemption 4, PPS will meet Division 22 compliance with Required Instructional Time for students at our alternative schools.

Should the board choose not support Exemptions 2 and 4, PPS will not be in compliance with the Division 22 statute for Required Instructional Time.

VII. STAFF RECOMMENDATION


Staff recommends that the Board approve exemptions 2 and 4 in order to be in compliance with Division 22 OAR regarding Required Instructional Time for 2018-19.

The goal for the district is to have as many students as possible taking a full schedule of classes. Staff will formalize the verbal policy used for the 2018-19 school year for the 2019-20 school year with a set of expectations that will:

- require all 9th - 11th graders to take a full schedule of classes.
- require 12th graders who want to take 6 or 7 courses and not a full schedule of 8 classes to have their forecasting sheet signed by their parent and be "on track" to graduate.
- require counselors to support seniors to be fully scheduled even if they are on track

Staff expects that with the implementation of these expectations that the Board will not need to approve Exemptions 1-3 in the 2019-20 school year. Exemption 4 is needed to be approved annually by the Board to remain in compliance with our alternative programs.

VIII. I have reviewed this staff report and concur with the recommendation to the Board.



Guadalupe Guerrero
Superintendent
Portland Public Schools

December 11, 2018

Date

ATTACHMENTS

(List all supporting documentation, including resolution, etc.)

- A. Resolutions for Exemptions 2 and 4 to Required Instructional Time
- B.
- C.
 1. *Set a clear Vision and Strategic Plan*
 2. *Create equitable opportunities and outcomes for all students*
 3. *Build management and accountability systems and structures*
 4. *Allocate budget, funding and resources focused on improving outcomes for students*

