VOLUNTARY RESOLUTION AGREEMENT
Hood River County School District
OCR Reference No. 10161092

Hood River Valley School District (district) enters into this voluntary resolution agreement (Agreement) to resolve OCR Reference No. 10161092, filed with the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), under title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulation at 34 CFR Part 106 (Title IX).

The district agrees that it is the district’s policy to provide comparable interscholastic athletic competition for male and female students in a variety of sports and to adhere to the policies, rules and regulations of the Oregon School Activities Association. Consistent with its policy and those rules and regulations the district agrees to provide equivalent benefits and opportunities for athletic opportunities to members of both sexes participating in its interscholastic athletic programs, in accordance with the requirements of Title IX, the regulation at 34 CFR 106.41(c) and the applicable OCR Policy Interpretation. To that end, the district agrees to take the specific steps described below at XXXXXXXXXXXX to ensure that it provides equivalent benefits, opportunities, and treatment to members of both sexes with respect to the following components of the XXXXXXX interscholastic athletics program: 1) the modes of transportation to off-campus practice and competition facilities and away competition events; 2) the scheduling of games and practice times; and 3) the provision of locker rooms, practice, and competitive facilities.

Action Item A: District Assessment

By August 31, 2017, the district will conduct an assessment of its policies, practices and procedures with respect to ensuring that it provides equitable benefits, treatment, services and opportunities in its interscholastic athletics program for the student athletes of both sexes at XXXXXXX with respect to each of the program areas referred to above. For each area assessed, the assessment will be made based on information obtained from a variety of sources, including the coaches of each team, student athletes, and other knowledgeable individuals, such as maintenance staff, transportation staff and others.
1. Scheduling of Games and Practice Times

   a) The district agrees that its assessment will include, but not be limited to, the following factors: 1) the number of competitive events per sport; 2) the number and length of practice opportunities; 3) the time of day competitive events are scheduled; 4) the time of day practice opportunities are scheduled; and 5) the opportunities to engage in available pre-season and post-season competition.

   b) The district also agrees that the assessment will specifically include and address: 1) the reasons that data provided to OCR by the district reflects significantly more transportation requests for away contests for boys’ basketball and boys’ wrestling than for girls’ and an assessment regarding whether boys’ basketball or other boys’ teams have more opportunities for competition and, if so the reasons; 2) information regarding a boot camp that was provided for boys’ basketball during the week before tryouts (November 10-13, 2015), whether similar programs are provided for boys and girls in other sports and, if so, a detailed description; and 3) the specific schedule for use of the batting cages located near the XXXXXXX for boys’ baseball and girls’ softball, including an explanation for how the schedule is determined.

2. Provision of Locker Rooms, Practice and Competitive Facilities

   a) The district agrees that its assessment will include all facilities utilized by the district’s high school interscholastic athletics teams, including any facilities that are not owned by the district and the assessment will include but not be limited to, the following factors: 1) quality and availability of facilities provided for practice and competitive events; 2) exclusivity of use of facilities provided for practice and competitive events; 3) proximity of practice and competitive facilities that are located off campus; 4) availability of locker rooms; 5) quality of locker rooms, practice, and competitive facilities; 6) maintenance of locker rooms and practice and competitive facilities; and 7) preparation of facilities for practice and competitive events.

   b) The district also agrees that its assessment will include a review of the availability and mode of transportation provided to boys’ and girls’ teams from the high school to all off-campus practice and off-campus home competition sites, and all away competitions and will specifically include a review of
whether the district provides transportation for girls’ softball to and from the team’s offsite practice facilities.

c) The district also agrees that the assessment will specifically include and address: 1) the impact of having girls’ softball practice and compete at a facility that is off campus when the baseball squad has two fields and a batting cage that are located on campus; 2) the feasibility of constructing a softball facility that is on the campus of XXXX and/or of converting one of the baseball fields that is located the XXXX campus to a softball facility; and 3) any differences that exist with respect to the quality of the softball facility as compared to the baseball facility, including, but not limited to lighting; dugouts; announcer’s booth and PA system; concessions; availability of nearby locker rooms; availability of nearby batting cages; field condition, preparation and maintenance; backstop and fencing; spectator seating (bleachers and accessible viewing area) and other physical features of the respective facilities.

Reporting Provision:

Within 10 calendar days of completing its assessment, the district will submit the assessment in the form of a written report to OCR for OCR’s review and approval. The assessment report will include detailed information describing the specific benefits, treatments, services, and opportunities being provided to female and male teams related to the assessment components and a summary of information provided by coaches, student-athletes, and other knowledgeable individuals. OCR will review the report submitted by the district and notify the district if additional data is needed or if revisions are required. If OCR requires additional data or revisions to the assessment, the district will re-submit the assessment to OCR for review and approval within 30 calendar days of receiving notice of the need for additional data and revisions required by OCR. OCR and the district will follow the same process until OCR approves the district’s assessment.

Action Item B: District’s Corrective Action Plan:

Within 90 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the district’s assessment the district will complete a Corrective Action Plan (action plan) to address any inequities that were identified in its assessment with respect to the provision of equitable benefits, treatment, services and opportunities in its interscholastic athletics program for the student athletes
of both sexes at XXXXX. The action plan will detail the specific steps the district will take to address any inequities that were identified as a result of the district’s assessment and will include a detailed timeline for completion of the action plan.

Reporting Provision:

Within 10 calendar days of completing its action plan, the district will submit the action plan to OCR for OCR’s review and approval. OCR will review the action plan submitted by the district and notify the district if revisions are required. If OCR requires revisions to the action plan, the district will re-submit the action plan to OCR for review and approval within 30 calendar days of receiving notice of the revisions required by OCR. OCR and the district will follow the same process until OCR approves the action plan.

Action Item C: Implementation of Action Plan

The district will complete the implementation of the action plan within the time frame that is specified in the action plan.

Reporting Provision:

Beginning 90 calendar days after OCR’s approval of the action plan and on a twice-yearly basis thereafter at six month intervals, the district will provide OCR with written reports detailing the status of its implementation of the action plan. The reports will specify the items in the action plan that have been completed, the progress made toward implementation of items that are planned or are underway, any obstacles or delays that have or may impact the full implementation of the action plan and any other information that is relevant to OCR determination with respect to whether the district is in compliance with the Resolution Agreement and, ultimately, with the requirements of Title IX and its implementing regulations.

Monitoring Principles

The district understands that by signing this Agreement, it agrees to provide OCR data and other information in a timely manner. Further, the district understands that during the monitoring of this Agreement, OCR may visit the district, interview staff and students,
and request such additional reports or data as are necessary for OCR to determine whether the district has fulfilled the terms of this Agreement and is in compliance with the regulation implementing Title IX, at 34 C.F.R. §106.41, which was at issue in this case.

The district understands that OCR will not close the monitoring of this Agreement until OCR determines that the district has fulfilled the terms of this Agreement and is in compliance with the regulation that was at issue in this case.

The district understands and acknowledges that OCR may initiate administrative enforcement or judicial proceedings, including the enforcement of specific terms and obligations of this Agreement. Before initiating administrative enforcement (34 CFR 100.9, 100.10), or judicial proceedings, including to enforce this Agreement, OCR shall give the district written notice of the alleged breach and sixty (60) calendar days to cure the alleged breach.

Effective Date

This Agreement will become effective immediately upon the signature of the Superintendent or his designee below.

Signed:

/s/_________________________   __________April 26, 2017___________
Superintendent (or designee)   Date