

Oregon School Activities Association

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TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors

FROM: Kyle Stanfield, Assistant Executive Director

Gibby Reynolds, IT Systems Administrator

SUBJECT: Update on the Proceedings of the Reimbursement Review Task Force

The Reimbursement Review Task Force held its third meeting via Zoom on November 30. The Task Force will be utilizing a virtual format for all meetings that allows both Task Force members and those seeking to provide input the option of participating via webinar. This Task Force was formed by the OSAA Executive Board at the request of the OSAA State Championship and Budget Committees.

The Task Force began the meeting by reviewing the documents prepared by the staff after the last meeting. The Task Force had open discussion about the current reimbursement and the nuances related to how it's structured within the Association. Currently, reimbursement is completely objective and automated within the OSAA system. The group did bring up variables (like contest start time), sub-round games vs. final site games, and how those play into the reimbursement system. The recent recommendations from the State Championship Committee that were adopted by the Executive Board have impacted schools this Fall, specifically the change to remove mileage reimbursement for trips within 200 miles round trip.

The Task Force knows that there is no realistic way to reimburse schools dollar for dollar when it comes to expenses, but they felt it's important to explore adjustments to the system that treat schools equitably, including reimbursing activities in a similar way to athletics. The Task Force agreed that the focus of the OSAA when it comes to postseason play is to put on exceptional events for students and provide lifelong memories that they'll take with them forever. The costs to provide those experiences are increasing for both member schools and the OSAA with reimbursement playing a pivotal role.

The Task Force understands that their desires to help support member schools may be outside the economic capability of the Association as it relates to the current reimbursement system. The Task Force has asked the staff to provide further examples of how reimbursement could be reallocated. In doing so, the group wants to keep in mind that those schools travelling the furthest deserve the most reimbursement, while not neglecting schools with shorter, yet more frequent, trips.

The Task Force is looking for feedback from the membership on these issues. The Task Force will keep the Executive Board regularly updated on their progress. Future meeting dates will be released once determined with the goal to complete work prior to the April Budget Committee meeting.

The Task Force appreciates your support and encourages your participation in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Stanfield (kyles@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions or to provide feedback.

The Task Force Roster, charge to the Task Force, and updated information are available at the OSAA website: https://www.osaa.org/governance/task-forces#reimbursement