

TO: Roger Breed, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Freida Lange, Administrator
Rick Moses, Consultant
Dennis McGuire, Consultant
Accreditation and School Improvement

SUBJECT: Request from Cody-Kilgore Public Schools for Waiver of Rule Regulation

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider approval of a request Cody-Kilgore Public Schools for a modification of Rule 10-004.02C (prohibiting 6th grade students from participating in athletic contests) for school year 2011-12. This request is in accordance with waiver provisions in Rule 10, Section 013.05.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Rule 10-013.05 provides that public school districts which exist in unique circumstances due to population sparsity, geographic barriers, or other similar factors may submit a request to the State Board of Education for a modification of the Rule to better meet the needs of the students.

Cody-Kilgore Public Schools received a one-year waiver of Rule 10-004.02C for the 2010-2011 school year and has submitted a required annual progress report specific to the implementation of the 2010-2011 waiver. Cody-Kilgore is expecting eight boys and three girls in grade 7 and two boys and five girls in grade eight for the 2011-2012 school year. With these numbers, the school district will have great difficulty providing junior high athletics unless 6th grade students are allowed to participate. Such participation by grade 6 is prohibited by Rule 10-004.02C. A one-year modification of this regulation for the 2011-2012 school year would allow the board of education to provide junior high athletics. The school district has indicated that without this waiver the school would not have enough students to offer junior high activities. Granting this waiver would give students equitable learning opportunities and the skills of team work and responsibility that only a team can build. Attached is the official request from the school.

Estimated Cost

Supporting Documentation Included: Official request from Cody-Kilgore Public Schools.

For additional information on this item: Call Freida Lange (402) 471-2444 or e-mail: freida.lange@nebraska.gov or Rick L. Moses: rick.l.moses@nebraska.gov



Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools

Cherry County School District #30

P.O. Box 216

Secondary School
Cody
402-823-4117

Cody, Nebraska 69211
Fax # 402-823-4275

Elementary School
Kilgore
402-966-2291

An Equal Opportunity Agency

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Administrative Assistant

Bea Jones
Secondary Secretary

Marvanne Logterman
Elementary Secretary

June 15, 2011

Nebraska State Board of Education
PO Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Nebraska State Board of Education:

There would not have been enough students to field a team for some junior high sports had it not been for your approval of our 2010-2011 waiver. As PreK-12 Principal of Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools, it was obvious to me that the 2010-11 sixth grade students completed our junior high sports teams. By allowing sixth grade students the benefit of participating in junior high sports, we not only had a positive effect on the junior high teams but on the budding sixth grade athletes as well.

I would like to make you aware of the impact the waiver to allow 6th grade students to be involved with junior high sports has had in our school and community. In football we had 8 sixth graders and 5 eighth graders participate in our junior high program. In volleyball we had 3 sixth graders, 5 seventh graders and 4 eighth graders participate. In girls basketball there were 2 sixth graders, 2 seventh graders, and 2 eighth graders. In boys basketball there were 7 sixth graders, 1 seventh grader, and 5 eighth graders. In track there were 6 sixth graders, 2 seventh graders, and 8 eighth graders. Parents had only praise for the chance to continue to have junior high sports in our small communities. Next year we will be in much the same predicament. It is our desire to provide experiences to support and encourage good sportsmanship and teamwork not to mention fundamental skills and healthy habits for life. We did not have any complaints or concerns from parents.

We appreciate your helpfulness in making good things happen for our youth. Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with you, and please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kate Fullerton, PreK-12 Principal
Cody-Kilgore Unified School



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Terri Nollette
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Duke Wain
Activities Director

Donna Blocker
Business Manager

Bea Jones
Secondary Secretary

Marvanne Logterman
Elementary Secretary

May 18, 2011

Freida Lang
Accreditation & School Improvement
301 Centennial Mall South
PO Box 98987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

Dear Ms. Lang,

Terry Hazard, Superintendent for our school, has asked me to submit this to you. It is information for our application to allow our 6th graders to participate in junior high extracurricular activities.

If I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact me at dblocker@esu17.org or 402.823.4190.

Sincerely,

Donna Blocker, Business Manager
Cody Kilgore Unified Schools

Cody-Kilgore Unified SCHOOLS

Cherry County School District #30

P.O. Box 216

Cody, Nebraska 69211

Date: May 11, 2011

To: Nebraska Department of Education, Accreditation and School Improvement

From: Cody-Kilgore Unified School Board

The Request

The Cody-Kilgore Unified School Board of Education is requesting a waiver for 6th grade boys and girls to participate in Jr. High Activities for next year. In accordance with **Rule 10, Waiver and Plans, section 013.05** "Public school districts which exist in unique circumstances due to population sparsity, geographic barriers, or other similar factors may submit a request to the State Board of Education for a modification of this Chapter to better meet the need of the students."

Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools is a small class II school with a current student population of 129 students in K-12. Cody-Kilgore is a Title 1 District located in North Central Nebraska with a sparsely populated constituency yet covering one of the largest geographic areas among Nebraska Class II Districts.

Next year's students that finished the school year and will be in seventh and eighth grade follows:

Students at the end of the 10-11 School Going into Grades 7 & 8

Grade 7	Grade 8
8 Boy	2 Boys
3 Girls	5 Girls

There would be 10 boys and 8 girls able to participate in activities if all participated. In accordance with **Rule 10, 00402C 6th graders do not participate in any kinds of athletic contests.** The Board of Education is required by **Rule 10, 012.01 to offer opportunities for quality learning in equitable opportunities for all students.** Without offering Jr. High girl's and boy's activities, the Board of Education feels that the equitable learning opportunities for all students may be in jeopardy. Our school prides itself in giving all students the opportunity to be successful. We feel that taking away this opportunity could possibly jeopardize the future of our school.

Options to overcome this inequity have been explored. One option consists of co-oping our junior high activities. However there is a distance barrier that consists of 38 miles to Valentine or 69 miles to Gordon-Rushville as the middle school is in Rushville. The Board of Education feels strongly that placing students on a bus, for at a minimum, of 76 miles every day is not in the best interest of the school or the students.

The Proposal

The Cody-Kilgore Unified School Board of Education would propose the modification of allowing 6th grade boys and girls to participate in Junior High activities. The Board feels confident that the proposal would make equitable allowances for our Jr. High girls and boys to field a team and be allowed to participate in activities. We feel without this request being granted that our students would suffer the loss of athletic teams and a sense of self-worth and pride. We want to provide opportunities for our students to have the skills of team work and responsibility that only a team can build. Without our school offering this program, we feel that students could opt out of our school and lose the benefits that our small school district has to offer.

NDE Summary of Responses for Waiver Request Provisions of Rule 10-013.05 for the Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools Request for waiver of Rule 10-004.02C

Rule 10-013.05 provides that school systems to better meet local goals, may submit a request for a waiver of one or more regulations found in Sections 004 through 012.01C of the Rule. The waiver request must respond to items in 013.05 (1) through 013.05 (5). The items below provide a summary of responses provided in the formal request by the Cody-Kilgore Unified School Board.

- **013.05 (1) An explanation of the unique circumstances leading to this request.** Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools is a public school district with a current student enrollment of 129 students K-12. The predicted 2011-12 enrollment for girls in 7th grade is three and for girls in 8th grade is for five. The predicted 2010-11 enrollment for boys in 7th grade is eight and for boys in 8th grade is for two. Therefore the district would not be able to provide an athletic program for 7th and 8th grade girls or boys next school year. Other options such as co-oping with other districts would require that students be bused a minimum of 76 miles daily for student activities. The Cody-Kilgore Unified School Board feels strongly that this is not in the best interest of the students or the school.
- **013.05 (2) Proposed modification to better meet the needs of the students.** Modify Rule 10-004.02C for the Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools for the school year 2010-11 to allow 6th grade girls and boys to participate with 7th and 8th grade girls and boys in athletic contests between school districts.

Students at the end of the 10-11 School Going into Grades 6
Grade 6
2 Boys
11 Girls

- **013.05 (3) An explanation of how the modifications will provide quality learning, equity, and accountability.** This modification will provide the opportunity for the junior high boys and girls to have equitable opportunities to participate in extra-curricular athletic activities and will support the skills of team work, responsibility, self-worth, and pride.
- **013.05 (4) Copy of the local improvement plan.** An excerpt from the local school improvement plan is attached. The plan documents efforts of the district to work toward school improvement based on local data and student needs. The extra-curricular activities will also support opportunities for student success.
- **013.05 (5) Procedures for annually reporting to the Commissioner.** The school district will annually report to the Commissioner relative to the implementation of this modification of Rule 10.

Cody-Kilgore Unified School

Action Plan

- Target Area:** Improve student math scores
- Target Area Goal:** All students will improve their math scores.
- Strategies:**
1. Staff Development for Accelerated Math Program
 2. Collect Pre and Post Test Data
 3. Differentiated Instruction
 4. Track interventions over time
 5. Evaluation

TASK	TIMELINE	STATUS
Staff Training	Spring 2010	3/5 of staff have been trained
Staff Hands on Practice with Students	Spring 2010	Enthusiastic Response
Pretest Grades 3-12	Fall 2010	Completed
Post Test Grades 3-12	Spring 2011	Completed
Implementing the Program	Fall of 2010	In Use
Staff Training	Fall 2010	Completed
Math Family Fun Night	Spring 2011	May 12, 2011
Dr. Willie Carrington Will Assist With Evaluation Data		Spring 2011

Parties Responsible: Kate Fullerton K-12 Principal

Instructors: Stacey Adamson, Duke Waln, Janet Shelbourn, Marilyn Graham, and Karen Johnson

School Improvement Student Target Goals (5 Year Cycle, 2007-08 through 2011-2012)

Reading Comprehension -increased strategies in fluency and vocabulary will improve reading skills for all students in Grades 2-6

Math Grades 4-12 Accelerated Math and other strategies will increase math scores and grades for all students. Differentiated Instruction Strategies

Technology and Staff Development-all staff will increase their technology skills and applications in the classroom. 21st century learning and entrepreneurship will be stressed.

Public Relations (P R) Goal- The goal is to promote the school so as to attract families to come back or to move into the community. We need to be actively recruiting families by helping enhance school-community relationships. Three grants have been secured to begin this process. (A grocery store, entrepreneurship center, and incubator business in a straw bale building as well as guests to help with educational training have been included in the grant.)

20011-2012 Transition SIP Goals

We will form a **Technology Study Group** including community and business people to review equipment, courses, network, web design and more. (We will look at our one-to-one computers and make recommendations for up-coming needs.)

21st Century Learning Skills- critical thinking skills

Data Retreat-We will be setting up a staff data retreat to learn what our data is telling us to provide vision and goals for the future. This is especially in relation to curriculum, instruction, and staff development.

**2009-2010 State of the Schools Report
A Report on Nebraska Public Schools****SCHOOL DISTRICT: CODY-KILGORE PUBLIC SCHS**

▶ Description

Description provided by the school district for 2009 - 2010

The Cody Kilgore Unified School, a Schoolwide Title 1 District, serving approximately 115 PreK-12th grade students, is located in North Central NE with a sparsely populated constituency yet covering one of the largest geographic areas among NE Class II Districts. Our district provides regular transportation services for students that cover a 312 mile round trip in a 553 square mile area. Some students log as many as 76 miles round trip in a day on our buses. Our staff is 100% NCLB Qualified and APL trained. We have received an Entrepreneurship and Incubator Business Grant with the Village of Cody. This enhances our Career Education curriculum by providing real world experiences. Expanded Distance Learning and Dual Credit classes are helping us provide more curriculum offerings.

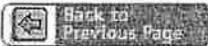
At CKUS we are: Committed, Knowledgeable, Unified, and Successful.

Current Contact Information

CODY-KILGORE PUBLIC SCHS
360 W 4TH ST
PO BOX 216
CODY, NE 69211-0216

Phone: (402)823-4190
Fax: (402)823-4275

Agency ID: 16-0030



**2009-2010 State of the Schools Report
A Report on Nebraska Public Schools****SCHOOL DISTRICT: CODY-KILGORE PUBLIC SCHS**

▶ District Improvement Goals

Improvement Goals provided by the school district for 2009 - 2010**Student Learning Goal-MATH**

All students in Grades 4-12 will improve their math scores compared with baseline data. The Accelerated Math program is one strategy being used to reach this goal.

Publicity Committee Goal

We are actively recruiting new students to our school and new families to our community via public relations. We are using various means to promote public relations so the public will know about the great things happening at Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools.

Curriculum Committee Goals

We have expanded our Career Education program to include Entrepreneurship Investigation and incubator business planning. This process is forging a strong commitment to community service through the school and the village.

We have been evaluating and revising reading and math curriculum and we will now revise science curriculum to improve student performance.

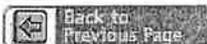
We added Preschool for four year olds in the 2009-2010 school year.

Staff Development Committee Goals

Provide professional development and the integration of technology into the classroom.

Research-based reading strategies are being studied to support decisions relating to vocabulary, comprehension, and new textbook purchases to enhance our curriculum.

We are researching 21st Century Learning Skills with an emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving.



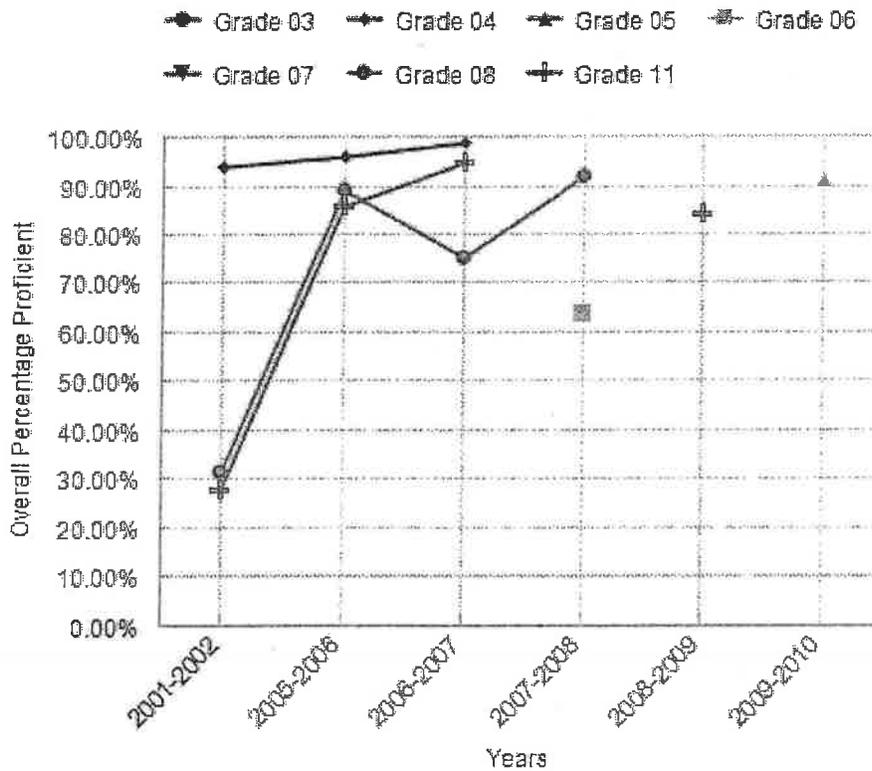
**2009-2010 State of the Schools Report
A Report on Nebraska Public Schools**

SCHOOL DISTRICT: CODY-KILGORE PUBLIC SCHS

Nebraska Mathematics Standards - All Students including students in Special Education and English Language Learners

Assessment of State Mathematics Standards

All Students



Overall Performance Percentages for All Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards

Years	Grade 03	Grade 04	Grade 05	Grade 06	Grade 07	Grade 08	Grade 11
2001-2002	N/A	94.07%	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.35%	27.80%
2005-2006	N/A	96.11%	N/A	N/A	N/A	88.78%	85.90%
2006-2007	N/A	98.86%	N/A	N/A	N/A	75.00%	94.51%
*2007-2008	*	*	*	63.64%	*	91.67%	*
2008-2009	*	*	*	*	*	*	84.21%
2009-2010	*	*	90.91%	*	*	*	*
% of Change	0.00%	↑5.93%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	↑68.65%	↑72.20%

% of Change: Compares the percentage of students proficient on the first state assessment to the current year's results.

*Beginning in 2007-2008 school year, data were collected at the student level.
07.12.11 State Board of Education Work Session
&
07.13.11 State Board of Education

N / A: Standards were assessed in a different grade level for the given school year.

* Data has been masked to protect the identity of students using one the following criteria:

- 1) Fewer than 10 students were reported in a grade or standard.
- 2) All students were reported in a single performance category.



**2009-2010 State of the Schools Report
A Report on Nebraska Public Schools**

SCHOOL DISTRICT: CODY-KILGORE PUBLIC SCHS

▶ NeSA Reading - All Students

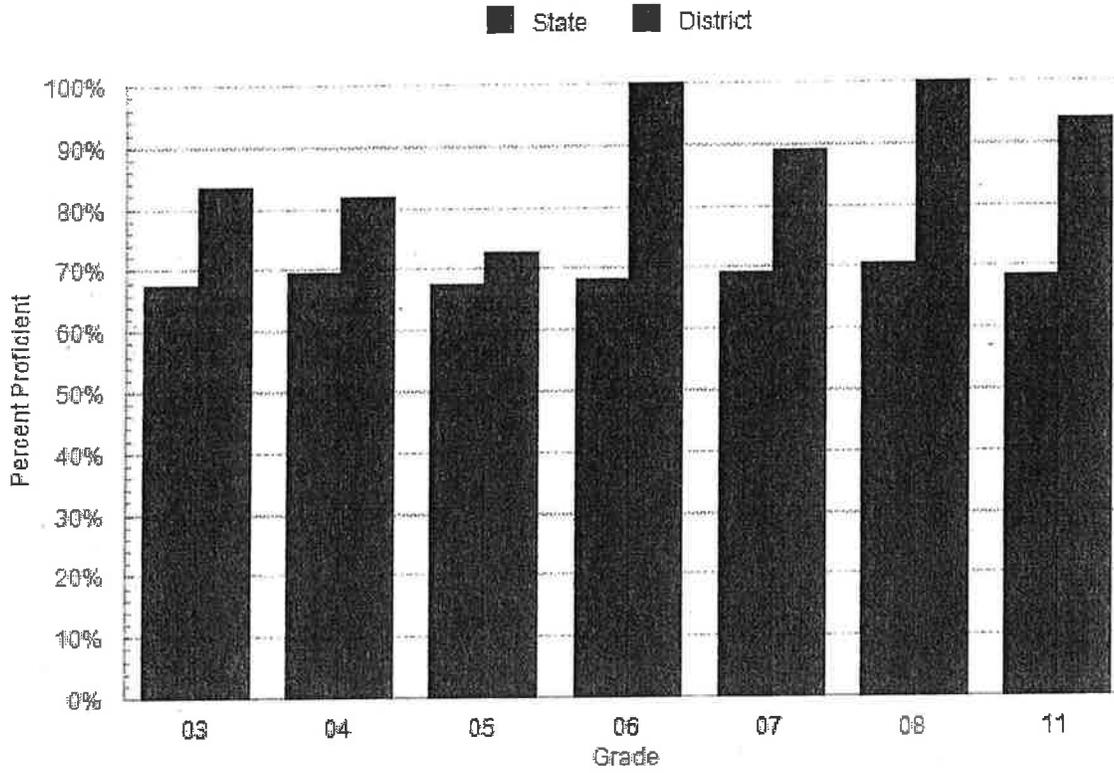
NeSA statewide tests reading in grades 3-8 and 11 were administered for the first time in spring 2010. The tests measured the newly revised Nebraska reading standards and determined whether Nebraska students proficient on standards.

**Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) - Reading
All Students**

District Average Reading Scale Scores: Scale Score Range 0-200

	2009-2010	
	State	District
<u>Grade 3</u>	101	124
<u>Grade 4</u>	104	117
<u>Grade 5</u>	101	106
<u>Grade 6</u>	101	146
<u>Grade 7</u>	104	139
<u>Grade 8</u>	102	114
<u>Grade 11</u>	101	119

Percent Proficient By Grade



Participation				
	Students Tested		Students Not Tested	
State	147,144	99.85%	216	0.15%
District	68	100.00%	0	0.00%

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