



Oregon School Activities Association

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TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

FROM: Peter Weber, Executive Director
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 fifth meeting via Zoom on March 21. The Task Force is 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 Committee and Budget Committee.

After their previous meeting the Task Force asked the staff to bring back different versions of the formula seen below that would put more weight on miles, participants, or number of days of a championship. The Task Force wanted to review how the reallocations of funds were distributed in each model. After conversation, the Task Force concluded that miles travelled was to take priority over the number of participants or number of days of a championship. Those additional aspects are not removed from the formula, but they have a lesser impact on the outcome compared to miles. The Task Force felt that the number of miles travelled was also a better indicator of the costs a school district incurs, rather than participants or days.

Formula:

$$Expense = \sqrt{\text{participants}} \times \text{miles}^{\left(1 + \frac{\text{days}}{8}\right)} \quad (1)$$

The Task Force continued to support a static number available for reimbursement each year. Over the past five years, the OSAA has averaged approximately \$800,000 in annual reimbursement to member schools. Realizing that currently there aren't additional funds available to increase potential reimbursement, the staff utilized the \$800,000 figure as a baseline for annual distributions. The \$800,000 would still be distributed seasonally based on the historical percentage reimbursed (e.g., 37% distributed for Fall, etc.). In general, schools traveling the furthest, with the most participants, and participating the most days would get a larger percentage of the seasonal distribution than schools that stayed closer to home, had fewer participants, and participated for fewer days.

The Task Force supports this approach to changing the Reimbursement Formula because it treats all schools, programs, and students similarly while allowing the Association to accurately budget for this expense each year. If revenues increase and more discretionary funds become available, the Budget Committee and/or the Executive Board could increase the overall amount available for reimbursement. The Task Force requests that the OSAA Budget Committee and Executive Board review increasing the pot of reimbursement, if possible, as the number of reimbursable events increases.

The Task Force knows that there is no realistic way to reimburse schools dollar-for-dollar when it comes to expenses, but they believe 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 Task Force is also supportive of increasing the compensation for personnel expenses incurred when hosting a state playoff contest. Currently each individual receives \$20, the Task Force is supportive of increasing that to \$25 for 2023-24. Much like reimbursement, the Task Force and OSAA understand that these reimbursements do not cover all expenses incurred by a school, but remain committed to the goal of helping support those hosting playoff events.

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. The Task Force will meet again after the conclusion of the spring season when all data will be available.

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>