



TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Deborah Rumbaugh

SUBJECT: Resolution 2022/2023-006 Requesting a Waiver to the 180-Day School Year at Stanwood High School for a Freshmen-Only First Day for 2023-24

DATE: April 18, 2023

TYPE: Action Required

Stanwood High School (SHS) has completed the OSPI application for a 180-day School Year Waiver to allow for a freshmen-only first day of school for 2023-24. The completed application, school calendar, and Resolution 2022/2023-006, adopted by the School Board, will serve as a formal request to OSPI for a waiver to the 180-day school year at Stanwood High School. The resolution contains detailed information and rationale for requesting the waiver.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board adopt Resolution 2022/2023-006 requesting a waiver from OSPI to the 180-day school year at Stanwood High School for a freshmen-only first day of school.

Waiver Application: 180-day School Year Waiver

As part of the basic education requirements in Washington State, each school district must make a minimum of 180 school days available to students each school year. In addition, school districts must offer at least 1,027 instructional hours each school year, as prescribed in RCW 28A.150.220.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) may grant certain waivers for the 180-day school year requirement to school districts, in order for the district to implement a local plan to provide for all students an effective education system designed to improve student achievement by enhancing the educational program for all students in the district or for individual schools in the district. Waivers may be granted for up to three school years.

Applications for the regular 180-Day School Year Waiver (formerly known as “Option One”) must be submitted to OSPI prior to implementation. Once the completed waiver application packet is received, OSPI will review and notify the requesting district of the decision. In general, applications submitted to OSPI by the 5th of the month will have a decision by the 10th of the following month. For example, applications received by OSPI before January 5 will receive a decision by February 10.

Please note: Waivers for parent-teacher conferences (up to five school days) or emergency school closures follow different processes. For more information, please visit [OSPI’s waiver page](#) or email waivers@k12.wa.us.

To be considered for the regular 180-day School Year Waiver, please submit the following documents to OSPI: *Documents should be in PDF or Word format. Do not send weblinks.*

1. Completed 180-day School Year Waiver Application form (see next page).
2. Proposed school calendar(s) for each of the years for which the waiver is requested.
3. A resolution adopted and signed by the school district board of directors requesting the waiver. The resolution must identify/provide:
 - a. The basic education program requirement for which the waiver is requested.
 - b. The school year(s) for which the waiver is requested.
 - c. The number of days in each school year for which the waiver is requested.
 - d. Information on how the waiver will support improving student achievement.
 - e. A statement attesting that the district will meet the minimum instructional hours requirement of RCW 28A.150.220(2) under the waiver plan.

To apply for the regular 180-day School Year Waiver, please submit the following items to waivers@k12.wa.us:

- 1) Completed 180-day School Year Waiver Application form (see below).
- 2) Proposed school year calendar(s) for each of the years for which the waiver is requested.
- 3) A resolution adopted by the school district board of directors requesting the waiver.



180-day School Year Waiver Application

Documents should be in PDF or Word format. Do not send weblinks.

Please note: Waivers for parent-teacher conferences (up to five school days) or emergency school closures follow different processes. For more information, please visit [OSPI's waiver page](#).

School District	Stanwood-Camano School District #401		
Mailing Address	26920 Pioneer Highway		
Superintendent	Dr. Deborah Rumbaugh		
Email:	drumbaugh@stanwood.wednet.edu	Phone:	360-629-1200
Person Submitting Application (if different)	Jeanne Kelly		
Email:	jkelly@stanwood.wednet.edu	Phone:	360-629-1300

Waiver Days Requested	
School Year	Days
2023-2024	1
School Year	Days
School Year	Days

Waiver:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/>	District-wide waiver	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specific grades levels and/or certain schools within district (<i>please list</i>): grades 10, 11, & 12 at Stanwood High School	

If the 180-day waiver is granted, will the district meet the annual instructional hour requirement of RCW 28A.150.220(2) in each school year?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	If no, please explain in detail:
<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Does the district currently have any waivers granted by OSPI or SBE?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If yes, please list:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Overview: In a few sentences, summarize the district's proposed waiver plan (purpose, goals).	
Our plan is to hold a 'freshmen only' first day of school for our 9 th grade students and any new student to our district. This day will help transition our incoming freshmen into our high school. Upperclassmen new to our district will also be included in the day's activities.	
School Improvement Plans: Describe, in detail, how the district's waiver plan is aligned with school improvement plans under WAC 180-16-220 and any district improvement plan.	
Goal 3 in the SCSD School Improvement Plan and District Promise is to provide "continuous opportunity, growth, and achievement for every student". Our 'freshmen only' first day of school will provide an opportunity for our incoming freshmen to make connections with other freshmen and also with our	



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upperclassmen peer mentors. After a morning of breakout sessions, we will run a modified 6-period day to allow teachers and students to begin forming relationships, while also beginning to establish a positive climate and culture of mutual respect.

This plan supports WAC 180-16-220 because it promotes positive relationships, contributes to self-confidence while students are transitioning into a new, larger educational environment.

Student Achievement Goals: Describe, in detail, how the district's waiver plan is related to measurable and attainable goals of the waiver for student achievement.

Our goal with this waiver is to increase attendance at our freshmen orientation. In past years, we have held a half-day freshmen orientation with fairly good attendance. Because this has been done a week before school starts and transportation is not provided, not all students can attend. By having a 'freshmen only' first day of school, transportation would be provided and summer vacations would have ended.

Students that feel connected to their school are more likely to attend school. The leading contributing factor to failing grades is missing assignments, which is caused by poor attendance. By forming connections with other students, with teachers, and with the extra-curricular activities offered at our school, students are more likely to attend on a regular basis.

We believe that by focusing on a smooth transition for our incoming freshmen, we can help them feel welcomed and safe at SHS. By prioritizing their comfort on their first day in high school, we are setting the tone for their year and perhaps their entire high school careers. Our message would be loud and clear: We are happy they are here and we want them to feel at home. If we are truly making decisions based on what is best for our students, a "freshmen only 1st day of school" is what we must do.

Waiver Day(s) Plan/Activities: Describe, in detail, the specific activities that will be undertaken on the proposed waiver days and how these activities are likely to result in attainment of the stated goals for student achievement.

Our morning would start with a Welcome Assembly to set the tone for the day and year. Upperclassmen peer mentors would then lead small groups through a number of activities intended to encourage freshmen to get involved and to actively participate in their educations. After lunch, we would run a modified bell schedule that would allow the freshmen to find their classes without the added congestion of the upperclassmen. The schedule for the freshmen would be as follows:

Timeline of the day for Freshmen:

7:15 – 7:40	Peer mentors greet freshmen as they arrive
7:40 – 8:45	Opening assembly and mixer
8:45 – 8:50	Group formations
8:50 – 8:55	Groups move to meeting places
8:55 – 9:50	Session 1 led by peer mentors



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9:50 – 10:00	Break
10:00 – 10:45	Session 2 led by peer mentors
10:45 – 11:00	Closing Assembly
11:00 – 11:30	lunch
11:35 – 11:50	1 st Period
11:55 – 12:10	2 nd Period
12:15 – 12:30	Advisory
12:35 – 12:50	3 rd Period
12:55 – 1:10	4 th Period
1:15 – 1:30	5 th Period
1:35 – 1:50	6 th Period
1:55 – 2:10	Return to Advisories with peer mentors

Timeline of the day for Staff:

7:10 – 8:30	Classroom set-up
8:30 – 10:50	Staff professional development
10:50 – 11:20	Lunch
11:35 – 2:10	In classrooms to meet and greet freshmen

This will allow for a more relaxed first day of school with the sole intent of helping incoming freshmen feel more comfortable in the change of environment (size and feel) as they are transitioning into the academic demands of high school. Peer mentoring will continue throughout the school year.

Data/Evidence: Describe the assessments or metrics the district’s waiver plan will use for collecting evidence to show the degree to which the goals are attained.

First quarter attendance records and first quarter grades. We hope to see a reduction in absences and also a reduction in failing grades at the first quarter mark for our freshmen.

Participation in Developing Plan: Describe, in detail, the participation of administrators, teachers, other district staff, parents, and the community in the development of the waiver plan.

This plan has been developed by the advisor of our student transition program (Link Crew), with the support of building and district administration. Additionally, the plan has overwhelming support from our building staff. Out of 58 staff members surveyed, 57 are in favor of the plan.

Equity: Describe how the district considered equity in developing the waiver plan. This may include, an equity analysis, community feedback, or other means to assess the consequences of the waiver.

A freshmen only first day of the school year, focusing on student transition to a new school and to the higher academic demands of high school will remove the barrier of a lack of transportation for all students.

In past years, our freshmen orientation has taken place a week before the start of the



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school year. Because of the early date, we are not able to provide transportation. This greatly reduces the opportunity for all incoming freshmen to attend the orientation. Holding orientation on the first day of the school year will allow more students to attend because buses will run as normal, thus removing the transportation barrier.



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For Renewals, please provide the following additional information:

Describe the effectiveness of the implemented waiver plan activities in achieving the goals of the plan for student achievement.
Describe how the effectiveness of the district's waiver plan is measured.
Describe any proposed changes in the plan to achieve the stated waiver plan goals.
Describe support or concerns by administrators, teachers, other district staff, and the community for continuation of the waiver plan.





August 2023							September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							December 2023							January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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							Sept. 4: Labor Day (no school) Sept. 5: First Day of School							Oct. 20: Teacher in-service day (no school for students)							Nov. 7: 1st quarter ends Nov. 10: Veteran's Day, observed (no school) Nov. 15-17: Fall conferences (early release) Nov. 22: Early dismissal (no late start) Nov. 23-24: Thanksgiving Break (no school)							Dec. 20-Jan. 2: Winter break (no school)							Jan. 3: School resumes Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no school) Jan. 29: 1st semester ends Jan. 30: Teacher in-service day (no school for students)						
February 2024							March 2024							April 2024							May 2024							June 2024							July 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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Feb. 16-19: Mid-winter break (no school)							Mar. 27: Teacher in-service day (early release) Mar. 28-29: Spring conferences (early release)							Apr. 1-5: Spring break (no school) Apr. 11: 3rd quarter ends							May 27: Memorial Day (no school)							June 14: Last day of school (early release) June 17 & 18: Snow make-up days June 19: Juneteenth (no school)							July 4: Independence Day						

☆ First/Last day of school
 ○ Early release

■ Non-student day
 ■ Holiday; no school

	Regular Schedule	Wednesday Late Start	Early Release
Grades K-5	9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	10:20 a.m.	12 p.m.
Grades 6-12	7:40 a.m.-2:10 p.m.	9 a.m.	10:40 a.m.

District information line: 360-629-1240
 District office: 360-629-1200
stanwood.wednet.edu/about/calendar

The Stanwood-Camano School District does not discriminate in employment, programs, or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District's Title IX/Affirmative Action Officer and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Maureen Stanton (mstanton@stanwood.wednet.edu), or the Section 504/American Disabilities Act Coordinator, Robert Hascall (rhascall@stanwood.wednet.edu) Stanwood-Camano School District, 26920 Pioneer Hwy, Stanwood, WA 98292. Telephone: (360) 629-1200.

El Distrito Escolar de Stanwood-Camano School District no discrimina en sus programas o actividades por motivos de sexo, raza, credo, religión, color, origen nacional, edad, condición de veterano de guerra o grado militar, orientación sexual, expresión de género o identidad, discapacidad o uso de perro guía entrenado o animal de servicio, y ofrece igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y a otros grupos de jóvenes especificados. El empleado mencionado a continuación ha sido designado para atender consultas y quejas de supuesta discriminación: Título IX / Oficial de Acción Afirmativa y Coordinador de Cumplimiento de Derechos Civiles, Maureen Stanton (mstanton@stanwood.wednet.edu), o la Sección 504 / Coordinador de la Ley de Discapacidades Estadounidenses, Robert Hascall (rhascall@stanwood.wednet.edu), Distrito Escolar Stanwood-Camano, 26920 Pioneer Hwy, Stanwood, WA 98292. Teléfono: (360) 629-1200.