Special Session of the Board of Directors

BANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT 13

Banks, OR

Monday, November 16, 2026

Note: The District will endeavor to provide the following services if requested 48 hours prior to the meeting: qualified bilingual interpreters or qualified sign language interpreters. These services are provided at no cost to recipient. To obtain services, call 503-324-8591 at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.

1. Preliminaries
   - 1.1. Call to Order
     Welcome everyone. The November 16th, 2026 Banks School District Board of Directors special meeting is called to order at 5:00 PM.
   - 1.2. Roll Call
     We will move to a Roll call of Board members. If you could please state "present" after I call your name:
     Will Moore
     Leslee Sipp
     Dan Streblow
     Ron Frame
     Corissa Mazurkiewicz
   - 1.3. Approval of Agenda
2. Discussion Items
   - 2.1. Bond Update
     Brian Sica, Superintendent
     Update on the security glazing on the high school addition
3. Action Items
   - 3.1. Policy IKFBA/IKFBA-AR and Policy KL/KL-AR
     Brian Sica, Superintendent, Mr. Pence, High School Principal
     Honors Diploma
4. Adjourn

Honors Diploma Policy – Board Update

History, timeline, and recent changes to Policy IKFBA-AR

Banks School Board presentation | Jacob Pence, Principal Banks High School

What the Honors Diploma requires

26 credits for an Honors Diploma

24 credits for standard graduation

The difference: a fourth year of both Math and Science.

State tests

Pass state assessments in Reading, Writing, Science, and Math

60 hours

Community service, counted from 9th through 12th grades

3.5 GPA

Accumulated GPA through the seventh semester

3 AP/Honors courses

Designated Honors or AP courses throughout high school

An Honors Diploma is also required to be considered for valedictorian or salutatorian.

Different req's for regular diploma vs honors diploma

Essential Skills | **VS** | **Passing State Test**

All students were required to meet essential skills in reading/writing, and math for a normal high school diploma

- Cut Scores from ODE used to determine essential skills graduation requirement are at the low end of level 2, nearly meets.

Past Practics: From 2013 to 2019

Honors Diploma recipients were required to score a Level 3 or Level 4 on state tests – OAKs, SBAC, OSAS

- Level 4: exceeds standard
- Level 3: meets grade-level standard

The policy lets the superintendent make special considerations if state testing requirements change.

Policy history and timeline



Pre-Mar 2013

No Honors Diploma option, Valedictorian/Salutatorian was based solely on GPA

Mar 2013

Policy created for Honors Diploma, same requirements as listed in current policy

2019/2020

COVID Pandemic, closed schools, state testing paused by ODE, HS Administration waived state testing requirement for honors diploma.

2023

ODE restarted state testing, first year BHS had two students test. Continued to waive passing state test requirement

2025/2026

New Education Accountability Bill, State test scores determine school funding in future

2026-27

Passing state testing requirement reinstated for class of 2027 and beyond

The policy has been reviewed but not changed since 2013

How was this change communicated?

Different communications were shared with students and parents:

- August 2025 - Junior Class Student Presentations in English classes
- March 2026 – State Testing Presentations to students
- March 16th and March 31st – Mass Emails to all parents
- Posted in Curriculum Guide - Newsletter – Board Policy
- Letter mailed home with score reports in September 2026

The policy wording has not kept pace with the test

OAKS → SBAC → **OSAS**

What the policy IKFBA-AR says today

- Writing: 40-49
- Reading: 236
- Science: 240
- Math: 236

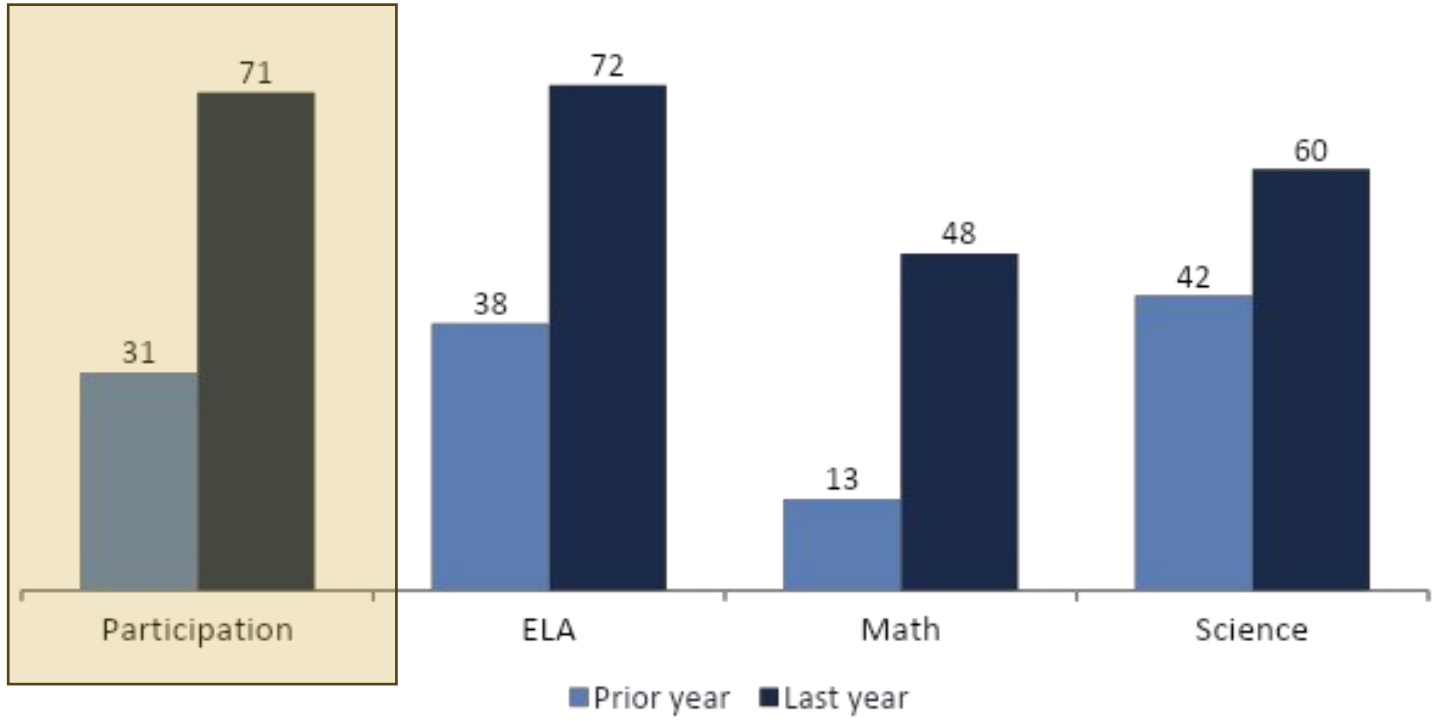
Scale scores from the retired OAKS test

How OSAS results are reported

- Level 4: exceeds standard
- Level 3: meets grade-level standard
- Level 2: nearly meets
- Level 1: below standard

The policy lets the superintendent make special considerations if state testing requirements change.

Bringing back requirement: Results in steep increase in participation and passing rates



With this passing the state testing requirement coming back for honors diploma, we saw major gains in participation and results

31% to 71%

Testing participation

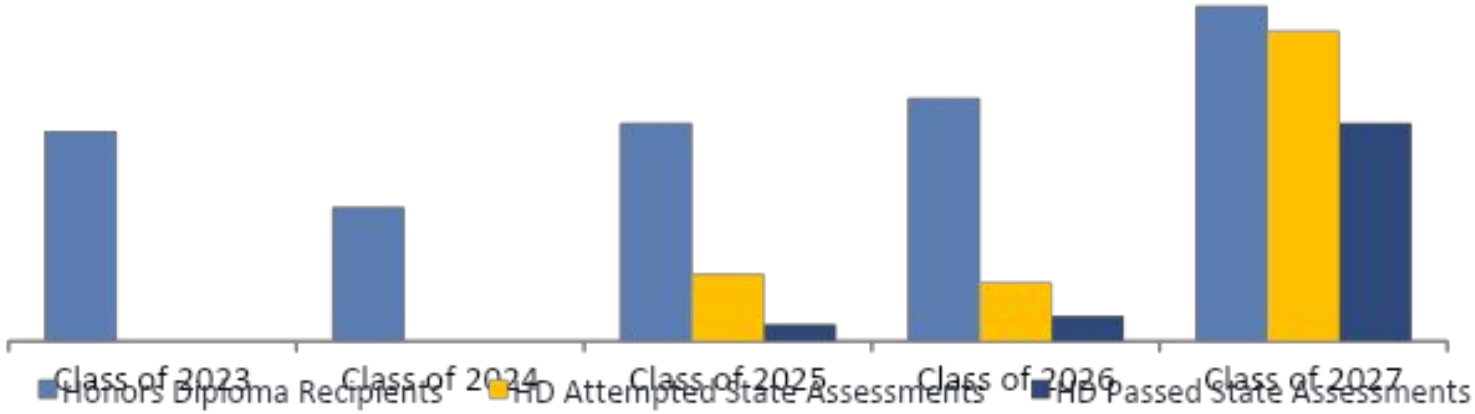
+35 points

Largest gain: Math passing rate, 13% to 48%

Past Year's BHS Students Statistics

Class of 2023	• 77 Total Graduates • 25 Honors (32.5%), 14 Valedictorians (18%) • 0 Tested
Class of 2024	• 72 Total Graduates • 16 Honors (22%), 11 Valedictorians (15%) • 0 Tested
Class of 2025	• 100 Total Graduates • 26 Honors (26%), 11 Valedictorians (11%) • 8 Tested, 2/8 passed all three tests, only two Val's attempted
Class of 2026	• 97 Total Graduates • 29 Honors (30%), 11 Valedictorians (18%) • 7 Tested, 3/7 passed all three tests, only two Val's attempted
Class of 2027	• ~ 87 Potential Graduates, • ~40 Honors (46%), ~9 Valedictorians (10%) • 37 Tested, 11 need to retest in at least one test, all 9 Val's attempted, 1 needs to retest

Participation on state assessments and success for Honors Diploma Candidates



Number of Honors Diploma Recipients continue to increase

From **22%** of the graduates four years ago to potentially **46%** of graduating class of 2027

Adding back this requirement for the Honors Diploma:

Has increased the number of students attempting and passing the test. Immediate increase in state test scores and results for Banks High School.

Without this requirement in place, most of our most talented students opt out of state tests and do not see value in state assessments

Plan for seniors who did not pass

1

Spring 2026

Students tested as juniors

2

Fall 2026

Score reports and a principal letter sent home to families

3

Feb-Mar 2027

Seniors who did not pass have another opportunity to retest

4

Spring 2027

Results inform Honors Diploma and valedictorian/salutatorian eligibility

Seniors who did not pass during junior year will retest starting in February or March 2027. We will offer as soon as possible to get results back in time to determine who has earned honors diploma.

Examples from across the state

348 Public High Schools in Oregon

ODE allows for local recognition like Honors Diplomas, and allows districts to decide their own standards.

ODE only offers guidance that districts may add Honor's Seal to any diploma of students 3.5 gpa or above.

Some districts offer an Honors Diploma or Chancelor's Award for exceeding ODE's graduation minimums.

Some districts have additional requirements for standard diploma such as 25 or 26 credits, Senior Research Projects, etc.

Districts requiring passing the state tests

It is a mixed bag, these policies are typically posted to their website under district board policies IKF, but no statewide list is available without searching each district's board policies.

Some examples that require passing state assessments: Grants Pass, McMinnville, Morrow County, Banks

Many local districts have removed State assessments from honors diploma requirements: Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Beaverton

Examples of districts with similar state test requirements:

McMinnville (link):

Meet or exceed state standard in English Language, Math and Science on the Oregon Statewide Assessment System (OSAS).
Demonstrate high academic integrity by having no instances of cheating, plagiarism, or not citing sources (including AI) correctly

Morrow County (link):

To receive a diploma, in addition to credit requirements as outlined in OAR 581-022-2000, a student must: 1. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing and apply mathematics in a variety of settings; 2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile; 3. Demonstrate extended application of standards through a collection of evidence (or include evidence in existing collection(s); 4. Participate in career-related learning experiences; and 5. Senior Presentation: presentation of education plan and profile, career-related learning experience, extended application and 20 hours of volunteer/community service is presented during the spring senior year.

Grants Pass (link):

3.5 weighted GPA or higher
Earn 6 credits in AP, advanced level, or college level classes
Pass the 11th grade Oregon Statewide Assessment for Language Arts, Math, and Science
Have a total of 27 credits with 25 of the credits being graded (*see standard diploma for required content area credits*).

North Bend (link):

Honors Diploma students must successfully complete the Oregon State Assessment tests in English Language Arts, Math, and Science with a score of 3 or above. The tests must be taken in the student's Junior year. If they do not pass any or all portions of the tests in their junior year, they will be afforded the opportunity to take and pass any remaining portions of the tests in their senior year. Additionally, a student who does not pass any or all portions of the tests in their junior year will have the opportunity to pass a performance task for any of the state assessment areas not met. This will be required of the honors diploma candidates in the graduating class of 2026 and beyond.

Cowapa League and Nearby Districts Comparison

School	Honors Diploma	GPA Req	AP/Honors	State Test	Additional Req
Astoria	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scappoose	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Seaside	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tillamook	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Valley Catholic	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vernonia	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forest Grove	Yes	3.5	4 AP/College	N/A	60 hours Community Service
Hillsboro	Yes	3.75	N/A	N/A	N/A
Liberty	Yes	3.0	4 AP, IB, Dual Credit	N/A	N/A
Westview	Yes	3.5	5 AP/Honors	N/A	3 World Language, Full Schedule all 4 years, Participate in one extracurricular

Proposed next steps for board consideration

1. Update IKFBA-AR to cite OSAS performance levels in place of OAKS scores
2. State clearly what counts as passing and how many retest opportunities students receive
3. Keep the superintendent's flexibility for future changes to state testing
4. Continue sending score reports and clear guidance to families each year

Background

The Banks High School Honors Diploma was established in 2013 to recognize students who demonstrate academic excellence beyond the requirements of a standard high school diploma. The program requires 26 credits, a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5, three AP or Honors courses, 60 hours of community service, and passing state assessments. An Honors Diploma is also required for consideration as valedictorian or salutatorian.

Historically, from 2013 through 2019, Banks High School administered the Honors Diploma assessment requirement using Level 3 (meets standard) or Level 4 (exceeds standard) as its performance expectation.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Oregon suspended statewide testing, and Banks High School waived its Honors Diploma testing requirement. Although statewide testing subsequently resumed, the school continued the waiver through the Class of 2026.

Beginning with the Class of 2027, Banks High School reinstated the assessment requirement. This decision reflected the district's desire to maintain meaningful academic expectations for its Honors Diploma while increasing student participation in statewide assessments.

Concerns Regarding the Written Policy and Assessment Standards

The October 20 complaint raises questions about whether the reinstated Level 3/4 standard is consistent with the existing administrative regulation.

The written regulation: IKFBA-AR requires students to pass state assessments but continues to reference scores from the retired Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS). The regulation was substantively developed in 2013 and carries a January 2019 revision date. It does not explicitly identify OSAS performance Levels 3 and 4 but does reference the corresponding cut scores. (See Below and this link)

High School	Achievement Standards[1] for Purposes of Accountability and High School Diploma [2] (Beginning for Class of 2012)	
Subject Area	**Meets**	**Exceeds**
Reading/ Literature	236	248
Writing • Composite score • Minimum score allowed in any trait • Conventions score	• 40 to 49 (out of 60) • 3 (out of 6) • Doubled	• 50 to 60 • 4 (out of 6) • Doubled
Mathematics	236	246
Science	240	249

The regulation also authorizes the superintendent to make special considerations when state testing requirements change. This provision recognizes the need for administrative flexibility as Oregon's assessment system evolves. The provision is relevant here as Oregon moved from the OAKS exam to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium exam (SBAC). The SBAC is similar to OAKS in that it also uses four levels of achievement (not meeting through exceeding) although the scores used to determine that level are on a different scale (see below).

Overall Scale Score Proficiency Achievement Level Descriptors

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Students are **not yet meeting expectations** or are just beginning to show grade-level skills and need more support.	Students are **building grade-level skills** but are not yet meeting expectations.	Students are **meeting grade-level expectations** and showing the skills needed for their grade.	Students are **exceeding grade-level expectations** and showing strong understanding of grade-level skills.

Distinguishing passing from proficiency: The complaint correctly identifies a distinction between Oregon's historical Essential Skills passing scores and its current Level 3 proficiency standards. ODE has previously allowed districts to consider scores below Level 3 as "meeting the essential skills." However, the meeting of the essential skill is a minimal requirement for graduation. The district believes that the intent of the policy is to require a recipient of the Honors Diploma to have demonstrated that they minimally meet grade level standards, which has been consistent in both the OAKS and SBAC exams. The district believes that we were within the allowance of IKFBA-AR due to the state change from OAKS to SBAC.

Communication and Consistency Across Graduating Classes

The complaint also raises concerns about the timing and clarity of communication with students and families.

The school documents several communications preceding the Class of 2027's senior year:

- August 2025: Presentations to all juniors in English classes.
- March 2026: Student presentations regarding state assessments.
- March 16 and 31, 2026: Districtwide parent emails.
- September 2026: Individual score reports and principal letters mailed home.

These communications demonstrate that the district made efforts to inform students and families of the reinstated testing requirement before the fall of 2026. The district acknowledges that the policies and curriculum guides referenced dated scaled scores. However, the requirement of meeting grade level standards did not change.

The complaint also references the difference in Honors Diploma Requirements for the class of 2026 and the class of 2027 and beyond. The district has always believed that an Honors Diploma recipient should, at a minimum, demonstrate proficiency in the required standards. The pausing of this requirement during the Covid-19 pandemic had significant unintended consequences on the participation rates of students taking the exams.

State Requirements and Educational Considerations

The complaint references Oregon's practice of establishing Essential Skills achievement standards *before* students enter high school. It is important to note that the Honors Diploma Requirement is *not* a requirement for graduation. The Class of 2027 will have an additional testing opportunity in February or March 2027 for students who did not initially meet the school's performance expectations

The district understands the complicated history of standardized tests in Oregon. We are unique in that families can “opt out” of these tests. We also know that standardized tests such as the SBAC/OSAS provide an externally scored, standardized measure of academic achievement, that complements grades, advanced coursework, and community service. However, the concern that one assessment result may not fully capture a student's academic accomplishments is also worthy of consideration. It is important to note that the recently implemented "Accountability System” for Oregon schools requires performance levels on state exams. Additionally, the national narrative on Oregon’s public schools is exclusively based on our performance on standardized exams.

Reinstating the requirement for the honors diploma has the opportunity to increase the relevancy of the tests to the student experience and elevate their status in the local community.

Impact on Student Participation and Achievement

The presentation reports substantial increases in assessment participation and passing rates following the decision to reinstate testing for Honors Diploma candidates.

Measure	2024-2025	2025-2026 (after reinstatement)	% Change % point increase
Participation Rate (Students **not** choosing to opt out)	31%	71%	+ 130% change + 40%pp
ELA passing rate	38%	72%	+ 90 % change + 34 % pp
Mathematics passing rate	13%	48%	+ 270 % change + 45 % pp
Science passing rate	42%	60%	+ 43 % change + 18 % pp

Among approximately 40 potential Honors Diploma candidates (those students on track to meet all other requirements) in the Class of 2027, 37 completed the assessments, with 26 passing and 11 requiring at least one retest. The Class of 2027 is composed of 86 total students, thus, 30% have already met the honors diploma requirements, including testing.

These results demonstrate a meaningful improvement in student participation and reported achievement.

Conclusion

The Honors Diploma remains an important opportunity to recognize academic achievement at Banks High School. The district's recent efforts have coincided with substantial improvements in statewide assessment participation and performance, particularly among academically successful students.

The District acknowledges the opportunities for confusion stemming from the pausing of the practice as well as the transition from the OAKS to SBAC. However, the district believes students have ample time, including upcoming opportunities in the Spring of 2027 to demonstrate that they have met state learning standards.

Banks School District No. 13

Code: **KL-AR(1)**
Revised/Reviewed: 11/5/07; 10/12/15; 12/14/15; 3/14/16, 12/11/17 9/9/19; 1/13/20; Adopted: 4/10/23

Public Complaint Procedure

A parent or guardian of a student attending a school in the district, or a person who resides in the district, a staff member, or a student who wishes to express a concern should discuss the matter with the school employee involved.

The Administrator: Step One

If the individual is unable to resolve a problem or concern with the employee, the individual may file a written, signed complaint with the administrator within five working days of the employee's response. The administrator shall evaluate the complaint and render a decision within five working days after receiving the complaint. (A form is available, but is not required.)

The Superintendent: Step Two

If Step One does not resolve the complaint, within 10 working days of the written response from the administrator, the complainant may file a written, signed complaint with the superintendent or designee clearly stating the nature of the complaint and a suggested remedy.

The superintendent or designee shall investigate the complaint, confer with the complainant and the parties involved, prepare a report of their findings and conclusion, and provide the report in writing or in an electronic form to the complainant within 10 working days after receiving the written complaint.

The Board: Step Three

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the superintendent's or designee's findings and conclusion, the complainant may appeal the decision to the Board within five working days of receiving the superintendent's decision. The Board will review the findings and conclusion of the superintendent in a public meeting to determine what action is appropriate. The Board may use executive session if the subject matter qualifies under Oregon law. Appropriate action may include, but is not limited to, holding a hearing, requesting additional information, and adopting the superintendent's decision as the district's final decision. All parties involved, including the school administration, may be asked to attend such hearing for the purposes of making further explanations and clarifying the issues.

If the Board chooses not to hear the complaint, the superintendent's decision in Step Two is final.

The Board may hold the hearing in executive session if the subject matter qualifies under Oregon law.

The complainant shall be informed in writing or in electronic form of the Board's decision within 30 days from the receipt of the appeal by the Board. The Board's decision will address each allegation in the complaint and contain reasons for the district's decision. The Board's decision will be final.

The timelines may be extended upon written agreement between the district and the complainant.

The district's final decision for a complaint processed under this administrative regulation that alleges a violation of Oregon Administrative rule (OAR) Chapter 581, Division 22 (Division 22 Standards), ORS 339.285 - 339.303 or OAR 581-021-0550 - 581-021-0570 (Restraint and Seclusion), or ORS 659.852 (Retaliation), will be issued in writing or electronic form. The final decision will address each allegation in the complaint and contain reasons for the district's decision. If the complainant, who is a student, parent or guardian of a student attending school in the district or a person that resides in the district, and this complaint is not resolved through the complaint process, the complainant may appeal[1] the district's final decision to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction under Oregon OARs 581-002-0001 – 581-002-0023.

Complaints against the principal should be filed with the superintendent. The superintendent will attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint remains unresolved within 10 working days of receipt by the superintendent, the complainant may request to place the complaint on the Board agenda at the next regularly scheduled or special Board meeting. The Board may use executive session if the subject matter qualifies under Oregon law. The Board shall decide, within 20 days, in open session what action, if any, is warranted. A final written decision regarding the complaint shall be issued by the Board within 30 days of receipt of the request to place the complaint on the Board agenda. The written decision of the Board will address each allegation in the complaint and reasons for the district's decision.

Complaints against the superintendent should be referred to the Board chair on behalf of the Board. The Board chair shall present the complaint to the Board in a Board meeting. If the Board decides an investigation is warranted, the Board may refer the investigation to a third party. When the investigation is complete, the results will be presented to the Board. The Board shall decide, within 20 days, in open session what action, if any, is warranted. The Board may use executive session if the subject matter qualifies under Oregon law. A final written decision regarding the complaint shall be issued by the Board within 30 days of receipt of the complaint. The written decision of the Board will address each allegation in the complaint and reasons for the district's decision.

Complaints against the Board as a whole or against an individual Board member should be referred to the Board chair on behalf of the Board. The Board chair shall present the complaint to the Board in a Board meeting. If the Board decides an investigation is warranted, the Board may refer the investigation to a third party. When the investigation is complete, the results will be presented to the Board. The Board shall decide, within 20 days, in open session what action, if any, is warranted. A final written decision regarding the complaint shall be issued by the Board within 30 days of receipt of the complaint. The written decision of the Board will address each allegation in the complaint and reasons for the district's decision.

Complaints against the Board chair may be referred directly to the district counsel on behalf of the Board. The district counsel shall present the complaint to the Board in a Board meeting. If the Board decides an investigation is warranted, the Board may refer the investigation to a third party. When the investigation is complete, the results will be presented to the Board. The Board shall decide, within 20 days, in open session what action, if any, is warranted. A final written decision regarding the complaint shall be issued by the Board within 30 of receipt of the complaint. The written decision of the Board will address each allegation in the complaint and reasons for the district's decision.

[1] An appeal must meet the criteria found in OAR 581-002-0005(1)(a).

Banks School District

COMPLAINT FORM

To: □ Employee* □ Administrator/Supervisor* □ Superintendent □ Board chair □ Board vice chair * Form available but is not required.

Person Making Complaint _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Nature of Complaint _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Who should we talk to and what evidence should we consider? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Suggested solution/resolution/outcome: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Signature of Complainant: _____ Date: _____

Office Use

Disposition of Complaint: _____

_____

_____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

cc: District Office