



Siletz Valley School

245 James Frank Ave, Siletz, OR 97380

Phone: (541) 444-1100 Fax: (541) 444-2368

August 21, 2025

To: Lincoln County School District Superintendent, Dr. Majalise Tolan and the LCSD School Board
From: Siletz Valley School Interim-Superintendent, Debra Barnes
Re: Charter and Lease Agreements and Charter Law Compliance Concerns

Dr. Tolan and the LCSD School Board,

This letter serves as our response to the formal notice of concerns dated July 21, 2025, regarding Siletz Valley School's compliance based on the Oregon School Board Association's 2023 report with the LCSD Charter Agreement, LCSD lease agreement and the Oregon Charter Laws.

First, we would like to thank LCSD for their continued support of our students and the programs that make Siletz Valley School such a valuable asset to the county school district. SVS also feels it's important to state that while the Interim Superintendent is capable of providing all necessary goals, guidance, and follow through for this response, an active search is underway to find a Superintendent. We are hopeful that these statements can be updated and/or changed based on new incoming leadership, if necessary.

1. SVS stated that an ELL plan was not applicable; however, all schools should have an ELL plan ready in case a student enrolls who qualifies for services. ELL students now attend SVS and current ELL plan implementation must be monitored.
 - a. *SVS has created a draft English Language Learner Plan. They are confirmed to work with Kim Miller at ODE to ensure completion of the state template. This is a year long training to create the plan and enter data into the ODE template. After the plan is finalized and board approved, it will be placed on the school website. This is a fluid document and all components will be updated as needed.*
2. Teachers' licensure has continued to be found out of compliance with TSPC. All teacher licenses must be compliant with TSPC and charter law at all times, effective immediately.
 - a. *SVS was found to have two teachers during the 2024-2025 school year, without proper licensure. This was immediately addressed by conferring with both educators, placing licensed personnel in the classrooms during instructional time, and filing complaints with TSPC to advise of failure to be compliant. TSPC has responded that no further action was necessary. Both educators immediately filed to have licenses renewed and both have been issued current licenses with TSPC.*



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5. Deliverables and required reporting (federal and state grants, and district programs) continue to be untimely, necessitating repeated reminders from LCSD staff. All reporting deadlines must consistently be met and documented.
 - a. *SVS recognized this as an issue and restructured their administrative team on June 3, 2025. As of August 15, 2025, SVS is current on all federal, state, and tribal grant requests. SVS and the SVS School Board will continue to monitor the dates of grant submissions and reporting to ensure that all dates are met and documented. A past spreadsheet with timelines has been resurrected to help with this organization of dates.*

6. Although a comprehensive plan to improve academic performance is in place, focused particularly on the areas which caused the State to designate SVS as a Targeted Support and Improvement School (TSI), most results have remained at Level 1, based on 2023-2024 ODE reporting. TSI results must show adequate improvement either through an increase to a Level 2 in all categories or similar progress on a nationally normed, locally administered, internal assessment (EasyCBM, Acadience, SBAC, DIBLES, iReady, etc.) Benchmarking and progress monitoring from local assessments must be reviewed with LCSD administration quarterly.
 - a. *Benchmarking and progress monitoring has consistently been reviewed with the SVS Board, however SVS recognizes the need for further attention and review of the academic data. Interim Superintendent Barnes and Superintendent Tolan met to review the assessments given at SVS and the quarterly review that will be begin to increase scores at SVS. SVS is working with LCSD data experts to understand how the data can be pulled and used to increase student achievement. SVS did spend targeted time and effort in increasing student achievement during the 2024-2025 school year. They are hopeful that the data reflects the effort.*

7. SVS previously established a goal to increase attendance. However, as of June 2025, SVS' regular attendance rate was 39.9%. An improvement plan must be drafted and submitted to LCSD. The plan must be comprehensive and may include strategies such as specific parent outreach, modification of the school day and/or school year calendar, and dedication of resources to ensuring that students are attending school. The plan must include specific dates for implementation of each component, as well as specific quantitative targets and dates for meeting each of those targets.
 - a. *The SVS Attendance goal for the 24-25 school year was 56.7%. SVS did suffer a significant loss and experienced a traumatic event in March 2025 that impacted the entire community and many students in all grades.*



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- b. SVS staff is working together during inservice week to create a plan to meet the 57% goal for 25-26. Staff met on 8/18 to review data and gather input. SVS will continue with grade-level band meetings to discuss a 1st quarter plan and annual goal. SVS is working with ODE to receive coaching in Equitable Mindsets, Systems and Practices. SVS also works directly with the TAPP program to increase attendance and work with tribal families.*
8. While the SVS graduation rate had been reported by ODE at 100%, due to other metrics reported and the fact that SVS has been designated as a Targeted Support and Improvement School, the accuracy of this information needs to be verified and any supporting evidence must be cited and documented. The 2023-2024 graduation rate reported by ODE was 67%. The 9th Grade On Track rate was 78% (an improvement from the 2022-2023 rate of 28%). Both of these data points need monthly monitoring and documentation.
 - a. SVS has experienced a lot of turnover in the personnel that worked directly with Seniors regarding graduation from 2019-2023.*
 - b. The 23-24 class had 14 Seniors with two students unable to graduate. This is 85.71%*
 - c. The 24-25 class had 22 Seniors, 1 Junior on Modified and one 12+. Two seniors did not graduate, as they came to SVS with significant credit deficiencies and are set to graduate this year as 12+ students. 91.67%*
 - d. SVS is seeking assistance from LCSD as to how those numbers are reported. The next ODE summary has improvements listed in these areas.*
9. SVS must ensure that financial reporting is timely. Long-term financial health indicators continue to need to be examined. It is uncertain if grant funds, Siletz Tribal Charitable Trust and Charter Equity are budgeted accurately for the 2025-2026 school year. Updated budget documents must be submitted with a narrative providing clarity around anticipated funds.
 - a. SVS acknowledges that the financials were not being sent to LCSD on a monthly basis.*
 - b. The 5/20/2025 adopted budget for charitable contribution fund was budgeted at \$376K for the 25-26 SY. An award for the full amount has been received and budgeted accurately.*
 - c. Charter Equity - although the state has indicated likely reductions between 40-50%, SVS has not received the new official grant award amount. In anticipation of the reduction, SVS has taken steps to pause consumable spending and not fill a budgeted position in Charter Equity as preparation.*
 - d. The website has been updated and the budget for this year has been added.*
10. Oregon Public Meetings Laws must be followed, including but not limited to timely meeting notice and agenda publication, public posting of minutes, and recordings of meetings. From this point forward, SVS must document its compliance for every board meeting, and submit this documentation to LCSD on a monthly basis.



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- a. *The new SVS website (www.siletzvalleyschools.org) went live August 5, 2025. With this launch, the board meetings, agendas, minutes and some recordings have been uploaded to the website. In addition, SVS School Board has all new members and has received the Essential Skills Training by OSBA on August 13, 2025. SVS will continue to learn and seek assistance from OSBA, COSA and OGEC for compliance guidance.*
- b. *SVS School Board has been invited to attend LCSD Board Training on August 26, 2025. and is planning to attend.*

In accordance with the charter and lease agreements, LCSD stands ready to support SVS in these required steps toward improvement and compliance. However, due to the timing of these findings, the lack of consistent leadership, and the imminent start of a new school year, SVS must comply with all requirements and submissions set forth above within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter.

After SVS' initial submissions, SVS superintendent and administration must meet with LCSD monthly to review compliance with the requirements set forth above. These monthly meetings must continue for 24 months.

SVS understands the requirements of the lease and charter agreement. Thank you for accepting this submission. SVS looks forward to working with LCSD for the betterment of all students in our community and county.

Best Regards,

Debra Barnes

Interim Superintendent

Siletz Valley School

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