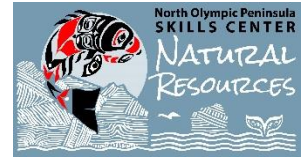




# NOPSC Natural Resources Issues and Answers

May 5, 2015



## Student and Teacher Participation

Issue	Answer
1. There is very little teacher contact time for students	The teacher has direct personal contact with students weekly and depending on the class, the teacher spends 5-60% of the total learning time in-person with students. This aligns completely with state ALE rules ( <a href="http://digitalllearning.k12.wa.us/ale/support/4.php">digitalllearning.k12.wa.us/ale/support/4.php</a> ).
2. Volunteers are providing direct instruction	PASD volunteers help provide “learning activities,” but it is the certified NR teacher who provides “direct instruction.” This aligns with <a href="#">state ALE rule 3c</a> .
3. PASD is liable for students working away from school	Students sign up as official volunteers with their host organizations and are covered by those organizations’ insurance policies ( <a href="#">RCW 51.12.170</a> ).
4. Students do not meet for the required hours	Students meet in-person with the teacher or NR professional for 60% of the Skills Center-required 540 hours and work independently for the other 40% of the hours ( <a href="#">Skills Center WAC 392-600-030(4)</a> ). There is no minimum teacher contact time in ALE ( <a href="#">State ALE rule 4b</a> ).
5. ALE classes are not allowed at Skills Centers	On 3/4/15 via email, OSPI’s CTE Director Betty Klattenhoff confirmed that ALE classes are allowed at Skills Centers. In addition to the NR program, NOPSC offers and plans to continue an IT Tech ALE program.
6. Counselors do not know the NR students’ classes	Counselors sign every enrollment form; forms clearly state the class(es) for which the student will enroll ( <a href="http://nopsc.org/natural-resources/enrolment">nopsc.org/natural-resources/enrolment</a> ). Additionally, the teacher regularly sends lists of enrolled students, classes and credits to counselors in all schools.
7. Students are kept enrolled after asking to drop	The only time this happens is when students under 18 do not yet have NOPSC-required parental permission to drop. All student drops are documented and follow this published class procedure: <a href="http://nopsc.esd114.wednet.edu/mod/page/view.php?id=1820">nopsc.esd114.wednet.edu/mod/page/view.php?id=1820</a> .
8. Students are not attending	Attendance is on par with classes serving at-risk youth and other NOPSC classes. When students miss scheduled sessions, the teacher communicates with them directly.
9. The student pass rate is too low	1 <sup>st</sup> semester of 2014-15, 75% of students earned credit in English, science and/or CTE. This is on par with other NOPSC and remedial science classes at high schools. There are many at-risk students earning academic credits, and performance standards are set and kept to.
10. Enrollment is low	There has been an average of 69 students enrolled over the 2014-15 school year. Counting students who transferred out at semester or other times, 100 different students have enrolled in the NR program in 2014-15.
11. There is only one student enrolled	The Cultural and Natural Resources 1 class has 1 student but is not proposed for continuation. On 4/1/15, the NR Options class had 48 and the NR 2 class had 16 students.

## Economic Analysis

Issue	Answer
12. Program was losing ~\$30K in Sep and ~\$22.5K in Feb	Inaccurate enrollment numbers and budget assumptions were provided by the NOPSC Director to the Administrative Council in September and February. Also, dozens of completed enrollment forms were submitted to NOPSC administration but not entered into the system to receive state funding.
13. Program is in the red for the 2014-15 school year	An official PASD report created in May, 2015 by the PASD Finance Director shows the program bringing in a profit of ~\$37K (including data for state FTE funding from actual monthly enrollment records, expenses from salary & benefits, miscellaneous costs, and 20% overhead). ~\$15K of confirmed grants are not included in this profit.
14. Program is in the red for five years	The program was in the red in 2012-13 and 2013-14, but not 2010-11, 2011-12 or 2014-15. This does not include summer school or grants, which put the program in the black each of the last five years.
15. District may have to pay FTE funding back to the state	The given rationale was that it would be due to the 75% student pass rate. WEA confirmed that this is not true.
16. ALE classes are funded at 80% of the state CTE rate	According to current PASD financial reports ( <a href="http://www.k12.wa.us/safs/rep/app/1415/05121app.pdf">www.k12.wa.us/safs/rep/app/1415/05121app.pdf</a> ), the ALE funding rate is \$5,755/FTE, or 86% of the full Skills Center rate of \$6,682/FTE.
17. ALE classes are not economically viable	The lower ALE funding rate requires more students to be enrolled in ALE classes, which is the case with the NR program, which has an average FTE of 20.
18. NR Options class will not be funded by the state	After 2014-15, NOPSC classes offered for <540 hours will not be funded; therefore, all NR Options classes will require 540 hours. The NR teacher requested that this change be made 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 2014-15 but was denied.

## Performance History

Issue	Answer
19. Program has declining enrollment over the years	The average annual student enrollment FTE has grown steadily from 11.7 in 2010-11 to 20.0 in 2014-15.
20. Program audits will have major findings	A state ALE audit of the program was completed in 2014-15 and no follow-up was required. All required ALE paperwork is complete, accurate and on-file.
21. Program is in violation of district policies	The NR program has responded quickly to remedy any violations. For example, now all community members working with students are official PASD volunteers.
22. The teacher cannot offer English and science credits	The NR program went through science and English credit equivalency processes, which were then approved by the PASD Board. The NR teacher is highly-qualified in science and in May, 2015 will have a science certificate.

## Evolution of Program

Issue	Answer
23. Program has too many teachers	From 2008-14, the program went from 0.5 to 1.0 to 1.4 teachers and added 2 summer teachers. In 2015, the program lost a 0.4 school year teacher.
24. Teacher was told in 2013-14 of the program's end	NOPSC Administrative Council minutes from early-2014 say the NR teacher would be told of a pending reduction; no such communication ever happened.
25. ALE is not the right way to run this program	The NR program fits state rules for CTE 'instructional worksite learning' ( <a href="#">WAC 392-410-315</a> ) and could be run as such. The NR teacher is certified in worksite learning.
26. NOPSC needs to make room for new programs	The NR program has changed over time, filling essential niches such as senior projects, community service, and credit recovery for area school districts. The program has consistently grown and has many student success stories.

## Sustainability of Program

Issue	Answer
27. Students do not want to enroll in the program	In 2014-15, 100 different students from Sequim, Port Angeles, Forks and La Push enrolled in the program. 20 students and parents have co-signed "intent to enroll in NR 2 class in 2015-16" affidavits.
28. ALE rules change all the time	ALE rules have had two significant changes since 2008 and various small changes. Through all these changes, the NR program has stayed in compliance.
29. There are not many natural resource jobs	The Olympic Peninsula has abundant and growing natural resource job opportunities for people with all levels of education and training. Dozens of Natural Resources students have gained jobs and paid internships after their time in the program.
30. Not many students in Port Angeles take classes	The program vision is to provide a pathway including preparatory classes and internships that lead to natural resource jobs and post-secondary education for students in all five NOPSC consortium districts.

## Grants are Gravy

Issue	Answer
31. There is no record of the grants received	More than \$50K of grants have come directly to PASD for the Natural Resources program since 2008.
32. Grants do not pay for teacher salaries	Natural Resources grants have covered equipment, transportation, student activities, overhead and other costs. Most NR grants are flexible allowing PASD or NOPSC to allocate funds as they choose.
33. Grants are not reliable	Past funders have publicly stated that they want to keep funding the program, and there is already an \$8,600 grant approved for the next two years.