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Jeff Clark, Superintendent

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February 10, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As Superintendent of the Oakland School District, I am writing to express my strong support for the \$15 million state legislative grant request to help fund the Douglas County Youth Sports Park. This project will be a transformational opportunity for our students and our community, addressing the challenges of limited access to quality sports facilities while also improving livability and making our region more attractive to professionals and families.

At Oakland School District, our mission is to provide each student a diverse education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation, and excellence in learning. Athletics play a key role in that mission, helping students develop discipline, teamwork, and perseverance—skills that will serve them for life. However, our ability to provide these opportunities is severely limited by the lack of available fields and court space.

The Douglas County Youth Sports Park will change that by giving every child access to high-quality fields and courts, ensuring that participation in sports isn't limited to families who can afford to travel for competitive teams. More of our students will have the opportunity to stay active, develop skills, and engage in positive, structured activities—which are known to improve academic performance, mental health, and social development.

Beyond the direct benefits to our students, this project is a major step forward for our entire community. Schools, businesses, and healthcare providers all struggle to recruit and retain professionals in rural areas, and families often look at local recreational opportunities when deciding where to live and work. Right now, the lack of sports facilities makes it harder for Oakland and other



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rural communities to compete with larger cities for teachers, doctors, and other essential professionals. The Youth Sports Park will make Douglas County a more attractive place for families to settle, strengthening our schools and local economy in the process.

For our students, for our families, and for the future of our community, I strongly urge full support for this funding request. The Douglas County Youth Sports Park is an investment that will benefit generations of students and help Oakland and all of Douglas County continue to grow and thrive.

Sincerely,

Jeff Clark
Superintendent
Oakland School District