



2670 Milwaukee Street Madison, WI 53704

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Dear Super Intendant and Madison Board of Education,

It has come to our attention that MMSD administration is recommending the "surplussing" of the .5 FTE position which is currently teaching as part of the Legacy program at Operation Fresh Start(OFS). This position is not surplus and the discontinuation of this position will negatively impact the MMSD and OFS partnership and the quality of instruction provided MMSD students at Operation Fresh Start. All this while saving the district under \$25,000 per year.

The .5 FTE MMSD position was initially built into the successful MMSD/OFS partnership in 2013 (I have to look back at the exact year.) The position is actually a full-time teacher that is a .5 OFS employee and a .5 MMSD employee with OFS currently covering all insurance costs. As well as providing instruction to young people attending co-enrolled programming, this position is integral in maintaining a coordinated partnership between MMSD and OFS. This is the MMSD teacher position that oversees the delivery of the Legacy program curriculum and assures student rigor and recommends students to MMSD School Board for graduation. (A complete listing of this positions duties is attached.)

If this position is surplussed, MMSD will not be fulfilling its role in instruction and oversight of student progress towards graduation. Other MMSD responsibilities including the administering and implementing Special Education plans. The special education students at OFS will not have an MMSD staff person engaging in their daily education to advise and implement these plans.

And the financial savings are minimal. Currently, since the person in this position is stationed 40 hours a week at Operation Fresh Start, all insurance benefit are provided to this position through OFS. This is a \$17,000 cost to OFS which supports the MMSD teacher. With transportation time necessary for this person to get to another .5 FTE position within MMSD, he won't be able to attain a full .5 FTE worktime at OFS and will not be able to access OFS benefits. As such, the occupant of this position, without benefits provided through OFS, will use MMSD insurance benefits. The half time salary savings to MMSD of this position being surplussed is \$25,000. The budget impact will be much less. (.5 FTE – added benefit cost) The total budget savings will be less than \$12,000. This isn't a significant budget savings – there is likely a more efficient way to save \$12,000 in next years budget.





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Operation Fresh Start strongly encourages the MMSD Board of Education to not make this cut in resources to serve its most at need students. Operation Fresh Start provides a fresh start to young people, predominately young people of color, that have not found success at MMSD schools. Please maintain the current investment in these young people at OFS who are most at need. Please don't take away this teacher and their opportunity for a fresh start from MMSD students at Operation Fresh Start.

Sincerely,

Gregory Markle

Gregory Markle

Executive Director

