



January 14, 2014

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to raise concerns about AB 618 regarding student data. Our district is conservative in our use of student data in order to protect the privacy of our students and families.

This bill, however, creates barriers to serving all students well, especially those who may need additional support. For example, in many of our schools, we have partnerships with community organizations to provide tutoring for students who need extra support. These restrictions would call into question how we work with those volunteers to ensure students get the targeted support they need.

We are also concerned about the implications for data tools that help our teachers gauge student progress and plan instruction. We work with experienced consultants to set up and maintain those systems – systems that help teachers make important decisions for instruction.

Rather than protect students, this bill would create barriers to serving every student well and to providing additional services to the students who need them.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Strauch-Nelson on my staff at 663-1903 or rmstrauchnel@madison.k12.wi.us. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cheatham, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Madison Metropolitan School District