



March 5, 2015

Dear Legislators,

I am writing today about our concerns about AB 32. I want you to know that our strategy as a district is aimed at raising achievement for all students and closing achievement gaps. We are incredibly focused on this work. However, we are concerned that changes to the SAGE Program do not move us closer to our goals.

We know that our community, staff and families value the class sizes that we are able to maintain thanks to the SAGE Program. The two additional strategies identified in the bill – one-to-one tutoring and instructional coaching – are already in use across our district. As a district that already makes use of these strategies, we are concerned that the bill would dilute the impact of the SAGE Program at a time when public schools are facing major cuts in the state budget proposal.

It would also place an additional reporting requirement on our schools. As a district, we continually track our progress and report publicly once a quarter on our work. We also report on student achievement, across all student groups at both the school and district level annually.

While we have concerns about this bill, we share the goal of closing gaps and raising achievement for all children. We are dedicated to that goal and working hard every day toward it, and we would be happy to talk with you more about how the state can truly support those efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Cheatham".

Jennifer Cheatham
Superintendent
Madison Metropolitan School District