



January 10, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD.) In 2015, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was reauthorized into the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA.) Among many other important items, ESSA included foster care provisions that were implemented here in MMSD in December of 2016. These provisions resulted in increased collaboration between MMSD and Dane County Human Services regarding students placed in out of home care. Over the last year, we are noticeably doing a better job of making enrollment decisions based on the best interest of these students with the continued focus on maintaining educational stability. There is still work that needs to be done. The proposed Bill AB 780 would allow for the additional communication between schools and county agencies that is necessary in order for students placed in out of home care to be not only educationally stable, but also successful. School input during permanency reviews, notifications when students are placed in out of home care, and immediate transfer of pupil records are logical next steps on the work necessary to ensure that our students placed in foster care are college, career, and community ready.