



IN MY SHOES, INC – THE EDUCATION CENTER

Serving, Supporting, and Educating Parents on Education

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August 6, 2009

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] Highest Levelled Administrators and Stakeholders,

This letter is written on behalf of [REDACTED] - a rising 6th grader, in conjunction with [REDACTED] mother, [REDACTED] and addresses [REDACTED] educational needs.

We are asking that the seat at [REDACTED], which was first given to [REDACTED], be honored for the main reason that [REDACTED] educational needs are best met at this school.

Here's the argument:

Although the goal of NCLB is to close the academic disparity (educational divide) that exists between white and non-white students, the Spirit of NCLB is to allow the opportunity for a child to progress in a better academic setting by decreasing the at - risk academic environment. However, NCLB doesn't work because, in this particular case, as you will conclude, NCLB can actually lead to a child being placed in a school that is worse than the child's prior academic setting and increase the at-risk environment of the child.

In essence, NCLB will be the primary cause for [REDACTED] going *backwards* into a substandard academic environment that does not meet [REDACTED] educational needs and as such, creates an at-risk state including and not limited to regression.

Background

Back in August 2008, [REDACTED] was bullied and physically assaulted (a student struck [REDACTED]). At that time, we ask that [REDACTED] be moved under NCLB Safe School Choice. (Note: All documentations to this matter are on file). [REDACTED] was moved to [REDACTED] to complete 5th grade.

[REDACTED] ITBS Test results were: Reading – 91, Math – 64, and Composite 78. (Results on file)

[REDACTED] ended [REDACTED] 5th grade year with **all A's**. (Note: a letter of recommendation is on file.)

█████ joined the Orchestra, where the violin was █████ instrument of choice. █████ musical intelligence and skills earned █████ placement into the █████ honor's orchestra. (Note: a letter of recommendation is on file.)

Middle School Selection Process

In Spring 2009, █████ completed a school choice application for █████ because of the school's ability to meet █████ academic and musical intelligence. This application was denied because of the Math ITBS score. However, █████ proven math skills and abilities, consistently demonstrated throughout the school year, more than erased any questionable deficiencies exhibited on one day of math testing in the fall.

Continuing, █████ was informed that █████ default Middle School would not automatically be █████ which is the feeder school for █████. █████ has the academics and orchestra to meet █████ educational needs.

Therefore, an application for Administrative Transfer was submitted.

In June, a letter of acceptance into █████ was received by █████ (attached).

This, being a surprise, was forwarded to █████ office. Eventually, we were told that the letter was submitted in error; █████ was an out-of-zone student.

This was a crushing blow.

[Only four Middle Schools have the demonstrated academic climate that meets █████ academic needs (██) and three have a successful strings program (██).]

We pressed on. We submitted an application under HB 251.

Under NCLB, █████ is listed as Not Met AYP and placed on the NI list. As a result, an application under NCLB is submitted. We requested █████ (Note: At the time, we were not sure if █████ had a strings program. We later learned it didn't.) █████ determined that the schools were invalid. We made a diligent effort to explain to █████ that the schools listed, if selected, would cause a child, █████, to be moved *backwards*. To our knowledge, the application was invalidated.

We pressed forward.

We informed █████ of all our efforts and waited. Needless to say, █████ has demonstrated an impeccable professionalism and understanding that is better than premier.

We also submitted a letter showing █████ involvement in █████ Youth Orchestra. Because of █████ skills, █████ plans on traveling to South Africa this December with the group.

We truly understand the limits of any one department.

Resolution:

We are asking that the seat given to [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] be honored for the main reason that [REDACTED] educational needs are best met at this school.

It is inconceivable, unthinkable, unimaginable, and beyond belief and yet, at the same time, highly probable that if the highest educators in [REDACTED] do not intervene, [REDACTED] could realistically be placed in an educational environment deficient in meeting [REDACTED] educational needs and creating a state where [REDACTED] is at - risk.

To the highest level of exhibiting unprofessionalism and being unethical, we (including I) should all have our educator's license revoked if we stand by and allow this to happen.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Austin

Founder

In My Shoes, Inc. – The Education Center

[REDACTED]

Parent

Cc:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]