

July 22, 2013

Brandon W. Robinson  
District Administrator  
Unity School District  
1908 150th Street, Hwy 46 North  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810-7267

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Re: Wisconsin State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) – LEA Cohort Selection

I am pleased to announce that Unity Middle School has been awarded the LEA Cohort Grant, which is funded by the Wisconsin State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). This five-year grant will assign significant resources to your school to facilitate implementation of evidence-based, effective professional learning communities (PLCs) to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

As we increase our statewide efforts to ensure that every child graduates ready for further education and the workplace, this grant provides opportunities to strengthen our commitment to raising graduation rates and closing achievement gaps for students with disabilities. PLCs have been shown to improve student outcomes by addressing the big questions:

- What and how should students learn?
- How do we know if they've learned it?
- What do we do if they don't?
- What do we do when they have?

The LEA Cohort Grant will provide Unity Middle School with on-site coaching, supportive partnerships with statewide resources, and induction into an online community of other committed educational professionals. This commitment of resources will continue for five years, subject to annual review, with the intention of creating a sustainable community that may be replicated throughout the district and the state.

Debra Ahrens, SPDG Project Director, will contact the school administrator listed on the grant application in August to provide more information on developing a budget and reviewing next steps.

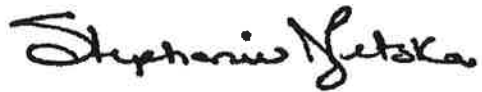
Brandon W. Robinson

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July 19, 2013

Congratulations on your inclusion in this dynamic cohort of twenty-six grant schools with a joint mission to increase educational success for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie J. Petska". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie J. Petska, Ph.D., Director  
Special Education  
Division for Learning Support

SJP:jas

c: Elizabeth Jorgensen, Principal  
Dawn Western, Director of Special Education