



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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July 25, 2016

Deirdra Hilliard
Office of Safe and Healthy Schools
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW, Rm 3E259
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Ms. Hilliard,

I would like to add my support to Saint Paul Public Schools' (SPPS) application to the Promoting Student Resilience grant program. By bringing together community partners and Saint Paul parents, I believe the proposed program will help our city's young people better navigate the complex and highly emotional issues that our nation is grappling with as we confront issues of race and equity in our communities.

All students deserve a safe place and the caring attention of a trusted adult to help them work through the difficult feelings provoked by the violence and unrest they have seen around them. Community members – of all races and backgrounds – deserve a forum for discussing current events and finding common ground. Teachers and school administrators deserve support in developing the skills to help their students process their grief and trauma, both now and in the future.

The citizens of Saint Paul do best when they band together to achieve common purpose. This grant-funded program will provide an effective way to open dialogue and come together for the good of SPPS students.

Sincerely,

Chris Coleman
Mayor of Saint Paul