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Public Hearing – February 27, 2015
Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Budget

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Committee Members;

I am urging you on behalf of all the families at Moriarty and Wequonnoc Magnet Schools to not cut funding to the Family School Connection Program. This program provides much needed services to strengthen families, helps to prevent child abuse and neglect and helps parents increase their level of involvement in their children's education. The Family School Connection Program also helps parents increase their knowledge of Parenting and of Child Development, help parents develop social connections, increase concrete supports and develop parental resilience. Since inception, it has helped over 100 families, which include 142 parents and 165 children.

The Family School Connection Program has provided the following areas of support to parents:

- **Parent education** which includes child development, nurturing and attachment; stress management; budgeting and crisis intervention strategies.
- **Parent school connections** which includes attending meeting with parents at the school; increasing parents comfort level in communicating with their child's teacher; connecting families to support programs in the school such as Bridges, Family Resource Center, School Governance Council, PTO and Pre-K programs; helping parents connect to adult education and ESL services, helping parents obtain school uniforms and effective homework strategies.
- **Case Management** which includes supports to maintain quality of life, housing, food, clothing, utilities, child care, transportation, behavioral and dental health services and employment.

Cutting funding to this program will leave families without the support to increase their coping strategies that allow them to parent effective, even when under stress. It also will affect children's ability to be successful in school. Children are most successful when parents are involved in their children's education. The Family School Connection Program works to help parents meet their quality of life needs so they can be more involved with their children's educational needs. This program has been helpful to school staff as well as helping parents and children. Please consider maintaining the funding for the Family School Connection Program.

Why invest in this program? Prevention Works, Prevention Saves and it's an Investment in our Future.