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SUPERINTENDENT LARRY G. BERGESON, M.ED.

December 13, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I appreciate the opportunity of writing this letter expressing my support of Jack Rolfe and his "School of Life" program. Jack first introduced this program into our School District during the 2011-2012 school year. It was initially introduced at Desert Hills High School, and is now in all but one of our District's high schools. It has been one of the main reasons our graduation rate has, for the first time in years, risen above the state average.

The "School of Life" program offers a very practical and beneficial approach to addressing the restitution requirements for students who accrue attendance points. In the past students would spend many non-productive hours sitting in classrooms making up time owed for classes with excessive absences in order to earn credit. It was always a struggle to get students to attend, and the cost and motivation for students was prohibitive.

The "School of Life" is composed of four, two-hour classes, taught by the program's instructors. A strong character education curriculum is taught to attending students at no cost to them, and credit is given to cover the restitution hours needed. For many students owing high numbers of restitution hours, successful completion of the course will cover many, if not all, of the hours owed. The change in the attitude and motivation of attending students has been remarkable, and is well worth the compromise on the hours. Attending students leave the class with a strong appreciation for life, and those supporting them, improve their GPA, and have little or no attendance problems afterwards.

In conclusion, I highly recommend Jack Rolfe and his "School of Life" program for any school looking to address their student attendance problems in a much more proactive and successful way. Our graduation rate has seen a very positive change since the inception of this program into our District, and we would foresee the same results for any school or district that chooses to implement this program. If you have further questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Larry Bergeson

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