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Madison, IN - Madison Consolidated Schools receives \$205,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Madison Consolidated Schools has received a grant of \$205,000 from Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of the Endowment's Comprehensive Counseling Initiative for Indiana K-12 Students.

Madison Consolidated Schools is one of 52 public school corporations and five charter schools in Indiana selected to implement plans to help them meet the complex academic, college, career, and social and emotional counseling needs of their students.

"We are extremely honored and excited to receive this grant," shares Angela Vaughn - Director of Special Education and Student Services. "We currently have excellent resources available for our students; however, this grant will enable us to further define a K-12 multi-tiered process of supports which will align our resources and services more proactively and efficiently across the board. We want to be very purposeful in how we use these funds."

Last April, Madison Consolidated Schools hosted a community meeting where members from a number of organizations came together to better understand the needs of the youth in our community. Madison school counselors shared data with the group on student attendance, mental health indicators, course failures in content areas, academic and career readiness indicators, and mortality rates. "A number of these elements fit within the ongoing Healthy Communities Initiative," states Vaughn. "The grant will enable us to expedite the work identified early on in the implementation grant phase and complement the objectives and goals of we have identified as needs within our community. We are very excited to work together with the Healthy Communities teams to plan our work in order to reach our community through our students and families."

Over the three-year period, a portion of the funding is designated for two consultative partnerships. On the front end, the American Institutes for Research will assist the counseling team within district to develop a process for early detection. The Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring System (EWIMS) will use performance predictors such as student attendance, discipline referrals, and student GPA to monitor and identify at-risk behaviors. Research indicates changes in any of these areas may be indicative of situation where proactive, intrusive counseling would benefit the student to address small issues before they escalate into larger problems which could be detrimental to the learning process.

As the process develops, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce will work with the team to establish an evaluation process by which the systems put in place will be evaluated by a third party and reported as a follow up to the grant requirements. "The larger focus of this initiative is to foster partnerships between schools and communities to ensure the needs of our children are being met," shares Vaughn. "This was a great opportunity to take a look at our existing processes and determine where our strengths lie and where we have opportunities. Collectively the schools awarded grants will have



opportunity to come together as a cohort and share learning throughout the process. We are very excited to be a part of that!”

In addition, the district will use a portion of the funding to extend curriculum and provide professional development for staff in areas of suicide prevention using Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) program. Exploration of extended social and emotional intervention curriculum and training is also identified as an area of focus. The amount of the grant to Madison Consolidated Schools was based on our total enrollment.

Through the Comprehensive Counseling Initiative for Indiana K-12 Students, the Endowment has made a total of \$26.4 million in implementation grants and \$9.1 million in planning grants to help public school corporations and charter schools across Indiana improve strategies for school counseling. During the competitive implementation grant phase of the initiative, 254 public school corporations and charter schools submitted implementation proposals totaling nearly \$90 million.

“The response from school corporations and charter schools far exceeded the Endowment’s expectations,” said Sara B. Cobb, the Endowment’s vice president for education. “We believe that this response indicates a growing awareness that enhanced and expanded counseling programs are urgently needed to address the academic, college, career and social and emotional counseling needs of Indiana’s K-12 students. We were most pleased to see how the schools engaged a wide variety of community stakeholders in assessing their students’ counseling needs and developing strategies to address them.”

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based, private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders’ wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.