



SEATTLE  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

December, 2014

The Honorable Dow Constantine  
County Executive

Re: King County Children and Family Justice Center  
Alder Academy

Dear Dow Constantine,

The King County Juvenile Detention Center is currently housed in County facilities at the Youth Service Center building. An Interagency program called Alder Academy serves students who are involved with the Division's Electronic Home Monitoring program, Juvenile Court involved youth, and status offenders. The curriculum of the Alder Academy is specially tailored to the needs of each of the youth involved. This is a partnership in which: Judges assign students to this program as an alternative to overnight detention; King County provides uniformed security; Seattle Schools provides instruction, and grants/other partners provide additional services.

Seattle Public Schools is committed to continuing the staffing and learning material needs for the operation of the program. Our current challenge is that the new building being constructed by King County did not initially include space or budget for the Alder Academy. Seattle Schools have been asked to cover the \$3.5 million in capital costs. This was not a capital expense anticipated by the school district and was not included in the most recent capital levy approved by voters in February of 2013. Therefore, Seattle Schools have been unable to agree to the funding of this facility. We have also found that detention facilities in Spokane and Tacoma where similar programs that serve students have been completed did not result in capital costs borne by the school district. Such capital costs have been covered by either the county or state.

We are fully supportive of Alder Academy and the students that are being served. We would like to continue the model that is currently being used by having students enrolled in the program receive their instruction at the King County Youth Service Center. As you can see by the attached letter, we have joined with the County in asking for legislative support in funding this facility. Thank you for your efforts in helping us secure \$3.5 million dollars for this important program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Nyland".

Larry Nyland, Ph. D.