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October 5, 2011

Dr. Donna Hargens, Superintendent  
Jefferson County Public Schools  
3332 Newburg Road  
Louisville, KY 40232

Dear Dr. Hargens:

As you know, The Wallace Foundation supported leadership development work in JPCS for ten years, from 2000 – 2010. That included various programs, among them the original SAM project. We also funded a third party evaluation by Policy Studies Associates as the program began to spread.

The Foundation's support of the original SAM program in JCPS assisted this program to scale to other states through JCPS. When Wallace funding ended, the program went to a fee for service model. During 2009-2010, we funded the work that recommended creation of the NSIP organization structure with the near-term transition to separate non-profit status. We funded the Non-Profit Finance Fund's work that recommended the cost model and the FSG Social Impact Advisors study that recommended the current NSIP structure along with its planned transition to a 501(c)3.

The NSIP Program Board's decision to file for 501(C)3 status is in keeping with the FSG recommendations adapted by JCPS administration. The creation of a governance and fee-for-service structure in March, 2009 has allowed SAM work to be scaled and sustained. Both district officials and consultants from FSG and the Non-profit Finance Fund recognized two years ago that NSIP would need to make this transition as NSIP developed its business plan as a fee for service model. I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Jody Spiro  
Interim Director of Education

cc: Tiffany Gerstner  
Mark Shellinger  
Roberta Hendee