

Attachment F, Exhibit 25



David B. Smith, Ed.D.
951 Walnut, Evansville, Indiana 47713
Phone (812) 435-8477 Fax (812) 435-8421
www.evscschools.com

Office of the Superintendent

March 20, 2024

Teresa Deaton-Reese
Procurement Consultant, Procurement Division
Indiana Department of Administration
402 West Washington Street, Room W468
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Ms. Deaton-Reese & Proposal Reviewers:

Please accept this letter of support for Youth First, Inc. and its proposal in response to the state's solicitation for Regional Evidence-Based School & Community Prevention Program (RFP 24-78769).

In my role as the Superintendent of the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC), I am grateful for our partnership with Youth First and the prevention expertise the organization brings to our schools. We rely on Youth First to provide mental health supports and evidence-based prevention programs for students, families, and teachers in 32 of our schools. Independent evaluations show this partnership produces positive results, including improvements in student resilience, coping skills, mood management, and school adjustment. These outcomes reduce the likelihood that students will engage in substance misuse and increase the likelihood that they will pursue healthy, productive futures.

Youth First's professionals, programs, and services support the EVSC's commitment to healthy whole student development through neuroeducation and Multi-tiered Systems of Support. We consider the partnership with Youth First essential to the success of our mission as educators, which is why the EVSC also invests funds each year to supplement the cost of these essential services. In addition, we provide an office for each social worker as well as classroom space when needed to promote Youth First's offerings to school communities, and refer students and families for confidential support.

The state's continued financial investment is critical to supporting the mental health and prevention needs of thousands of young people in Evansville, Vanderburgh County, and surrounding southern Indiana communities. Please give Youth First's proposal your strongest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

David B. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation
david.smith@evsck12.com or (812) 435-8477