

Dear Mr. Hall,

The Student Empowerment Program/Greatness Academy elective is having a positive and transformative impact on our students. The course currently serves students in grades 9-12. This year's class is an all male student class. We decided to separate students based on gender based on the idea that the understanding of the content is critical to at-risk youth and that mixed gender classes could potentially provide an opportunity for distractions in the receiving of such critical information.

The curriculum has been keenly constructed to provide the teacher with both structure and flexibility. With all the holistic elements of the course, one principle has been found to be unwavering: money motivates! It has been incredible to watch the students make the correlation between information and money. After continual reinforcement of the principle that their academic success in the present will result translate into their financial wellbeing in the future, I have seen a transformation in my students.

I must admit that I wasn't sure how the class would respond to such an innovative approach to motivating. I feared that students might be distracted by money in the classroom. I worried they might try to "play the system" in order to get their hands on a dollar or two. Oh how I was mistaken! After being introduced to the idea that they could attract money by acquiring information instead of chasing after it, I could see it in their faces that they wanted to become "money magnets".

There is no mistaking the impact of Student Empowerment Program. It is staggering to look at the difference in the classes I teach between my Greatness Academy and the other classes I teach. Attendance is higher. Tardiness is lower. There are fewer missing assignments, and the energy and motivation in the classroom is palpable. I would like to offer you my gratitude for your profound contribution to the effort to work with inner city, at-risk youth.

Sincerely,

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