



GREATER MADISON
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Resolution:
**Supporting Strategies to Eliminate the Achievement Gap in
Madison Public Schools**

December 15, 2011

The Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met on December 15, 2011, and adopted the following resolution:

Motion: The Board of Directors encourages a comprehensive approach to eliminate the student achievement gap currently present in Madison schools.

The Board strongly endorses the advancement of the Urban League of Greater Madison's proposed Madison Preparatory Academy. The Board also acknowledges and endorses the continued investment in successful strategies already employed by the Madison Metropolitan School District and the United Way of Dane County.

Comments:

The Chamber Board recognizes that there is no panacea or singular solution to eliminating the student racial achievement gap. Rather, a comprehensive approach should be employed utilizing multiple strategies to address this problem.

The Chamber Board acknowledges the work of community and school leaders who have worked tirelessly on this issue. In particular, the United Way of Dane County has demonstrated tremendous leadership to ensure all struggling students achieve better results. The GMCC is a partner in Schools of Hope, a collaborative community initiative aimed at reducing the achievement gap. In addition, the United Way is committing more than \$2 million over the next year for programs to address this issue.

The Madison Metropolitan School District has also established important programs in an effort to meet the needs of struggling students, including the AVID/TOPS program. These are meaningful actions that are producing real results.

However, clearly more can and must be done. The MMSD Board should be aggressive and support new ideas and approaches to reach students that are failing within our current system. That is why the Chamber Board endorses Madison Prep.

The potential benefits of the school are significant. As with any new, transformative initiative, there are operational issues that must be considered. The Chamber Board encourages the MMSD Board to work through any remaining issues with the Urban League to find a way to make Madison Prep a reality.