



Inman Intermediate School

"Where Everyone is a Shining Star"

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Dear Parents,

The issue of consolidating the seven school districts of Spartanburg County is again being discussed at the local and state level. Although many groups cite various reasons for these proposed changes, the most common reason cited in support of consolidation is that consolidating the seven districts would save money. In times of economic hardship, we all must examine how we can be more frugal, but there is no research or data to support the concept that consolidation will result in significant cost savings. In fact, the research proves the opposite is true. District One is able to deliver a quality education for your child for substantially less than the consolidated school districts in South Carolina. For example, the following District One services rank among the lowest in the state: School management (lowest expenditure in state), program management (third lowest expenditure in the state), district management (second lowest expenditure in the state), and business services (lowest expenditure in the state). In fact the seven school districts of Spartanburg County are already working together in areas such as, career centers, alternative school, Scholar's Academy, Truancy Court, shared staffs, shared local funding, same yearly calendar, and joint meetings between superintendents, curriculum and instruction, personnel, special education, EEDA, and transportation.

District One prides itself on providing each child with a *"Student-Centered Education."* We have been able to achieve this goal by our district's commitment to providing the best education possible for your child. District One has experienced much success over the years and a great deal of this success can be attributed to our commitment to student achievement, small class sizes, and the relationships that exist between our Superintendent, Board of Trustees, and administrators with the students and parents. In larger, consolidated districts, the students and parents often feel they have no "voice." I am proud to work in a district with community schools where I can build rich relationships with my students and parents!

A common myth is that "Big schools/districts are better schools." There is no data or research to support this. In fact, thirty years of research show that four factors impact student achievement: 1) small school size, 2) small class size, 3) challenging curriculum, and 4) GREAT Teachers. District One and IIS have been able to provide these four factors for your students. We have achieved great things at IIS and in our District. Currently there are 85 school districts in South Carolina. In terms of student achievement, Spartanburg District One is the 6th highest in the state in the overall passage rates of PASS, 5th highest in the state in the AYP indicators met, and Spartanburg District One's absolute performance index exceeds every consolidated district in South Carolina. Inman Intermediate has received the State Department's Palmetto silver and Gold Awards for the past three years for high PASS test scores, as well as the Closing the Gap Award for increasing student achievement among our subgroups. These results prove that a small, locally governed school district like District One provides students with a quality education. Student performance and achievement is at an all time high in District One, and we are proud of our "Student Centered" philosophy and the personal touch we give to everything we do. Dr. Garner has posted information regarding consolidation on the District One website at http://www.spartanburg1.k12.sc.us/do/?page_ID=331 and I encourage you to access this information before you make any decisions for or against consolidation. If I can be of any assistance to you, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, thank you for your support and for sharing your precious children with IIS.

Debbie Wright

Our mission at Inman Intermediate School is to develop responsible citizens and future leaders through acceptance, high expectations, and personal pride, building a safe, productive, nurturing environment uniting family, community, and school.