



January 8, 2016

Mary Mann
Village Green of Maplewood and South Orange
Maplewood, NJ 07040

Dear Mary,

The Achieve Foundation offers the following clarification of some points raised in our recent press release to the Village Green.

Sincerely,

Sarah Iozzio
Co-President

Robin Peacock
Co-President

Deborah Prinz
Executive Director

The Achieve Foundation provides grants, not only to teachers, but to all SO/M educators. In December, Achieve awarded 68 Teacher Grants, totaling more than \$70,000. (We hope to exceed that amount this month as we invite the community to contribute to more approved projects through Direct Teacher Grant Funding.)

In addition to our annual Administrators' Grant, over the years, we have also provided District Partnership grants to the superintendent to use for initiatives that benefit the entire district. Historically, District Partnership funds have been awarded for the superintendent's top priority programs, including pilots for family engagement, social/emotional education, after school activities, grant writing, etc.

As is true of all funds that we distribute, the District Partnership is intended to pay for programs that advance innovation, excellence and equal access to education, but which exceed district resources. In each of the past three years, Achieve has distributed \$400,000 for programs in all nine schools, including educator grants, volunteer tutors, professional development, capital improvements and more.

An Administrators' Grant we awarded last spring paid for consultants to assist with long-range planning at Columbia High School, in conjunction with the CHS 2025 self-study, required for the Middle States Accreditation process. Following the two-day session, CHS Principal, Elizabeth Aaron wrote, "Thank you for your generous funding of this important initiative....CHS is the cornerstone of our district and its on-going success is crucial to our two towns. I cannot thank you enough for all that you do for our students, teachers and parents."

Both in that instance, and in the case of this year's grant to Dr. Ramos for the district-wide effort, we believe that maximizing strategic planning efforts is a sound investment for the future of public education in our community. It also gives us a welcome opportunity to demonstrate the role and mission of the Achieve Foundation, in the hope of attracting new volunteers to the organization in the process.