



Office of the Superintendent
5225 W. Vliet St.
P.O. Box 2181
Milwaukee, WI 53208-2181
(414) 475-8001

June 9, 2026

Milwaukee Common Council
City Hall
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Members of the Milwaukee Common Council,

As we approach the end of the 2025–26 school year, I am writing to express my strong support for funding the Safe Summer Site Initiative.

Summer should be a season of joy, exploration, and opportunity for every young person in our city. Yet for too many of Milwaukee's children and teens, it can also be a time marked by isolation, limited supervision, and a lack of safe, productive activities. The Safe Summer Site Initiative addresses these challenges head-on by creating welcoming spaces where young people can connect with peers and trusted adults, participate in meaningful programming, and strengthen their sense of belonging and community.

What makes this initiative especially powerful is that it reflects the voices and priorities of Milwaukee's young people themselves. These sites are designed with their input and shaped around their interests, making them places where students genuinely want to be. When young people feel seen, heard, and invested in, participation increases and outcomes improve.

We all recognize that addressing the rise in violence often seen during the summer months requires a comprehensive, community-wide approach. There is no single solution. The Safe Summer Site Initiative is an essential component of that broader strategy, providing prevention-focused programming that reaches young people before they become disconnected, vulnerable, or at risk. It is an investment not only in public safety, but in the future of our city.

As Superintendent, I am proud that Milwaukee Public Schools is a partner in this effort. We are committed to providing staff support, access to school facilities, and other critical resources to help ensure the initiative's success. Since arriving at MPS, I have prioritized building stronger partnerships and creating the infrastructure necessary to better support our students both inside and outside the classroom. I have been honored to work alongside organizations such as Children's Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Urban League to expand prevention-focused strategies that keep young people safe and connected.

The stakes could not be higher. When we lose a student to violence, the impact extends far beyond that individual life. Families are devastated, classmates are affected, schools grieve, and entire communities are changed forever. We have a shared responsibility to do everything within our power to prevent that loss.

Funding the Safe Summer Site Initiative is a practical, proven investment in prevention, one that will pay dividends in safer neighborhoods, stronger families, and better outcomes for Milwaukee's young people.

I respectfully urge you to support funding for the Safe Summer Site Initiative. Together, we can create opportunities, strengthen communities, and work toward making this the safest summer Milwaukee's young people have ever experienced.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to the children and families of Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Brenda Cassellius". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brenda Cassellius, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Milwaukee Public Schools