

August 28, 1984

To: Leslie Murden and Dr. Riddle
Re: Reasons for moving Steve Matthews from West Springfield High School to
Lake Braddock High School

Steve has left the program three times. Two of these times were from school. There is one druggie friend in particular (who goes to WSHS) whose relationship with Steve has been very difficult for Steve to break. They were good friends all through grade school, and "best friends" in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades before they ever started using drugs together in Jr. High School. Steve had a very close relationship not only with this boy, but also with his entire family, and they always cared a great deal for Steve. Each time Steve copped-out, he headed right for this family and their son, and was harbored and aided by them all.

I know Steve needs to face this situation and be able to walk away from this druggie friend; therefore on his past programs I felt very strongly that he needed to return to WSHS. At this point, however, I think it would be in Steve's best interest to go to another school and not run into the druggie friend the first chance he has to be back in society. I am fully aware that Steve could still leave again while at Lake Braddock High School; but I am also hopeful that once Steve feels some sense of accomplishment and builds up some pride in himself through schoolwork and moving on in the program, he will be that much stronger and have more confidence in himself--at which time he would be better prepared to walk away from the druggie situation.

Steve feels very scared about the situation at WSHS and says it is definitely not in his best interest to return there at this time.

We have lived in the same community for 16 years, and all of Steve's straight friends go to WSHS. Although a few of them are supportive and would be willing to help Steve, at this point it is difficult for even those few to think of Steve as anything but a druggie, and Steve feels ashamed and embarrassed.

If Steve were to leave the program again, (4th cop-out) which I realize could still happen, I am afraid that Straight may end up possibly sending him to one of the other programs such as Atlanta, in which case he would not be returning to his own school anyway until he 7 Stepped (at which time he would be a lot stronger).

So I am hoping to give Steve that chance in a new school with a fresh start and a clean slate, and see if he can make it here, living at home.

Gita Matthews



STRAIGHT
A Direction for Youth

STRAIGHT INC.
Greater Washington

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Mel J. Riddile, Ed.D.

29 August 1984

To Whom It May Concern:


Steven Matthews, age 15, is currently a second phase client in the Straight program. Straight is a family-oriented treatment program for drug using young people.

I am writing this letter to request that consideration be given to an alternative school placement for Steven. Although Steven has been well supported by the West Springfield High School Staff, he has had severe problems with several old friends with whom he had engaged in drug use prior to his entry to Straight. He has been badgered and harrassed by these old friends and subsequently has run away from home on two occasions.

It is not my practice to recommend school changes. It is our desire that our client return to their schools and face their former friends. However, in Steven's case, this has already proven to be unproductive and it appears that this placement would be for his best interest.

If you have any questions please call me at 642-1980.

Sincerely,


Mel J. Riddile
Program Director

Fairfax County Public Schools
Fairfax, Virginia**STUDENT ASSIGNMENT APPLICATION****I. TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN**REQUEST PLACEMENT FOR: New ☒ Renewal ☐

MATTHEWS STEPHEN RUSTIN
Last First Middle
6101 SHERBORN LANE SPRINGFIELD Va. 22152
Address Town/City State Zip

Sex MALE Date of Birth SEPT 14, 1967

Requested School LAKE BRADDOCK HIGH SCHOOL Requested Academic Year 1984 1985

School serving area of residence WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Special program(s) in which currently enrolled STRAIGHT, L.I.C. - Current Grade Level 10th
DRUG REHAB.

Fairfax County Public School(s) in which other children for whom I am legally responsible are enrolled
WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

Reason(s) for this request STEVE IS A CHEMICALLY DEPENDENT CHILD
HIS "DRUGGIE" FRIENDS ARE AT WSHS. TWICE WE HAVE
TRIED TO START HIM AT WSHS AND HE HAS HAD
A PROBLEM WITH THEM & HAS RUN OFF WITH THEM.
HE IS CERTAIN HE CANNOT BE IN THE SAME SCHOOL WITH
THEM

I understand that if placement is approved:

1. TRANSPORTATION WILL NOT BE PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. A CONDITION OF THIS PLACEMENT IS THAT THE PARENT MUST PROVIDE A SAFE METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE STUDENT.
2. Placement is valid for one academic year only. This request will be renewed annually.
3. Permission/Placement may be withdrawn if conditions of placement are not maintained.
4. Admissions requirements as established by the State Board of Education and Fairfax County School Board must be met.
5. Eligibility requirements for interscholastic activities for secondary students may be affected as specified by the rules of the Virginia High School League and the Fairfax County School Board.

I certify that all of the information on this application form is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. In addition, I certify that the student involved in this request is not seeking pupil placement in order to participate in extra-curricular activities including, but not limited to, athletics.

Margaret S. Matthews
Signature

MARGARET S. MATTHEWS

8/21/84

PLEASE PRINT (Name of Parent, Guardian, or Custodian)

Date

6101 SHERBORN LANE SPRINGFIELD Va. 22152
Address Town/City State Zip

Telephone Number: Home 451-0199 Business —

Return this form to the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled (or base school).

II. FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

(PLEASE FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS APPLICATION)

ACTION TAKEN:

Margaret M. Koryda 8.30.84
Area Superintendent or Designee Date

Approved ☒ Denied ☐
 Code A