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My name is Stacey Hughes. My son is a junior at MSSM and has attended since he was a freshman. I am advocating that you approve additional funding to MSSM to assist in programing, development of new programs, funding for the professors, future research and development opportunities and to cover the cost of boarding for those families who have students that would be eligible to attend, but cannot afford the private room and board charges.

MSSM is a high school like no other. The professors are an integral part of student life, living near campus, they offer extended office hours and ongoing support to help students flourish. As a boarding school, the students are a close knit group that support one another not only through their academic work, but also through life skills and amazing off-campus opportunities.

Through MSSM, my son has had opportunities that he would not have had at any other high school. He was selected for a scholarship that allowed him the opportunity to participate in a national outdoor leadership retreat last summer. He has opportunities to develop his own J-term learning internships such as working in our local police department and he was a member of this year's youth in government team in Augusta. MSSM offers experiences for all students to participate in small class sizes, to challenge themselves by learning not based on their age and grade, but based on their abilities. My son truly shines and flourishes at MSSM. This school has been life changing for him. He is challenged, he has learned how to be a self advocate. He has learned amazing study habits and life skills for him to be successful in the future. I am hopeful that you will closely listen to all testimonies today and choose to increase funding to MSSM so the students, the professors and the school can continue to grow and thrive for not only my son, but my next son and all future generations to come. Thank you for your time.