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To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is to request consideration to move the north end 18-22 Transition Program (SITE/SKILL) from its current location at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Although we have thoroughly enjoyed our partnership with military stakeholders as well as the numerous opportunities provided to our young, adult interns, we feel that there is a need to move the program closer to Milton and Pace communities. Currently, this program serves a large student population from Milton and Pace High Schools. There are community businesses and partners that have voiced a need for skilled personnel as well as job shadowing opportunities that we would like to explore as well as the potential to afford more dual enrollment options to students during their senior year. Over half of the participants meet the criteria for Free and Reduced Lunch and the current facility does not have a fully-functional kitchen to accommodate meal preparation and there are no nearby schools to provide hot meals for the interns. Members of Senior Staff have presented options for a new location and the Community School building was offered as a viable setting to meet the all of the needs of the Transition Program.

We have historically offered and are mandated to deliver services for post-secondary students, as an extension of Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), and as a provision of diploma deferment. The selected facility would need to have resources to afford Independent Functioning skills, Career and Technology Education (CTE) skills, accessibility to a variety of businesses and potential job placement sites, as well as sufficient space to house a computer laboratory, laundry and kitchen equipment, as well as classrooms. The north end 18-22 Transition Program (SITE/SKILL) has been a successful avenue for students to gain independent and employability skills that have contributed to positive outcomes for generations. Thank you in advance for the consideration of the alternate facility. We are confident that the option will only enhance the overall experiences for the community as well as the impressionable interns.

Respectfully,

Deborah Ray