



# Wheaton Woods Elementary School

4510 Faroe Place, Rockville, Maryland 20853 • Phone: 240-740-0220 • Fax: 240-740-2380

**Fri., April 14, 2023**

## **Staff Wide Statements of Advocacy Written on Behalf of Jennifer Cruz, Community School Coordinator, LTL @ Wheaton Woods ES**

<b>Name of Staff Member or Team</b>	<b>Statement of Advocacy</b>
Danillya Wilson. 1st gr teacher	<p>I am writing to advocate for the continuation of our beloved Community School Coordinator (CSC) position at our school. Our CSC plays a crucial role in our school community, serving as the bridge between our school, our families, and the wider community. Her tireless efforts have made a significant positive impact on our students, families, and the overall well-being of our community.</p> <p>I urge the Board of Education to prioritize the continuation of our Community School Coordinator position. The impact that our CSC has made on our school community is immeasurable, and her continued presence is essential in ensuring that our students and families receive the support they need to thrive. Let's work together to keep her in our family and continue to build a stronger, more vibrant community for our students and families.</p>
Kendra Pasquill, Acad. Support Teacher	<p>I would like to encourage the Board of Ed to reconsider eliminating the Community School Coordinator position from our school, Wheaton Woods Elementary. Jennifer Cruz has provided necessary services to our families and students! Family support is vital to student success and Jennifer has helped families to understand parent vue and report cards, allowing them to track their students progress and help at home when needed. She has also set up invaluable classes for parents to build their English language, literacy, and computer skills. Her efforts allow our families to be more involved in the students' education! Thanks to her efforts, our students also have positive after school activities that build on their academic efforts and also allow them opportunities and experiences they would not otherwise access to without her efforts. Our students look forward to learning new skills, playing sports with their classmates, and having trusting adults after school to help with their homework. These opportunities all support not only the academic needs of our students but also their emotional well being. Please reconsider your allocations and allow Jennifer to continue supporting our students!</p>
Theresa Baker Acad. Support Teacher	<p>Our students and families are so vulnerable right now. People are suffering and the work Linkages does, and specifically Jennifer Cruz, is one of the few tools we have to help alleviate that suffering. Please be responsible in your decision making and recognize the needs of our community and continue to fully fund Jennifer Cruz's position. We must be proactive unless we want to have a tragedy in the future which could have been prevented by the kind of intervention Jennifer Cruz can provide.</p>

Nikki Giorgis Speech & Language	I am writing to advocate for the continuation of the Community School Coordinator (CSC) position at Wheaton Woods E.S. I have had an opportunity to work closely with our Linkages to Learning team and our CSC, and they help our parents and students tremendously. Our current CSC, Jennifer Cruz, coordinates several activities and is the link that ties everything together. Our community does not need the reduction in services as we are still recovering from the pandemic and our families that we serve need continued support. Please keep Jennifer Cruz in place as our Community School Coordinator.
Pichu Herz ELD Teacher	I am writing to advocate for the continuation for the Community School Coordinator (CSC) position at Wheaton Woods Elementary School. Our current CSC, Jennifer Cruz, has been helping the community tremendously by coordinating activities (classes for both parents and students) to strengthen the community families so that they can survive through the hardship they have encountered both financially and emotionally. The support is so important for our families in the Wheaton Woods Elementary School community. Please reconsider your decision, and put the needs of the families and students as your priority to continue Jennifer Cruz's position in Wheaton Woods Elementary School.
Cathy Dimock 5th Gr Teacher	I am writing to advocate for the continuation for the Community School Coordinator (CSC) position at Wheaton Woods. Jennifer Cruz, our current coordinator at Wheaton Woods ES, has been an immense help to our school community. She coordinates many activities for parents and children. In addition to the entire community, Jennifer has been a tremendous support to fifth grade students and families, helping parents navigate through middle school choices and ensure they have the tools to help their upcoming middle schoolers. Jennifer has also been extremely valuable to helping teachers coordinate afterschool programs as well. I personally believe the success with the GOCR program would not have thrived without Jennifer's help and support. She is instrumental in communication and helping to get students in grades 3-5 registered for the program.  Please reconsider the decision of taking away such a VALUABLE resource from our Wheaton Woods ES community and especially our student Wildcats.
Carla Armas De Leon Head Start Teacher	I am writing to advocate for the continuation for the Community School Coordinator (CSC) position at Wheaton Woods Elementary School. Our current CSC, Jennifer Cruz, has been helping the community tremendously by coordinating activities (classes for both parents and students) to strengthen the community families so that they can survive through the hardship they have encountered both financially and emotionally. The support is so important for our families in the Wheaton Woods Elementary School community. Please reconsider your decision, and put the needs of the families and students as your priority to continue Jennifer Cruz's position in Wheaton Woods Elementary School.
Jodi Lethbridge 5th Gr Teacher	I am writing to advocate for the continuation of the Community School Coordinator (CSC) position at Wheaton Woods Elementary School. Jennifer Cruz, our current coordinator at Wheaton Woods is a person that helps our families every day. She advocates for the materials/supplies they need in their homes and provides programs and activities to support the students' needs in the school. She has brought evening English classes for our non-English speakers to learn the language. She organizes holiday drives and dinner so none of our families will have to go without food during critical times of the year. Students are able to get snack

	<p>sacks weekly with dry goods so that they have food at home. All of these programs and initiatives would not be successful and able to be run without the CSC taking the lead and getting the work done.</p> <p>Please reconsider your decision, and put the needs of the families and students as your priority to continue the CSC position in Wheaton Woods Elementary school. If not, you will be taking valuable programs away from vulnerable families and students. Thank you.</p>
Andrea Miller Pre-K Teacher	<p>I am writing to advocate for the continuation of the Community School Coordinator (CSC) position at Wheaton Woods Elementary School. Jennifer Cruz, has been a invaluable asset to our Title 1 school. Our families come with diverse needs that are not only academic. Jennifer Cruz has done invaluable work here at Wheaton Woods bringing services here to our school such as English language classes for parents, after school activities at low cost and summer camp programming. She has created a space where families feel safe and can get much needed support like weekend backpacks etc. I believe her continued presence is essential for our community to continue to thrive and get the support and help they need .Please reconsider your decision, and put the needs of the families and students as your priority and continue Jennifer Cruz’s position at Wheaton Woods Elementary School.</p>
Julie Stevens Asst. Principal	<p>Ms. Cruz has a dynamic personality. She relates with students, staff, parents, and community members. You cannot help but feel energized when being around her. Her commitment to students and families and doing the right thing is 2nd to none. She has a strong work ethic and is willing to put in the time it takes to be a successful Community School Coordinator (CSC).</p> <p>Ms. Cruz has the ability to look at situations from various perspectives, enabling her to make the best decision ultimately. She then does an outstanding job of communicating how and why she made that particular decision.</p> <p>Ms. Cruz has proven herself to have the perseverance, initiative, and intellectual creativity necessary to do well at being a Community School Coordinator (CSC). Therefore, I highly recommend that she stay here at Wheaton Woods Elementary to continue supporting our Social Wellbeing Team. Ms. Cruz works alongside our Parent Community Coordinator and our Community School Liason, supporting our families and students. The relationships she has developed with our families have helped our school develop trust for us. Time after time, Ms. Cruz has demonstrated her ability to work well with the most vulnerable populations, including clients that are homeless, have gone through domestic issues, and are in need of citizenship support. It is evident that she cares about the well-being of others, and she always maintains a professional yet compassionate disposition.</p> <p>We ask that you think about the negative impact this will have on our families, students, and staff if we were to lose Ms. Cruz as our committed Community School Coordinator.</p>
Monica Ziegler 1st Grade Teacher	<p>I am writing to advocate for the continuation for the Community School Coordinator (CSC) position at Wheaton Woods Elementary School. Ms. Jennifer Cruz is our current coordinator and she has been a phenomenal asset to our students, families, and community.</p>

	<p>I have had an opportunity to engage with her to support many of my students and their families who are/were in dire need of services. In addition, she is such a great leader with after-school clubs and programs and losing her would be such a disservice to our school and community.</p> <p>Please reconsider your decision, and put the needs of the families and students as your priority to continue Jennifer Cruz's position in Wheaton Woods Elementary School.</p>
--	---