



# School District of Manawa

*“Students Choosing to Excel, Realizing Their Strengths”*

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[www.manawaschools.org](http://www.manawaschools.org)

5/10/19

Dear Area District Administrator,

In October of 2017, Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School opened the doors to a new and innovative transition program for high school students with IEPs named **Paving the Way**, and we would like to tell you about it!

The program is a combination of transition (employability, interest and work rate) assessment, work-study (volunteer, job shadow and competitively paid placements), and life-skills training (through student-run businesses). All of this is run out of a storefront in downtown Manawa with easy access to local businesses like *Busy Bean Coffee Shop*, *Remington Foods*, and *Dollar General* along with the Post office and Sturm Memorial Library. The staff is committed to the goal that **100% of students with IEPs will graduate Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High with a competitively paid job and/or accepted to post-secondary education.**

Paving the Way has two sessions during the school day, before and after lunch. Students attend the number of sessions needed to accomplish their transition goals. Students in the 18-21 year-old portion of the program attend both sessions for the years past their graduation year. Juniors and Seniors may attend 1 session for a semester, year or two years. Other students with more significant needs may attend a single session or both sessions for multiple years. As you can see, the program is intended to be flexible to fit the needs of each individual student.

The team has already seen fantastic results. Manawa graduated five students with IEPs in 2018. These students were surveyed in April 2019. Three of the graduates are currently working full time in competitively paid jobs, one graduate is working part-time in a competitively paid job, and one graduate is currently looking for work but did work part-time over the last year. That is an 80% success rate after a year!

I have included a program brochure and fee structure with this letter. Keep in mind that the district is willing to discuss alternative options that would include a different fee structure for limited-term program participation. Contact me for more information or to schedule a tour.

Sincerely,

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Special Education/Curriculum Director  
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