



# Franklin County District Schools

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Superintendent Traci Yoder  
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Franklin County Board of County Commissioners  
33 Market Street, Suite 203  
Apalachicola, FL 32320

Dear Franklin County Board of County Commissioners:

The welding program at the Franklin County School was launched during the 2018-2019 school year in a rudimentary facility located outside under the cover of a pole barn. Even in these humble beginnings, five of our students earned their first welding certifications during that school year. There are currently seven students who are now prepared for either their first or second certifications. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the extended closures of testing facilities, our students are currently unable to test for those certifications. We remain hopeful that in the near future, our students will be able to complete the testing requirements for obtaining certification.

In the current and future uncertainty of our nation's economy, these young people can either continue their education in the field of welding, or directly enter the job market at a starting wage of \$16 per hour or more. This is almost double the current minimum wage amount and far exceeds what they could hope to earn without these credentials.

By allowing FCS to build the proposed building, we will not only be able to serve the needs of more high school students, but also have future plans to open the program up at night to be able to serve our adult population seeking better employment opportunities. The facility will also allow for the Franklin County School District to become a testing site, eliminating the need for our students to travel for testing, as well as bringing in people from other counties to be tested at our site.

I am writing to request that you waive the fee for the building permit application process as the District is a local taxing authority. Your assistance with this matter will be greatly appreciated and will help facilitate the practical education of our students in Franklin County.

Thank you for continuing to be a partner in education, and in supporting workforce development and economic diversification in Franklin County. Our investment in the future of our children, is an investment in the future of Franklin County!

Sincerely,

Traci Yoder  
Superintendent

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