

# Local teen finding academic success online

*Mineral Point, WI - February 7, 2008 -*

A Mineral Point mom has discovered first-hand that virtual schooling can help a student succeed because her daughter, Samantha, is enjoying unprecedented success in her school career.

"Virtual schools aren't for everyone, but they sure can be a viable option for students that need more," said Susan Robinson, mother of Samantha who attends Insight School of Wisconsin, an online public high school.

"Whether a student has a physical impediment, needs flexible hours to work or train, or just isn't flourishing in a traditional education environment, online schools can be a lifesaver."

And more students are starting to take advantage of this innovative option.

Nationally, 700,000 students attend -school on-line. Here in Wisconsin, there are about 3,500 online students. But virtual schooling may be in jeopardy because of a recent court ruling that severely restricts online schools and basically would make them null and void.

"Eliminating online schools would be a tragedy," said Robinson. "The world has changed and the learning community needs to recognize and embrace this new and exciting technology."

Robinson and her daughter were so concerned about the recent court ruling they joined one thousand people from around the state a few weeks ago at a Capitol rally and legislative hearing on virtual schools.

"Our message was to put kids - not institutions - first," said Robinson.

"Society's ultimate goal is to help kids achieve academic success-regardless the vehicle used."

Samantha attends Insight School of Wisconsin, an online, diploma-granting public high school made possible through a partnership between Grantsburg School District and Insight Schools, Inc.

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