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**GEMMA SERVICES AWARDED STATEWIDE LSA GRANT FOR
ITS MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL ATHLETIC FACILITY**

PLYMOUTH MEETING, Montgomery County (September 16, 2026) – Gemma Services announced that it has received \$250,000 in Statewide Local Share Account funding to support the development of an outdoor sports facility at its new Martin Luther School campus on Butler Pike in Whitemarsh Township. The funding will advance construction of a multipurpose athletic field, track and ADA-accessible improvements designed to support the educational and developmental needs of students.

“Physical education and recreation are vital to our students’ well-being,” said Kristen Gay, Ph.D., President and CEO of Gemma Services, which includes Martin Luther School. “We’re grateful to Senator Hughes and Representative Daley for supporting this project. It will allow us to expand athletic and recreational programs that strengthen students’ academic growth while helping them build confidence, teamwork, collaboration, and emotional regulation skills.”

The Butler Pike property, which Gemma acquired in 2024 and received zoning board approval to operate a school on the property, lacks the outdoor recreation and sports facilities to support a comprehensive health and physical education curriculum and expanded opportunities for athletic participation. The project is part of Gemma Services' broader expansion and relocation of its Martin Luther School, an Approved Private School serving students with diverse educational, behavioral, and emotional needs from more than 50 school districts throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania. In the last few years, the organization expanded its educational programming to include grades 9-12 and transitioned to its new campus along Butler Pike in August 2026 to accommodate continued growth.

The LSA grant builds upon previously awarded Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funding supporting the track and field development and represents another important state investment in educational and recreational opportunities for students.

The project will create a dedicated outdoor athletic complex adjacent to the school's new campus, allowing students access to physical education programming, recreational activities, and organized athletics without leaving school grounds. The improvements will also include ADA-accessible features and related site enhancements to ensure all students can fully participate.

"Martin Luther School will use this grant to expand student opportunities that promote physical wellness, teamwork, and personal growth," said Senator Vincent Hughes. "We must remember that these LSA grants are competitive and demand often exceeds what's available for projects across the state, but I am proud to support this funding that strengthens resources for young people and the organizations dedicated to helping them thrive."

“Movement, play, and recreation are essential to learning,” said Representative Mary Jo Daley. “Having dedicated space for athletics and physical activity will only enhance these students’ ability to succeed.”

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About Martin Luther School - Martin Luther School (MLS) is an Approved Private School that provides holistic educational programs with social, emotional, behavioral, and learning support for students in grades K-12. Offering a comprehensive curriculum with a strong literacy focus, MLS serves students referred from more than 50 school districts and charter schools throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. MLS will open the school year at its new campus on Butler Pike in Whitemarsh Township, which features a renovated school building with bright, modern classrooms and a spacious setting offering ample learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. More info is available about the school at www.martinlutherschool.org.

About Gemma Services - Gemma Services is a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit guided by the vision of a world where every person knows they matter. Formed in 2019 by the merger of two long-standing Philadelphia-area nonprofits, each with roots dating to the 1800s, Gemma accompanies more than 3,000 youth and families each year through a range of behavioral health, child welfare, and prevention programs, as well as its Martin Luther School. With four locations in the Greater Philadelphia region, Gemma's mission is to accompany people of all ages through life challenges using individualized, data-informed support. For more information, visit www.gemmaservices.org.

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