



11/27/2020

Commissioner Mike Morath
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

The Honorable
Dr. Keven Ellis
Chair of the State Board of Education
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Commissioner Morath and Dr. Ellis:

I'm happy to write this letter of support for **7Cs Academy**, a proposed preschool through eighth grade high-quality, open-enrollment charter school in San Antonio.

As the co-leader and co-founder of The Gathering Place, I am deeply aware of San Antonio's need for innovative new school models. I have spent time with the board of 7Cs and believe in their educational model.

The educational philosophy of 7Cs Academy is that every child will become an expert in the 7Cs: Character, Competencies, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, and Citizenship through child-centered, hands-on approaches to learning. They also use an evidence-based instructional model grounded in cognitive and neuroscience theories to equip students with both soft skills and advanced STREAMS (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Mathematics, and Social Studies) knowledge.

I recommend 7Cs Academy without reservation and truly believe that authorizing this school will provide San Antonio students and their families another pivotal high-quality educational opportunity.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 615-631-0479 or ryan@thegatheringplacek12.org.

Sincerely,

Ryan York
Co-Founder and Co-Leader of The Gathering Place