



GEORGE W. BRACKENRIDGE
FOUNDATION

December 29, 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:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for **7Cs Academy**, a proposed preschool through eighth grade high-quality, open-enrollment charter school in San Antonio.

As a trustee for the George W. Brackenridge Foundation, I know how critical high-performing charter schools are for San Antonio students and their families. Since I joined the board in 2012, our portfolio of high-performing charter schools has grown from three schools serving around 800 students to 63 schools serving over 33,800 students. Imagine if every single student enrolled at the University of Texas at San Antonio in Fall 2020 was given one option for where to attend college? At 34,742 students, their enrollment is less than one thousand students more than those currently served by high-performing charter schools in San Antonio.

The educational philosophy of 7Cs Academy is that every student will become an expert in the 7Cs: Character, Competencies, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, and Citizenship. 7Cs Academy's child-centered, hands-on approach to learning will complement an explicit 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 (210) 424-4531 or droth@elderbray.com.

Sincerely,

David H.O. Roth