

To:

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

Subject: Support for Academic Choice in South San Antonio Area.

Dear Commissioner Morath:

I am writing this letter in support of expanding the educational options for children and families on the south side of San Antonio.

Having served for five years as Chief Academic Officer in South San Antonio ISD, we began to offer choice options to families by opening an Early College Academy at the flagship high school and three middle school choice academies (Fine Arts, STEM and Health Science). This was under the leadership of our then board president Ms. Angelina Osteguín and board members Edward Mungia, Elda Flores and Luis Ibarra. Sadly, despite our efforts, these board members were voted out and new board members voted in. The new board majority used the funds that were set to expand these choice options into re-opening shuttered schools with small student enrollment.

Furthermore, board disfunction continues plague the south side areas of San Antonio and has for many years. Three southern San Antonio public school districts that serve children who reside in zip codes with the highest poverty have had TEA conservators, TEA monitors and one with a complete board take over. Despite some of these districts earning a B or C, there are more than 15 schools scoring a D or F.

Parents and families deserve the same educational opportunities that any other zip-code offers. Zip codes should never determine the educational success of the children of Texas much less for the children of San Antonio.

Educational choices that understand the challenges of generational poverty and support not just academic aspects but support the “whole child” in regards to good nutrition, mental health support, and community support to families is

desperately needed for the students of the southern side of San Antonio.

I sincerely hope you see the benefit that educational options will bridge for the students and families for the southern sector of San Antonio.

Respectfully,

Dr. Delinda Castro

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