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January 14, 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 Messrs. 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. It is my sincere belief that this effort is consistent with the educational goals of the State of Texas.

As a member on the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities, I am delighted to see that the demographic projections of 7Cs Academy show that 1-in-7 students in their first year and 1-in-5 students by 2027 will be students with disabilities. The proposed school will serve our students and families in San Antonio well. I am aware of the need for greater educational opportunities for students in underserved areas and look forward to future successes.

The educational program of 7Cs Academy that focuses on the "WHY" with the 7Cs: Character, Competencies, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, and Citizenship; the guided inquiry learning with a STEM focus; the culturally relevant pedagogy; and the evidence-based instructional design model with explicit instruction shows "HOW" *Designing Learning 2.0* will serve the students with disabilities well.

I recommend 7Cs Academy without reservation and truly believe that authorizing this school will provide San Antonio students and their families, particularly students with disabilities, another needed high-quality educational option.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me

Sincerely,

Richard Martinez