

November 23, 2020

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

Dear Commissioner Morath:

I am delighted to have been asked to write this letter of recommendation to support the application of Dr. Nathan Balasubramanian to establish a 7Cs Academy in San Antonio. I know that there is great need for more good schools in the area. I am very impressed by the 7Cs philosophy for whole child education around which the school will be built: Character, Competencies, Communication, Critical thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, and Citizenship.

Grade attainment and high achievement in standardized tests should not be the be-all and end-all of education. I commend the team for mapping out the 7Cs to the 7Ps for the Graduate Profile of eighth graders in 7Cs Academy. The Positive Outlook of graduates from 7Cs Academy with Character Education instilled in them from PreK will bestow greater wisdom on these students. As the author of *Flourishing as The Aim of Education* (New York: Routledge, 2020) and the Editor of *Journal of Moral Education*, I know this wisdom will help students flourish and lead purposeful lives.

I have spoken to Dr. Balasubramanian on a number of occasions and I am thoroughly impressed by his enthusiasm and his know-how, especially of what works and what does not work in character education, and how high-minded ideals can be operationalized and put into practice. I am also duly impressed by the international group of renowned academics that Dr Balasubramanian has gathered around this project.

Working myself in the world's largest academic research center on character, virtues and citizenship, with over 20 member of staff, I am ready to offer Dr. Balasubramanian continued guidance on the implementation of educational philosophies in his new school.

I wish Dr Balasubramanian all the best in his endeavors and I fully support his Generation 26 charter application.

Yours sincerely,



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