

Commissioner Mike Morath

Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

November 15, 2020

Dear Commissioner Morath:

I am writing this letter of support for *7Cs Academy* – a proposed PreK-8th grade public charter school in San Antonio, Texas. This open-enrollment charter school will provide the needed equitable, whole child education for low-income children as they mature into young adults. The charter school's multifaceted intervention plan using a guided inquiry learning model with its STEM focus will deliver an improved level of education desperately needed in the San Antonio area.

I have had several engaging educational conversations with the charter founder, Dr. Nathan Balasubramanian. I am confident of his awareness on the need to close the academic literacy and numeracy gaps to bring students back to grade level. I know from personal experience that students will struggle with grade level content unless these gaps are rapidly closed in elementary and middle school. Dr. Balasubramanian is committed to the closure of academic gaps with a STEM focus at *7Cs Academy* to build a strong educational foundation for children.

For nine years, I was the Principal at Graham Elementary School in *Austin Independent School District*. Under my leadership, Graham Elementary received several distinctions including becoming a *Texas Education Agency's* "Exemplary" rated school for four years; became a National Blue Ribbon School; earned the maximum possible academic distinctions awarded by TEA every year for four years; and was a *Children at Risk's* Golden Ribbon School for three years.

It is my hope that the State Board of Education and you will approve Dr. Balasubramanian's charter application, so that his Academy can begin serving low-income children in San Antonio with their innovative educational plan.

Respectfully,



Blaine A. Helwig

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