

Manuel J. Salas, PharmD
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14722 Dogwood Bend
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November 6, 2020

To:

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

Subject: Letter of Support for 7Cs Academy

Dear Commissioner Morath

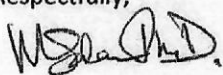
We are writing this letter in support of 7Cs Academy so that they be granted a PreK – 8 public charter school to open in San Antonio, Texas. The importance of raising the level of education provided to our youth cannot be overstated. The distressing STEM performance of schools in South/Westside of San Antonio show the need for a solid evidence-based school model that 7Cs Academy would provide. We endorse the Designed Learning model, its values, and goals through a multifaceted intervention plan for whole child education. Using their guided inquiry learning model focused on STEM, 7Cs Academy would bring much needed improvement to the education of our children in San Antonio. Too many schools are narrowly focused in preparing youth for a life of tests.

We support Elda Flores' newest efforts as Vice President of the Board of Directors of 7CsThrive. For almost 40 years, Elda has been a champion for student success. She knows firsthand the importance and responsibility of schools. Good, well designed schools like 7Cs Academy can educate and prepare our youth for the tests of life. We have known Elda to be a strong and dedicated educator. She believes all students must have access and opportunity to a high-quality education.

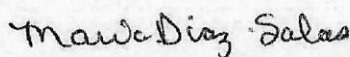
My past professional career has been as a Pharmacist for over 40 years, primarily in the acute hospital setting. As a graduate from the University of Southern California, I was fortunate to have had the educational opportunities early in my life that prepared me for success. I will acknowledge that having the opportunity of a well-rounded education will certainly allow our youth to advance successfully into higher education and the workforce. My wife Maria (a second cousin of Elda, for full disclosure), with her Masters in Education, as well with her experience of over 30 years as a Director in HeadStart program here in San Antonio knows how important early childhood educational opportunities can positively impact the lives of children and their families. Both Maria and I see the importance and value of establishing a 7Cs Academy public charter school in South/Westside of San Antonio. Such a school will provide a curriculum with emphasis on STREAMS and elevate STEM performance by developing the 7Cs, especially critical thinking which is lacking in schools. A child who is provided with this world-class educational foundation will be much better equipped to achieve and contribute to our society. Their multifaceted intervention plan is a much-needed blueprint for delivering high-quality education in our public schools. Their graduate profile with well-rounded 7Cs and 7Ps will not only translate into improved performance ratings for schools in San Antonio but it will also reenergize our youth and uplift the community.

We ask you Commissioner Morath to approve the 7Cs Academy public charter school in south/westside of San Antonio. We sincerely hope you too see the benefits that a 7Cs Academy will bring to students and our community.

Respectfully,



Dr. Manuel J. Salas



Maria Diaz Salas

From: Dr. Manuel Salas, PharmD
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Elda Flores
Subject: RE: 7Cs_Academy_Changing_Lives.pdf

Hi Elda.

Here is my feedback on your vocabulary list that I reviewed.

I know firsthand the importance of essential words ("sight words" in traditional schools) for children to be successful. I believe the better the vocabulary that a child commands, the better it facilitates their progression to skilled readers, as their confidence is greatly enhanced. This way the essential words are taught and understood in early childhood will definitely improve their learning capacity.

I commend your design to teach this essential vocabulary which will give these fundamental words a context and a better descriptive meaning. Single word recognition other schools have traditionally taught are inadequate and I believe limit their language development and comprehension. I believe your design will better jumpstart children's language development and comprehension. Your design to teach the essential vocabulary will definitely better serve children as they learn, think, behave, and act to help them live purposeful lives in the future.

I want to congratulate you and the board along with your CEO for your efforts to build upon and seek to exceed the traditional teaching norms. In this area of teaching a more meaningful essential vocabulary, you will accelerate a child's language and communication skills.

My best regards,
Maria Diaz Salas, MEd
Former Director of HeadStart, San Antonio

Sent from Mail for Windows 10