

January 15, 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 Commissioner Morath and Dr. Ellis:

I am writing to voice my strong support for the Generation 26 charter application of 7Cs Academy, a proposed charter school in San Antonio. I understand that the specific area of San Antonio for the proposed school is in dire need of more quality, effective school choices.

As an expert in character education and school reform, My team and I look forward to lending our support to this school upon award of the charter, to ensure successful implementation of the 7Cs educational program.

I am impressed with design plans for wedding rigorous instruction with evidence-based character education at the 7Cs Academy. As the author of the upcoming book *PRIMED for Character Education: Six Design Principles for School Improvement* (New York: Routledge, 2021), I look forward to working with the “district leadership team” of key leaders, instructional and non-instructional staff, parents, and community leaders as this team co-creates a great school in San Antonio.

I have spoken with Dr. Balasubramanian, who is leading this proposal, several times about how I have led successful school reform efforts around the country and the world. Of particular relevance, we have already successfully consulted with numerous thriving character schools, including the Premier Charter School in St. Louis and the Intellectual Virtues Academy in Long Beach CA.

This school offers a strong possibility of being a leading model of how to do effective whole child education, in general and in San Antonio in particular.

I strongly recommend 7Cs Academy and truly believe that authorizing this school will provide San Antonio students and their families the much-needed, high-quality educational opportunities that every student and family deserves.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance by contacting me at (314) 516-7521 or berkowitz@umsl.edu.

Sincerely,



Marvin W. Berkowitz, PhD
Sanford N. McDonnell of Character Education
UM System Thomas Jefferson Fellow