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January 11, 2021

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:

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.

As a life-long resident of San Antonio and a supporter of many education initiatives, especially those aimed at closing the achievement gap, I have been extremely proud of the work our city has done to increase and improve Pre-K options for all students. In my opinion, there is no more important intervention for improving schools across this state than making high-quality Pre-K widely available. 7Cs Academy represents another opportunity for the Texas Education Agency to invest in the future of our children by authorizing a school that will improve outcomes for all students starting in their pre-kindergarten years.

Starting in Pre-K, 7Cs Academy's child-centered, hands-on approach to learning will complement an explicit evidence-based instructional model grounded in cognitive and neuroscience theories to equip students with both soft skills and advanced STREAMS (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Mathematics, and Social Studies) knowledge. This is the roadmap we must follow to ensure equitable opportunities for all: start in the earliest years and teach a content-rich curriculum developed in accordance with the latest scientific understanding of how students learn and develop. I am particularly taken by the educational philosophy of 7Cs Academy, where every student will become an expert in the 7Cs: Character, Competencies, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, and Citizenship.

I recommend 7Cs Academy without reservation and believe this school will provide San Antonio students and their families another essential high-quality educational opportunity.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 210.569.8489 or hbg@gcaklaw.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Gonzalez III', written over a white background.

Henry B. Gonzalez III