



National Institute for Direct Instruction

14 January 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 the president of the *National Institute for Direct Instruction* (NIFDI), I am impressed with the blending of different elements into the school's design in a complementary way. The incorporation of Direct Instruction (DI) – an explicit, evidence-proven instructional approach – will ensure that the students at 7Cs Academy master critical skills and concepts that will prepare them to participate successfully in a variety of hands-on, inquiry-based learning activities.

NIFDI will be a critical support provider to ensure that the DI approach is implemented effectively for all students at the 7Cs Academy. NIFDI has agreed with Dr. Balasubramanian to provide a comprehensive set of training, coaching and capacity-building services that will enhance the effectiveness of the instructional staff in delivering DI at the school. Since 1997, NIFDI has provided support to successful DI implementations in over 22 states (including Texas), Australia and England. We currently support the implementation of DI in grades Kindergarten through 2nd grade in IDEA Public Schools and select classrooms in grades three-eight as part of IDEA's Critical Student Intervention (CSI) program. NIFDI has developed a training and support regime that has produced consistently positive results. With over 40 years of research, including hundreds of published research articles, the DI approach has an extraordinarily strong evidence base for improving student performance in key academic subjects. NIFDI will apply its expertise to ensure that the DI component of the **7Cs Academy** is implemented with fidelity, which will provide a strong basis for other components of the school's STREAMS design with Social Emotional learning and Character Development.

I highly recommend the 7Cs Academy Gen 26 charter school application. Feel free to contact me at kengel@nifdi.org if you have any questions about DI or NIFDI's role in supporting the establishment and operation of **7Cs Academy**.

Sincerely,

Kurt E. Engelmann

Kurt E. Engelmann, Ph.D.
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