

THE WASHINGTON GROUP

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December 3, 2013

Mr. Jack Elsey
Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer
Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Mr. Elsey,

It is a pleasure to write a letter supporting the proposed school – Horizon Science Academy-Chatham in partnership with the Fellowship Baptist Church's Legacy Project. The Pastor, Rev. Charles Jenkins is an amazing visionary and understands the tremendous opportunities in partnering with government, schools, businesses and organizations to bring maximum value to our communities and the people who live in them. This project is part of that vision!

The Legacy Project Partnership should be a "win-win" situation for all. It should bring a favorable outcome for all involved – the Church, students, parents, local businesses, and the community at large. We are proud to support the Project and it is our hope that you and your team will support it too!

Warm Regards,



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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1303

December 4, 2013

Mr. Jack Elsey
Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer
Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Mr. Elsey,

I am writing in support of Concept Schools' proposal to open a high-quality, STEM-focused charter school in Chicago Lawn, a community that I am proud to represent in Congress. I understand that the proposed Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago will be a K-12 school, initially serving 450 students and eventually preparing 730 students for college with a rigorous STEM-focused curriculum.

As an engineer by training, ranking Democratic member of the Subcommittee on Research and Technology, and Chair of the House STEM Caucus in Congress, I understand the importance of and value of STEM education in K-12th grades. We need more charter and public schools that are STEM-focused and prepare our students to lead the country in such fields in today's global and competitive world.

I am familiar with Concept Schools' contribution in education through their 30 high performing charter schools across the Midwest. I had the opportunity to visit the Chicago Math and Science Academy (CMSA) previously, and was impressed with the quality of the education provided to their diverse student body, the level of the technology integration, the positive culture, and the level of success that the school has attained. It was not surprising to me that Chicago Public Schools rated CMSA as Level 1 (Excellent Standing) this year. CMSA is the type of school that children in my district would benefit from profoundly.

For these reasons, I strongly support Concept Schools in opening HSA-South Chicago. Consistent with your organization's rules and regulations, I encourage you to provide Concept Schools with the opportunity to make greater differences in the lives of so many more children than just those who attend Chicago Math and Science Academy in Chicago.

Sincerely,



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

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December 3, 2013

Mr. Jack Elsey
Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer
Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Dear Mr. Elsey,

Seaway Bank and Trust Company is in support of Concept Schools' plan to open a new charter school in partnership with the Legacy Project of Fellowship Baptist Church. Institutions such as Fellowship Baptist Church and Seaway Bank and Trust Company have been cornerstones to building and maintaining strong neighborhoods. Many community leaders have grown and emerged as a result of this commitment and involvement for nearly fifty years.

We believe that a significant number of the business leaders of tomorrow are the students that will emerge from the surrounding communities of the proposed location for Horizon Science Academy – Chatham. These students will be empowered to be successful, especially in the disciplines of science and mathematics. We have seen some of the good work and successful results that Concept Schools has done, and welcome it as an addition to the development of our neighborhood children.

As a business partner in the community, we are well aware of the challenges of unemployment, poverty, and crime that affect the residents and local businesses. And we are also aware of the connection of employment and the quality of life as products of education. After meeting with the leadership of Concept Schools and understanding its philosophy, the commitment to the students is evident. We are anticipating the same commitment and successful results.

We strongly encourage you to provide our students with this excellent opportunity to strengthen our neighborhood educational facilities with the approval of the Horizon Science Academy-Chatham.

Sincerely,

Walter E. Grady
President