

December 2, 2013

CPS Chief Innovation Officer
125 S. Clark St
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Jack Elsey:


As a mother of four school-age children in Chicago Lawn, I can confidently say that there is an extreme need for better quality and less-crowded schools in this community. That is why I am supporting Concept Schools' proposal for the Horizon Science Academy – South Chicago.

I would happily enroll all of my children at the Horizon Science Academy. Concept Schools has a well-known record for developing successful students, and their presence is sure to provide a much-needed option in this community.

Please consider the Concept School proposal for approval.

From,

Pearl Saucedo


Chicago, IL 60632

Mr. Jack Elsey
Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark St
Chicago, IL 60603

To the Board of Education:

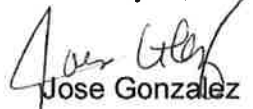
As a proud resident of Chicago Lawn for more than 24 years, I can say that this community is long overdue to receive quality education options for our students.

I have a son in fifth grade, and I think it is wrong that I have to look miles away from home to locate a decent school that can accommodate more students and provide quality education. That is why I support the Concept Schools' proposal to bring the Horizon Science Academy – South Chicago to Chicago Lawn.

I am excited to hear about the emphasis on science and math that would be taught at the Horizon Science Academy. Our students here in Chicago Lawn are really smart, and we need schools that will challenge them.

The Concept Schools' proposal would provide a solution many of the problems in Chicago Lawn, and I strongly encourage you to support it.

Thank you,



Jose Gonzalez

64100 S. Karlov
Chicago, IL 60629

December 1, 2013

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

As a parent of two kids in elementary and high school, I work hard to make sure they are getting the support they need from their schools daily. That can be very difficult because I have to jump to multiple school buildings across town.

When I learned that Concept Schools not only provides a challenging STEM-focused program, but houses all grades through high school in the same building, I knew I wanted to enroll my kids as soon as possible. As my 16-year-old starts to think about college, I would feel so much better knowing he is being prepared for that stage by a staff that is dedicated to making sure all their students really succeed. My other two kids are 13 and 7 are going through critical learning stages.. Concept Schools is the answer for us.

I will be the first in line to fill out applications for all three of my kids if Horizon Science Academy-Chicago Lawn is approved.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Torres
5724 S Keeler Ave

Jack Elsey
CPS
125 S. Clark St
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Mr. Elsey:

I am asking you to please allow the Horizon Charter Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago to open in Chicago Lawn. I live here with my three kids that are in high school right now. We have been living here for 7 years. When I heard the charter school wanted to open, I was very happy and so were my kids. Nothing would be better than to have a great charter school like this in our neighborhood. It will be a better school and I want my kids to get the best education so they can follow their hopes and dreams. They deserve that and I want that for them. Plus, the new school will be closer to where we live so we don't have to travel as far.

This charter school would mean so much to me and my kids. Please let them open the school. It will make our community better.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa Aranda", written in a cursive style.

Teresa Aranda
85395 Kevdale
Chicago, Illinois 60652

December 1, 2013

CPS Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark St
Chicago, IL 60603

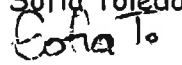
Chicago Public Schools,

I am writing to you in support of Concept School's plan to open Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago near my neighborhood. I have been a resident of my community for the last 22 years and I believe that my community needs this school.

I have two grandchildren in grade school and it pains me to say that I am not optimistic about their futures. Schools on the South Side are overcrowded. Ask any parent or grandparent and they will tell you that their student is just a number to many of these teachers. This is not a reflection of the teachers, it's simply due to the fact that more children are attending school and there aren't enough classrooms to effectively teach all of the students.

Approving Concept Schools' plan would serve many purposes and all of them would benefit students and the community as a whole. The new charter school would provide parents with a quality public education choice and revitalize schools in the area by reducing their classroom sizes. We are responsible for educating the and building Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago enables us to do that. Not only will a new school give us more choices, but those choices are now of a higher quality for the youth of the community.

I appreciate your time and hope that you approve this plan.

Sofia Toledo

6024 S. Sacramento Ave
Chicago, IL 60629

December 1st, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey:


Please support Concept Schools' application for Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago.

I'm a high school senior, and I wish a school like the one Concept Schools is proposing was around for me.

Kids are falling through the cracks, There are too many students for too few teachers. If we're going to have another option, and we should, it should be one focused on keeping classrooms small, giving students the attention they need, and emphasizing important subjects like science and math. Horizon Science Charter Academy will do that.

I wish I would have had this option. I'm graduating soon, but my brother's in 8th grade, and I'm writing for him. Give him the opportunity for a better school and a better education, and approve Concept School's application.

Thank you for your consideration.


Selene Gonzalez
773-703-1329
3724 W. 65th St
Chicago Il 60629

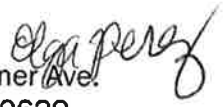
December 1, 2013

To CPS-

I have lived in this community for 30 years and seen how education can impact the life of a child and the lives of their families. With my children, I wasn't hard to pick a school because I felt that they would receive a quality education at any institution, but I don't feel the same way for my grandchildren. I want my grandchildren to have a better place to learn and Concept Schools is willing to provide that environment.

When younger generations return, they take over the leadership roles of the previous generation and the most successful individuals are those that received a quality education. Without a quality public school choice, we are setting our community up for failure.

With the many changes that have occurred in the last 30 years, having a quality public school choice should remain constant. The South Side is currently lacking that basic right and I hope that you will consider that as you review Concept Schools' proposal. Members of this community want Horizon Science -South Chicago for our students and for the future of this community.

Olga I. Perez 
6523 S Kostner Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629

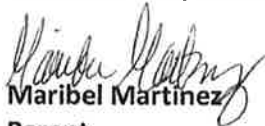
Jack Elsey
Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer
125 S. Clark St
Chicago, IL 60603

As a local resident, I was immediately interested when I learned of Concept Schools' proposal to bring a charter school to Chicago Lawn. Like any parent, I want the best for my kids. In talking with their leadership over the past few weeks, I know Concept Schools wants the same.

Our schools in the community are too crowded. Both my 7th and 3rd graders are competing against their peers for their teacher's help in developing their skills. Each child learns differently, and I need that to be addressed in their new school. I would not hesitate to sign both my kids up for Horizon Science Academy here in Chicago Lawn.

Not only is each child attended to individually, but Concept Schools has a lot of programs and services to keep kids in school. For example, the robotics team and math club and international trips. I feel like so much is possible with this school.

With your help in approving the Concept Charter School, kids like mine can get the education they need.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maribel Martinez", is written over the printed name.

Parent
5816 S Mozart

Mr. Elsey/CPS,

My name is Lilia Lopez and I have lived in the Chicago Lawn community for 15 years. I don't have any children of my own, but I still feel like good schools is something that the entire community should care about. When I talk to my neighbors, I don't get the sense that they are completely satisfied with their school. It might work for some, but it just is not working for them. That is why I am really excited to hear about Horizon Academy-Chicago Lawn

I want that for the neighborhood's kids, and I want the best for my community. I have lived here for 15 years, and I know that like anything it takes work. That is why I am writing to you. Please vote for the new school. It will mean so much to me and my neighbors, and our kids will grow up to be really successful adults. Thank you for reading, and I hope you will vote for the project.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lilia Lopez".

773-971-3608

1727 S. Newberry

Chicago IL 60608

Mr. Elsey
Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark St
Chicago, IL 60603

Jack Elsey:

When I found out about Concept Schools, I was very excited. My children are in kindergarten and 3rd grade, and I don't feel like they are at a school that is right for them. I support teachers, but I also think that parents should have a choice for their children. Even though my children are young, I want them to get the right education now before it is too late.

The thing that I am most excited about Concept Schools is the focus on math and science. I believe my children have all the potential in the world, and this school will unlock that potential. Please approve Concept Charter School. It will be good for my family and it will be good for my community.

Sincerely,


Jorge Angeles

773-990-9135

3456 W 64th Pl

Chicago, IL 60629

December 2, 2013


Dear Mister Jack Elsey -

I have spent the last year working in the Chicago Lawn community and in that time, have been able to meet many of the people who call this neighborhood home. I have developed friendships with parents of children who attend neighborhood schools and can tell you that there is a growing demand for more.

Parents in the Chicago Lawn neighborhood are always telling me that they are worried with three things: crime, education and jobs. They want their children to have a strong future, and I want that too. The new school will help us improve at least one of those things.

A new charter school in Chicago Lawn will give the children here the same opportunities as children in other neighborhoods. Smaller class sizes and a specific focus on science and math are things they can only hope for in their current schools. Though I do not live in the neighborhood, I know how important a quality education is to these families. Please consider this request and know that if you approve it, it will be life-changing for those here.

Thank you very much.


Ana Alfaro (2855 S. Springfield)

DATE

Jack Elsey
Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark St
Chicago, IL 60603

Querido Mr. Elsey,

Le estoy escribiendo para expresarle mi alegría por la proposición de abrir una escuela "Concept" en el área de Chicago Lawn. Ya tengo 9 años viviendo en el área, y quiero estar segura de que mis hijos vayan a una escuela segura y cerca de nuestro hogar.

La seguridad de mis hijos es mi prioridad. Cuando los mando a la escuela me angustio mucho, al igual que muchos padres. Sería un gran alivio saber que no tienen que hacer un viaje tan largo dos veces al día.

También me gustaría saber que están acudiendo a un ambiente seguro. Me gusta la póliza de las escuelas Concept contra del bullying, y también su póliza de respeto mutuo. Ese es precisamente el tipo de ambiente que yo quiero para mis hijos. Todos los niños aprenden más eficazmente cuando no son distraídos por una violencia o por bullying.

Yo deseo que existan más opciones de escuelas en nuestra comunidad, incluyendo a Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago. Esto es algo que muchos padres hemos querido por mucho tiempo. Me da gusto que las escuelas Concept estén tomando esta oportunidad para trabajar con nuestros vecinos y traigan con ellos una nueva opción a Chicago Lawn, les un éxito total.

Gracias,



Olga Morales

5520 S. Christina

December 1, 2013

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

Querido Mr. Elsey,

Yo tengo dos hijos, uno en 2do grado y otro en 3ro, y quiero que ellos vayan a Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago. Me estado comunicando con el grupo de las escuelas Concept y apoyo su propuesta.

Escuelas en esta área están sobrepobladas y los maestros no pueden darle la atención individualizada a cada estudiante como ellos quisieran. Esto no es culpa de ellos, es simplemente porque no hay muchas opciones de escuelas en el barrio.

Las escuelas Concept tienes menos estudiantes en cada salón, y de esa forma los maestros tienen el tiempo y los recursos para darles la atención que cada estudiante necesita. Mis hijos siempre han estado en salones con demasiados estudiantes y tengo miedo que uno de ellos no aprenda. Por favor ayude a las escuelas Concept y denles la oportunidad para hacer una diferencia para los niños de esta comunidad.

Sinceramente,

Imelda Alcala

December 2, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey:

I'm writing in support of the Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago proposed by Concept Schools with the interest of my younger brother in mind. My brother is 7 years old and needs a dependable, quality school where he is given hope for a bright future.

The schools in Chicago Lawn are severely overcrowded, and we need more options for kids like my brother. I know from experience the difference between those who receive a good education, and those who don't. The Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago will offer the quality education needed in this community, and I urge you to support their proposal.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derrick Ruiz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Derrick Ruiz

3440 W. 61st Pl
Chicago IL 60629

773-814-7410

December 2, 2013

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

Mr. Jack Elsey,

Having worked with CPS for some time, I know the challenge that our schools have. Many of our classrooms are overcrowded, and there just aren't enough resources for teachers and principals. But I also believe that projects like Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago are a necessary part of the solution. No matter what kind of school - charter, magnet or traditional - my grandchildren deserve better, and that is why I support Concept Schools.

My grandchildren are in 1st grade and pre-kindergarten. We need quality school options for them right now - before it is too late. Concept's proposal for a K-12 tuition-free college-prep school is exactly what my family needs, and we would jump at the chance to enroll them in HSA-South Chicago.

Nothing is more important to our children than their education. I hope the Board of Education will approve this project so my family - and other families - the chance to be part of a school like HSA-South Chicago.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Jackson

3137 W. 66th
St Apt#1
Chicago IL 60629

December 2, 2013

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

Dear Jack Elsey:

I want to voice my strong support for the Concept Schools' proposal of the Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago.

As a lifelong resident of Chicago Lawn, I know that this community is filled with hard working, loyal and honest people. I am proud of this community and know it is full of great potential.

I'm also a mother of three young children, all under the age of 5. It's important to me that they learn in the best educational environment available. Not all schools are the same, and families in Chicago Lawn are sending their children out of the community in search of better schools.

The Horizon Science Academy would offer the quality education my children and so many others in the neighborhood deserve – and it would be right here at home. This community works hard to protect and provide for our youth. But the City needs to meet us half way and ensure every child has access to a good school.

Please support the Horizon Science Academy. We need more options in Chicago Lawn to assure our children are prepared for a successful and safe future.

Sincerely,

Joanna Bedoy-Jones



6241 S. Kedzie Ave Apt 214
Chicago IL 60629

December 2, 2013


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

Dear Jack Elsey,

I am writing to you as an older sister of a 9th grader currently enrolled in CPS. We have lived in the Chicago Lawn community for more than 5 years, and I am concerned that he just isn't getting the kind of individualized attention he needs.

I feel fortunate to have made it to college, and I have the same hopes for my brother. I believe that there is a need for safe schools in our community, and from what I have seen from Concept Schools, they instill a culture of respect and high expectations.

Chicago Lawn is a special community and I know how smart a lot of the kids are here. But when you don't challenge them or give them enough opportunities to be productive, they are less interested in school. I support Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago and I hope CPS will approve the project.

Sincerely,

Liliana Renteria
3419 W 63rd Pl
Chicago IL 60629

December 1, 2013

Jack Elsey
CPS
125 S. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Mr. Elsey,

I am in support of Concept Schools' proposal to open Horizon Science Academy-Chicago Lawn. My child is in second grade, and I think every day about how to get the best education for her. I've lived in Chicago Lawn for 10 years, and we desperately need Horizon Science Academy to boost the young lives at stake here in the community.

It is so important that my daughter gets the foundation of a quality education now – not later. I know the teachers and staff at her current school have good intentions, but I want to see her get individual care and push young students need to bring them to the next level. Critical skills like math and science aren't being emphasized enough in her classroom now, and Horizon Math and Science Academy is our answer to a well-rounded education.

Please allow parents like me to send our kids to a school that sets them up for success from the beginning by approving Horizon Science Academy – Chicago Lawn.


Natividad Velasquez
Parent

December 2, 2013

Jack Elsey
Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer

Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark St
Chicago, IL 60603

Mr. Elsey

Mi nombre es Eva Alonso. Le estoy escribiendo porque me preocupa la calidad de educación que mis sobrinas y mis sobrinos están recibiendo. Ellos son muy listos, pero creo que necesitan más atención y más programas en su escuela. Cuando me dijeron sobre las escuelas "Concept", y me explicaron que sus horas de clase son más largas, que tienen programas para después de clases, y que hasta tienen clases el Sábado, supe que esta es el tipo de escuela que nuestra comunidad necesita. Nuestros niños necesitan más oportunidades para ser productivos.

Entiendo que nuestras escuelas de hoy en día están haciendo lo mejor que pueden, pero con tantos estudiantes para cada salón, solo se hace lo que se puede. Creo que nos ayudaría a todos el tener una escuela de Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago. Tener otra opción de escuela, especialmente una que sea gratis y enfocada en STEM puede cambiarles la vida a muchas familias, incluyendo la mía.

Espero que mi apoyo demuestre a CPS lo importante que es este proyecto para mí.

Sinceramente,



Eva Alonso
2732 W. 62nd Pl
Chicago IL 60629

December 1, 2013

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

Querido Mr. Elsey

Hoy le escribo en apoyo para la propuesta de abrir una escuela "charter" en Chicago Lawn. Yo me crie en esta comunidad y creo que todo padre tiene el derecho a optar por una escuela de calidad. He notado como han bajado las diferentes opciones de escuelas en el área, es por eso que nuestra familia opto por mandar a nuestro hijos a una escuela fuera del área. Ellos asisten la escuela de Horizon Science Academy-McKinley Park. Si una escuela de estas se abriría en nuestra comunidad no lo pensaría dos veces para registrar a mis hijos allí.

La diferencia en la educación de mis hijos se nota mucho. Esta escuela es algo de lo mejor que nos pudo haber pasado, haría lo que fuera porque esa opción de educación estaría cerca de casa. Las maestras están más envueltas en la enseñanza de mis hijos. Mis dos hijos se alegran todos los días por ir a la escuela, que es muy distinto a cuando asistían su escuela anterior.

No tenemos que vivir en un barrio de clase alta o pagar una registración para darles a nuestros hijos una buena educación. Las escuelas Concept proveen a los estudiantes con retos en matemáticas y ciencia. Y los niños no tienen que hacer exámenes antes de ser aceptados. Espero que usted permita que Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago les permita a todos los otros padres tener la excelente opción educativa que nosotros tenemos.

Sinceramente,



Livier Carpio
Parent

3457 W 61st Street

Dec. 2, 2013

Mr. Elsey –

My name is Rosa Gonzalez and I have lived in the Chicago Lawn area for the last 15 years. I recently attended a community meeting and heard about plans for a new Horizon Science Academy for our neighborhood. I did not know much about Concept Schools before this meeting, but I know about the need for more choices and better schools for the children in our community. Though I do not have children attending local schools now, I know many parents who want more for their kids than what they are receiving now. I support this project because our children deserve it. I know they can benefit from attending a good school because education is what makes a difference in whether they have a chance to succeed in life. I hope that you approve this request, because our kids deserve as many opportunities as kids in other neighborhoods, not less.

Thank you – Rosa Gonzalez, 4601 S. Karlov, Chicago, Illinois 60632

Rosa Gonzalez

December 2, 2013

To Chicago Public Schools:

We need change to come to the community of Chicago Lawn in the form of quality education. That is why I support the proposed Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago. I have been part of this community for 40 years, and I cannot sit by while my grandchildren do not have access to good schools close to their homes. As Chicago Lawn children seek decent school options miles away, I have watched greater violence and reckless behavior drawn to Chicago Lawn, diminishing the safety of this community.

If we bring a quality charter school, like Concept Schools' Horizon Science Academy, to Chicago Lawn, our children can attend school close to home and attract positive, responsible behavior.

I would be so happy if my grandchildren have the option to enroll in the Horizon Science Academy in the near future, and I hope your support for this proposal can make this a reality.

Sincerely,


Eliseo Loera
5938 S Kenneth
Chicago, IL 60629

December 2, 2013

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

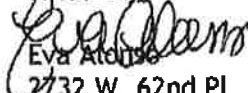
Mr Elsey,

My name is Eva Alonso, and I am writing to you because I have grown concerned about the quality of education my nieces and nephews are receiving. They are very bright children, but I think they need more attention and programs from their school. When I learned about Concept Schools and how their schools have longer school days, after-school programs and even Saturday school, I knew that was the kind of school our community needs. Our kids need more opportunities to be productive.

I know that our current schools are doing the best they can, but with so many students in each classroom, they can only do so much. I think it would help everyone to have Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago. Having another school option - and one that is tuition-free and STEM-focused - would be lifechanging for so many families, including mine.

I hope my support helps CPS understand how important this project is.

Sincerely,


Eva Alonso
2732 W. 62nd Pl
Chicago IL 60629

December 1, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey:

I often worry for the future of our community, for our children and their parents. That is why, in speaking with a representative of Concept Schools, I am happy to lend them my full support to open a new charter school in Chicago Lawn.

I have lived in the same neighborhood for 47 years. While this was once a stable, middle-class neighborhood, several years ago I lost my only son to a gang shooting. It was a tragic time for my family, and I know we all miss him every day. My son's three children are now in my care, and they are a bright spot in my life. I am determined that they will grow up to be successful and the best they can be.

Children in our neighborhood can be recruited by gangs all too easily. Kids need somewhere to be, someone to hold them accountable. That somewhere should be school and that someone should be parents and teachers. I think education and activities *are* the answer to a lot of the problems that affect communities like this one.

Concept's existing schools are places where learning and mutual respect are put above everything else. They have a zero tolerance policy toward bullying and violence. All of their students participate in after-school programming and Saturday school, not just a select few. By nature of occupying extra hours, these programs keep kids off the streets. They hold their kids accountable and want them to be excited to learn. It is difficult for a child to fall through the cracks at a place like that.

This new school is a promising opportunity for the children of my neighborhood. A school would not solve every problem facing our community, but it would be a good start.

Sincerely,



Shona Villanova

6252 S. Spaulding Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629

December 2, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey:

I have lived in Chicago Lawn for more than 15 years, and I support the Concept Schools' proposal for the Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago.

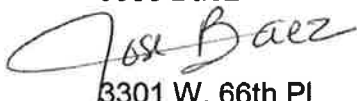
I know the value and power of a quality education. But for many years, the Chicago Lawn community has suffered because of over-crowding in our schools. Each of my children are unique, but they would all benefit from greater attention and resources at a school like Horizon Science Academy.

This community should be commended for its commitment to improving the lives of our children. However, there is only so much we can do as parents, when quality education – the most critical piece of a child's development – is missing.

I hope you will support the Concept Schools proposal, and offer a brighter future for the children of Chicago Lawn.

Sincerely,

Jose Baez



3301 W. 66th Pl
Chicago IL 60629

773-863-5160



COUNCIL CHAMBER

CITY HALL, ROOM 300
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE: 312-744-3069

JoANN THOMPSON

CITY COUNCIL CITY OF CHICAGO

ALDERMAN, 16TH WARD
16TH WARD SERVICE CENTER
5335 SOUTH WESTERN BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609
TELEPHONE: 773-434-3399
FAX: 773-434-3889

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HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE

December 2, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey:

This correspondence was generated to convey my support of Concept School's proposal to open Horizon Science Academy – Chicago Lawn. The school model is a STEM-focused, high quality college-prep school that will provide individualized instruction that every family deserves.

It is my understanding that the goal of Horizon Math and Science Academy is to bolster college enrollment; an opportunity of which too few community youth take full advantage. Concept Schools manages nearly 30 schools throughout the Midwest, three in Chicago specifically. Chicago Math and Science Academy in Rogers Park has consistently been a model school for our city and named a "Level 1" top Chicago high school this year. The other two schools which opened in August, 2013, promise to deliver the same success. The residents in the 16th Ward deserve to go to an equally outstanding school with no regard to existing obstacles.

As, Alderman of the 16th Ward, I want our youth to be able to work hard to pursue their dreams and do what they want to do, without entertaining the obstacles. It is my hope that the Chicago Board of Education will envision the impact Concept Schools will have in the 16th Ward and approve Horizon Science Academy-Chicago Lawn.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Thompson
Alderman, 16th Ward

1836 W. 35TH STREET, FIRST FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60609
(773) 869-9050



323 STATE CAPITOL
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
(217) 782-9415

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
ANTONIO MUÑOZ
STATE SENATOR • 1ST DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

November 25, 2013

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. Concept proposes to open a K-12 charter school that will initially serve 432 students and eventually prepare 725 students for college in an environment of high expectations and standards with a rigorous STEM-focused curriculum in my district.

As I sit on the Senate Telecommunications & Technology Committee, I know how important it is for our children to learn and gain the necessary skills in STEM fields to lead our state and country in the right direction.

I understand that Concept Schools serves over 12,000 students in the Midwest, including Illinois, in STEM-focused charter schools successfully. Chicago Math and Science Academy in Rogers Park, a Concept managed charter school in Chicago built a great reputation of being an effective learning environment. Over 95% college acceptance and graduation rates, and long waiting list the CMSA has attest to the quality education the students receive at CMSA. I was also impressed with the fact that CMSA is the 5th highest performing non-selective public high school in the City. Concept opened a new school in McKinley Park, which my staff was able to visit and come back impressed. Children and families in my district deserve such high quality public education choices as CMSA and HSA-McKinley Park.

Therefore, I strongly support Concept Schools in opening of HSA-South Chicago in the Chicago Lawn community. I encourage you to provide Concept Schools with the opportunity to serve children and parents in my district, particularly in the Chicago Lawn community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Antonio Muñoz".

Antonio Munoz
State Senator • 1st District
Assistant Majority Leader



GREATER SOUTHWEST
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

November 29, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey,

I am writing to you to express my excitement regarding the proposed Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago.

When I first heard about this project, I was amazed by how well the goals of Concept Schools lined up with ours. The mission of the Greater Southwest Development Corporation is "to be the catalyst for creating and maintaining a vital southwest Chicago community by empowering, building and sustaining development that raises the quality of life for our neighborhood residents, businesses and industries." Concept Schools works towards those same goals by providing the communities they serve with a quality public education choice.

For neighborhoods, businesses and industries on the South Side to prosper, we have to start by addressing the youth of the community – and that begins with schools. By providing students in the area with access to quality public education, those students become contributing members of the community. Business and industries benefit from an educated work force and the neighborhood benefits from strong role models for younger generations. These students are the future leaders of the community and a strong education benefits everyone.

I hope you recognize the possibilities this schools holds for every member of this community – students and parents alike. I appreciate your time and encourage you to approve plans for Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago.

Sincerely,

Nick Kollias
Commercial Director
Greater Southwest Development Corporation

November 27, 2013

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

Jack Elsey:

It is my pleasure to offer my support for Concept Schools' proposal for Horizon Science Academy – South Chicago. As the Commissioner for Special Service Area 59 in Chicago Lawn, I am invested in the economic and social development of this community, and I know the Horizon Science Academy would dramatically improve both sectors.

Concept Schools has a track record of success. Its school in Rogers Park - Chicago Math and Science Academy – sees more than 90% of its graduates admitted into college. Students at two schools in McKinley Park and North Austin that opened earlier this year are already showing remarkable growth. We cannot deny the students of Chicago Lawn these same opportunities.

I have been appointed by the Mayor to improve the business district of this community, and therefore I feel it's my responsibility to advocate for proposals such as this one. There's no denying that the economic development of our community starts with quality education. If we can't give our kids the kind of education they deserve, they will be unprepared to contribute to our existing local businesses, and even to open businesses of their own someday.

I strongly encourage the Board of Education to approve Horizon Science-Academy and allow Concept Schools to deliver opportunity and educational foundation to our children and to improve the economic development of our great community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Jose Alejandro Garcia
(773) 449-0091
Commissioner
Special Service Area 59



Latino Organization of the Southwest

4051 W. 63rd St.

Chicago, IL 60629

Phone (773)581-1900

Fax (773)581-1902

Board Members

Graciela Guel
Adriana Enciso
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Heidi Urdiales
Pedro Calderon

Staff

Héctor Rico, *Chief
Executive Officer*

Wanda Santiago,
*Chief Financial
Officer*

www.latinoorgsw.com

Dec 2, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Jack Elsey,


Concept Schools is the top of the line in education, and I am more than happy to write in support of their proposal to bring a charter school to our neighborhood of Chicago Lawn. It's not only needed, it's overdue.

The Latino Organization of the Southwest is a safe haven for kids here. We provide tutoring, leadership opportunities, violence prevention programs and an outlet for energy. It would be great to have another institution like Concept Schools nearby who supports this, too. In Chicago Lawn, our students have high potential, they just need help bringing it out. Horizon Science Academy has done that in the other three neighborhoods they are in, and they can do the same here.

They know how to integrate math, science and even language skills into activities that help kids learn and socialize. Further, Concept Schools' parents are active in their kids' learning – another key to success. Simply put, having another education option in this neighborhood would make a difference in no time.

I know we would see our families happy here with this school. Brighter futures are just around the corner for those who need them, should you approve this project.

Sincerely,


Hector Rico
Executive Director

Latino Organization of the Southwest

Celebrating 20 Years of Service
www.latinoorgsw.com

"La ignorancia mata a los pueblos, por eso hay que matar la ignorancia"
"Ignorance Kills communities, therefore it is precise to kill ignorance"
José Martí



407 South Dearborn, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60605
312.372.4872 | f 312.566.0412

lumity.org | npo.net

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

Dear Mr. Elsey,

It is my pleasure to support Concept Schools' proposal to open two high-quality, STEM-focused charter schools in the Chatham and Chicago Lawn communities. Concept Schools and Lumity have shared values in providing enriching educational experiences for the betterment of communities who need it most.

Lumity is committed to mobilizing the corporate community to expose and inspire Chicago's youth to STEM-related careers through experiential learning. We connect employees with CPS students so they get hands-on experiences solving real problems while learning about the various professions and industries, helping students get on the path for a meaningful career. Today more than ever, it is critical that we get into Chicago neighborhoods to build effective educational opportunities from the ground up for all learning levels. Science, technology, math, science and interpersonal skills are critical in preparing Chicago's youth for college and careers.

I believe that Concept Schools is part of that solution. We have a preliminary partnership with them and are excited to visit Chicago Math and Science Academy – a top-rated "Level 1" high school in Chicago - later this month to discuss next steps. As executive director of Lumity, I work with numerous Chicago schools and can say that Concept's standards are by far among the highest. With an outstanding college acceptance rate above 95%, two Blue Ribbon schools in the Midwest, they offer customized, rigorous curriculum without selective enrollment. Because their schools are open to every family and child, parents have the freedom to explore the best educational options at no cost. We need that in Chatham and Chicago Lawn.

At the end of the day, Lumity aims to make Chicago a better place to work, live and learn. Concept Schools' two schools in Chicago Lawn and the 21st Ward would help fulfill that dream for every parent, child and family who deserves it now. It is my hope that the Board of Education approves this request to build a brighter future for so many of Chicago's youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kara", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kara Kennedy
Executive Director

December 2, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey:

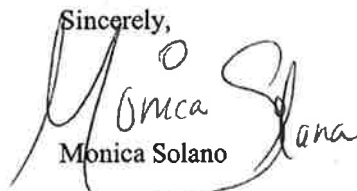
I am a Chicago Lawn resident and I want to give my support for Concept Schools' Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago proposal.

I've been in the Chicago Lawn community for three years, and the lack of quality school options has been apparent since day one. For example, my neighbor's 7-year-old son takes the CTA bus every morning at 5:00 a.m. because his school is miles away. It would be in every child and parents' best interest if we had greater quality school options more readily available here at home.

Since moving to Chicago Lawn, I've had a son of my own, and it won't be long before I begin looking for a school for him. Now more than ever I understand the desperate need in this community, and I know that the Horizon Science Academy will bring tremendous opportunity to so many families, including my own.

That is why I ask you to support the Concept Schools' proposal, and enhance the quality of education for the Chicago Lawn community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Solano". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "M" and "S".

Monica Solano

3546 W. 62nd Pl
Chicago IL 60629

872-333-7918

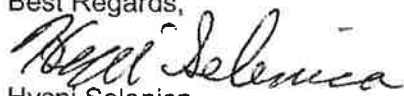
November 25, 2013

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

Dear Jack Elsey,

In addition to being a Chicago Police Officer, I am also a Dad. My three kids come first and I do not take their education lightly. I am also a long-time resident of the Gage Park and Chicago Lawn area. I know that bringing Concept Schools to the neighborhood is the right decision for the kids, families and surrounding community. I searched high and low for the schools that best fit my kids' needs. At one time, that meant travelling clear across town to a private math and science-focused school in Niles. I don't think it is right that I have to travel that far to find a solution, when other parents have the choice right there in their own community. I have toured Chicago Math and Science Academy in Rogers Park and think it's a fantastic model that needs to live here in our community. They know how to run a school well – from the robotics program to college field trips, they do everything to ensure their students are built for long-term success. Providing Great schools is the key success on improving the well being of our children's future and improving our neighborhoods in keeping them safe. I want my kids to attend Horizon Science School here in the Gage Park /Chicago Lawn area, and I know I am not alone. Please let me know what I can do to help make this a reality, not just a possibility.

Best Regards,


Hysni Selenica

5749 S. Francisco Ave
Chicago, IL 60629

November 25, 2013

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


Dear Jack Elsey,

I have two young children and I want them to receive the best education possible, and that includes more than basic reading, writing and arithmetic. I believe Concept Schools can provide the additional programing to make my children successful.

Concept Schools has a science and math focused curriculum and have established that they are willing to work with the community to meet the needs of parents and students. My eldest is in 2nd grade and I have already begun to see how the school he/she is currently attending is limited in the programs that they can provide.

My youngest is only 4 months old, but I have already started thinking about the options that I will have for him/her. Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago would be my first choice and I hope that I will have that choice to make. I give my full support for Concept Schools' plan and I hope that you will too.

Sincerely,



Nancy Ramirez

5840 S. California Ave
Chicago, IL 60629
773-575-0407

November 25, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey,

I've lived on the South Side for 15 years and know this community very well. We are a community of hard workers, many of us parents, and the reason that we work so hard is to provide our children with as many opportunities as possible. We need a new school and Concept Schools is willing to fulfill that need.

I have two children in 1st and 3rd grades and I'm not satisfied with the school they're currently at. I shouldn't have to leave the community to find a good school. Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago is the answer. Concept Schools has a history of success and a college-prep curriculum, which is exactly what I want for my children.

I've attended the community meetings and Concept Schools has been very helpful in answering questions and taking my personal needs into consideration. I want my kids at one of their schools. My community needs this school and I hope that you approve their proposal.

Sincerely,


Gabriel Sepulveda

3220 W. 64th Pl
Chicago, IL 60629
773-484-5805

December 1, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey,

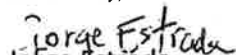
I write in support of Concept Schools opening a new charter school, Horizon Science Academy-Chicago Lawn, in our neighborhood. My three kids and I just moved to the area a year ago, and I wish they were getting more attention individually in their classrooms along with a more challenging curriculum.

My three kids range from five years old to 13. Each of them are at a different stage in their education, but I fear they will all start to fall through the cracks. When I learned about Concept Schools' focus on math, science, technology and engineering, I became excited for what my kids could one day become.

I want my kids to have that well-rounded experience, but it's important that we stay in the area. Bringing HSA-Chicago Lawn here would provide all families here would allow families here to make the best educational choice for our kids' varying needs.

If you approve bringing Horizon Science Academy to Chicago Lawn, children like mine would have the quality education across all grades, preparing them for success.

Sincerely,


Jorge Estrada

Parent
3515 W 60th Place
312-656-6667

December 1, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey,

As long-time Chicago Lawn residents, we completely support the proposal for Concept Schools to bring Horizon Science Academy to the neighborhood. We've lived in the community for 17 years and have seen it all – from the great schools we used to have to the decline of options that exist now. Our niece and nephew live in the area too. They both attend a school that means well, but is so overpopulated that the kids can't get the individual attention they need to succeed.

When we learned of Concept Schools, we knew it was the right kind of school to bring to our community. Our needs are changing and the STEM-focused curriculum Concept Schools provides would ensure our niece and nephew are prepared to succeed in any field they choose to pursue.

We ask that you to approve Horizon Science Academy-Chicago Lawn to bring back the stability and quality education our area needs more than ever.


Christian and Lorena Lopez
6223 S. Sacramento

December 2, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey:

I'm contacting you to request that you approve Concept Schools' proposal for Horizon Science Academy-South Chicago.

I am new to the area, and only want what's best for my 2- and 4-year-old. I'm not confident with the schools in place. We need to have a better option now because soon it will be too late. Older kids who don't get off to a good start are harder to get back on track. I want my kids in a good school with teachers that are paying close attention to them right from the start.

The Horizon Academy is going to focus on math and science, both subjects important for the future. I support this project, and hope that you will do the same so that I can enroll my kids in Horizon. They deserve a better opportunity.

Best,

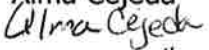
Angelica Barrera

December 1, 2013

Dear Mr. Elsey,

As a new member of the community with three children, I want a better choice for my children's education and support Concept Schools' plan to open a charter school on the South Side.

Concept charters have a college-prep curriculum and smaller class sizes that allow faculty and staff to focus more on the students. Parents on the South Side want the same opportunity for their children. I have heard about this project, and believe that Horizon Science Academy would be a better school for my kids than the one they are currently attending. I've had to start thinking about where I want to send my youngest and I will have a very difficult decision to make unless the new school is approved. I hope that you approve Concept Schools' plan and give the members of this community what they need.

Alma Cejeda

3510 W. 59th Street
Chicago, IL 60629

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

Dear Mr. Jack Elsey,

I am writing to support the new Horizon Charter School for my neighborhood. I have lived in Chicago Lawn for over 20 years. I don't have any kids of my own, but I know that good schools are important to help make our neighborhood a better place.

This new charter school will give children in the area a chance for a brighter future so they can help make our community a nicer place to live and work. Having a good school will help give these kids the tools they need so they can be of value to society when they grow up.

Without a good school, these kids are fighting an uphill battle and will have a tough time. We all owe them more than that. That is why this Charter School is so important to everyone-even people without kids. Thank you for listening to me. Please approve the Horizon Charter School.

Sincerely,


Alex Lopez

December 1, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey,

I am honored to write in support of Concept Schools' proposal to open a charter school in my community of the 21st Ward. My three kids attend Concept Schools' Horizon Math and Science Academy – McKinley Park and, as a parent, I cannot stress enough what a blessing the school has been to our family.

Our family has deep roots here in the surrounding Chatham community, and I believe a new Concept Schools would change so many lives here forever. I know from first-hand experience just how much a Concept School means to a family. My children dreaded going to school every day at their neighborhood school, Gillespie Magnet School. I felt like my children were falling through the cracks, and though it was difficult for them to endure the bullying and tears, it was even harder for me as a parent.

Our oldest son, Andrew, was not being challenged enough, and we didn't feel that his individual needs were being addressed. The teachers at Gillespie were some of the most dedicated I have met, but he needed the push, drive and encouragement to go above and beyond. We knew we had to do something drastic when we learned about Concept Schools' Horizon Science Academy-McKinley Park at a carnival soon thereafter. The rest is history.

At HSA-McKinley, the teachers and staff are like family. Andrew found his niche in the robotics team at HSA and has flourished academically. Our other two students have skyrocketed. There is a level of mutual respect at the school like I have never seen before. They treat every single student as an individual, catering to any specific need. Not only does the staff challenge the students, they challenge the parents as well. We are immersed in our students' education at every step by attending meetings, field trips and conferences. It makes us want to be better parents.

The decision to transfer our children from the McKinley Park Campus to the 21st Ward school would be entirely up to them, but as their parents, we would feel 100% comfortable with the move. Aside from what the Concept Schools organization has meant to my family, I believe it would have a remarkable impact on our community. As a life-long resident of the Chatham area, the only thing I would love more than to see my kids flourish is my community. We need Horizon Science Academy to keep a heartbeat going in this community. I urge you to help us do that by approving Concept Schools' proposal.

Sincerely,

Patricia Taylor
Parent

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Taylor". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name and title.

November 24, 2013

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

Dear Jack Elsey:

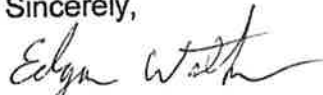
My name is Edger Watkins and I am strongly in favor of Concept Schools opening a charter school on the South Side. Parents in the 21st and 6th wards are in dire need of a quality public school option for their kids. Members of my family are well-educated and hold jobs that require a master's degree or more, but I am not optimistic for my son's future while attending his current school.

I have lived in the area for 7 years, and any of my neighbors will tell you – we need a change. My son was living with his mother and attending a private school on scholarship, but a medical situation in the family has brought him back to live with me. I am extremely dissatisfied with my options for his education and worried that his opportunity to attend college is in danger.

My son shouldn't have to leave his own community to get the kind of quality education he needs to succeed. The schools in this area are over-crowded and the facilities are outdated. Horizon Science Academy-Chatham would have better resources, updated facilities, more individual attention, and provide my son with the background required to attend a prestigious university.

When I first heard about the proposed school, I offered to help Concept with anything they needed. Their values of high expectations and hard work create exactly the kind of school culture I want for my son. That is why I will do anything I can to make sure he gets this opportunity. I appreciate your time and I hope that you give my son and the children of this neighborhood the quality education that they deserve.

Sincerely,


Edger Watkins

Dec. 1, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey:

I recently visited Horizon Science Academy in McKinley Park, and I was blown away. I want a school like that in my community. I have 8 grandchildren and I want all of them to attend schools like the one in McKinley Park.

Horizon Science Academy would be a perfect fit here. The school we saw in McKinley Park was extremely clean with students and teachers that were excited to be there! I liked the small classrooms and the friendly atmosphere. I like that my grandchildren could learn another language and be exposed to cultures other than their own.

Some of these kids have never even been outside the south side. We also wouldn't have to worry about finding a good high school after they complete elementary and middle school grades – it's an all in one school! I hope the Board of Education passes Concept Schools' proposal to bring a charter school to my neighborhood.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita Westbrook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anita" and last name "Westbrook" clearly distinguishable.

Anita Westbrook

Resident, 60619

DATE: November 30, 2013

TO:

Mister Jack Elsey
Chicago Public Schools

Chicago Public Schools/Board of Education:

When I heard that Concept Schools wanted to bring a charter school to our area, I decided to see what the school was like for the sake of my grandkids. I went on a tour of Horizon Science Academy in McKinley Park and loved everything I saw. I really hope Concept Schools gets approved to open a similar school here as part of the Legacy Project so my own grandkids can attend.

I have never seen such a clean, colorful school as the one I toured. All the teachers were very professional and paid attention to every student. I also learned that parents are involved in their child's education every step of the way. That is really important to our family and something I wish we could have more of right now. When I saw the computer lab though, I was sold. They have the most updated technology to help the kids learn. I enjoyed everything about the school. Please allow Concept Schools to be a part of our community.

FROM:

Carla Bruce (773-240-4523)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carla Bruce". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping underline.

Dec. 1, 2013

Jack Elsey
Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer
Chicago Public Schools

Mr. Elsey:

I am an advocate for all the children in my neighborhood who need a school like Horizon Science Academy. I lost my only son to gun violence and know that the children of this community cannot afford to wait for a safe school. I hope that this letter will bring the school to my family.

I am very involved in my grandkids lives, who also live in the surrounding area. I know that a great education is the key to a productive life, so I took a tour Horizon Charter Academy on Pershing. I would send my grandkids there in a second!

The school was incredibly clean and bright. I could feel the energy from the students ready and excited to learn. This school had small classes and great teachers who also participate in after-school activities and sports to keep kids off the street. I could tell those students had great relationships with the staff, and I want my grandkids to have mentors like that to look up to.

Horizon Science Academy is exactly what we need for the kids of this neighborhood. I hope you see it the same way. Please bring a school like that to our community.

Sincerely,

Annette Freeman
773-915-3447

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annette Freeman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name and phone number.

December 1, 2013

To: Chicago Public Schools

My name is Linda Collins and I am strongly in favor of Concept Schools opening a charter school on the South Side. I went on a tour of Horizon Science Academy in McKinley Park and I enjoyed it. I liked that it was clean, colorful and an inviting atmosphere. I like that they had small classes, robotics, high tech and the cultural diversity that our child will be exposed too. I also learned that parents are involved in their child's education every step of the way. I want my child to have the best of what this school can offer, so that my child can be exposed to same educational opportunities as children in the suburbs.

I am the caretaker of my husband who is bedridden, which can be tough at times for both of us. I really hope Concept Schools gets approved to open a similar school, so that my child can attend. Which really take a burden off us, knowing that our child would have a strong educational foundation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Collins".

Mrs. Linda Collins

7948 S. Ingleside

Chicago, Ill 60619

DATE: November 30, 2013

To: Chicago Public Schools/Board of Education:

When I heard that Concept Schools wanted to bring a charter school to our area, I want to see what it looked liked for myself. I went on a tour of Horizon Science Academy in McKinley Park and liked what I saw and shared it with my daughter. I really hope Concept Schools gets approved to open a similar school in my neighborhood, so my grandchildren can attend.

The school was clean, colorful and friendly. I like that it was High Tech and the classes were small. I want my three grandchildren to be able to attend a school like McKinley Park. I want the Chicago Board of Education to approve Concept's Proposal, so my grandchildren who are on the south side of Chicago, have the same opportunities, as children on the north side of Chicago.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Slaughter". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Mr. Frank Slaughter

6360 S. Minerva

Chicago, IL 60620

Dec. 1, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey:

My husband and I recently visited Horizon Science Academy in McKinley Park, and we were excited about what was shown to us. We need a school like that in our community. When my husband and I married, we merge two families together. As a result, we have 12 children. We want them to attend a school like the one in McKinley Park.

The school we saw in McKinley Park was extremely clean, students and teachers were engaged in activities, small classrooms and the friendly atmosphere, and we loved the Smart board and the robotics. It was so high tech! We are so excited that children will be able to learn another language and be exposed to other cultures other than their own.

We also wouldn't have to worry about finding a good high school after they complete elementary and middle school grades – it's an all in one school! When had a family meeting and shared with our children what we saw at McKinley Park. My children ask us when are we going start? My husband and I want to be able to tell them August 2014.

I hope the Board of Education passes Concept Schools' proposal to bring a STEM School to our neighborhood.

Sincerely,  Doreen McGraw

The Mays and McGraw Family

7805 S. Michigan

Chicago, Illinois 60619

Dec. 1, 2013

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

Mr. Elsey,

I recently learned of Concept Schools' interest in bringing a charter school to the area. I am the primary caregiver of my grandson, and we both want this school to be part of our lives.

I want him to have the biggest say in how his life turns out. That's why I brought him along to a Concept Schools informational meeting last month. It was important to me that he liked what he saw – and he did! I toured Horizon Science Academy in McKinley Park and loved the school even more seeing it in person. We were both excited for the math and science focus the school had, along with all the clubs, activities and sports he could join. My grandson is in ~~8th~~ grade, 7th and the thought of him possibly being in the first class to graduate Horizon Science Academy makes me so proud. It is both of our hopes that you approve Horizon Science Academy to come to our community so families like ours can feel confident in the direction our children's lives are headed.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Lewis
773-488-7056

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvia Lewis". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large loop for the 'L' and a distinct 'S'.

November 25, 2013

Jack Elsey
Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark St
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Mr. Jack Elsey,

I am a parent of a 5-year-old and 7-year-old and I recently went on a tour of Horizon Science Academy in McKinley Park. It was one of the best schools I have ever seen. I would do anything to have that option come to our neighborhood for my own kids.

My kids are young and I think they need the push and drive the students in McKinley Park are getting. I really liked the robotics program they offer. I know that math and science are two areas kids struggle in, and this school made those subjects fun and interactive. Kids there *wanted* to learn. They had updated technology like new computers and iPads that every kid had access to.

Please approve this school to come to my neighborhood. We would be first in line to sign up.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Terrell".

Robert Terrell

Parent

773-443-7354

November 30, 2013

Chicago Public Schools/Board of Education:

When I heard that Concept Schools wanted to bring a charter school to our area, I decided to see what the school was like for the sake of my granddaughter. I went on a tour of Horizon Science Academy in McKinley Park and loved everything I saw, such as the Smart Board, the calmness and the bell sounds changing classes. I really hope Concept Schools gets approved to open a similar school here as part of the Legacy Project so my granddaughter can attend.

I have never seen such a clean, colorful school as the one I toured. All the teachers were very professional and paid attention to every student. I also learned that parents are involved in their child's education every step of the way. That is really important to our family and something I wish we could have more of right now. When I saw the computer lab and the robots, I knew this is the kind of school my granddaughter needs to attend. Please allow Concept Schools to be a part of our community.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doris Sherron".

Doris Sherron

8347 S. Parnell

Chicago, Illinois 60619

Dec. 1, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey:

I recently visited Horizon Science Academy in McKinley Park, and I was blown away. I want a school like that in my community. I have 4 grandchildren ranging from 7 to 13 years old; I want all of them to attend school like the one in McKinley Park.

Horizon Science Academy would be a perfect fit in the Chatham Area. The school we saw in McKinley Park was extremely clean, ground level, students and teachers that were excited to be there! I liked the small classrooms and the friendly atmosphere. I like that my grandchildren could learn another language, as well learn to play an instrument. It was hi-tech and they will work with them individually if needed.

We also wouldn't have to worry about finding a good high school after they complete elementary and middle school grades -- it's an all in one school! I hope the Board of Education passes Concept Schools' proposal to bring a charter school to my neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vivian Stewart". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'V'.

Vivian Stewart
37 E. 80th
Chicago, Ill 60619

Dec. 1, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey:

My husband and I recently visited Horizon Science Academy in McKinley Park, and we were excited about what was shown to us. We are moving in the community in February 2014 and we need a school like that in the community. We have three children, 7, 12 and 13 and want them to attend a school like the one in McKinley Park.

The school we saw in McKinley Park was extremely clean, students and teachers were engaged in activities, small classrooms and learning atmosphere, and we loved the Smart board and the robotics. We were especially please that it was a safe environment for our children to grow and learn.

We also like the fact not worrying about finding a good high school after they complete elementary and middle school grades – it's an all in one school!

I hope the Board of Education passes Concept Schools' proposal to bring a STEM School to this neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Clinton Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Sharon and Clinton Smith

773/ 990-0790

November 30, 2013

To: Chicago Public Schools/Board of Education:

I went on a tour of Horizon Science Academy in McKinley Park and I enjoyed it. I really hope Concept Schools gets approved to open a similar school, so that my two children can attend.

I liked that it was clean, colorful and inviting atmosphere. I like that they had small classes, the robots, high tech and the cultural diversity that children will be exposed too. I also learned that parents are involved in their child's education every step of the way. That is really important to me and something I wish I could have more of right now.

I want my children to have the best of what this school can offer, so they can be exposed to educational opportunities to what children in the suburbs and other areas that have good schools. We need more schools like what I saw on the south side. I am asking as a parent, please allow Concept Schools to be a part of our community.

Sincerely,

Dolly Parker

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dolly Parker".

8901 S. Parnell

Chicago, Illinois 60620



COUNCIL CHAMBER

CITY HALL, ROOM 300
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE: 312-744-4810

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

RULES & ETHICS

SPECIAL EVENTS

TRAFFIC

**BUDGET AND
GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS**

FINANCE

ZONING

CITY COUNCIL CITY OF CHICAGO

Howard B. Brookins, Jr.
Alderman, 21st Ward

December 3, 2013

Honorable Charles Jenkins, Pastor
Fellowship Educational & Economic Development Corporation
4543 South Princeton Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Dear Pastor Jenkins:

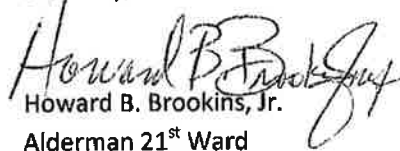
I am writing to express my full support of the Horizon Science Academy an institution apart of the Concept Schools to be located at 8522 South Lafayette Avenue as part of the Legacy Project being led by you and your church.

As Alderman of the 21st Ward, my desire to have this blighted area redeveloped into a productive, self sustaining organism within the 21st Ward is of utmost importance. The fact that it will be redeveloped into an institution of learning that will benefit the children in the 21st Ward is what could be referred to as, "Icing on the cake."

I am pleased with the plans moving forward and appreciate that your team has selected the 21st Ward to forward the vision of your ministry.

If you have any questions or require anything further please feel free to reach out to me or my Chief of Staff, Curtis V. Thompson, Jr. at 773-881-9300.

Sincerely,


Howard B. Brookins, Jr.
Alderman 21st Ward

HBBJR:cvtjr:jusb

AMERICAN FAMILY HISTORY INSTITUTE

Founded in 1997

Pat Bearden, Executive Director

December 1, 2013

Jack Elsey
Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer

Chicago Public Schools
125 South Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60603

Mr. Elsey:

As a retired CPS teacher, formerly with Ralph Metcalf Elementary School on our city's South Side, I understand the challenges and limitations that educators face every day, particularly in underserved neighborhoods. For that reason, I am writing to you in support of Concept Schools' proposed charter school – Horizon Science Academy – Chatham – that will serve students in the 21st and 6th wards.

Concept Schools have a proven record of success in the City of Chicago and around the Midwest. I am particularly excited about the organization's focus on a curriculum that emphasizes science, technology, engineering and mathematics, also known as STEM. These subjects play a critical role in every child's education and future. A strong STEM curriculum provides the building blocks for success in the classroom and in the real world. These fields are critical to the future of the economy, and preparing local students in these subjects is a key component in revitalizing our local economy here on the South Side.

I have placed my confidence in Concept Schools because each of the organization's schools, including the proposed school as part of The Legacy Project, focuses on the families and children right in that neighborhood. The proposed school would be a local, non-selective school. It will serve students in the 21st and 6th wards, giving *our* students a leg up. From my three decades of working in neighborhood schools, I know that giving a kid a chance is always a positive, no matter what zip code he or she comes from. Kids, no matter their family's income, have the potential for greatness, so long as we give them the tools and resources to do so. They just need that chance. Concept is going to give these kids that chance.

I am more than happy to discuss my support in greater detail. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions on this matter. My full support goes to Concept Schools in this endeavor, and I know that many other local leaders feel the same way. We look forward to working with Concept to better the lives of students in our community, and I trust the Board of Education will ensure this project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Patricia Bearden

West Chesterfield Community Association

Ms. Regina Armour
Director of New School Development and
Community Outreach
Concept Schools Inc.

November 25, 2013

Dear Ms. Armour

The West Chesterfield Community Association is excited to hear about the proposed partnership between Concept Schools and the Fellowship Baptist Church Legacy Project to bring Horizon Science Academy-Chatham to the community. As one of Chicago's most historic and proud neighborhoods, West Chesterfield is working hard to revitalize our community and quality schools are an integral part of that process. The community's future is dependent upon the education provided to our young people.

In talking with the Concept Schools team, and attending a site visit to the Horizon Science Academy in the McKinley Park community, we are impressed by the school's commitment to offer this type of curriculum in an open enrollment environment. Their track record demonstrates their commitment to serve urban communities and children of color. One of its schools - Chicago Math and Science Academy in Rogers Park, sees over 90% of its graduates admitted into college, and we hope to bring that opportunity to the children of our community.

We applaud Chicago Public Schools' effort to create high quality public education for Chicago. Without access to quality school options, our communities suffer. We feel fortunate that Pastor Jenkins, Fellowship Baptist Church and Concept Schools are dedicating themselves to investing in the Chatham area which includes West Chesterfield- we know our communities are worth it.

On behalf of the West Chesterfield Community Association, I strongly urge the Board of Education to approve Horizon Science-Academy and allow Concept Schools to deliver opportunity and educational foundation to our children.

Sincerely,



Michael LaFargue, President
West Chesterfield Community Association

Michael E. LaFargue, President
Jocilyn Floyd, 1st VP
James Frye, 2nd VP

Darlene Miles 3rd VP
Sharon Banks Pincham, Secretary
Claudia Harris, Treasurer

Loretta Turner, Financial Secretary
Beulah Pressley, Sergeant at Arms
Phyllis Johnson, Parliamentarian

P.O. Box 19323 • Chicago • IL • 60619 • Phone 773.821.8928 • Fax 773.821.8929



AMERICAN LEGION
HAROLD WASHINGTON POST 1987
OFFICE OF COMMANDER FRANK B. THOMPSON III
4500 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago IL 60653
Phone: (773) 719-0854

Dec. 2nd, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey,

I have spent my life in public service. As a veteran and commander of the American Legion Harold Washington Post 1987, I do my part to empower not just seniors, but the leaders of tomorrow who will one day fill our shoes. That calling has recently drawn me to Concept Schools and its proposal of a new charter school in partnership with The Legacy Project in the 21st Ward.

Our community needs this. It is my duty and honor to stand for exceptional education for my community's children, and I full support Horizon Science Academy-Chatham. The day I heard about Horizon Science Academy-Chatham, I knew it was what our children need. The violence, limited resources and limited access to quality education are hurting our community, and are hurting our families.

After learning that their robotics team at Chicago Math and Science Academy in Rogers Park ranked nationally this year, I was sold. That team is also comprised largely of minority students. If they can do it, so can we. Our children have the same potential as any other child in this city, and they deserve the same individualized attention, after-school activities, and support that will lead them to greatness. Concept Schools stands for all of those things. In addition, they know the importance of a science, technology and math-focused curriculum which is critical for any child's future.

I feel so strongly about this, that I have spent the last month going door-to-door in my community to educate neighbors about the project. Their response has been overwhelmingly positive. Like me, they understand that together, we are reviving the

community we used to have – including safe places for youth to get their energy out, clubs and sports and respectable learning environments.

Please approve this project. Your vote to bring Horizon Science Academy here will not just change the lives of our students, but those of us advocating for their success as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank D. Thompson III". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frank Thompson

Commander

The American Legion

Harold Washington Post 1987

December 1, 2013

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

Mr. Elsey:

As a retired CPS administrator, formerly with Marshall and Michelle Clark schools, I understand the challenges and limitations that educators face every day, particularly in underserved neighborhoods. For that reason, I am writing to you in support of Concept Schools' proposed charter school – Horizon Science Academy – Chatham – that will serve students in the 21st and 6th wards.

Concept Schools has a proven record of success in the City of Chicago and around the Midwest. I am particularly excited about the organization's focus on a curriculum that emphasizes science, technology, engineering and mathematics, also known as STEM. These subjects play a critical role in every child's education and future. A strong STEM curriculum provides the building blocks for success in the classroom and in the real world. These fields are critical to the future of the economy, and preparing local students in these subjects is a key component in revitalizing our local economy here on the South Side.

I have placed my confidence in Concept Schools because each of the organization's schools, including the proposed school as part of The Legacy Project, focuses on the families and children right in that neighborhood. The proposed school would be a local, non-selective school. It will serve students in the 21st and 6th wards, giving *our* students a leg up. From my 38 years working in neighborhood schools, I know that giving a kid a chance is always a positive, no matter what zip code he or she comes from. Kids, no matter their family's income, have the potential for greatness so long as we give them the tools and resources to do so. They just need that chance. Concept is going to give these kids that chance.

I am more than happy to discuss my support in greater detail. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions on this matter. My full support goes to Concept Schools in this endeavor, and I know that many other local leaders feel the same way. We look forward to working with Concept to better the lives of students in our community, and I trust the Board of Education will ensure this project moves forward.

Sincerely,


Ronald Bellamy

CHICAGO PRAISE MINISTRIES, INC

Calvin Bridges- President 7510 South Wabash Chicago, Illinois 60619 773-994-3971 www.calvinbridges.org

December 2, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey,

There is no dispute or denying that quality education is the key in preparing our students to become viable participants in today's global economy. I support every effort to give our Chicagoland (Chatham, my community), students this important advantage. It's with great confidence and enthusiasm that I declare my support for Concept Schools' application for a proposed charter school development at 8522 S. Lafayette in the 21st Ward.

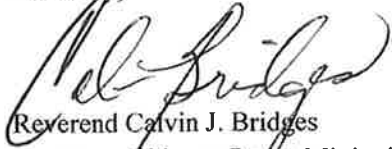
As founder of Chicago Praise Ministries, Inc., community leader and quality education advocate, I know how hard this community is working to revitalize our neighborhoods and pave the way for a brighter future. As leaders and decision makers, we have the tremendous ability to strengthen these efforts and improve our children's lives for the better.

These efforts must begin with quality schools like the proposed Horizon Science Academy-Chatham. I am so excited at the prospect of bringing a superior, STEM-focused college-prep curriculum to our students – it is just what our community needs.

That is why I fully support the Concept Schools proposal. Concept Schools' track record demonstrates their strong commitment to serving urban communities like ours. They have succeeded where others have failed because of the high expectations they hold for their students, faculty, parents – and themselves. I strongly believe we will see remarkable growth in this community from the day Concept Schools opens its doors.

It is our responsibility, as civic leaders, to prepare our kids to be tomorrow's leaders. To that end, I trust that the Chicago Board of Education would welcome such a strong and worthy school application. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support of this project.

Sincerely,



Reverend Calvin J. Bridges
President, Chicago Praise Ministries, Inc.

"Filling The Vessel"

Dudley Beauty College – Chicago



"A Dudley Beauty School System Facility"

November 26, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Elsey,

Please accept this letter as strong support for Concept Schools' application for a proposed charter school as part of The Legacy Project, slated for development at 8522 S. Lafayette in the 21st Ward. This holistic approach to redevelopment is critical for our community, particularly the educational component.

As Director of Dudley Beauty College – Chicago, I whole heartedly believe that education is the linchpin in a child's life. If we, as adults and as a community, do not provide quality school options to our youth, we are failing them. That is why I support the Concept Schools proposal. Concept Schools' strong track record of STEM-focused college-prep curriculum is just what our community needs. Concept Schools succeed where others have failed because of the high expectations they hold for their students, faculty, parents – and themselves.

Home visits, after-school programs and individualized learning are at the core of the Concept Schools' model, and the results speak for themselves. For example, its school in Rogers Park – Chicago Math and Science Academy - sees over 90% of its graduates admitted into college. What's more is that students at the two schools that the organization opened just a few months ago in McKinley Park and North Austin are already showing remarkable growth. In addition to excellent academic standing, Concept Schools also has a proven history of partnering with local businesses, and we expect the same to occur in Chatham. Therefore, we here at Dudley Beauty College - Chicago are excited to hear that Concept Schools is proposing to open a new charter school here in Chatham.

The prospect of a Concept School coming to the 21st Ward is exciting to me. Among everyone in our community, it is our youth who have the most to lose. It is our responsibility, as parents and as city leaders, to prepare our kids to be tomorrow's leaders. That starts with a quality education. To that end, I trust that the Chicago Board of Education would welcome such a strong and worthy school application. Thank you for the opportunity share my strong support of this project. I urge your approval.

Sincerely,



Betty R. Clawson
Dudley Beauty College - Chicago

"Changing the World of Cosmetology"

8501 S. Green
Chicago, IL 60620
(773) 488-5900 (773) 488-5272 (fax)

November 26, 2013

Jack Elsey
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer
125 South Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Mr. Elsey:

This letter serves to indicate my commitment relative to the Concept Schools application for a proposed charter school as part of The Legacy Project, slated for development at 8522 South Lafayette Avenue in the 21st Ward. The educational component of this redevelopment approach is critical for our community.

As a lifelong citizen of the City of Chicago and as someone who has lived in and served this community for many years, I know that a quality education is crucial if our children are to achieve full potential. We must provide our children with quality school options. If we do not we will have failed them. Therefore, I support the Concept Schools proposal. Concept Schools' demonstrated success of its STEM-focused college-prep curriculum is exactly what is needed in our communities. Concept Schools have achieved success when others have failed. This is due to the great expectations they have of their students, the faculty and parents.

The home visits, after-school activities and individually guided learning approach are central to the Concept Schools' model and the demonstrated results attest to their success. The two schools that the organization opened just a few months ago in the McKinley Park and the North Austin communities are already showing remarkable growth. What is more, the Chicago Math and Science Academy in Rogers Park has over 90% of its graduates admitted to college.

I am truly excited about the opportunity/possibility of this school coming to the 21st Ward. It is a much-needed addition to the educational options available for our children. I am convinced that the Chicago Board of Education will agree and support the worthiness of this school's application. Thank you for reading and evaluating my letter of support of this project. I urge your approval.

Sincerely,

Wendell B. O'Neal, Sr.

Wendell B. O'Neal, Sr.
W. B. O'NEAL & ASSOCIATES

Support letter: Community association

December 1, 2013

Jack Elsey

Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer at Chicago Public Schools

125 S. Clark St

Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Mr. Elsey,

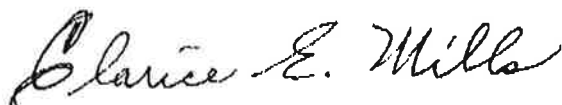
We are excited to hear about the proposed partnership between Concept Schools and the Fellowship Baptist Church Legacy Project to bring Horizon Science Academy-Chatham to our community. As two of Chicago's most historic and proud communities, the 21st and 6th wards are working hard to revitalize our businesses, streets and community. And it that begins with quality schools. If we can't give our kids the kind of education they deserve, the other pieces will never fall into place.

In talking with the Concept Schools team, we were impressed by the enormous success the organization has had in Chicago and throughout the Midwest. Their track record demonstrates their commitment to serve urban communities and children of color. One of its schools - Chicago Math and Science Academy in Rogers Park, sees over 90% of its graduates admitted into college, and we hope to bring that opportunity to our children.

We applaud Chicago Public Schools' effort to create high quality public education for Chicago parents. Without access to quality school options, our communities suffer. We feel fortunate that Pastor Jenkins, Fellowship Baptist Church and Concept Schools are dedicating themselves to investing in the 21st and 6th Wards - we know our community is worth it.

On behalf of West Chatham Improvement Association (WCIA), I strongly urge the Board of Education to approve Horizon Science-Academy and allow Concept Schools to deliver opportunity and educational foundation to our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clarice E. Mills". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Clarice E. Mills, President

West Chatham Improvement Association (WCIA)



COMPLETE PROFESSIONAL TAX SERVICE

November 26, 2013

Chicago Public Schools Attn: Mr. Jack Elsey

Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer

125 S. Clark Street

Chicago, Illinois 60603

Dear Mr. Elsey,

On behalf of Comprotax-Chicago- the Company of Choice located at 321 East 79th St. This letter is for the full support of New Concept School located in the Chatham neighborhood. This is so needed to move our children forward in this ever changing society. Over the last few decades, Chatham has experienced the same economic struggles as much of the Southside. Now it is time to continue that revitalization by providing the highest quality of education.

As a business owners, we have seen firsthand how challenges of unemployment, poverty and crime over the last 10years affect local business, and how issues of employment and quality of life are connected to education. Concept has a strong history of success, including at the Chicago Math and Science Academy in Rogers Park and the other 26 schools that they manage throughout the Midwest. These schools boast a college admittance rate of over 90%.

We have done our research on the organization; we have met with their leadership team—and we see our optimism for the community reflected in them. Comprotax-Chicago welcomes Concept Schools to the neighborhood and puts its full support behind their proposed expansion into Chatham.

Sincerely;

Gwendolyn Armour- Franchisee Owner