



MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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WILLIAM D. GREEN, J.D., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

January 12, 2010

Rajiv R. Shah, M.D.
Chairman of the Board
ACES
1115 East Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Dear Dr. Shah:

Minneapolis Public Schools are proud to have been partners with ACES for the past 15 years, and are excited about the organization's focus to reduce the academic achievement gap of inner-city students.

In 2007, the District implemented a 5-year strategic plan to achieve two important goals: raise every student's achievement, and close the racial and economic achievement gaps. We recognize that we cannot do it alone, and are excited to partner with organizations like ACES to help us.

Our vision is to make every child college ready. To do this, we are creating an environment in our schools where all Minneapolis students can succeed in school, regardless of their background. We have set high expectations of our principals, teachers, and nonprofit community partners, all consistent with our values of putting children first.

In order to achieve our vision, we know that students must be supported at each stage of their development – from pre-school to post-graduation. In our current strategic plan, we have focused on early literacy – reading by 3rd grade – as one of our first initiatives. But, we know that if students are not continually supported thereafter, all of the gains made can be lost within one or two years.

For this reason, ACES' focus on grades 4-8 is very important. It is here where inner-city students are most at-risk of "falling through the cracks." We appreciate ACES' intentional efforts to combat the "4th grade slump," an important stage in learning. If students fall behind here, it may be too late to catch them once they move on to high school.

ACES' academic focus and structure allows us to extend the school day for the students involved. The way in which ACES integrates with the school helps to provide students with a smooth transition from the school day to the after-school time.

MPS supports the ACES model and we are encouraged by early results of students in the program. We hope that other community partners will join us in helping ACES continue its work in the Minneapolis Public Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William D. Green', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William D. Green, J.D., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools