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PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Superintendent Dr. Hite
Philadelphia School Board
Philadelphia School District
440 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130

July 6, 2020

Dear Dr. Hite and Members of the Philadelphia School Board,

On behalf of the Philadelphia House Delegation, we are writing to you to express our support for the success of the Renaissance charter schools in many of our districts. In particular, we want to recognize the positive impact that Mastery turnaround schools have had on students, families, and our entire community.

We are writing to you today because we are alarmed that School Board Members, and even some members of the City Council, have labeled these Renaissance turnarounds a "failure." Nothing could be further from the truth.

We have met with parents from Mastery schools and many others in our districts and we know firsthand from them that these schools are doing an amazing job educating our city's students. We have witnessed the incredible transformation of some of the lowest performing district schools becoming high-quality neighborhood schools.

Academic Excellence

- Graduation rate 89% vs. School District average 71%
- 5,600 high school diplomas earned with 92% college acceptance
- Reading PSSAs increased from 20th percentile to 57th percentile¹
- Math PSSAs increased from 17th percentile to 54th percentile²
- Restoring Neighborhood Schools as Community Anchors

¹ When compared with all School District of Philadelphia schools.

² When compared with all School District of Philadelphia schools.



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- 5,000 families returning to their previously failing neighborhood schools
- Parent Action Teams organized to make neighborhoods safer and reduce gun violence
- 10 new playgrounds and major facilities renovations
- 900,000 meals and 7,000 laptops distributed for COVID-19 response

You should be very proud of this success. These remarkable turnarounds would not have happened without your leadership and that of your predecessors who had a bold vision to transform Philadelphia's most struggling schools into great neighborhood schools. These are the strategies that President Obama fought so hard for and they are working for our families. For families in Mastery turnaround schools, it truly has been a Renaissance.

Sincerely,

We the undersigned members of the Philadelphia House Delegation,

Rep. Jason Dawkins, Chairman, Philadelphia House Delegation
179th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jason Dawkins".

Rep. Jordan Harris, Democratic Whip
186th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jordan Harris".

Rep. Steven Kinsey, Chairman, Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus
201st Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven Kinsey".



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Rep. Joanna McClinton, Democratic Caucus Chair
191st Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joanna McClinton".

Rep. Rosita C. Youngblood, Democratic Caucus Secretary
198th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rosita C. Youngblood".

Rep. Donna Bullock, 195th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D Bullock".

Rep. Danilo Burgos, 197th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danilo Burgos".

Rep. Morgan Cephas, 192nd Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "MOR".



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Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald, 203rd Legislative District

Isabella Fitzgerald

Rep. Roni Green, 190th Legislative District

Roni Green