



December 8, 2011

Dear DPS Board of Education:

We, the current members of the Creativity Challenge Community Planning CSC are writing to you in order to formalize our support for the C3 Innovation Plan. We believe that our Innovation Plan creates the necessary conditions for realizing our ambitious vision and mission and offering a high-quality, sustainable educational option for the students of Denver.

Key components of the plan that will lead to increased student engagement and achievement include:

Time/Assessment:

- Assessment days at the beginning of year so teachers are able to get to know their learners prior to the first day of instruction.

Culture and Parent Engagement:

- The community and the school working together as a collaborative team.
- The requirement for volunteer hours so that all families are involved in the school's educational outcomes.

Educational Plan:

- Preparing students for real-life skills at an early age.
- Cultivating creative thinking through integration in curriculum design.
- Giving students a platform and daily environment to be challenged and express themselves in creative ways.
- Offer authentic learning with our community partners, connecting curriculum to real-life learning.
- Collaborative learning opportunities that help students and teachers understand and value different perspectives.
- Expectation that everyone in our community will work hard to reach their highest potential.
- Students are empowered to set and meet individualized, meaningful goals.

We are excited about the innovation status being able to support all community stakeholders in accomplishing the goals C3 has set around creativity, challenge and community. We are looking forward to the doors opening in August 2012 and continuing our involvement to ensure C3 becomes one of the most successful Innovation Schools in DPS.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julia Shepherd, principal, Cory Elementary School
Karen Chapman, administrative planning partner and art teacher, DPS
Lisa Hoyt, 4/5 teacher, Cory Elementary School
Maureen Poli, community member
Patti Shade, DPS Itinerant GT Specialist
Nada Ahmed, DPS Teacher Effectiveness Coach
Kristen Heeres, parent, art teacher at Center for Early Education
Michelle Sarche, parent
Shawn Gallego, parent
Beth Sundberg, community member