



University of Colorado at Boulder

School of Education

124 Education

Campus Box 247

Boulder, Colorado 80309-0247

Kathy Escamilla, Ph.D.

Professor

(303) 492-2883, fax (303) 492-0147

Email: Kathy.escamilla@colorado.edu

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The Board of Education
Denver Public Schools
900 Grant St.
Denver, CO.

Dear Members of the Denver Public Schools Board of Education:

This letter is being written to support the application for innovation status that is being submitted to you by Godsman Elementary School. If approved Godsman Elementary proposes to implement a program titled, "Literacy Squared" which I have helped to develop and research over the past seven years. Godsman proposes to implement the Literacy Squared program because of its potential to increase the literacy achievement of students in both Spanish and English. Literacy Squared, in its totality, has four components. These include:

1. Research
2. Biliterate assessment in reading and writing in Spanish and English
3. Professional development for teachers and school leaders
4. Instructional components including Spanish literacy, literacy based ESL and cross-language connections.
5. Parental involvement to understand and support the project.

Literacy Squared was designed for Spanish speaking emergent bilingual children and thus the model is compatible with the student population at Godsman. It supports the literacy development of emerging bilingual children in a culturally responsive way and its three instructional components are designed to accelerate literacy acquisition in both Spanish and English and in writing as well as reading. A cornerstone of the model is its professional development component that provides targeted professional development to teachers so that they can effectively implement the instructional components with fidelity.

If approved, the Godsman Literacy Squared project will be developed in partnership with the researchers at the University of Colorado, Boulder. This partnership will insure that the project is implemented with fidelity, and is research based and research tested. The University of Colorado, Boulder research team will provide the professional development for the project and will conduct research on the efficacy of the innovation.

Literacy Squared has been successfully implemented in school districts in Texas, Colorado and Oregon and research results, to date, indicate its potential in improving teaching, learning and student literacy outcomes for emerging Spanish/English bilingual students.

In sum, we support the application for innovation of Godsman Elementary and will look forward to working in partnership with the teachers and leadership of this school if the application is granted. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at Kathy.escamilla@colorado.edu or 303-492-0147.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Escamilla". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'E'.

Kathy Escamilla, Ph.D.
Professor