

Senate Chamber
State of Colorado
Denver

March 1, 2010

Dear Denver Public Schools Board Members,

I'm writing this letter of support for Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College (MLK EC) to convert to an innovation school. The conversion of innovation status will give MLK EC the autonomies it needs to increase student achievement, provide a collaborative governing body, pay staff by stipend for developing and working in the extended day program.

MLK EC has worked tirelessly to turn the school around and it shows through their increased student achievement, college going rates, and the amount of scholarships students receive each year. The school community is eager to implement the innovations described in the proposal to become a true early college model.

In addition, I hope to see that MLK EC's innovation work will be a catalyst for other schools' innovation plans in the region and that before long, we will see the first actual "Zone of Innovation" in far northeast Denver, much like my predecessor Peter Groff envisioned.

Please strongly consider the request by Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College, along with my commitment to the students in the far northeast Denver.

Sincerely,

Senator Michael Johnston

Green Valley Ranch
CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

March 8, 2010

DPS Board of Education
900 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Board of Education,

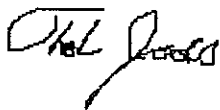
As a parents and community leaders in Far Northeast Denver, we are continually working to improve the educational opportunities and options for the children in our neighborhoods. We have met with a few of the principals in the Green Valley Ranch area who are considering looking at innovative status, and we agree this is a positive direction for some of the schools to move in to allow them to continue to improve.

We have reviewed the innovation proposal that Martin Luther King Jr. Early College is submitting, specifically the curriculum autonomy and assessments, and grade promotion requirements for both 6-8 and 9-12. We feel they are sound and will allow the administration, teachers, and students to achieve greater results, and allow for the flexibility to make adjustments when and if needed for continued results and improvements.

With the need to deliver a larger number of higher quality seats for our middle and high school grades in Far Northeast Denver, we would fully support the Board of Education approving the request by Martin Luther King Jr Early College to become an innovative school as the first step in the process. We are excited about the potential this venture brings to our region, and will continue to work with the team on this effort in any way we can support them. We also look forward to continued collaboration with the Board, District, and our other school leaders in creating and maintaining high quality, innovative educational opportunities for all children in Far Northeast Denver.

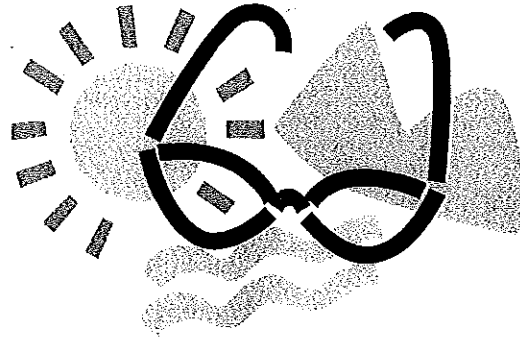
If you have any questions, or we can be of any further assistance in your decision process on this effort for Martin Luther King Jr Early College, please let us know.

Respectfully,



Thad Jacobs
Education Committee Chair
GVR Citizens' Advisory Board
Phone: 303-588-4040 or email: tjacobs99@gmail.com

Montbello 20/20



Vision ~ Montbello is a premier, relationship driven community that takes pride in its beauty, and values education, safety, diversity and inclusiveness.

March 4, 2010

Dear Denver School Board Members,

Montbello is a premier, relationship driven community that takes pride in its beauty, and values education, safety, diversity and inclusiveness. We at Montbello 20/20 provide the community a voice and empowerment to create a better future for all residents. The organization commits to work with other community organizations, businesses, churches and schools to make our community all it can be.

This letter is to inform you that Montbello 20/20 fully supports the process to convert Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College (MLK EC) to an innovation school. In a time when our schools in NE Denver are failing to properly prepare our children for the rigors of higher education, we need to be progressive and innovative. There has been much praise for the successes of the high school level grades at MLK EC, and rightly so, but the middle school grade scores are still inadequate. Changes need to be made now to assure those students that attend the middle school are properly prepared to succeed and excel in high school and beyond.

The innovation status for MLK EC would allow:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College (MLK EC) to meet the goals of its revitalization plan.
- The school to create and formalize its extended day after school program.
- The school to provide stipends to staff who teach in the after school program; current faculty are considered unpaid volunteers in the program
- The school to create a two week (full-time, five day a week) summer orientation for entering six graders to prepare them for MLK EC. The program will focus on skill building and orient them to the new school culture.

The time to act is now. We urge the DPS School Board and Administration not only to support this innovation request, but to actively assist in making sure it succeeds. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Stacie Gilmore at 303-881-8556. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacie Gilmore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacie Gilmore
Chair
Montbello 20/20

The foundation for
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



February 16, 2010

Denver Public Schools Board of Education
900 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Denver Public Schools Board of Education:

The Foundation for Educational Excellence (FFEE) supports the conversion of Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College (MLK) to an innovation school for the upcoming 2010-2011 school-year. Our partnership with MLK runs nearly as long, and as deep, as our existence. As a convening member of the MLK revitalization team, we believe that converting MLK to an innovation school is the necessary next step required to fully realize the goals of the revitalization plan.

We are thrilled to see the current academic growth at MLK as the school prepares for its first graduating class. Mr. Allen Smith had demonstrated exemplar leadership, and we are excited for the next stage of MLK's evolution. This will be a historic next step for Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College students, school leaders, and faculty as well as the far northeast educational community. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Schwartz'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping 'S' and 'W'.

Amy Schwartz
Executive Director

CITY COUNCIL
City and County of Denver

Denver City Council
City and County Building
1437 Bannock Street, Room 451
Denver, Colorado 80202
Phone: 720-865-9534



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Michael B. Hancock
Councilman, District 11
Denver City Council
Michael.Hancock@DenverGov.org

District Office:
4760 Oakland Street, Ste 175
Denver, Colorado 80239
Phone: 303-331-3872
Fax: 303-331-3874

March 1, 2010

Dear Denver Public Schools Board Members,

I'm writing this letter of support of Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College (MLK EC) to convert to innovation status. By converting to an innovation school, MLK EC will be able to realize its mission: in the spirit and wisdom of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the mission of Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College is to graduate students who are great leaders, great thinkers, and great communicators. The Early College model is a partnership of students, staff, parents, and the community and its pre-collegiate mission includes: 1) providing a rigorous, pre-collegiate, technology-based curriculum; 2) focusing on student empowerment; and 3) respecting cultural diversity in a safe, productive environment.

Innovation status will allow MLK EC put in place systems to support teachers to achieve the best possible results in the classroom and to offer students extended times for academics will allow for greater student achievement.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Hancock', followed by a long horizontal line.

Michael B. Hancock, City Councilman
District 11