



## Friends of Manual High School

1700 E. 28<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver, CO 80205

<http://www.friendsofmanual.org>

January 9, 2009

Ms. Theresa Pena  
Board of Education  
Denver Public Schools  
900 Grant Street  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ms. Pena,

The purpose of this letter is to endorse the proposal being submitted by Manual High School to be considered an “innovation school” under the Innovation Schools Act of 2008. Friends of Manual is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the academic achievement and high school experience of students at Manual. We have been working closely with Manual’s principal, Rob Stein, since he assumed leadership of the school in 2007, and our organization is fully committed to the new academic program being implemented at the school; we believe in the vision and we believe in the dedicated professionals advancing it on behalf of Manual’s students.

Since Manual re-opened in 2007, implementing creative, efficient, child-focused, research-based methods of meeting the needs of students has been an integral part of the school’s professional culture. Designating Manual as an innovation school will enable this groundbreaking work to flourish and to serve as a model for others. One of the significant areas in which Manual is trying to innovate is budgeting. Friends of Manual has focused all of its capacity on becoming a sustaining fundraising organization that augments and enhances the financial resources available to the school. Therefore, the District can count on Friends of Manual to work diligently and directly with Manual leadership in meeting the budgetary goals outlined in Attachment 4 of the school’s proposal.

Friends of Manual is privileged to be working with such a talented group of educators and we are pleased to be an active partner in the innovation already underway at Manual. We endorse the school’s proposal and look forward to supporting the school’s work to ensure that Manual students are successful while they are in high school, in college, and in all other aspects of their lives.

Sincerely,

Buffy Naake  
Board President