

COSMOS FOUNDATION INC.

Excellence and Equity in Science and Education

April 6, 2009

The Honorable Jim Dunnam
Texas House of Representatives
Chairman-Select Committee on Federal Economic Stabilization Funding
Texas Capitol Room E2.202
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910

On behalf of the Cosmos Foundation (parent organization of the Harmony School System), I would like to thank the Texas Legislators and Texas Education Agency for continually supporting charter schools. In addition, I would like to thank you for including charter schools in the disbursement of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.


The Harmony School System is one of the largest and fastest growing charter school networks in Texas. Harmony launched its first school in 2000, with 200 students. Since then Harmony has grown to 19 schools and with over 7,600 students, and has built a distinct, high-quality brand throughout the State of Texas. Because of the high performance of its students and a focus on science, math and computer technologies, 14 Harmony campuses have been designated as T-STEM (Texas-Science Engineering and Mathematics) Academies as part of the Texas High School Project. Harmony's vision is to enable underserved students to succeed in school which will then give them the options to enter math, science and engineering careers. Finally, over 9,000 families are on waiting lists to have their children enter a Harmony School.

It is our commitment that Harmony School System will continue to grow to include 35 schools and will serve 24,000 students within the next few years. The attached document shows our growth plan by 2010. This document outlines renovation costs of existing buildings and the costs of new school buildings in various cities. Please note that over the past three years, we have been successfully opening 5 schools a year in all major cities in Texas without sacrificing student achievement.

Because charter schools do not receive funds from the Instructional Facility Allotment or Existing Debt Allotment programs, we are requesting funding from the ARRA funds in order to continue to deliver on our promise of keeping high quality education within reach students and their families irrespective of economic standing. Given the economic challenges facing countless families, it is more important than ever for parents to be able to send their children to schools that are safe and will deliver on their promises.

It is critical that the Harmony School System and other growing charter schools receive funds ARRA funds in order to continue to deliver exceptional high quality education. Harmony School administrators have been responsible stewards of the funds that have already been given to them and will continue to use the funds with integrity for the interest of children and their families.

Best regards,



Dr. Soner Tarim
Superintendent of Schools

THE HARMONY SCHOOL SYSTEM

MAJOR RENOVATION PROJECTS 2009-2010

School	Construction Type	Grade Levels	Project Finish Date	Construction Size (sqf)	Estimated Cost
Harmony Science Academy-Lubbock	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2009	48,325	\$2,416,250
Harmony Science Academy-North Austin	Remodeling	6-12	1/8/2009	45,100	\$2,255,000
Harmony Science Academy-South Austin	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2009	44,950	\$2,247,500
Harmony Science Academy-Brownsville	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2009	22,000	\$1,100,000
Harmony Science Academy-Waco	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2009	14,000	\$700,000
Harmony Science Academy-Beaumont	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2009	5,000	\$250,000
Harmony Science Academy-Laredo	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2009	45,100	\$2,255,000
Harmony School of Excellence-Katy	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2009	25,000	\$1,250,000
Harmony School of Innovation-South	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2009	30,000	\$1,500,000
Harmony Science Academy-Carrollton	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2009	40,000	\$2,000,000
Harmony Science Academy-El Paso West	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2009	24,950	\$1,247,500
Harmony School of Nature	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2010	43,500	\$2,175,000
Harmony School of Innovation	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2010	45,000	\$9,900,000
Harmony Science Academy-Austin	Remodeling	6-12	1/8/2010	50,000	\$10,000,000
Harmony Science Academy-Houston NW	Remodeling	K-12	1/8/2010	10,530	\$526,500
SUB-TOTAL				493,455	\$39,822,750

NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS 2009-2010

School	Construction Type	Grade Levels	Project Finish Date	Construction Size (sqf)	Estimated Cost
Harmony School of Health-Houston	New Building	6-12	1/8/2010	63,700	\$14,014,000
Harmony School of Law-Dallas	New Building	6-12	1/8/2010	61,500	\$13,530,000
Harmony Science Academy-San Antonio S.	New Building	K-12	1/8/2010	65,300	\$14,366,000
Harmony Science Academy-East Houston	New Building	K-12	1/8/2010	62,200	\$13,684,000
Harmony Science Academy-South Dallas	New Building	K-12	1/8/2010	70,000	\$15,400,000
SUB-TOTAL				322,700	\$70,994,000

GRAND TOTAL

816,155 \$110,816,750