



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 27, 2021

Andy Barr
US Congressman
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Barr,

As Acting Superintendent for Fayette County Public Schools, I would like to express my enthusiastic support for Community Action Council's (the Council) proposed new facility to serve three-year-old children with their same-age peers in the William Wells Brown neighborhood. With this new facility, the Council is intending to serve three-year-old children who do not turn four years of age before August 1st of each school year. This will allow young children to have one additional year of high-quality education before enrolling in the school district. FCPS and the Council have long worked together to maximize resources and serve as many children as possible across our county and, in the wake of educational gaps created by COVID-19, it is important now more than ever to ensure access to high-quality early childhood education is available for as many families with low income as possible.

It is my belief that future William Wells Brown Elementary students would be better prepared to succeed upon entry into preschool after attending the proposed new Prep Academy and benefitting from the tried-and-true education services offered through the Council's Head Start programs. The Prep Academies operated by the Council have historically been instrumental in serving families in lower-income areas, educationally and otherwise, and the proposed Prep Academy in the William Wells Brown community has the potential to impact some of the county's children with the highest levels of need.

I look forward to a continuing collaboration with the Council to serve the children of Fayette County, including during this project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marlene Helm
Acting Superintendent
Fayette County Public Schools

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education: Tyler Murphy, Chair • Amy Green, Vice Chair • Tom Jones • Christy Morris • Stephanie Spires

Acting Superintendent Marlene Helm

450 Park Place, Lexington, Kentucky 40511 • Phone: 859.381.4100 • www.fcps.net