

7CsThrive & 7Cs Academy PreK-8 Public Charter School

Vision: To develop socially responsible citizens

Mission: To inspire every child to think critically, to solve problems, and to make a positive contribution to their communities as they thrive in life

Core Values: Graciousness Resilience Accountability Curiosity Excellence

Website: <https://7CsAcademy.org> **Twitter:** @7CsAcademy **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/7CsAcademy/>

Dr. Nathan Balasubramanian

Superintendent / CEO

7CsThrive, Inc.

2629 San Martino Dr

Leander, TX 78641

(512) 879-7141

Nathan.DrB@7CsThrive.org

Superintendent Dr. Jeanette Ball

Judson Independent School District (ISD)

8012 Shin Oak Drive

Live Oak, TX 78233

(210) 945-5100

JBall@JudsonISD.org

January 14, 2021

Dear Superintendent Dr. Jeanette Ball,

This letter is to inform you that **7CsThrive**, a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit, intends to apply to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in response to the Generation Twenty-Six Open-Enrollment charter school application process. The proposed campus, **7Cs Academy**, will be in Bexar County, targeting the South / Southwest / Westside of San Antonio. 69 percent of the elementary and middle schools on our three prioritized school districts; *Edgewood ISD*, *Southside ISD*, and *South San Antonio ISD* are rated “D” or “F” based on the 2020 Accountability Ratings. **7Cs Academy** will open with Pre-K through 2nd grade in fall 2022, conditioned upon award of the Charter on June 25, 2021. Our board approved 5-year **HB 3 goals** are posted on our website (<https://7CsAcademy.org/student-outcome-goals>). Statutory guidelines require that applicants send a copy of the completed *Application Cover Sheet* and the enclosed *Statement of Impact* form to each district that may be affected by the proposed charter school.

You are receiving this information because the proposed charter school’s designated geographic boundary overlaps with your district’s boundary. Prior to the COVID-19 global pandemic, **20 percent** (19 percent last year) of elementary school students in **Judson ISD** could *think critically* and *solve problems in familiar and unfamiliar situations* (per the 2019-20 **TAPR Report**). Texas identifies these students at the “**Masters**” performance level on **STAAR**. These students performing at the “**Masters**” level on **STAAR** have a 75 percent chance of post-secondary success without remediation. On average, **22 percent** of children at elementary school in 39 traditional districts in Bexar county and the seven contiguous counties are at “**Masters**” performance level on **STAAR**. The proposed charter school’s designated geographic boundary will include these **39** traditional ISDs:

1. Alamo Heights ISD; 2. Bandera ISD; 3. Boerne ISD; 4. Charlotte ISD; 5. Comal ISD; 6. Comfort ISD; 7. Devine ISD; 8. D’Hanis ISD; 9. East Central ISD; 10. Edgewood ISD; 11. Floresville ISD; 12. Ft Sam Houston ISD; 13. Harlandale ISD; 14. Hondo ISD; 15. Jouranton ISD; 16. Judson ISD; 17. La Vernia ISD; 18. Lackland ISD; 19. Lytle ISD; 20. Marion ISD; 21. Medina ISD; 22. Medina Valley ISD; 23. Natalia ISD; 24. Navarro ISD; 25. New Braunfels ISD; 26. North East ISD; 27. Northside ISD; 28. Pleasanton ISD; 29. Poteet ISD; 30. Poth ISD; 31. Randolph Field ISD; 32. San Antonio ISD; 33. Schertz-Cibolo-U City ISD; 34. Seguin ISD; 35. Somerset ISD; 36. South San Antonio ISD; 37. Southside ISD; 38. Southwest ISD; and 39. Stockdale ISD.



Families in San Antonio have told us that they want to see significant improvements in both STEM and values-based education. The evidence-based model to be used in **7Cs Academy** for instruction on the **TEKS** foundation and enrichment curriculum will be *Designing Learning 2.0*. The 7-steps in *Designing Learning 2.0* embed critical attributes of project-based learning with explicit instruction (https://7CsAcademy.org/dl-2_0-why-how-and-what-of-instruction). It has three unique elements of scaffolding, guided inquiry hands-on learning with a STEM focus, and measures of progress with pre-test and post-test growth to achieve **mastery learning**. Our research-based instructional design model is proven to achieve two or more years of growth in a year's time for all students (Balasubramanian, Frieler, & Asp, 2008). With small student-teacher ratio of 1:10 for Pre-K; 1:15 for K-4; and 1:18 for 5-8, students will develop into little MASTERS of "STREAMS" through project-based, technology-enhanced learning. "STREAMS" stands for Science Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Mathematics, and Social Studies. After many years (up to eleven) with us, parents will have the choice of enrolling their child(ren) in a traditional school (including your **ISD**) or another school (charter or private) in **grade nine**.

The attached *Statement of Impact* form provides the district with an opportunity to inform Commissioner Morath of whether the proposed charter school may adversely impact it financially or in some other respect. Completed forms may be returned to:

charterapplication@tea.texas.gov

Forms must be received no later than **Monday, February 15, 2021**, for the information to be considered. If you have questions about the process for approval of open-enrollment charter schools, please contact the Division of Charter School Administration at (512) 463-9575 or visit http://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Schools/Charter_Schools/. Our application will be available on the Texas Education Agency Charter School webpage on (or around) February 19, 2021. If you would like a complete application prior to that date, please contact Dr. Balasubramanian in 7CsThrive at (512) 879-7141.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nathan Balasubramanian
Superintendent / CEO of **7CsThrive**
<https://7csacademy.org/>

Enclosures: *Applicant Cover Sheet*

Statement of Impact Form

cc: Senator Donna Campbell, Senator Roland Gutierrez, & Senator José Menéndez
Representative Steve Allison, Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Campos,
Representative Barbara Gervin-Hawkins
Representative Lyle Larson
Representative Leo Pacheco
State Board of Education Member Marisa B. Perez-Diaz
State Board of Education Member Dr. Rebecca Bell-Metereu

Balasubramanian, N., Frieler, J., & Asp, E. (2008). *Designing Learning. Principal Leadership*, 9(2). Reston, VA: National Association of Secondary School Principals, 34-39.

Applicant Cover Sheet¹

| | |
|--|---|
| NAME OF PROPOSED GENERATION TWENTY-SIX CHARTER SCHOOL | |
| 7Cs Academy | |
| NAME OF SPONSORING ENTITY | |
| 7CsThrive | |
| The sponsoring entity is a: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Governmental Entity <input type="checkbox"/> College or University |

Does the school intend to contract with a third-party service provider (CMO) to manage the educational program and operations?

Yes* ☐ No ☒ If yes, identify the CMO: _____

* If the answer is yes, the applicant must complete the CMO Addendum.

I. PRIMARY CONTACTS

| | Applicant Team Lead | Proposed Superintendent | Proposed Board Chair |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Name | Dr. Nathan Balasubramanian | Dr. Nathan Balasubramanian | Angelina Osteguín |
| Mailing address | 2629 San Martino Dr, Leander, TX 78641 | 2629 San Martino Dr, Leander, TX 78641 | 2907 Owasso St, San Antonio, TX 78211 |
| Email address | Nathan.DrB@7CsThrive.org | Nathan.DrB@7CsThrive.org | Aosteguín@7CsThrive.org |
| Phone number | (512) 879-7141 | (512) 879-7141 | (210) 835-6709 |

II. CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION

| | |
|--|--|
| Grade level(s) served in Year 1 | Pre-K through Grade 2 |
| Number of students served in Year 1 | 384 |
| Grade levels served at capacity | Pre-K through Grade 8 |
| Number of students served at capacity | 1,380 |
| Student teacher ratio | 1:10 for Pre-K; 1:15 for K-4; and 1:18 for 5-8 |
| Number of campuses requested | 1 |
| Number of districts within geographic boundary | 39 |

Note: The information in this table should align with the data in the Targeted Community and Anticipated Student Population section of the application.

| |
|--|
| Address of Proposed Administrative Offices (if different from above): |
| Same as the 7Cs Academy campus in Bexar County |

Physical Address of Each Proposed Campus (*please include street address, city, state, zip, and county*). If the specific address is unknown at this time, please provide the county and general location of the proposed campus:

Bexar County in San Antonio

III. GOVERNANCE/LEADERSHIP

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Board Members | Five (5) |
| Chairperson of the Governing Board | Angelina Osteguín |
| Chief Executive Officer of the Sponsoring Entity | Dr. Nathan Balasubramanian |
| Superintendent of Proposed Charter School | Dr. Nathan Balasubramanian |
| Board Member Who Attended Applicant Conference | Elda Flores, Rosario Crutchfield, & Edward Mungia |

Note: The information in this table should align with the list of board members in the Board Structure and Qualifications section of the application.

IV. APPLICATION TEAM MEMBERS

For all members of the applicant team, list their names and position or role in the proposed charter school. (*Add additional rows as needed.*)

| Full Name | Position or Role with Proposed Charter School |
|--|---|
| Dr. Nathan Balasubramanian | Superintendent/CEO |
| Ms. Angelina Osteguín | Director & President, 7CsThrive Governing Board |
| Ms. Elda Flores | Director & Vice President, 7CsThrive Governing Board |
| Mr. Edward Mungia | Director & Secretary, 7CsThrive Governing Board |
| Ms. Rosario Crutchfield | Director & Treasurer, 7CsThrive Governing Board |
| Mr. Luis M. Rodriguez | Director, 7CsThrive Governing Board |
| ADVISORY COMMITTEE (local stakeholders to advise on continuous improvement) | |
| Mr. Edward Mayberry | Advisory Committee Member |
| Mr. Ray Tijerina | Advisory Committee Member |
| Mr. Richard Martinez | Advisory Committee Member |
| PROPOSED INSTRUCTIONAL, FINANCIAL, AND OPERATIONS LEADERSHIP TEAMS | |
| Dr. Nathan Balasubramanian | Superintendent/CEO |
| Mr. Alfonso D. Solis | Consultant, Year 0 Director of 7Cs Academy Operations |
| Ms. Jamie Haywood | Consultant, Year 0 Director of Curriculum & Instructional Systems |
| Mr. Arthur “Art” Martin | Consultant, Year 0 Chief Financial Officer |
| Dr. Alan Seay | Consultant, Year 0 Director of School Operations |
| Dr. Brian Yearwood | Consultant, Year 0 Chief Operating Officer |
| Ms. Johanna Clements Garcia | Project Manager, 7Cs Start-up (per Attachment 30) |

| 7Cs ACADEMY ADVISORY COUNCIL (global scholars to guide 7Cs educational program) | |
|--|---------|
| Dr. Jason Baehr | Advisor |
| Dr. Marvin W. Berkowitz | Advisor |
| Dr. Igor Grossmann | Advisor |
| Dr. Kristján Kristjánsson | Advisor |
| Dr. Daniel Lapsley | Advisor |
| Dr. David Ian Walker | Advisor |

Identify any individual(s) or organization(s) that prepared, assisted, and/or provided **professional** advice on the contents of the application herein.

| Name of individual or organization | Was this individual/organization paid? | |
|--|---|--|
| Schulman, Lopez, Hoffer, & Adelstein, LLP. | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| George W. Brackenridge Foundation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| City Education Partners | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arthur "Art" Martin | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Dr. Alan Seay | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

I certify that I have the authority to submit this application and that all information contained herein is complete and accurate, realizing that any misrepresentation could result in disqualification from the application process or revocation after award. In accordance with Texas Education Code §12.120, I further certify that no members of the governing body of the sponsoring entity or of the proposed charter school or any officers or employees of the proposed school have been convicted of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or of any felony. I understand that incomplete applications will not be considered. As part of the application submission process, I certify that I have read and reviewed the Generation Twenty-Six Open-Enrollment Charter Application Instructions document.

B L

January 14, 2021

Balasubramanian
"Nathan"
Swaminathan
Printed Name

Signature of Chief Executive Officer of
Sponsoring Entity (*Blue Ink*)

Date

GENERATION TWENTY-SIX OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER APPLICATION

Statement of Impact

Purpose of this form: The sponsoring entity identified on the cover letter is submitting an application to the commissioner of education for approval to operate an open-enrollment charter school. The name and location, if known, of the proposed charter school are provided below. As required in Texas Education Code §12.1101, this form must be sent to the President of the Board of Trustees of each traditional district and charter from which the proposed school intends to draw students, to each member of the Texas state legislature, and the State Board of Education member that represents the geographic area to be served by the proposed school. A school district **may** submit this form to provide the commissioner with information relating to any financial difficulty that a loss in enrollment may have on the district or open-enrollment charter school, and any other information that a district wishes to share with the commissioner. For more information about the proposed charter, please contact the sponsoring entity.

Instructions: Should you choose, to respond, return the completed form
no later than Monday, February 15, 2021 to:
charterapplication@tea.texas.gov

Note: See Texas Education Code §12.106 for information about state funding.

Name of Proposed Charter School: 7Cs Academy, PreK-8 Public Charter School

Physical Address or General Location of Proposed Charter School: Bexar County, targeting the

South / Southwest / Westside of San Antonio

Check the appropriate response below:

- ☐ The proposed open-enrollment charter school **is not** expected to adversely impact the district to a significant degree.
- ☐ The proposed open-enrollment charter school **is** expected to have a major impact on the district in the following manner:

(Describe the impact in the space below and/or attach any supporting documentation.)

Judson ISD does not need more charter schools. We are a diverse school district that offers many opportunities, resource and experiences and we meet the needs of all students. Judson ISD is a school of choice allowing students to select any campus within our district. We ask the state to stop this form of segregation.

Judson ISD

District Name

015916

County-District Identification Number

8012 Shin Oak Dr., Live Oak, TX 78233

District Address

Signature of Superintendent

Signature of Board President

Dr. Jeanette Ball

Print Superintendent's Name

Renee A. Paschall

Print Board President's Name

2-18-2021

Date

210-945-5100

Phone Number