



Orange County Public Schools

445 West Amelia Street • Orlando, FL 32801-1129 • Phone 407.317.3200 • www.ocps.net

February 8, 2017

Mr. Adam Tucker
Deputy Director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
1432 Elliott Avenue West
Seattle, Washington 98119

Dear Mr. Tucker:

On behalf of Orange County Public Schools (OCPS), the ninth largest school district in the nation and the fourth largest in Florida, I am providing this letter of support for The Calculus Project (TCP) proposal being submitted under your foundation's Networks for School Improvement grant opportunity. TCP is the work of Dr. Adrian B. Mims Sr., founder and National Calculus Project Director for Cambridge Education. He began working with our Minority Achievement Office to replicate TCP in our middle schools in 2013. Over the course of three years, he has worked with our education leaders to develop curriculum and provide professional development to administrators and teachers to ensure the successful implementation of TCP. Furthering our partnership, OCPS and Cambridge Education propose to expand the TCP initiative to all high schools in Orange County.

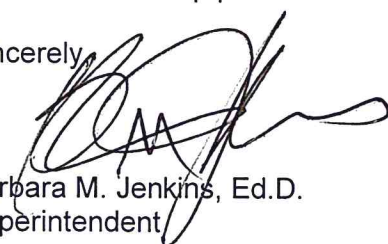
We embrace TCP because the components of the program are supported by research and have led to success with activities such as:

- mitigating the summer slide and accelerating student learning by pre-teaching students math standards during the summer;
- increasing student confidence, building community and teaching students how to work collaboratively by creating student-centered learning groups;
- reducing the feeling of isolation by grouping the same students in honors and advanced math classes during the school year to allow them to hone their summer skills as a cohort; and
- teaching students the "pride curriculum" so they can learn about the contributions of STEM professionals of color to cultivate a strong math and science identity.

After years of analyzing student data and making minor adjustments to TCP, I am pleased to write that in 2017, OCPS had the largest percentage of middle school students passing the algebra 1 end-of-course exam in Florida. These results are very important and place our seventh graders on a trajectory to enroll in AP Calculus BC and eighth graders who pass the test on a trajectory to AP Calculus AB. The ripple effect is that students have the opportunity to start their freshman year of high school with high school credit in algebra and geometry. We know from research that students who enroll in AP Calculus their senior year have a better chance of successfully pursuing degrees in STEM and completing college.

We believe TCP will continue to accelerate the academic performance of our minority students in STEM and advance our efforts to close the achievement gap. Furthermore, this initiative aligns with our district's vision to be the top producer of successful students in the nation.

Sincerely,



Barbara M. Jenkins, Ed.D.
Superintendent