

June 9, 2009

Governor Strickland
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Dear Governor Strickland,

I am writing to make sure that you are aware of the very good work being done in Cleveland, by the teachers and staff at Entrepreneurship Preparatory School (E Prep).

E Prep is a new, innovative school, now completing its third operational year. It has already been rated "Effective" by the Ohio Department of Education, and is likely on track to be rated "Excellent" this year. We are proud of this school in Cleveland!

I recently learned that there are only 15 public schools in the City of Cleveland that are rated "Effective" or "Excellent" on the Ohio school report card. Yes- only 15 schools out of 143 public schools in Cleveland are high-performing. E Prep is one of those 15.

And yet, the proposed budget for education shows drastic cuts in funding for E Prep. Please be aware of this and make the necessary adjustments to ensure that E Prep and the several other high-performing charter schools in Cleveland will not fail!

E Prep operates a longer school day and a longer school year than the traditional public schools, thereby keeping the students away from the many, many negative influences that permeate their neighborhoods. With no more state funding than any other public school, E Prep takes care of many of its students extra needs, by keeping them in school, focused on academics, entrepreneurship, and character building. I understand that First Lady Strickland has publicly stated that charter schools don't need as much funding as traditional public schools. This is simply false. Charter schools are not all computer-based schools. E Prep has 16 full time teachers for grades 6-8 and the customary support staff. E Prep's funding is already just 2/3 the level of that given to the under-performing traditional public schools. E Prep cannot bear a further cut.

The future of education reform in Ohio rests with you, and therefore it is important that you understand this- E Prep and five other schools out of the 15 successful schools in Cleveland, will close under the proposed funding formula.

My concern is for these students. They do not have other good options. Their families have been intentional about choosing this school, this leadership, this opportunity. E Prep must be given full state funding for them.

Sincerely,

Entrepreneurship Preparatory School
1417 East 36th Street
Cleveland, OH 44114