



EL COLEGIO

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Dear Chair Pryor and Committee members,

As Executive Director of El Colegio High School, I am writing this letter of support for HF345 that supports improving educational outcomes and accountability.

As a school, accountability for improving educational outcomes as well as for the overall wellbeing of our students is at the forefront of our work. Current compliance-based accountability frameworks entail narrow, time-based metrics of student groups and subgroups, after-the-fact use of data, and emphasizes a one-size-fits-all approach. This approach does not work for our school, nor does it support me as a leader to develop strategic plans to improve. Oftentimes our current accountability reporting feels more like a list of boxes to check, a list that does not illustrate the full story of the assets and brilliance that our students bring into our classrooms every day.

I am in favor of an accountability framework within a meaningful system that is relevant and responsive to who our students are, that reflects how we support them in preparing for life beyond graduation. The strengths and wisdom of our students, their families, and communities should be embedded into the foundation of these accountability measures.

El Colegio's students, families, and staff members participated in focus groups facilitated by Pillsbury United Communities in order to collect input about what factors matter most to them in holding schools accountable. The framework that El Colegio will be utilizing in the coming school year is exciting as it can be utilized for real reflection on who we are serving in our school and how we are meeting their needs, where our areas of strength are and what areas we can continue to improve in. This new framework is not solely built on performance, rather it gives a more holistic profile that inspires us to continuously grow.

Ultimately, this bill represents a reciprocal accountability effort that is aligned with the recommendations from the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, and would allow us to be held accountable within a truly meaningful system, one that inspires continuous improvement in a way that our entire school community can be a part of.

Thank you,

Katie Groh de Aviña
Executive Director