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February 7, 2017

Ms. Mary Anne Schmitt-Carey, President
Say Yes to Education, Inc.
320 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, New York 10022

Dear Ms. Schmitt-Carey:

On behalf of the Jefferson County Board of Education, we would like to reaffirm our support for the proposal that Louisville Metro adopt the Say Yes to Education model and to work in partnership with the Say Yes to Education Foundation to plan, build capacity, and implement the model in our community. We believe that Say Yes to Education can help us achieve the district's strategic Vision that "all JCPS Students graduate prepared, empowered, and inspired to reach their full potential and contribute as thoughtful, responsible citizens of our diverse, shared world."

The unique components in the Say Yes Theory of Action provide Louisville a coherent governance framework for effective decision making, a clear roadmap for aligned collective action, and a compelling message to inspire children, families, and the entire community to dream big and strive toward a better future. The key components of Say Yes include college tuition scholarships for high school graduates; deep cross-government and service sector collaboration and governance; strategic use of data; and comprehensive supports for students, all leading to increased postsecondary completion.

We believe that the Say Yes model will allow our city to build upon the strong history of collaboration that already exists and increase our effectiveness in reaching our community-wide education goals. Through 55,000 Degrees, Greater Louisville has made a collective education commitment of adding 55,000 postsecondary degrees by the year 2020. Jefferson County Public Schools, leading one of the four pillars of the Louisville Cradle to Career Framework, plays an integral role in achieving that goal.

While we remain committed to the potential of becoming a Say Yes citywide chapter in the long term, we are enthusiastic about the opportunity to partner with Say Yes and America's Promise through the Weiss Institute as a way to receive technical assistance as we stand up our own cradle to career structure to implement this work.

The Jefferson County Board of Education commits to working collaboratively with Say Yes to Education and all of our community partners, to engage in the process of developing a long-term, sustainable plan of action aligned with the Say Yes Framework. There will be challenges along the way, but working together, as one community with a common purpose, we believe we can transform the futures for our children and our city.

We look forward to our continuing partnership to bring this vitally important endeavor to fruition.

Sincerely,

Chris Brady
Board Chair

Donna M. Hargens, Ed.D.
Superintendent