

June 6th, 2016

Dear Commissioner Mitchell Chester:

UP Education Network would like to request your approval to modify the language in our original turnaround plan for UP Academy Holland that describes the rationale for the school's focus on high expectations for students and staff.

While UP Academy Holland continues and will continue to focus on high expectations for students and staff, by amending this language we would like to acknowledge that the description of the rationale is no longer appropriate given the charged connotations associated with some of the terms presented in the original turnaround plan. It is also important to underscore that the use of this language was grounded in the common use of the term in education circles at the time, and the intention behind the use of the term was to note how important it is to maintain a safe and structured environment for students so that they may learn and achieve at the highest levels possible. We continue to hold fast to this belief and our new proposed language aims to clarify the meaning of and intention behind high expectations and remove the terms that are no longer contextually appropriate. As such, we would like to propose the following change to the first paragraph in page six of the turnaround plan to the following:

***High expectations:** The backbone of many of the highest performing urban public schools in the United States is the high expectations they establish for student academics and behavior. To that end, we have studied the expectations in place at many of these schools and we will tailor these expectations to meet the needs of the students at the school. At UP Academy Holland, we believe in building and maintaining positive school cultures which prioritize high expectations and joy. We believe that high expectations help create an environment that is conducive to engaged learning and true intellectual freedom. We want the students at UP Academy Holland to feel secure, and we know that they are most successful when clear structures are set and consistently maintained throughout the school day. These expectations will allow scholars to practice social skills that will help them achieve their goals of success in high school, college and the complex world beyond. We will ensure that scholars understand that our expectations of them will lead them on a path to being engaged citizens that will positively shape the world around them. Our safe and orderly school climates will enable students to take positive risks, discover their passions, and achieve success. Through joyous routines and strong relationships, we will seek every possible opportunity to celebrate our scholars' achievement in way that build our students' confidence, sense of worth, and love of learning.*

Thank you for kindly considering this modification.

Sincerely,

SIGNED BY TIM NICOLETTE

Tim Nicolette
President
UP Education Network