



# PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Created: 01/27/2016

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## Basic Contact and Application Information

### Page 1

**Applicant groups and Existing Education Corporations interested in submitting an application to establish Regents-authorized charter schools are asked to complete this brief information sheet. The Department will use this information to plan and coordinate peer review panels with appropriate expertise to evaluate all application materials.**

**Please indicate whether an Applicant Group (operates no charter schools to date) or an Existing Education Corporation (operates a least one charter school) is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.**

Applicant Group LOI to establish a single, new charter school

### **Proposed Charter School Name**

(Please write out the full name for the proposed charter school, and include the words "charter" and "school" in the proposed name(s)).

School Name	The Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial Term	7-11
Max Number of Students During Initial Term	450

### **Proposed or Current Board Chair and Public Contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address.**

(The entire chart may not be visible on your screen. Use the "tab" key to move from column to column. The first column will remain static as you do so).

	First and Last Name	Best Phone Number (###-###-####)	Email Address
Proposed/Current Board Chair	Dr. Henry L. Tylor Jr. Ph.D.		
Public/Media Contact Person	Kris Douglas		

### **List of Key Design Elements**

(Integral to the school model, these elements should be reflected throughout the application)

1	STEAM ( Science Technology Engineering Arts & Math
2	Project Based Learning
3	Universal Design for Learning ( Stars Among Us, Founders Week, Brass and Key Competition, Externship, Lost and Found In translation),
4	Seminar Courses Taught by Resident and National Artist ( Masters Classes)

5	Progress Monitoring ( Baseline Assessments, Remediation Programs, Data Driven Dialouge- Development and Research)
6	Social Emotional Learning ( Self Achievement and Awareness -SAA)
7	(No response)
8	(No response)
9	(No response)
10	(No response)

If available, please provide the URL to the website established for the proposed school or existing education corporation.

[www.Ellingtonprepcharterschool.com](http://www.Ellingtonprepcharterschool.com)

**Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner.**

(Refer to the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "substantial" partnerships should be listed here).

Proposed Management Company	N/A
Partner Organization 1	N/A
Partner Organization 2	N/A

**Proposed Board Chair Signature**

(Internet Explorer may not support this feature. Open the portal using Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari).



**Date**

2016/02/28

**Thank you for completing this form.**

**I. Applicant Group Information**

- a. See Table 1
- b. See Table 1
- c. Public Contact: Kris Douglas – Ellingtonprep1@gmail.com
- d. Application History: N/A

**II. Charter School Information**

**a. Proposed School Name:** Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School  
**b. Proposed School Location:** Buffalo Public School District, Buffalo, New York. We will request to be located in private facilities and have enlisted a real-estate broker to identify private facilities in Buffalo, New York

**c. Planned Grades and Enrollment:** The Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School will begin with 90 students in grades 7 By end of the charter term there will be grades 7-11 (growing to grades 7- 12). Each year will increase student enrollment.

Cohort/Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2024
Grade 7	90	90	90	90	90	90
Grade 8		90	90	90	90	90
Grade 9			90	90	90	90
Grade 10				90	90	90
Grade 11					90	90
Grade 12						90
Totals	90	180	270	360	450	540

**Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s) N/A**

**Proposed School Mission:** Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School is dedicated to academic excellence in the liberal arts, sciences, and the creative, ethical, and leadership development promoting opportunities to enhance students’ artistic skills in conjunction with advancing academics. Students learn the concept of overcoming poverty, homelessness and disabilities are challenges to be triumphed with education. Ellington Prep empowers the whole person to engage in a commitment to positive social change.

**School Overview:** Ellington Prep will implement educational practices of Howard Garner[1] and E.D. Hirsch Jr.[2] which emphasizes and cultivates the entire student with focus on the Arts and a strong academic core combining STEAM, Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math with an intricate Project Based Learning program. Ellington Prep plans to serve the Buffalo Community with a measurable educational program. Ellington Prep’s concepts of learning are based on the environment of creativity, inspiration and ambition informed by real-world evidence and experience, where students become lifelong learners and develop 21st-century skills, innovation is the rule, not the exception, class experiences provide rigorous project-based learning, social-emotional learning, and access to new technology. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, stakeholders and the people they serve are, all empowered with a shared vision to change education for the better. We are dedicated to transforming grades 7-12th-grade education, all students can thrive in their studies, careers, and adult lives. STEAM and PBL is the leading voice education and readily measurable in showcasing what works in education.(1.)Immediate Baseline Assessment on National/ State(2) Remediation Programs explicitly designed to meet the needs of each student(3)Demonstrate through immediate collected data the disparities that exist and show the comparative improvement. Ellington Prep will demonstrate to educators how they can adopt best practices of innovation and continuous learning in the real world, learn to develop and evaluate methods that profoundly impact the course of learning and lifelong achievement, striving for quality, replicability, and measurable success. **Synonymously:** The Duke Ellington School of the Arts(DESA) in Washington DC is highly successful, one of the nation’s first charter schools. **Comparatively:**the poverty rate of Buffalo New York mirrors that of DESA students with alternate results. According to 2013-2013 U.S. Census Bureau, Buffalo’s poverty rate increased 45%-50.6% for children under 18, third highest poverty rate in 75 biggest cities. DESA students, equitable in poverty to their Buffalo students, out-perform Buffalo students by 34% on ELA and Math Assessments. Ellington Prep can convert those gains for the same students in Buffalo Public School District who face the same poverty as those in the nation’s capital. BPSD Students faced with same economic disparities presently

score well below 61% compared to their counterparts. BPSD struggling graduation rates 56-60%, failing schools, 23-schools slated for State receivership, the state Education Department recently concluded reviews of several district schools in Buffalo labeled as “persistently lowest achieving” and the results are not pretty. The Joint Intervention Team was appointed by Commissioner David Steiner. Ellington Prep understands the issues of poverty and will see a graduation rate of 85-90% rate as the core focus is aligned on national and state curriculum of the NYS Common Core and will consistently develop its educational achievement with the expectations of NYS curriculum, 50% of our students may graduate with Advanced Regents Diplomas as well as having qualifying scores on Advanced Placement College Board Examinations. The Ellington Prep model developed for Buffalo New York is an organized school-wide and classroom system that includes:

**Master Classes:** Courses/Electives will be taught by professional from the world of Science, Music, Art, Television and Entertainment as well as resident instructors. Professional artist including the Ellington’s are invited in to further enhance the learning experience to motivate the total academic and intellectual experience of the students to engage them in further success in their respective discipline. These Master Classes are organized bi-weekly and recognized as Mastery in Action Learning Concepts (along with Learning Cultures&PBL),as multiple formats are used in order to engage students in cooperative learning, problem solving and mastery of content. This avails students to become independent and responsible for goal setting, planning and academic collaboration (Also in conjunction to utilizing Sound Business, Inc. Teaching Artists in Residence).

- **Self -Achievement and Awareness (SAA):**allows the integration of psychology of the self and an awareness of social and emotional interaction into the core curriculum. The SAA is a valid measurable way to aid students and teachers to assess measures of growth and development in partnership with behavior regulation and modification with positive reinforcement.
- **Project Based Learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:** It is mandated that all students participate in 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning several areas of Writing, Math and Music reading components. All students must participate in this course as the authentication of writing, math and music are combined on a realistic level of the everyday modern world we live in. Students are taught the various levels of discipline of writing for computer programs, music, songs, contracts, law briefs, etc. after being engaged in the various models of expectation and instruction
- **Stars Among Us:** This is an activity that is aimed to increase student attendance and confidence. Students perform/give a five minute presentation every morning in Morning Meeting, parents are invited on their child’s presentation date, along with members of the community to increase parental involvement. Parents, community members, social and civic organizations are encouraged to take part in aiding all students in their presentations helping to communicate that attendance habits are directly connected to employment habits, life habits and character traits for success, that every student is a star.
- **Founders Week:** Founders week is a week where the life, legacy and accomplishments of Duke Ellington are celebrated. This week allows the historic nature of an icon, Duke Ellington, to become a part of the lives of students as well as the Buffalo community while instilling school pride. Artists, entertainers, musicians, and producers from around the world will come and take part in the week as each day we will give honor to one of the progenitors of American Music. Each day of Founders Week will usher in the showmanship of entertainers and artists whose lives were enriched by Duke Ellington. It may provide the students the opportunity to explore a night with Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder and a host of other artist who value education as much as the arts. This week will culminate with seminars including the Ellington’s (April Ellington and Edward Ellington Jr.) and a host of other artist/entertainers who believe deeply in education.
- **Brass & Keys Competition:**This is a music composing / academic school-wide competition. Brass & Keys Competitions allow the academic excellence and achievement of students exhibit itself, as students compete in composing, arranging and writing musical scores and songs while the other half of the team prepares the academic portion to compete in a miniature science, math and historical music Olympiad. The activities are designed to build awareness of academic compulsory standards, comprehend global and employment competitiveness on a smaller scale. Brass & Keys is designed to engage the holistic approach to academia, talents, teamwork, group initiative and cooperative understanding of the value of everyone. It employs the infusion of talent/academia tournaments into real life experiences to support the further developing of cognitive strategic thinking of self-to-group to a unit of one. The winners of the Competition are honored and recognized during Founders Week.

- **Externship:** Students will have the opportunity at the end of the year to participate in mini externships, availing the exposure to the many careers, communal and globally, under the Arts STEAM Extern program. Students will first have seminars with the intended Lead Externs, the students will then aid in developing their own course requirements as to the amount of education the Art/ STEM field requires for background knowledge, then spend 1-2 weeks on the externship site, allowing cultivation by the specific chosen STEAM/ Arts and STEM field.

- **Lost&Found In Translation:** ELL's will be required to compose three presentations: 1.) Composition on their native land 2.) Piece comparing their life now versus their life in his/her native country 3.) Reflective piece on "Being an American."

ELL students must create a presentation using a Modified-Facebook page, website or video based upon their submitted written piece. ELL students will then give final presentations in group activities, as well as share with friends and family during Morning Meeting and family/parent night activities. Students will be required to use multiple forms of social media and forms of communicative efforts to be inclusive of every area of STEAM with historical facts all-encompassing of their research. Students will then reflect with their peers using Socratic Seminars to explain how many words, information and facts have been lost and some newly formed and found in the translation of the work.

**Target Population Community/ Community Serviced:** In researching the Buffalo Public School District, there are high percentages of students who are at risk of educational failure. In 2014 the percentages of student proficient on ELA exams were well below New York State standards. Around the same number of students were also not meeting proficiency in the New York State Math exam. Ellington Prep plans to serve, recruit and inspire students who live in shelters, struggling with the difficulty of poverty, in need of a more selective school choice academically disadvantaged, socioeconomically disadvantaged.

**h. Replica of High Quality School Models:** The Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School is not a charter replication, however it is closely related in its duplication to the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington D.C. one of the nation's first charter schools in 1974

**III. Enrollment and retentions of students with disabilities, English language learners and students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch program.** As a priority to reach, recruit and retain large portions of ELLS, SWD, under-recruited students in conjunction with free and reduced price lunch program applicants, Ellington Prep will work closely with Hispanics United of Buffalo, Compass House and International Refugee Alliances to build trust, confidence and assurance that Ellington Prep will be great fit. Word of mouth, public forums social media outlets will be a motivating factor to provide the community with tremendous outreach.

**Recruitment of Those Identified in the School's Mission:** In order to recruit students for the STEAM programs, Ellington Prep will recruit from local elementary schools, engineering programs, Compass House (shelter for teens), building relationships with local outreach programs, tutoring programs (i.e. STEP, Up-Ward Bound) local community centers as well as establishing outreach to the theater and arts community. Ellington Prep will further relationship building with principals, guidance counselors and parent organizations that are seeking changes in school choice. Members of the Ellington Prep application team will host informational sessions for parents, hold public meetings and avail multiple locations for the community at large to engage in open presentations. Ellington Prep will reach out to community centers and facilities which service the recruited populous as well as the local media. Ellington Prep will also hold several community forums with small free concerts, science exhibits and presentations.

**Recruitment of Students With Disabilities:** Recruitment of SWD will extend itself to parents of students who are SWD utilizing amalgamated information from the BSD, providing information to elementary and high school services that cater to SWD, tutorial services, Heritage Centers, Sylvan and facilitating community relationships to extend information to parents of students with IEP's. Ellington Prep will also employ the efforts to communicate with the NYS Office of Special Education, as well as having a specialized & certified AG member who embraces & focuses on SWD.

**Recruitment of ELL:** outreach programs which connect Ellington Prep to multilingual organizations (Hispanics United of Buffalo, Buffalo International Training Centers, etc.), which aid in the transitions of multilingual residents, multilingual media outlets, community services, which cater to ELL parents and families, word of mouth and practical social media, cultural festivals, cultural events and functions.

**Recruitment of Students Who Are FRPL:** 84% of the students in Buffalo Public School district are eligible for FRPL. Ellington Prep will extend itself to local food services which

many residents participant in, social relief programs which aid low income and socio-economically disadvantaged families. Ellington Prep will also use communicative services, meetings, media, and word of mouth to reach residents of the BPSD to offer them an additional choice in educational resources for their children. One Trustee works closely with BPSD residents, has a concrete relationship in many of the socio-economical disadvantaged residents and will provide information to its residents and community about the Ellington Prep program.

**Retention of those identified in School's Mission:** A major component of retention for Ellington Prep is the ability to focus on the whole family's participation in the education process, cultivating the student in every area of their specialty while offering initiatives for college preparedness. The SAU Program is focused on independence and creating strong, progressive, emotional connections to school. Through an amalgamation of support from instructors and increasing understanding of the multiple methods of ascertaining skills over time, students will develop a sense of independence, individuality and accountability. Students will also have the mentorship of numerous artist, entertainers and producers who will aid in the navigation of education and its importance. Forging this mentorship between student-parents/mentor will encourage students' high attendance along with high graduation rates. Ellington Prep offers the collegiate to life connection: whereas students will be feeders for several proposed colleges – (also recruiting more colleges for this program) Morehouse College, Niagara University, The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, CUNY- Hunter College, Northeast – Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Spelman College and others. Ellington Prep will also aid in students furthering a professional career with insightful professional connections who desire to pursue routes other than collegiate studies.

**Retention of Students with Disabilities:** IEP's will be administered to all identified SWD upon completion of RTI's continuously. Student Support Team including school administration, ELL coordinator, Special Education Coordinator, Prep parents and Circulated Leads will monitor, using traditional monitoring of academic and behavioral Data Driven Dialogue, make recommendations for Tier II and Tier III interventions, consistently addressing all/special needs. Specialized support will engage in RTI Roundtable, and reinforcing support for students for co-interdependence and independent work facilitating a SWD-Post School Outcome Informational Benchmark to aid in the future nurturing and portfolio compilation beyond high school.

**Retention of ELL's:** Understanding ELL's are a highly heterogeneous and complex group of students, two key elements ELL's need in order to improve their English-fluency. Activities are structured to support student-to-student or group interaction, facilitated by instructors with scheduled observation and assessment for development in all areas of academic growth. Instructors will contact one ELL parent each week to share information on his/her student. School staff member may assist in making a quick phone call to connect linguistically. ELL parents will be delighted and happy to hear positive news about their child and will feel more comfortable asking questions and visiting the school in the future. Setting high expectations for ELL's performance, placing ELL's according to academic achievement rather than language proficiency; placement in challenging classes with quality instruction will encourage ELL's to learn more, exhibit awareness of students' backgrounds, acknowledging their prior literacy experiences, cultural relevant experiences while building on students' linguistic and cultural resources, focusing on teaching language through content and themes. Students should, be inspired by student centered activities -which include but are not limited to "Lost and Found in Translation" School-Wide.

**Retention of Free Reduced Price Lunch Program:** Ellington Prep is student centered, with a premise that students come to school to experience life in a learning environment that is artistically/academically engaging and supportive which increases retention. Students, as well as the community, will find Ellington Prep an exciting second home where growing is learning. Efforts to maintain and communicate the desire for positive academic experience (allowing for students and parents to participate in a positive school day), accompanied with the excitement in the ability to have life changing courses will increase attendance. The programs offered by Ellington Prep are designed to positively encourage a cooperative learning experience which becomes captivating and motivating. By reaching the heart, we can change the mind, feed the mind, feed the body and make school a desirable place to sit for a full meal of life. Ellington Prep will also educate students on urban gardening, healthy dietary necessities and empower socioeconomically disadvantaged students to acclimate themselves to well-balanced realistic healthy choices.

**IV. Public Outreach and Community Support:** A Trustee and proposed employee have consistently met with community members, parents of the Neighbor Choice Program, an entire

residential communities dedicated to maintaining their neighborhoods and homes despite urban gentrification, and have shared with them the intent for a school of this caliber. Feedback from the meeting and discussion was invigorating, met with enthusiasm and willingness that the school will exist, that Ellington Prep is going to be a place where they could send their children. After the initial meeting, community canvassing was done throughout the BPSD to compile over 100 signatures indicating support for Ellington Prep. Specific canvassing was done for middle school aged children who have limited high school choices for schools that cultivate STEAM (the Arts and STEM).

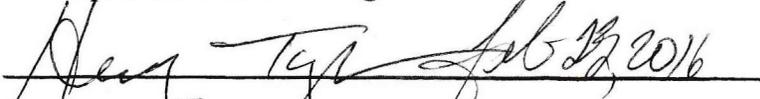
**Meeting with Elected Officials:** Ellington Prep is expectant of support from the elected officials representing the BPSD, and have contacted New York State Congressional District Representative NY-26 Brian Higgins, United States Senator representing New York Charles Schumer, and has reached out to New York State Assemblywoman Crystal D Peoples Stokes from the 141<sup>st</sup> District, United States Congressman James Clyburn of the Congressional Black Caucus, Ellington Prep expects letters of support and have moved to schedule meetings as well as extended itself to additional elected officials.

**Outreach to Community Organizations:** Ellington prep has made an all-out systemic outreach program that will influence not only student enrollment, however will change the way schools approach the educational pipeline. A reader for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has requested a meeting to form relationships for aiding in the protocol for future scholarship articulation protocol, the United Negro College Fund Relationship Specialist, and a national Collegiate and Scholarship Writing Services. Ellington Prep was initially presented to the Neighborhood Choice Program organizers as a way to provide residents with continuous stable education program for their children to pipeline to college. Response was overwhelming as the desire to cultivate on a national level to receive funding and acceptance for Higher Education became a goal. Due to interest parents, organizers and community members were surveyed and canvassed. The Buffalo New York Clergy, The Edison Street Community Church in conjunction with additional local programs to target socioeconomically disadvantaged and subsidized housing (Langfield/Kenfield Housing, Commodore Perry Housing) in the future may all have communicative efforts scheduled for extensive presentations through Buffalo Municipal Housing Auth., Belmont Shelter Corporation, Neighborhood housing Services, Ellicott Community Redevelopment, and the Buffalo Urban League.

**Web Outreach:** In efforts to raise awareness of Ellington Prep's application to enhance communication with feedback from potential applicants, parents and the community the Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts & Sciences Charter School established a Facebook Page "Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences," as well as a website ([www.Ellingtonpreparatoryacademy.com](http://www.Ellingtonpreparatoryacademy.com), & [www.Ellingtonprepcharterschool.com](http://www.Ellingtonprepcharterschool.com)) The website is under construction. Questions/ responses comments additional information is answered by corresponding with us on Facebook: Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School and sending us an email: [Ellingtonprep1@gmail.com](mailto:Ellingtonprep1@gmail.com) in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic.

**Initial Assessment of Parent Interest:** Ellington Prep has reflected on positive, enthusiastic interest with parents as well as students eagerly indicating that they would ardently apply to enroll at Ellington Prep. The STEAM Component is a winning combination without limiting either intelligence or talents, the incorporation of both as a conduit to college and career readiness are also inclusive of programs that support and encourage ELL's and SWD to achieve using multiple academic pathways. Parents, students and community members communicated authentic enthusiasm as the BPSD is one of the lowest performing/failing districts in NYS. Parents expressed their desire to stay in the city as many of the residents move to the suburban districts for suitable high school choices: Ellington Prep would give them a quality choice to stay in the city, and for socioeconomically disadvantaged, they would now have a quality place due to lack of high school options. Community members have enthusiastically communicated the desire for Ellington Prep to be genuine in realistic fashion as the entire BPSD is eligible for enrollment procedures. This is a commitment Ellington Prep aims to uphold.

**V. Proposed Board Chair Signature and Date**

  
 Henry L. Taylor Jr. Date

<b>NAME OF APPLICANT GROUP MEMBER</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	<b>CURRENT EMPLOYMENT</b>
Henry Louis Taylor Jr. Ph.D.		Director of Urban Studies, State University of New York at Buffalo
Topaza Watkins Edmonds		VOICE Concepts Incorporated, / Amazon @Amazon.com Human Resources & Staffing
Maceo T. Skinner Jr.		Lead Instrumental& Vocal Instructor Buffalo Board of Education
1SG Edward Wilson		Army Reserve JROTC , Buffalo Public Schools (Ret.)

Kristine Douglas		Gifted Specialist G.R.R., Secondary Teacher Buffalo Board of Education Allen & Allen Education Consultants
Jazzmin Iglesias		College Student
Rodney Maybin		Townsquare Media Inc.
Dr. John Howard		Morehouse College Professor
Derrick McAalister		National Music Producer

**TABLE 1: APPLICANT GROUP INFORMATION**

**\*Minimum of 5 members must be designated as Trustees**

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, AND ROLE ON APPLICANT GROUP (Key Words)	PROPOSED ROLE (if any) (Trustee, Employee, Constituent)	PROPOSED POSITION ON THE BOARD (e.g., officer, trustee, or constituent)	LENGTH OF INITIAL TERM	VOTING MEMBER (YES OR NO)
Founding Member/ School Operations, School Culture Systems, Teacher Evaluation, Education Plan Committee, Strategic Urban Planning Recruitment	Trustee	Chair	3 Years	Yes
Founding Member/Accounting , Budget and Cash Flow, Human Resource- Artist Management, Fundraising, Finance Committee	Trustee	Trustee/ Treasurer /Finance Committee	3 Years	Yes
School Culture, Artist Management, Artist Teacher Development System, Community Organizing, Public Outreach Committee, Music Organization SWD	Trustee	Trustee/Constituent	3 Years	Yes
School Operations, Teacher Evaluation, Education Planning Committee, Human Resources, Success Metric and Performance Standards, Branding, Marketing, Legal Organization, Fiscal Planning Committee	Trustee	Trustee, Constituent	1 Year	Yes

Founding Member/ School Operations, Curriculum Development, Education Planning Committee, Public Outreach Committee, Fundraising, Recruitment, School Founding Experience, New Teacher Mentoring Program, School Culture Systems	Employee	Head of School	3 Years	No
Youth Representative/ Community Organization Public Outreach Committee - (COPOC) -Member	Trustee	Trustee / Secretary	3 Years	Yes
Public Relations Committee ( Specialist) Community Organization Public Outreach Committee- (COPOC) Media Specialist for National Media Outlet Presently, Community Organizer		Trustee, Public Relations Committee	3 Years	Yes
Founding Member/ Education Initiative Committee (EIC) Committee/ Advancing the STEAM Teams' Dreams Committee/ Science- Math Initiative Respected Professor with leading instruction in Science and Math camps	Trustee	Trustee Vice Chair	3 Years	Yes
Executive Talent Co-Coordinator Specialist Committee (Entertainers/ Artist Management Specialist Committee) Produced National Recording Artist Globally, Adele, K Michele Country Artist, R&B, Rock Produced segments on National Morning Shows/	Trustee	Trustee	3 Years	No

**Table 2: Public Outreach Information**

(Table 2 is not counted towards the page limits. Add more rows as necessary)

Dates of Outreach (month/date/year)	Description of Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
01/16/2016 meeting date	Sent flyers to community based organizations serving children and families with special needs. Hosted a meet/greet to introduce team and solicit feedback on application.	ABC Community Center 1000 Avenue A NYC CSD 5	Families of students with disabilities, community members	Need for family partners	Add a family liaison to the staff who is bi-lingual	22 families of students in grades Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten
07/08/2015	Hosted Meeting with families from Edison Street Community Church	Edison Street Community Church	Families of community members, socioeconomically disadvantaged students,	Desire for Ellington to be a real school based on the Key Concepts presented, give out email information	Provided Email information on Facebook	20 families of elementary students
08/08/2015	Canvased multiple neighborhoods with a questionnaire	Buffalo East, North Buffalo, Upper West Side	All residents of the City of Buffalo	Put more information on flyer, "Make the school real, my kids need a place to go to!"	Better quality brochure/flyer, assurance steps would be taken to make the school better	200 people surveyed 50 signed Survey.
10/14/2015	Hosted Meeting at the University at Buffalo Hayes C for interested Residents to be on the BOT	University at Buffalo- All residents from Buffalo North, East and Upper West who signed Survey	All residents of City of Buffalo	Easier location, was difficult to find exact room	Held all further meetings in easy to find locations for all of the residents of the City of Buffalo	3 Adults with grandchildren who are early childhood age.
12/04/ 2015	Hosted Community Forum	State University of New York at Buffalo	All Residents of the City of Buffalo	More feedback on the statistics on	Provided lucid, exact statistics with	25 families 10 high school aged teens,

		Allen Hall		how well the school in Washington D.C is doing, better website/ liked our clean professional but personable Facebook page	PowerPoint during the next presentation.	Elderly
12/05/2015	Hosted Community Forum	State University of New York at Buffalo Allen Hall	All Residents of the City of Buffalo	Liked presentation, want to know the process to become a real school. wanted to sign up their children	Maintained providing valid information	30 families lots of small children, some not school aged, many early childhood age.
12/10/ 2015	Hosted Community Forum	Edison Street Community Church	Residents of the Outskirts of the Eastside bordering suburban districts	Parents like the presentation, then voiced their concerns on how to get their children out of the Buffalo Public Schools, had lots of questions about enrollment, admissions, start up, is it going to be a real school?	Maintained providing valid information, encouraged parents to get involved in the process of participating in every aspect of education.	20 Families, mostly (Many single fathers, children of all ages, socioeconomically disadvantaged,
12/27/2015	Support from United Negro College Fund	Telephone call				


ELLINGTON PREPARATORY ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES CHARTER SCHOOL

# {CAPTURE THE MOMENT! }

Now is Your Time

Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences



**BUILDING A STRONGER YOU! BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY!  
EXCELLENCE IN STEM & THE ARTS PROGRAMS.**

Dedicated STEM & Professional Artists have come together to develop a STEM-STEAM program for tremendous academic and Arts success.

E-Mail us with your questions:  
[ellingtonprep1@gmail.com](mailto:ellingtonprep1@gmail.com)

Masters Classes to be taught by Professional Entertainers, Nationally renowned Artists, Producers, Scientists, Mathematicians, Engineers, Choreographers, Journalists and many others.



## ELLINGTON PREPARATORY ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES STEAM

"A problem is a chance to do your best" Duke Ellington

# EVENTS

Meetings Held on the Main Street Campus of the State University of New York at Buffalo: Allen Hall, & The Edison Street Baptist Church, 28 Edison Ave. Buffalo, NY

**Ellington Preparatory Community Meetings Open to the public!** December 4<sup>th</sup> 2015—Open Forum University at Buffalo, Main Street, Allen Hall (South Campus)

**Ellington Preparatory Community Meetings Open to the public!** December 5, 2015 Open Forum Allen Hall University at Buffalo (Main Street South Campus)

**Ellington Preparatory Community Meetings Open to the public!** December 6, 2015 Open Forum Allen Hall, University at Buffalo (Main Street South Campus)

**Ellington Preparatory Community Meetings Open to the public.** Open Forum at the "Edison Street Baptist Church" 28 Edison Ave. Buffalo, NY

# COMMUNITY FORUMS



**Fri. & Sat. December 4 & 5**

**6:30 P.M.**  
**LOCATION:**  
 University at Buffalo, Main Street, South Campus  
 Allen Hall Theater.

**The Mission of Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School** is to inspire intellectual development while simultaneously cultivating the natural human passion for the Arts in talented students; while infusing an intense academic STEM program. STEAM – as we have named it – is the cultivation of creativity and intellectual multiple intelligences for an optimal outcome of tremendous success.

**Sunday December 6**

**5:30 P.M. UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO**  
**Program Elements:** Serious academic enrichment of multi-dimensions of Sciences and the Arts using Blended Instructional Practices, College/Career Direct Connection, Professional Internships, Scholarship Search Assistance, Block Scheduling, Professional Mentorship Program

**PROGRAM ELEMENTS**  
**MASTER CLASSES: ARTS**  
 Taught by Professional Writers, Journalist, Music Producers, Choreographers, Musicians, Singers, Recording Artists, Rappers and many other nationally renowned Artists.

**TARGET POPULATION OF THE ELLINGTON PREPARATORY ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES CHARTER SCHOOL --**  
 The target population of the Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts & Sciences Charter School fit at least one of the following criteria:  
 \*Students who are academically at risk of not earning mastery on state/local assessments/Core Subjects  
 \*Students who come from a low socioeconomic status  
 \*Students who are at-risk of not graduating from high school or attending college.

**Thursday December 10**

**6:30 PM EDISON STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH.**  
**28 EDISON AVE. BUFFALO NY**

**PROGRAM ELEMENTS**  
**MASTER CLASSES: STEM**  
 Taught by Professional Engineers, Scientist, Technology Specialist, Doctors, Computer Systems Information Specialists, Statistics Specialist, Mathematicians, Actuaries, Software Developers, and many others.

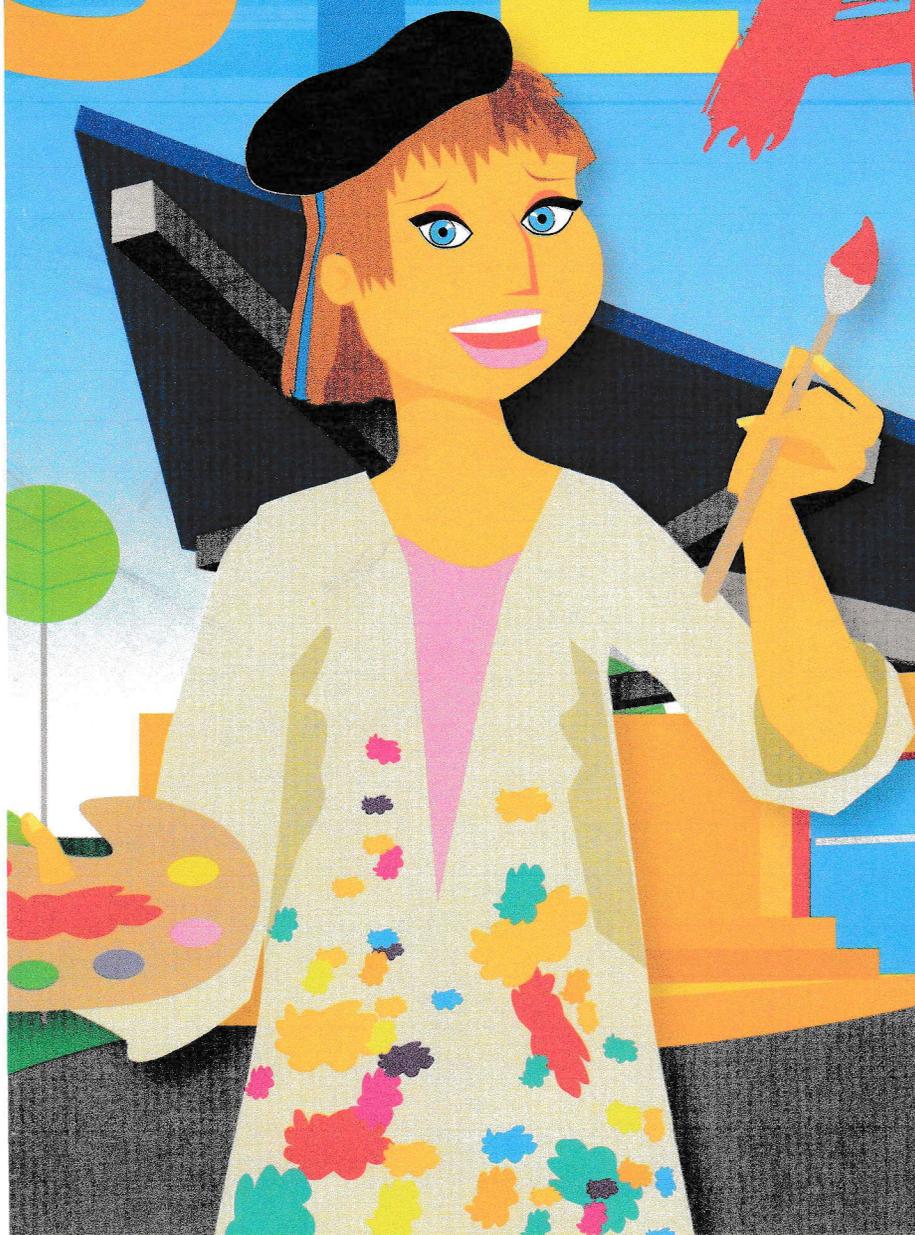
**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTE INPUT TO THE SCHOOL MODEL!**  
 Community members can go to our e-mail, ellingtonprep1@gmail.com and leave a comment, check out our Facebook Page, attend our Public Community Forums. Now is your time! Making education what it should be and can be! STEAM full ahead!

**PROPOSED GRADES OF ENROLLMENT**  
 2016: Planning/ Fundraising  
 2017: Grade 7<sup>th</sup> (90 students)  
 2018 : Grade 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (180 students)  
 2019: Grade 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> (270 students)  
 2020: Grade 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> (360 std.)  
 2021: 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>-(450 )  
 2022: Grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> (540 Students)

SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • ARTS • MATH

# STEAM

Turning  
**STEM**  
into  
**STEAM**



**Clever  
Crazes**



**Kids**

**3.0**

ACTIVITY BOOK:

**LEVEL THREE**

RECOMMENDED FOR



# The Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School

Ellingtonprep1@gmail.com



## Mission Statement of Ellington Prep

### **Mission Statement: Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School**

Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School (Ellington Prep) mission is to prepare all scholars, cultivate scholars and stimulate intellectual development while simultaneously promoting the natural desire for Arts and Sciences in talented students. Ellington Prep promotes the opportunity to develop scholar's artistic skills in conjunction with advancing academic achievement. Scholars learn the concept of overcoming poverty, homelessness, and disability are challenges to be triumphed with education. Ellington Prep will push this mission through to inter-reliant programs that reinforce the model of our distinctive school's design.

Scholars prepare for college/post – secondary education careers in the Arts and Sciences. Ellington Prep is offering an intensive STEAM based pre-collegiate program. This program is compulsory; aims to bring nationally renowned Scientists, Mathematicians, Engineers and respected Technologists to authenticate learning with Master Classes during guest visits and Artist in Residence Programs; as well as aid in the furthering in the development of a prolific strong successful STEAM program.

Scholars will also experience an enriching rigorous academic and Arts program which propels every student to understand how Arts and the Sciences are co-interdependent and provides enriched learning. The Arts program brings in professionals from the world of Music, Entertainment, Television, Journalism, Theater and beyond, to cultivate the total human learning involvement. Ellington Prep scholars will be held to high standards and expectations. Although the Pre-collegiate STEM and Arts programs called STEAM are rigorous, it will also be exciting, opening a world of authenticated learning with real world connections.

### **WHAT ELLINTON PREP PLANS TO DO**

Ellington Prep's staff is dedicated to the support of our scholars in the program. In this belief, the backdrop to thousands of schools that are non-private have fallen short of producing numerous academic success, instead producing large amounts of drop outs, under-educated cohorts and colleges having to put in place collegiate remedial courses for many of the students who were admitted but are still lacking basic college readiness and preparedness skills. It is the belief that in a city with reflective demographics of Washington D.C.'s population in the public sector of education, the socioeconomic disadvantaged populous of Buffalo, New York, the creation of a similar institution that produces quality cohorts who not only compete at high levels of academia, but who also exhibit the stellar success of the students from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington D.C. is more than possible. The concept is to model the academic success of the school, however modifying its curriculum to evolve



around STEAM (with the acclimation of the Arts for) the much needed cooperative use of the left and right sides of the brain. Meaning the program must cultivate the digital, analytical, sequential as well as the three dimensional sense, creativity and artistic senses, the belief we have amalgamated into the STEAM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math). This combination allows for our young STEM minds to think more creatively in the solving and inquiry into possible solutions and considering multiple sources for aggregated information.

The Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School looks to bring local, regional and national Artists and Scientist as educators, as well as Master Teachers, and Artists in Residence to teach, share and take part in the Master Series Lectures. Vocalists April Ellington and Edward Ellington (son and daughter to the late Duke Ellington), Producers Dave "Jam" Hall, Derrick McCallister "Young World," Journalist Les Trent (From Inside Edition National Television Show), notable Scientists, Musicians, Writers, Christian Epps of VHI Love and Hip Hop and Founder of Lights Camera Diaspora, Physicians and numerous others have joined in to support the Ellington Prep Team. The program was created by Educator Kris Douglas Ed.M. along with well noted Morehouse physicist Dr. John Howard to diligently merge a well-constructed STEM base curriculum with that of the Liberal Arts. Kris's theory is to pre-expose students to the mandated rigor of expectations of a realistic STEM program with cultivation of a wide scope of the Arts.

Kris and Dr. John Howard of Morehouse College also joined efforts in the development of the "from high school to HBCU Pipeline" to aid the male students of the future Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School to have a direct admission path to Morehouse College (soon Spelman and many other HBCU's colleges and universities) will have a direct pipeline line of students whom will be effectively prepared to step into multifaceted educational programs of interest with authentic retention and unquestionable success; this "From high school to HBCU Pipeline" is affectionately named the "E-Train." The Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School will produce cohorts whose preparedness will allow for maximum scholarships and academic accolades. The "E-Train" is also continuous in its efforts to partnering with other local, regional and national colleges and universities in Buffalo and across the country to cultivate anticipated agreements to connect with the Ellington Prep students as prospective entry candidates.

The Ellington Prep Team is requesting your support as we pull STEAM- ahead. Join us on the "E-Train," and ride along for a future in a remarkable educational experience of a life time.

The Ellington Prep Team thanks you in advance as we value your support and efforts in making this charter school a reality that will be a welcome addition to the Buffalo community and to families seeking the broad education the STEAM program offerings, Ellington Prep can provide.

Sincerest,

The Ellington Prep Team

"A problem is a chance to do your best,"  
-Duke Ellington

ELLINGTON PREPARATORY ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES CHARTER SCHOOL

Do you believe in a stronger educational support system for your children, students and parents?

Very definitely! The public school system does not really encourage parent or student enrichment and engagement. A educational support system that involves family and community is what our children need.



# The Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School

Ellingtonprep1@gmail.com



## SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE SHEET

The Ellington Prep Team would like to ask you a question, please sign your name and zip code if you agree. Thank you.

Do you believe another charter school in Buffalo would help students perform better, graduate on time and be more prepared for college based on what has been shared with you about the program?

ebony walls	
Yolande Davis	
Alicia Threat	
Dawn Thomas	
Palmine Merchant	
Alex Alexsyuk	
James D. Davis	
Michael	
R. I. auto	
Edward F. Smith	
John Davis	
Michael Hodge	
William H. Hodge	
Michael Hodge	
STAN CARBET	
Robert H. Hodge	
Karen Williams	
Albert J. Hodge	
John Hodge	
John Hodge	
John Hodge	

# GranSum

## Enterprise, LLC

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January 25, 2016

Chancellor Merryl H. Tisch  
New York State Board of Regents  
Charter School Office  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Chancellor Tisch,

This is a letter of support for the establishment of the proposed Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School (Ellington Prep) which will be located in Buffalo, contingent upon the school's letter of intent and application being accepted and its ability to secure an appropriate location in the Buffalo Public School District.

As a member of the community representing Buffalo, there is a clear need for additional high-quality schooling options for families at the late middle and high school level. Given Ellington Prep's proposed model and vision, its near duplicate model in Washington D.C., being one of the nation's first charter schools since 1974 with proven academic success, it too could provide such an option to the community.

Ellington Prep is impressive with its partnering with local, regional and national Scientists, Artists, Journalists and numerous professionals, cultural, civic organizations and its fascinating take the "E Train" high school to college program; which also has anticipated agreements to partner prospective students with colleges and universities across the country.

This school would be a welcome addition to the community and would be attentive to families seeking the broad education its "STEAM" program offerings can provide.

Sincerely,

*Adam B Sumlin*

Dr. Adam B. Sumlin

cc: Ellington Preparatory  
Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School

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## Letter of Support - Ellington Prep Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter



To: Regent.Collins@nysed.gov,

[Reply](#) |

Tue 1/26/2016 3:38 PM

Dear Regent Collins,

This is a letter of support for the proposed Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School.

In July of 2015, I was introduced to the Ellington Prep Team and the proposed Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School programs and initiatives. Not long after this introduction, it was quite lucid that a wonderful relationship would ensue as the Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School would greatly benefit from the services that are offered by our organization.

The services offered are collegiate connection program that pairs each student to a specific college adviser for the four years of high school, building an adviser/mentor relationship, making direct connections to every college of choice, visiting the colleges, and teaching students how to best position themselves as it relates to college admissions offices. The services are to also assist with college testing and admissions procedures and protocols for timely paperwork, and assistance with federal and institutional financial aid.

It is an honor to offer the proposed Ellington preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School these services in-kind as a donation. The concept of the proposed charter school is outstanding and has the intricate position to allow my organization to reach a national level with a school that will truly be a success.

Please accept this letter of support for the proposed Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School; its concept and curriculum speak to developing students who will have long term success at every level of academia.

Yours Truly,

KIMBA

Kimba M. Williams, MBA  
Executive Director  
CollegePATH, Inc.  
561-755-PATH (7284)

[www.collegepathusa.org](http://www.collegepathusa.org)

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"Focused on assisting students  
with discovering the BEST college FIT!"



Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts & Sciences Charter School



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Academy of Arts &  
Sciences Charter  
School**

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Boost Post

28 people reached

UPCOMING EVENTS



Community Forums

Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 7:00am

Subscribe

+ Create Event

VISITOR POSTS



Alfonzo Guinney

Wednesday at 2:47pm

I attended the forum and I must say that it was really nice... I trul... See More

Like Comment



Ellington Prep

June 17, 2015 at 12:14pm

It was recently stated by a student that "a teacher can only teach... See More

Like Comment Share

+ Florence Flakes-Rozier



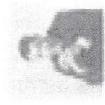
Florence Flakes-Rozier Presentation on this proposed charter school was well done, information was thorough and engaging. Presentation covered all possible points projective parents and community attendees had. Concept is exciting and needed for transforming direction of schooling in Buffalo, New York. Hoping the school opens soon.

Like Reply Message February 24 at 2:43am



Write a comment

Press Enter to post



Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts & Sciences  
Charter School

August 19, 2015

Upcoming Events  
by Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts & S

**MAR 26** Community Forums  
Allen Hall University At Buffalo

Subscribe

28 people reached

Boost Post



ellington preparatory academy of art sciences charter schools



Ellington

IPS



ellington preparatory academy of art sciences charter schools



ellington preparatory academy of arts sciences charter school



1,000 people talking about this



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## Fall Enrollment

1 message

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### OMEGA IMPERIAL

Greetings...I wanted to know when the school was opening as I found a flyer from the community forum that was at Edison Street church. However, I didn't have an address to register my grand-child for the fall. Can you e-mail me the information. This would be of immense appreciation and conducive to my endeavors with enrolling my grand-child. Thank you kindly.

1805 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

February 19, 2016

New York State Board of Regents  
Chancellor Tisch  
Office of Charter Schools  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York

Dear Chancellor Tisch:

This is a letter of recommendation on behalf of the proposed Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School within the city of Buffalo, New York. The Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School has proposed to offer a wide variety of programs which are appealing; however, also possess a true nature of vitality in the delivery of the proposed programming.

Although the Ellington Preparatory Academy is based on the parent model the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, which is located in Washington, D.C., the curriculum will provide the ability to provide a strong academic science program along with cultivating an Arts program. The Duke Ellington School of the Arts, (DESA) has a long standing educational tradition of success that I can approximate will translate into a huge success also for the Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School. I am very familiar with Duke Ellington School of the Arts, since UNCF's Headquarters is located within the above address in Washington, D.C. The Ellington Prep model has written a solid program that will educate the whole child, using Project Based Learning incorporating the STEAM program is unquestionably magnificent thinking. The building of a school-to-college pipeline (Take the E-Train) partnering with colleges and universities throughout the country is also a brilliant perspective needed to move successful students' directly into college, which is truly admirable endeavor worth endorsing.

Please accept this letter of recommendation on behalf of the Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School. This is a time when every form of educational advancement and multiple ideas of success must be taken to continue to develop the nation's students. There is no one fit-model; however, there are multiple opportunities to keep developing institutions, charters and programs in efforts to keep reaching heights of success for our students to achieve. If your staff have any additional questions, I can be reached by e-mail at ([william.dunham@unconf.org](mailto:william.dunham@unconf.org)).

Sincerely,

  
William Dunham  
Senior Relationships Manger  
United Negro College Fund, Inc. (UNCF)

Ellington Prep

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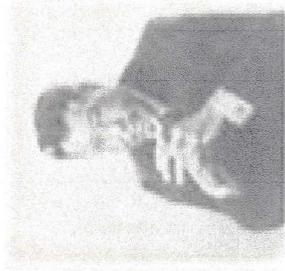
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School

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Ellington Prep > Ellington Preparatory Academy of Arts & Sciences Charter School

June 17, 2016

It was recently stated by a student that

"a teacher can only teach if they reach the hearts of students."

He was half crying when he said this, however, his words resonated in my soul. It's true, we can only like what we love, and what we don't take to heart, we let it roll off our backs. A learning experience should do more than roll off one's back; it should captivate you and hug you for the rest of your life!