



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact Information
512-879-0993
Julie .shussler@bm.com

Harmony Public Schools Response to The New York Times

- A June 6, 2012, article in *The New York Times* about charter schools in Georgia includes a rehash of old allegations, circumstantial evidence and rumors that attempt to put Harmony Public Schools (HPS) in a context that is not accurate. Worse, the *Times* uses mix this to raise vague questions how Texas taxpayer dollars are being spent.
- **To be clear, as we have told the *Times* on several occasions:**
 1. At HPS, taxpayer funds are used solely to support operations and educate students; we do so at a superior level and a lower cost per student than non-charter public schools.
 2. With regard to contracts and purchasing, we use a bidding or procurement process set out by the state of Texas, and Harmony does not discriminate on the basis of gender, national origin, ethnicity, religion, or disability in its programs, employment, admissions or selection of vendors.
 3. Harmony schools have no affiliation with Fetullah Gulen or the so-called Gulen movement. Since we have no affiliation with the Gulen movement, it is absurd and inaccurate for the *Times* to suggest that taxpayer funds are benefitting them.
- **With regard to “investigations” referenced by the *Times*:**
 1. With regard to the Texas Legislature, Harmony has said: “We welcome the opportunity to demonstrate to the Texas Legislature that excellence is the standard at Harmony Public Schools – whether it is in our curriculum, our classrooms or our business practices. Like all public schools in Texas, whether traditional or charter, we are required to operate in full compliance with the laws, regulations and guidance set by the State of Texas, and we do so.”
 2. The Texas Education Agency has conducted audits of HPS state and federal programs, as it does with all public schools in Texas, and has not identified issues of concern or taken action against HPS.
 3. The U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights has reviewed admissions practices at some HPS schools and told HPS officials that no concerns were raised.
- **And once again, the *Times* failed to mention the recognition HPS has received in the past month:**
 1. Three HPS campuses made this year’s [U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools Rankings](#), which lists the best-performing schools in the nation.
 2. Four HPS campuses made [Newsweek’s “Top 25 Transformative High Schools”](#) list, which looks at schools that achieve remarkable academic results in relation to the socioeconomic status of their communities; seven campuses were also ranked in the top 1,000 of Newsweek’s [“America’s Best High Schools 2012”](#) list.
 3. Four HPS campuses made the [Washington Post’s “The High School Challenge”](#) list, which ranks more than 1,900 schools that are succeeding at challenging students and preparing them for college.