



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Annise D. Parker**

Mayor

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Dr. Terry Grier  
Superintendent of Schools  
Houston Independent School District  
4400 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Houston, TX 77092-8501

Dear Dr. Grier,

I am proud to support the mission of ARK (Adults Relating to Kids) and their efforts to build the self-esteem of children through adult mentoring so that every child has the confidence needed to graduate, find a rewarding career, and become an engaged member of society. Like ARK, I value the importance of strengthening communities by creating supportive social environments in which children can develop to their fullest potential.

ARK's approach is founded on the belief that children thrive in school and society only when they receive unconditional support from someone important in their life, such as a family member or teacher. Within the supportive relationship that ARK's approach creates, children learn to affirm themselves in spite of their mistakes.

I particularly admire the breadth of ARK's programs and services. ARK offers a unique approach for children in elementary school to students attending college. Two of ARK's most sought-after programs are ARK for Parents (and Caregivers) and ARK for Teachers, but they strive to serve youth wherever they are, such as in places of worship.

ARK and I share a fundamental belief in the power of mentoring to strengthen communities. I am proud to lend my support to ARK and I look forward to a productive and rewarding relationship between The City of Houston and ARK.

Sincerely,

Annise D. Parker  
Mayor