

From: [Angel Whaley](#)
To: [BankMergerApplication](#)
Subject: [SUSPECTED SPAM] Merger Comments
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 9:52:14 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

Public Education Partners' mission is to lead our community in acting collectively to support, strengthen, and advance public education and student achievement in Greenville County Schools. As a 'local education fund' Public Education Partners (PEP) generates support from individuals, corporations and foundations to fund the initiatives that will have the greatest impact on improving the quality of public education for nearly 77,000 students and 5,300 teachers in 101 schools and centers.

Through its support of our Make Summer Count literacy program, David Torris and the SunTrust Foundation are helping us ensure elementary students attending 29 high-need schools have access to high-interest, age-appropriate books that they love. All 29 elementary schools participating in Make Summer Count have poverty rates of 50% or more according to free and reduced meal rates. SunTrust's generosity strengthens the reading gains of more than 18,300 Make Summer Count students in the Upstate. Because of SunTrust's support, each spring, students are building their very own home libraries and their families are equipped with strategies to improve literacy practices in their home year-round. In partnership with SunTrust Bank and the SunTrust Foundation, we are not only changing students' attitudes and beliefs about the importance of summer reading, but also impacting their school performance, and ultimately their ability to return to school in the fall, ready to learn. The Board and staff at Public Education Partners in Greenville County South Carolina support the merging of two iconic franchises and look forward to continuing to partner to improve public education and student achievement in the Upstate.

My Best,
Angel Whaley
Vice President of Advancement
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