



Department of Psychology
1285 Franz Hall
Box 951563
Los Angeles, CA 90095

HE Minister Mahafzah
Minister of Education, Jordan

June 9st, 2023

RE: Jordan's Education Transformation

Dear Minister Mahafzah

On behalf of the Bjork Learning and Forgetting Lab at University of California, Los Angeles, and in partnership with COGx, we are pleased to offer our support for Jordan's Ministry of Education in particular towards your leadership and efforts to transform the educational system to one that is more inclusive of research and evidence from cognitive science.

Decades of research has shown that much of what we think we know about learning stands opposite to how learning actually works. As a result, students are not learning effectively and efficiently, making them less prepared for college and less likely to graduate and be successful in life. Together with other prominent human learning and memory researchers/experts around the world, we have discovered proven techniques that make both teaching and learning markedly more effective. Yet these techniques are not widely deployed in our schools around the world. COGx is changing that. They have devoted 12 years to translating scientific research and evidence-based practice into accessible programs. They are rigorous in their approach and committed to applying research findings and evidence with fidelity. As a result, they are making great strides in changing the status quo in education to one that embraces scientific research on learning.

The COGx Program for Educators and for Students is based on rigorous research on how to best facilitate student learning. The foundational learning principles which underlie these programs have been shown to increase several different outcomes (e.g., GPA, self-efficacy, self-regulation of learning) for a variety of student populations (e.g., K-12 students) and in many contexts (e.g., in-classroom learning, online learning).

These programs take the perspective of students as holistic learners, incorporating evidence-based principles of socioemotional learning, self-regulated learning, and our own work on "desirable difficulties" to promote students' motivation to learn, long-term learning, transfer of learning to new challenges and contexts, and management of their learning.

Evidence supporting the online content of this program is robust. Additionally, the feature of providing expert coaching ensures context-appropriate application of course principles and fidelity in adoption of

these principles by your school system, which is central to benefitting student learners who participate in this program as well as to transferring capacity and sustaining outcomes

Our Lab at the University of California, Los Angeles has worked closely with COGx to develop the content of the program, and we are confident that it reflects the most cutting-edge research on the science of learning. We believe this program has the potential to considerably enhance the academic achievement of Jordan’s school system and inspiring other countries in the region to emulate its successful adoption.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with COGx on this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Bjork
Distinguished Research Professor
UCLA



Elizabeth Ligon Bjork
Professor
UCLA