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Jose P. Duarte
Headmaster
The English High School
144 McBride Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Dear Dr. Duarte:

I have just read the article in the Boston Globe about English High School's academic problems. I believe I can help you achieve the goal you have set of graduating every senior and getting them into college.

The line in the article that struck me most was this: "Teachers shouldering the main burden of reforming the school, are confronting the fact that many of the students lack even the most basic skills." And that, of course, is the reason why so many of the students will not be able to graduate.

My solution is very simple and straightforward: I would like to test your seniors in the most basic of their academic skills, reading, and provide you with a literacy profile of the senior class. The tests would indicate who are the best readers and who are the worst. The latter would be given remedial lessons in intensive, systematic phonics so that they could become good phonetic readers and capable of improving themselves academically.

I have developed both the test, the Oral Reading Assessment Test, and the reading program, Alpha-Phonics. Both have proved to be extremely effective in identifying reading problems and solving them. Enclosed is a brochure describing Alpha-Phonics.

I would be glad to conduct a pilot program to demonstrate the effectiveness of what I can do to help you achieve your goals. I am the author of ten books on education and have spent the last thirty-five years dealing with these academic problems.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,