

Alicia Abdul, School Library Media Specialist
Albany High School, City School District of Albany
700 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12203
January 19, 2011

Mayor Gerald D. Jennings
City Hall
24 Eagle Street, Room 102
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mayor Jennings,

Albany High School will have the pleasure of bringing acclaimed young adult author, Ellen Hopkins to Albany High School on March 16, 2011. To date she has written seven novels-in-verse for teens including *Crank*, *Impulse*, and *Tricks*. I am writing to you to ask if you would like to make a small donation toward her honorarium and accommodations while in Albany, NY.

For the past five years, I have been the school library media specialist at Albany High School where I have strived to bring literature alive to our students. We have enlivened much of our collection and with the support of literacy across the content areas, we can become an integral part of learning and literacy, both digital and print. Hopkins' work does just that, it gives students a reason to read as her work is about urban topics like teen prostitution, suicide, and drug abuse, some inspired by her daughter's battle with meth addiction. Because of her prowess for writing gripping work, she will be doing a small writer's workshop in the afternoon with our students, as well as a large group presentation and lunch Q&A. Her popularity is catching on, as we have now partnered with The College of St. Rose, who will be helping us fund her visit and may host her for a community event in the evening.

If you would like, we can provide you with a copy of her work or provide you with more information about her visit. I would be happy to meet with you or talk with you about the importance of bringing her here to inspire our youth. Not only is this a truly humbling experience for the students and me, but it's the first time Albany High has ever hosted an author! I can be reached at (518) 454-3987 or aabdul@albany.k12.ny.us.

Sincerely,

Alicia Abdul