

# ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

(504) 304-3520 • OPSB.us • 3520 General DeGaulle Drive • Suite 5055 • New Orleans, Louisiana 70114



September 19, 2017

Mrs. Shawn Toranto, Chief Executive Officer  
Ms. Lauren Pigeon, Board President  
Einstein Charter Schools  
5100 Cannes St  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70129

Re: Notice of Non-Compliance, Level 2

Dear Mrs. Toranto and Ms. Pigeon:

I am writing to inform you that Einstein Charter Schools is considered at this time to be non-compliant with its obligations regarding providing transportation to its student as outlined in the OPSB School Performance Framework, OPSB Policy HA and the school's operating agreement with OPSB.

Recently two parent concerns regarding transportation services for students attending Einstein charter schools were brought to the attention of the Office of School Performance. Specifically, concerns were raised that yellow bus transportation services were not being advertised or provided to families attending Einstein Charter Schools. OPSB engaged in conversation with Ms. Toranto on September 11<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup> to ascertain if the school currently was providing transportation in accordance with policy for students in grades six and below. During those conversations OPSB learned that Einstein Charter School is not currently providing bus services for families attending the school in accordance with policy.

Per your operating agreement and Policy HA, Einstein Charter Schools are required to provide free transportation services for all students enrolled in the charter school who reside within Orleans Parish and more than one mile from the charter school's location. Such transportation shall be provided, at a minimum, by a vehicle approved for student transportation in accordance with Bulletin 119, Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures, for students enrolled in grades six or below. Compliance with this requirement shall be measured as a component of the school's annual evaluation.

It is critically important that Einstein Charter Schools comply with expectations set forth in policy and contract immediately. At this time, the organization falls far below our expectations for charter schools in terms of ensuring all students have access to school per state law. To return to good standing, we are providing you with a series of actions required to remedy the transportation violation:

- Provide a detailed plan to OPSB by October 20<sup>th</sup> which outlines the steps Einstein Charter School will take to procure and offer transportation services to its students by November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- Issue a communication to families attending Einstein Charter School no later than October 30<sup>th</sup> explaining that the network will be offering transportation in line with Bulletin 119 starting November 27<sup>th</sup> and whom they should contact to access such services.
- Provide OPSB with the first invoice received from the transportation company Einstein Charter Schools enters into contract with no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

We hope that this letter receives your prompt attention. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with questions or concerns regarding this matter. We are able to work through questions you have in developing your transportation plan and how we can offer support or assistance as you work to comply with these specific expectations.

Sincerely,

Dina Hasiotis, Executive Director of School Performance  
Orleans Parish School Board