



October 10, 2018

Dear Charter Leaders,

On Friday, October 5, I learned that the Crescent Leadership Academy (CLA) Board of Directors has decided to turn in their charter effective October 31, 2018. This decision is unacceptable and goes against everything we stand for as a community of educators leading schools in our unique system. I have spoken to the leadership at CLA to express my deep disappointment in the timing of this decision. Additionally, we will be investigating this decision to surrender and pursuing any recourse where needed.

My commitment now is to the students who currently attend CLA and ensuring that we, as a system, come together to provide them with a new educational setting.

To that end, the Student Hearing Office is meeting individually with CLA families to discuss the options available to each student. Currently CLA serves a total of 66 students, with roughly forty percent attending CLA due to expulsion. The administration will support the families and students in the following ways:

1. The students who attend CLA by choice will be able to select a school based upon current availability, as with any typical transfer at this time of year.
2. For the 24 students whose expulsion terms were ending in December, in order to avoid multiple transitions, we will end their expulsion terms early and assist them in selecting a school from the available options, following the same process we would have followed upon completion of their expulsion term.
3. For the remaining few students with expulsion terms continuing through the end of this school year, we will update their placement to The NET or ReNEW Accelerated. In this group there are two middle school students for whom there is no other alternative setting. We will facilitate these placements on a case-by-case basis, which may result in having these two students return to the traditional setting or continue their coursework through an arrangement in one of our alternative settings. Moving forward, unless we identify a new middle school alternative site, all K-8 expulsions will result in a transfer to another traditional school setting.

I want to thank you all in advance for your commitment to providing a high quality and stable education experience for these students. I especially would like to thank our leaders at The NET and ReNEW Accelerated for their partnership in serving these additional students as well.

As the Student Hearing Office and EnrollNOLA confirm new placements for students, please expect to receive notification of that placement via the usual procedures in SchoolForce. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my team.

Thank you,


Henderson Lewis Jr., Ph.D.

