



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Mark T. Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
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April 23, 2015

*Via email attachment and U.S. Mail*

Kimeu Boynton  
Board President  
Academy of Dover  
104 Saulsbury Road  
Dover, Delaware 19904

Dear Mr. Boynton:

Please be advised that, for the reasons set forth below and with the assent of the State Board of Education, the Department of Education has placed Academy of Dover Charter School on Formal Review, pursuant to Title 14, Delaware Code, Section 515(b), to determine whether the school is violating the terms of its charter and, if so, whether to order remedial measures.

The Department of Education has learned about potentially serious allegations of financial management by a former school leader at Academy of Dover. These issues came to light during the independent audit process and are currently under review by the state auditor's office. This raises concerns about Academy of Dover's financial management practices.

The Department also has concerns about Academy of Dover's Citizens Budget Oversight Committee. It is unclear whether the school has established a CBOC or if the group is meeting, and, if so, how the group reviews the school's finances.

The Department has also learned about ongoing litigation that raises concerns about the charter school's financial viability.

Additionally, Academy of Dover's 2013-14 Academic Framework overall rating of Does Not Meet Standard and overall score of 55.3% raises strong concerns about its academic performance. This year's overall score, which is just above the cutoff for a rating of "Falls Far Below Standard," is nearly 12 points below the prior year's score 67.2%.

Finally, all of these concerns raise questions about the capacity of Academy of Dover's Board of Directors to oversee a charter that is academically successful, organizationally sound, and financially solvent.

This matter will be referred to the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) for review and recommendations. Enclosed, please find a timeline for this process, including dates of CSAC meetings and public hearings.

The Department requests that Academy of Dover provide copies of the following materials no later than May 1, 2015:

- Copies of all materials that were submitted to the independent auditor and the state auditor of accounts, including statements from all credit cards and accounts open or used by Academy of Dover since July 1, 2012 and any receipts from those transactions.
- Copies of all written or electronic correspondence between Academy of Dover and Mosaica since January 1, 2010 regarding the unpaid debt.

These documents, and any other materials you wish the CSAC to review, should be submitted by the Charter School Office to [infocso@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:infocso@doe.k12.de.us).

If you have any questions, please contact me at (302) 735-4020 or [Jennifer.Nagourney@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Jennifer.Nagourney@doe.k12.de.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Nagourney', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Nagourney  
Executive Director, Charter School Office

cc: Cheri Marshall, Head of School, Academy of Dover  
Mark Murphy, Secretary of Education  
David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education