



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Mark A. Holodick, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education
(302) 735-4000
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September 27, 2022

Jim Mazarakis, Board President
Great Oaks Charter School
1200 North French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

Dear Mr. Mazarakis,

Pursuant to 14 Del. C. §515, please be advised that the Department of Education (DOE) has placed the charter of Great Oaks Charter School (Great Oaks) on formal review, effective immediately, to determine whether the school is violating the terms of its charter and, if so, whether to order remedial measures.

According to 14 Del. C. §506 (c)(1) "On or before April 1 of each school year, a charter school shall have enrolled, at a minimum, 80% of its total authorized number of students, and the administrator of each charter school shall, pursuant to the requirements below, provide a written certification of that enrollment to the Department of Education and to the superintendent of each public school district in which 1 or more of the charter school's students reside." A policy was provided to all DOE-authorized charter schools on June 24, 2021, stating that a school's charter would be placed on formal review if a school failed to reach 80% of authorized enrollment by April 1st of each year. As of April 1, 2022, Great Oaks had an enrollment of 236 students, which was 73% of the authorized enrollment of 325 students. Based on recruitment actions reported by the school, the Department deferred action at that time, pending the start of the school year. As of September 20, 2022, Great Oaks has an eSchool enrollment of 240 with four students confirmed to be attending other districts giving the school an actual enrollment of 236 students for the current school year. A student enrollment number below the 80% minimum raises serious concerns about the school's financial viability, and whether areas of the approved charter application can be implemented with fidelity. These areas include, but are not limited to: plans for curriculum and education delivery, plans to serve students with special needs and plans for administrative and financial operations.

This matter will be referred to the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) for review and recommendation. Enclosed, please find a timeline for this process, including the dates of CSAC meetings and public hearings. **On or before September 30, 2022, Great Oaks must submit a copy of the school's current budget and revenue sheets, a revised budget and organizational/staffing chart based on enrollment of 236 students, and a close-out plan (to be utilized if necessary) to the Charter School Office.** If you have any questions, please contact Leroy Travers in the Charter School Office at 302-735-4020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Holodick", written over a white background.

Mark A. Holodick, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education

cc: Leland Kent, Executive Director, Great Oaks
Kim Klein, Associate Secretary, Operations Support
Leroy Travers, Director, Charter School Office