

April 15, 2016



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Dover, DE 19810

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Ms. Nagourney:

Thank you for the opportunity to update the Delaware Department of Education on the status of the opening of the Delaware STEM Academy for the 2016-2017 school year. We welcome the Department's input on our progress and intend to be as transparent as possible in providing information to you and the public. We feel confident that we have made sufficient progress on our planning and preparations to open on time in September.

We acknowledge that the Academy has not met the required 80% minimum threshold of its expected 250 student enrollment. Therefore, we request that the Department of Education place the Academy under formal review. We welcome the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to the Academy and working with the Department to ensure a smooth opening.

Please keep in mind that we have entered into a contract with Innovative Schools for technical assistance for the planning year and will be completing a contract for direct services, including accounting, payroll, human resources, student enrollment, unit count and grants management services. They will also provide support on academic and student engagement activities, such as federal consolidated grant program, IEP support and special education. In addition, we are entering into a contract with Innovative Schools to support our project-based learning platform, web-based instructional and assessment support and professional development.

We have enclosed a short summary of our marketing plan, status report on each major category of activity, updates on the Start Up Operations Plan and documentation supporting each effort.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to outline our efforts as we prepare to open the Delaware STEM Academy.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Williams".

Ted Williams, President
Delaware STEM Academy Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Brett Taylor".

J. Brett Taylor, Ed.D.
Executive Director