



CELINA PATTON

*Chief of Student Services*

1201 Main Street, Suite 300, Columbia, SC 29201

March 11, 2020

Coastal Leadership Academy  
Mr. Joseph Greenberg, Principal  
Ms. Bridgett Fowler, Chairman of the Board of Directors  
3710 Palmetto Pointe Blvd  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

To School Leader and Board Members,

As you know, on January 21, 2020, the Charter Institute at Erskine (“Institute”) issued a formal **Notice of Noncompliance** (“Notice”) to Coastal Leadership Academy (“School”) outlining concerns related to systematic deficiencies in the area of special education. Since the Notice was issued, the Institute has closely monitored the School’s operations. On March 9, 2020 Laura Merrick, Director of School Special Education conducted an onsite visit to the School to evaluate the changes made to the overall special education program. It was found that the School had contracted with appropriately credentialed service providers to assist in correcting the non-compliance identified issues. The School has also completed an internal audit of student Individual Education Plans (IEPs). As a result, all annual reviews of student IEPs are current and progress monitoring toward student’s IEP goals are completed and up to date. Additionally, as of March 9, 2020 the Institute was notified that the School has hired a certified special education teacher. Overall, it was found that the school is making diligent efforts to prioritize building a quality and sustainable special education program at the School. Based on these findings, in addition to the School’s submission of the Corrective Action Plan (CAP), the Institute has determined that the School has made significant improvement in the area of special education and is diligently taking actions to bring itself into compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). Therefore, as of the date of this Letter, Coastal Leadership Academy can enroll students.

The Institute appreciates the School’s efforts, but in order to ensure that the School continues to correct areas of deficiencies in special education after the school is able to enroll new students, the Institute will hold Coastal Leadership Academy on **Probation** status pending the School’s compliance with its approved Corrective Action Plan (“CAP”). While on **Probation** status, and in an effort to support the School as it completes the CAP, the Institute will conduct weekly status meetings with the School and will continue to closely monitor the School’s special education program. This will ensure the School completes the remainder of the requirements detailed in the CAP within the submitted and approved deadlines and establishes sustainable procedures with regard to Special Education to maintain compliance going forward. The Institute will review the **Probation** status on a monthly basis and will remove the **Probation** status after the School has completed the CAP and established sustainable procedures with regard to Special Education. The Institute thanks the School for its cooperation and will continue to offer technical assistance, resources, and onsite guidance. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Celina Patton'.

Celina Patton  
Chief of Student Services  
Charter Institute at Erskine

CC: Cameron Runyan, Chief Executive Officer  
Vamshi Rudrapati, Director