



VAMSHI RUDRAPATI

Director

1201 Main Street, Suite 300, Columbia, SC 29201

February 9, 2022

**(VIA: E-MAIL ONLY)**

Horse Creek Academy  
Kevin Murray, Board Chair  
Dr. Ann Marie Taylor, Principal  
1200 Toolebeck Road  
Aiken, SC 29803

**RE: Notice of Waiver of Transfer Policy Deadline and School Compliance Status**

Dear School Leader and Board Members,

The Charter Institute at Erskine (“Charter Institute” or “Institute”) is the charter school sponsor and authorizer of your School, Horse Creek Academy (“School”). In accordance with the South Carolina Charter Schools Act of 1996 as amended located at S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-10 *et seq.* (the “Act”), the sponsor of the charter is the charter school’s local education agency (“LEA”) and a charter school is a school within that LEA.

As you are aware, at the January 19, 2022 Institute Board Meeting, the Board granted a one-time waiver of the September 1st School Transfer Policy deadline for your School’s November 2, 2021 transfer request. This one-time waiver is based on extenuating circumstances arising from the Institute Board adopting the Transfer Policy at its August meeting immediately following receipt of the July 2021 Legislative Audit Council Report and the policy deadline, which aligned with State mandated timelines for authorizers to submit annual budget requests to the General Assembly, being approximately one month later.

The Institute has requested the Institute Board place your School’s transfer request on the agenda for its March 16, 2022 board meeting. The Institute’s duty as an authorizer is to hold each of their school’s accountable for their performance and legal and fiscal compliance.

To keep our accountability philosophy in mind, the Institute is preparing a “Compliance Summary” for each school seeking to transfer, which includes the School’s compliance status. This letter provides a summary of same and will be provided to the Institute Board for consideration of the School’s Transfer Request. In addition, the Institute has included a “School Snapshot” as a summary of the School’s compliance background with supporting documents - which can also be found on our website. <https://erskinecharters.org/transfer-out-updates/>

**Compliance Background & Current Compliance Status**

In its November 23, 2021 letter to the School, the Institute expressed concerns about the school’s **Possible Grade Inflation, Unbalanced Teacher Certification Ratio, and Sub-Group Student Performance**. Since then, the School successfully resolved the identified concerns related to the Unbalanced Teacher Certification Ratio. However, the Institute does have concerns about the next authorizer being the **third authorizer** for Horse Creek Academy in **four years**.

Although the Institute has raised concerns with the School, the concerns have not reached the level where the Institute issued a formal Notice of Noncompliance, as per the standards of the Institute. Therefore, the current compliance status of Horse Creek Academy is **“Compliant/Good Standing”**.

The Institute will present this letter to the Institute Board for its consideration of your School's Transfer Request, unless the School fails to maintain their compliance.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vamshi Rudrapati". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke at the top.

Vamshi Rudrapati

cc: Cameron Runyan, Superintendent  
Sarah Timmons, Counsel  
Dr. Tom Hellams, Institute Board Chair  
Joe Bowers, Coordinator of Authorization