

ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

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June 3, 2019

Terri Smith, CEO
Dr. Brian Turner, Board Chairman
ENCORE Academy
2518 Arts St.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70117

Re: Notice of Non-Compliance, Level 2: Special Education (SPED) - ICAP

Dear Mrs. Smith and Dr. Turner:

I am writing to inform you that ENCORE Academy ("ENCORE") will remain in a Level 2 Notice of Non-Compliance based upon recent outcomes of a formal review of the school's special education practices conducted by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and the Independent Monitor, under P.B., et al. v. John White, et al., Case 2:10-cv-04049. OPSB was notified by the LDOE that ENCORE did not successfully exit the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for Enrollment based upon monitoring conducted by the state and the Independent Monitors during the 2018-2019 school year.

On March 20, 2019, the LDOE conducted follow-up monitoring for the special education programs at ENCORE which revealed evidence of continued non-compliance in the area of Enrollment. As a result, the LDOE is requiring the school to implement an Intensive Corrective Action Plan (ICAP) to address the citations issued to the school. Therefore, the school is considered non-compliant with its contractual obligations regarding students with disabilities, specifically student-specific non-compliance under the IDEA, Part B.

It is critically important that your organization address the concerns noted by the LDOE immediately. In order to return to good standing, ENCORE Academy will need to successfully exit the ICAP issued by the state. OPSB will await confirmation of the state's assessment and make any additional reviews for compliance deemed necessary before ENCORE can return to good standing.

We look forward to your cooperation and compliance within the timelines designated by the state. Failure to meet these expectations by the dates indicated may result in escalated consequences, including but not limited to reduction in charter term upon renewal, or revocation of your charter contract with OPSB. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Please contact Gayla Robbins Mair at gmair@opsb.us with any questions that you may have regarding this letter.

Yours in Education,

Kelli R. Peterson, Ed.D.
Senior Equity and Accountability Officer

cc: Dr. Henderson Lewis Jr., OPSB Superintendent