# Attachment 7: California Department of Education Response to Eagle Collegiate Academy Letter Dated December 9, 2021

**The below letter was prepared on the official letterhead of the California Department of Education (CDE), bearing the CDE Seal, address, and contact information.**

December 9, 2021

Ken Higginbotham, Board President
Dr. Ogo Okoye-Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Eagle Collegiate Academy
PO Box 803234
Santa Clarita, CA 91380

Dear Board President Higginbotham and Chief Executive Officer Okoye-Johnson:

## Subject: Follow Up to Eagle Collegiate Academy’s Response to the California Department of Education’s Letter of Concern Dated November 12, 2021

Thank you for your response to the California Department of Education’s (CDE’s) Letter of Concern regarding Eagle Collegiate Academy (ECA) dated November 12, 2021. The CDE received your response on December 6, 2021, and has reviewed it carefully.

We are encouraged to see that you have secured a short-term facility. Planning is underway for a facility visit, which will be led by the CDE School Facilities and Transportation Services Division. The visit is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2021; an exact date and time will be provided shortly. The purpose of this visit will be to assess the space and to determine if it can be approved as an authorized school facility pursuant to the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between ECA and the California State Board of Education (SBE).

Upon the CDE’s review of ECA’s accompanying attachments and proposed budget, we are concerned that the proposed budget does not consider the likely repayment of Local Control Funding Formula allocation of funds based on a much higher initially reported Average Daily Attendance, or the pause of the Public Charter School Grant Program grant funding. Therefore, the CDE does not see that ECA is fiscally sustainable throughout the rest of the 2021–22 school year. ECA’s own budget projections show a significant negative ending fund balance in 2021–22.

Furthermore, the CDE’s review of the information submitted by ECA on December 6, 2021, did not remedy the additional concerns set forth in CDE’s aforementioned letter of concern. These concerns include operating a nonclassroom-based school when not approved to do so, failure to include an adequate plan to increase student enrollment, continued failure to follow governance laws, and insufficient description of how the approved educational plan is being delivered to students.

Consequently, the CDE is planning to request that the SBE issue a Notice of Violation at its January 12–13, 2022, meeting. This is the first step towards initiating the revocation of ECA. The Notice of Violation will be posted to the SBE website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/index.asp> no later than December 31, 2021.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Craig Heimbichner, Education Administrator, Charter Schools Division at cheimbichner@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Stephanie Farland, Director Charter Schools Division

SF:rr

cc: Brooks Allen, Executive Director, California State Board of Education

Lisa Constancio, Deputy Superintendent, Operations and Administration Branch, California Department of Education

*Sent via First Class Mail and Email to:*

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