August 2, 2013

Patricia Nogozi Williams
Executive Director
Tree of Life Public Charter School
2315 18th Place, NE
Washington, DC 20018

Re: FFY 2011 LEA Determinations

Dear Ms. Nogozi Williams:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) requires the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) as the State educational agency (SEA) to make determinations annually about the performance of local educational agencies (LEAs). OSSE is required to use the same categories that the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) uses for state determinations as outlined in Section 616(d) of IDEA. In making such determinations, OSSE will assign LEAs one of the following determination levels:

1. Meets Requirements
2. Needs Assistance
3. Needs Intervention
4. Needs Substantial Intervention

OSSE has determined that under IDEA section 616(d), for FFY 2011, Tree of Life Public Charter School **Needs Assistance** in implementing the requirements of Part B of IDEA. OSSE's determination is based on the totality of the LEA's data and information, including the LEA's:

1. History, nature and length of time of any reported noncompliance; specifically, the LEA's performance on Indicators 4b, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 as outlined in the State Performance Plan (SPP) and FFY 2010 Annual Performance Report (APR);
2. Information regarding timely, valid and reliable data;
3. On-site compliance monitoring, focused monitoring and dispute resolution findings;
4. Sub-recipient audit findings;
5. Other data available to OSSE regarding the LEA's compliance with the IDEA, including, but not limited to, relevant financial data and compliance with the Funding for Public Schools and Public Charter School Amendment Act of 2011;
6. Performance on selected SPP results indicators; and
7. Evidence of correction of findings of noncompliance, including progress toward full compliance.

Enclosure 1 explains the criteria for each element and the way existing data provided by LEAs were used to make determinations. Not all elements are applicable to each LEA; for example, some LEAs do not have data for Indicator 12, as they do not serve children within the applicable age range (3 years old). Enclosure 2 describes how Tree of Life Public Charter School's determination level was calculated. It includes a chart that summarizes each required element, its corresponding rating, the total number of points earned by the LEA and the percentage of applicable points earned by the LEA.

The LEA's FFY 2009 and FFY 2010 determination was Needs Assistance. In accordance with IDEA section 616(e)(2)(B) and 34 CFR §§300.600(a) and 300.604, if an LEA is determined to need assistance for two or more consecutive years, OSSE must: advise the LEA of available sources of technical assistance; direct the use of LEA funds; and/or identify the LEA as a high-risk grantee and impose special conditions on the LEA's grant under Part B of the Act. **Therefore, OSSE is requiring Tree of Life Public Charter School to review Enclosure 2, identify areas of noncompliance, access technical assistance, and develop and deliver turnkey trainings on each identified area of noncompliance. LEAs must provide a summary report of the technical assistance resources utilized and delivered by May 31, 2014.** LEAs are required to locate and utilize technical assistance for all identified areas of noncompliance, including those areas not specifically covered by trainings offered by OSSE's Training and Technical Assistance Unit. For more information regarding OSSE's technical assistance calendar, please contact osse.tta@dc.gov.

Any LEA that believes that a specific element reviewed in the determination process is inaccurate may appeal its assigned determination level. The appeal must be made within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter. The request for appeal must include the submission of all information necessary for OSSE to reconsider the original determination level. Additional information regarding appeals may be found in Enclosure 2.

OSSE is committed to supporting Tree of Life Public Charter School's efforts to improve results for children and youth with disabilities and looks forward to working with Tree of Life Public Charter School over the next year. As part of OSSE's ongoing effort to provide useful information to District of Columbia stakeholders, OSSE will be making determination results available to the public after the close of the appeals process. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Masoodi, Director of Quality Assurance & Monitoring, at 202-741-0479.

Sincerely,

Amy Maisterra, Ed.D, MSW
Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Education

Enclosures (2)

cc: Jennifer Masoodi, Director, Specialized Education Quality Assurance & Monitoring