

**DR. LENA EDWARDS ACADEMIC
CHARTER SCHOOL**

**Auditors' Management Report
On
Administrative Findings
Financial, Compliance
And Performance
June 30, 2024**

DR. LENA EDWARDS ACADEMIC CHARTER SCHOOL

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Honorable President and
Members of the Board of Trustees
Dr. Lena Edwards Academic Charter School
County of Hudson, New Jersey

We have audited, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Board of Trustees of Dr. Lena Edwards Academic Charter School in the County of Hudson, for the year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated January 27, 2025.

As part of our audit, we performed procedures required by the New Jersey Department of Education and the findings and results thereof are disclosed on the following pages, as listed in the accompanying table of contents.

This report is intended for the information of the Dr. Lena Edwards Academic Charter School Board of Trustee's management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Olugbenga Olabintan, CPA

January 27, 2025
Newark, New Jersey

OLUGBENGA OLABINTAN
Certified Public Accountant/Consultant



Olugbenga Olabintan, CPA
Licensed Public School Accountant
No. 20CS00230200

DR. LENA EDWARDS ACADEMIC CHARTER SCHOOL
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Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Business Office, the activities of the Board of Trustees, and the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Board of Trustees.

Administrative Practices and Procedures

Insurance

Fire insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on Exhibit J-20, Insurance Schedule contained in the charter school's ACFR.

Official Bonds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Dr. Brian Falkowski	Board Secretary/ School Business Administrator	\$200,000

School Leaders Errors and Omissions Liability insurance was carried for all members of the Board of Trustees with coverage for each wrongful act of \$1,000,000.

There is an Employee's Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond Policy covering for all other employees with coverage of \$25,000.

P.L.2020, Chapter 44

Our audit procedures included an inquiry and subsequent review of health benefit data required per N.J.S.A.18A:16-13.3 (Chapter 44) submitted for the year on audit.

The bill includes a provision that permits charter school employers to not implement Chapter 44 unless they have a collective negotiation agreement with any of their employees in place on or after the law's effective date. The Charter School does not have a collective negotiation agreement in place, and therefore, is not required to implement Chapter 44.

Tuition Charges

A review of the financial statements indicated that the charter school charged no tuition for any student attending the Charter School and all proceeds for a before/after school program were accounted for in an Enterprise Fund.

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Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

An examination of claims paid during the period under review did not indicate any discrepancies with respect to signatures, certification or supporting documentation.

Payroll Account

The net salaries of all employees of the Charter School were deposited in the Payroll Account. Employees' payroll deductions and employer's share of fringe benefits were deposited in the Payroll Agency Account.

All payrolls were approved by the designee in the Charter School and were certified by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Comptroller.

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies including health benefits premium amounts withheld due to the general fund.

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchased orders was made as of June 30 for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances and accounts payable. No exceptions were noted.

Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with NJAC 6A:23-2.2(g) and line item details as described in the Budget Summary Key as part of our test of transactions of randomly selected expenditure items. We also reviewed the coding of all expenditures included in our compliance and single audit testing procedures. As a result of the procedures performed, no transaction error rate was noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

Board Secretary's Records

We reviewed the financial and accounting records maintained by the Business Office and no material findings noted.

Treasurer's Records

Our review of the treasurer's records disclosed that the Charter School is in compliance with the State requirements. All cash accounts were reconciled monthly and reporting requirements were met on time.

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Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The E.S.E.A. financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue Section of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to the projects under Titles I through VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

The study of compliance for E.S.E.A. indicated no areas of noncompliance and/or questionable costs.

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The Charter School's Special Projects were approved as listed on Schedule A (K-3) and Schedule B (K-4) located in the ACFR. Our audit of the federal and state funds on a test basis indicated that obligations and expenditures were incurred during the fiscal year or project period for which the project was approved.

The financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue Section of the ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to the aforementioned special projects.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursement

Our audit procedures included a test of the biweekly reimbursements filed with the Department of Education for Charter School employees who are members of the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund. No exceptions noted.

TPAF Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures

This represents amount of the expenditure charged to the current year's Final Report(s) for all federal awards for the charter school to reimburse the State for the TPAF/FICA payments made by the State on-behalf of the charter school for those employees whose salaries are identified as being paid from federal funds.

This did not apply for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 because did not charge any eligible employees to federal grants during the fiscal year.

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School Purchasing Programs

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertising for Bids

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. (Public School Contracts Law), the associated rules and related information on the statute, and school contracts in general is available on the [NJ Local Agency Procurement Laws](http://state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/lpcl.html) webpage:
state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/lpcl.html.

Current statute is posted on the [New Jersey Legislature](http://njleg.state.nj.us/) (njleg.state.nj.us/) website.

Effective July 1, 2020 and thereafter the bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:18A-3 (as amended) and 18A:39-3 is \$44,000 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent) and \$32,000 (without a Qualified Purchasing Agent), respectively. The law regulating bidding for public student transportation contract under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 is currently \$20,200 for 2023-2024.

The Charter School Board of Trustees has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory thresholds within the contract year. Where question arises as to whether any contract or agreement might result in violation of the statute, the Solicitor's opinion should be sought before a commitment is made.

Based on the results of our examination, we did not note any individual payments, contracts, or agreements made for the performance of any work or goods or services, in excess of the statutory thresholds where there had been no advertising for bids in accordance with the provision of N.J.S.A 18A:18A-4, amended.

Resolutions were adopted authorizing the awarding of contracts or agreements for "Professional Services" per N.J.S.A 18A:A8A-5.

School Food Service

SFAs were authorized to solicit and award emergency noncompetitive procurements and contracts with Food Service Management Companies in accordance with 2 CFR 200.320 and N.J.S.A.18A:18A-7. The SFAs were also authorized to submit contract modifications to their existing Cost Reimbursable or Fixed Price contracts as necessary to ensure the feeding of all children throughout the age of 18, as well as persons over 18 with disabilities as defined in the regulations.

SFAs were notified of the requirement to maintain and report separate meal count records and financial records of all applicable costs incurred in providing meals to all students during the emergency.

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The school food service program was not selected as a major federal program. However, the program expenditures exceeded \$100,000 in federal support. Accordingly, we inquired of school management, or appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the School Food Authority (SFA) had any Child Nutrition Program reimbursement overclaims or underclaims. No exceptions noted.

We also inquired of school management, or appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the SFA's expenditures of school food service revenues were limited to allowable direct and indirect costs. No exceptions noted.

Non-program foods were not purchased, prepared, sold or offered for sale.

We inquired of management about the public health emergency procedures/practices that the SFA instituted to provide meals to all students, maintenance of all applicable production records; meal counts; noncompetitive procurements; modification of existing contracts and applicable financial records to document the specific costs applicable to the emergency operations. We also inquired if the FSMC received a loan in accordance with the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) and whether the funds were used to pay for costs applicable to the Food Service Programs. We also inquired if the PPP loan was subsequently forgiven and the FSMC refunded or credited the applicable amounts to the SFA.

Net cash resources did not exceed three months average expenditures.

Exhibits reflecting Child Nutrition Program operations are included in the section entitled Enterprise Funds, Section G of the ACFR.

Student Body Activities

Our audit revealed some student body activities during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 which were accounted for in separate bank accounts. Our review of the record of the Student Body Activities did not disclose any exceptions.

Enrollment Counts and Submission to the Department

Our audit procedures included test of information reported on the October 15th, and the last day of school for on-roll, special education, bilingual and low income. We also performed a review of the Charter School procedures related to its completion. The Charter School maintained adequate written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data.

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Miscellaneous

Facilities and Capital Assets

Our procedures included a review of policies and procedures adopted by the Charter School over its capital assets. We noted that acquisitions during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 met the capitalization threshold of \$2,000 set by the State of New Jersey's Department of Education for Charter Schools.

Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

The Charter School adhered to all the requirements of N.J.A.C. 26-1.2 and 12.4 related to the testing for lead of all drinking water in educational facilities.

The Charter School submitted the annual Statement of Assurance to the Department of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(g)

Follow-up on Prior Year's Findings

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, our procedures included a review of all prior year recommendations including findings. There were no findings in the prior year ended June 30, 2023.

There were no audit reports issued by the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) during the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Acknowledgement

We received the complete cooperation of all the officials of the Charter School and we greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to the members of the audit team.

Respectfully submitted,

OLUGBENGA OLABINTAN
Certified Public Accountant/Consultant



Olugbenga Olabintan, CPA
Licensed Public School Accountant
No. 20CS00230200

DR. LENA EDWARDS ACADEMIC CHARTER SCHOOL
Application for Charter School Aid
Schedule of Audited Enrollments
Enrollment Count as of October 15, 2023

Grades	Submission to DOE reported on Roll	Reported on Workpapers	Verified signed registration forms	Errors	Verified # of days enrolled	Errors	Special Ed &/ or Bilingual	Verified Documentation	Errors	Verified # of days of Service Provided	Errors	Low Income	Verified Documentation	Errors
Kindergarten	43	22	22	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	17	-
One	45	22	22	-	22	-	1	1	-	1	-	20	20	-
Two	46	23	23	-	23	-	3	3	-	3	-	22	22	-
Three	44	22	22	-	22	-	2	2	-	2	-	17	17	-
Four	45	23	23	-	23	-	5	5	-	5	-	15	15	-
Five	38	19	19	-	19	-	3	3	-	3	-	14	14	-
Six	45	22	22	-	22	-	1	1	-	1	-	17	17	-
Seven	39	20	20	-	20	-	4	4	-	4	-	17	17	-
Eight	44	22	22	-	22	-	4	4	-	4	-	17	17	-
Total	389	195	195	0	195	0	23	23	0	23	0	156	156	0
Percentage				0.00%		0.00%			0.00%		0.00%			

DR. LENA EDWARDS ACADEMIC CHARTER SCHOOL
Application for Charter School Aid
Schedule of Audited Enrollments
Enrollment Count as of Last Day of School

Grades	Submission to DOE reported on Roll	Reported on Workpapers	Verified signed registration forms	Errors	Verified # of days enrolled	Errors	Special Ed &/ or Bilingual	Verified Documentation	Errors	Verified # of days of Service Provided	Errors	Low Income	Verified Documentation	Errors
Kindergarten	43	21	21	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	17	-
One	45	23	23	-	23	-	1	1	-	1	-	19	19	-
Two	46	23	23	-	23	-	3	3	-	3	-	21	21	-
Three	44	22	22	-	22	-	5	5	-	5	-	16	16	-
Four	45	22	22	-	22	-	5	5	-	5	-	17	17	-
Five	38	19	19	-	19	-	2	2	-	2	-	13	13	-
Six	45	23	23	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	14	-
Seven	39	19	19	-	19	-	5	5	-	5	-	16	16	-
Eight	44	22	22	-	22	-	6	6	-	6	-	17	17	-
Total	389	194	194	0	194	0	27	27	0	27	0	150	150	0
Percentage				0.00%		0.00%			0.00%		0.00%			0.00%

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Audit Recommendations Summary

Findings and Recommendations:

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures

None

2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

None

3. School Purchasing Programs

None

4. School Food Service

None

5. Student Body Activities

None

6. Application for State School Aid

None

7. Pupil Transportation

None

8. Facilities and Capital Assets

None

9. Miscellaneous

None

10. Status of Prior Year Audit Findings/Recommendations

There were no findings in the prior year ended June 30, 2023.