

**South Carolina Education Oversight Committee
Annual Standards Assurance Form
S.C. Budget Proviso 109.15
2016-2017
Document A**

Please complete the information requested below concerning your independent school. This information will be listed on the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee's website, www.eoc.sc.gov.

Independent School Name:	Cutler Jewish Day School
Independent School Contact Person:	Rabbi Meir Muller
Independent School Address:	5827A Trenholm Rd
City, State, Zip Code:	Columbia, SC 29206
Independent School Telephone Number:	(803) - 782-1831
Independent School Fax Number:	(803) 782-5605
Independent School E-mail Address:	meirmuller@sc.rr.com
Independent School Website Address:	www.cjdssc.com

Please review the standards below based on the 2016-17 General Appropriation Act. An "Eligible school" is defined in the Proviso as "an independent school including those religious in nature, other than a public school, at which the compulsory attendance requirement of Section 59-65-10 may be met and that does not discriminate based on the grounds of race, color, religion, or national origin." Please indicate whether your school has met each standard to ensure the following academic requirements are being met. The S.C. Education Oversight Committee reserves the right to request additional documentation to show the school is in compliance with the 2016-17 General Appropriation Act.

STANDARDS	YES	NO
1. Offers a general education to primary or secondary school students.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is located in this state.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Has an educational curriculum that includes courses set forth in the state's diploma requirements, graduation certificate requirements (for special needs children), and where the students attending are administered national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, at progressive grade levels to determine student progress.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Has school facilities that are subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is a member in good standing of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools or the South Carolina Independent Schools Association.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Provides a specially designed program or learning resource center to provide needed accommodations based on the needs of exceptional needs students or provides onsite educational services or supports to meet the needs of exceptional needs students, or is a school specifically existing to meet the needs of only exceptional needs students with documented disabilities. Provide evidence of services or supports.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Did this school receive any grants last fiscal year (July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2016) from any nonprofit scholarship funding organization under the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program? If Yes, then Complete Document B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Will your school provide student test data from school year 2015-16? If Yes, then Complete Document C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Will your school provide a compilation, review, or compliance audit of the organization's financial statements, conducted by a certified public accounting firm? If Yes, then Complete Document D.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I assure that all documents submitted to the SC Education Oversight Committee for the purpose of applying as an eligible school, as defined by the Proviso, is true, accurate, and complete under penalty of perjury in accordance with Section 16-9-10.

Signature: 

Date: June 9, 2016

Print Name of Signature Above: MEIR MULLER

Title: Head of School

Email: meirmuller@sc.rr.com

Return this form to Melanie Barton

- Phone: 803.734.6148
- E-mail: mbarton@eoc.sc.gov
- Mail: (P.O. Box 11867)
502 Brown Building
Columbia, S.C. 29211 (29201)



CUTLER JEWISH DAY SCHOOL



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To Whom It May Concern:

The following letter provides support to demonstrate that the Cutler Jewish Day School has an abundance of evidence to show it fully meets and exceeds the requirements found in Proviso 109.15 1 (g). This could be referred to as meeting the criteria of being a “level two” school.

The Cutler Jewish Day School provides “a specially designed program **and** learning resource center to provide needed accommodations based on the needs of exceptional needs students **and** provides onsite educational services **and** supports to meet the needs of exceptional needs students.” This statement from the proviso has been altered and the word “or” has been replaced with the word “and”, showing that the Cutler Jewish Day School not only offers one of the requirements but meets them all. As you will read below the school does this through three main supports; a unique curriculum, the constructing of a new building that includes a space for a resource center and the hiring of Mr. Brent Petersen, who will also serve as elementary school principal and education resource specialist for children with exceptional needs (hire date July 1, 2016).

The following are details of each of the proviso 1 (g) statements.

- **The Cutler Jewish Day School provides a specially designed program.**
 - Over its twenty-four year history the Cutler Jewish Day School has always served children with exceptional needs. The school meets the needs of the children by using a constructivist, child-centered based curriculum.
 - Constructivism is a theory of learning that values questioning, considering, and analyzing information to develop an understanding of ideas. While information is considered important, the school believes that, receiving it, getting it, and hearing it does not necessarily equal learning. A constructivist view of learning suggests an approach to teaching that gives learners the opportunity for concrete, contextually meaningful experiences through which they can search for patterns; raise questions; and model, interpret, and defend their ideas. Hence, the emphasis of learning is not on memorization or the transmission of knowledge but on students using their unique skills to construct their own meaning.
 - The education model is also child centered. The Cutler Jewish Day School philosophy includes that all children have a right to an education that helps them grow and develop to their fullest; this basic premise is at the heart of the understanding of child-centered education. Therefore, daily interactions with children should be based on the fundamental question, Am I teaching and

Principal
Rabbi Meir Muller, Ph.D.

Asst. Principal
Kelly Etu Stanton, Med

Office Manger
Beth Clelland



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supporting all children in their growth and development across all domains— social, emotional, culturally, physical, linguistic, and intellectual?

- The above two components (constructivist and child centered) are the foundation through which we make every decision regarding our curriculum, assessments, room set up, and multiple other practices. This curriculum model has historically been successful, as we have implemented it to provide education for children with exceptional needs for the past twenty-four years. UNICEF in their 2011 report *The Right of Children with Disabilities to Education* wrote, ‘a child-centered pedagogy (is) capable of successfully educating all children, including those who have serious disadvantages and disabilities. The merit of such schools is not only that they are capable of providing quality education to all children; their establishment is a crucial step in helping to change discriminatory attitudes, in creating welcoming communities and in developing an inclusive society.’ The Cutler Jewish Day School’s specifically designed program meets this goal.

- **The Cutler Jewish Day School provides a learning resource center to provide needed accommodations based on the needs of exceptional needs students.**

- Over the past year the school has undergone a massive expansion and renovation project. This project has resulted in an additional 8,000 square feet being built (completed) and the existing 10,000 square feet to be renovated (completion about 8/1/16). As part of this renovation, a room serves as a resource center. The following is a partial list of materials that are used to significantly impact children with specific fine and gross motor needs center:

- Thera Putty
- pinchers
- squeeze balls
- magnets
- Finger clips
- Peg boards
- Lacing boards
- maze books
- motor planning sheets
- balance balls
- Bosu
- Body Socks
- Stilts
- Foam rollers
- Scooter boards

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On request the school can supply a more exhaustive list of materials in the multiple areas that are used to service the 12 students who receive funding through the proviso and other students in our school with neurodevelopmental disorder; a substantial sensory or physical impairment (such as deaf, blind, or orthopedic disability); or some other disability or acute or chronic condition that effects their learning.

- **The Cutler Jewish Day School provides onsite educational services.**

- As of July 1st 2016, Mr. Brent Peterson will be the Cutler Jewish Day School's elementary school's principal and the education resource specialist for children with exceptional needs. This will be the first time in the school's history to have an administrator serve in this role. The following biography of Mr. Petersen supports the multiple reasons why he is capable of providing onsite educational services.
- Brent Petersen received his Bachelors degree in Psychology and his Masters degree in Elementary Education from the University of South Carolina. Brent has 10 years of classroom experience and over 20 years experience working with children with exceptional needs. He has led teacher, family, and leadership workshops as well as trained early childcare providers on working with children with exceptional needs.

Using his knowledge of the mind and the body, Brent has co-developed the Core Institute with the goal of helping individuals meet their full potential cognitively and physically. Brent developed Core Possibilities with a Board Certified OT and spent over 7 years training side by side, learning various strategies of therapeutic intervention taught to teachers and families. Brent has attended workshops and trainings on brain based teaching strategies, sensory integration, brushing, ADHD, and Autism. Brent is a Certified Interactive metronome provider and is trained in Lindamood-Bell sensory cognitive teaching programs, Handwriting without Tears, Therapeutic Listening and has created and implemented sensory motor programs both at the Core Institute and at local schools. Brent has worked with over 1000 students of all ages at Core Possibilities in Sumter and at the Cutler Jewish Day school in Columbia in the areas of fitness, math, reading, writing, ADHD, sensory motor needs, auditory processing weakness, behavioral modification, dyslexia, dysgraphia, autism, LD, and oculomotor weakness.

- Interesting to note is that Mr. Petersen is also the Head volleyball coach for the All Marine Sitting Volleyball Team. This team is comprised of wounded, ill, and injured Marines from all around the country. The goal of this team is an effort of the WARP (Warrior Athlete Reconditioning Program) to rehabilitate service men and women through fitness, teamwork, camaraderie, athletics, competition, and fitness. Brent trains over 50 athletes in preparation for the Warrior Games, Marine Corps Trials, and Invictus Games. Along with the physical aspect of this position, Brent develops relationships, physical recovery, and helps to

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support emotional and mental growth of the athletes. He is a 6 time medal winning Sitting volleyball coach for the US Marines and won a gold medal coaching the USA sitting volleyball team at the 2016 Invictus games. His passion to serve these athletes with exceptional needs is well aligned with his mission to serve children with exceptional needs.

- **The Cutler Jewish Day School has support to meet the needs of exceptional needs students.**
 - The goal of the above is to provide information on how the Cutler Jewish Day School supports students with exceptional needs. In addition to the already stated facts the following should be considered:
 - Working along side of Mr. Petersen, the other two full time administrators of the Cutler Jewish Day School, have a wealth of experience in supporting children with exceptional needs.
 - Ms. Kelly Stanton, principal of the early childhood division, has a master's degree in divergent learners. Ms. Kelly has been on staff for over 20 years and is a resource for all school children with exceptional needs.
 - Rabbi Meir Muller, Head of School, has both a PhD in education and rabbinical ordination. He has recently co-authored an article focused on special education; Alexander, S., Brody, D., **Muller, M.** . . Miller, L. (2016). Voices of American and Israeli Early Childhood Educators on Inclusion. *International Journal of Early Childhood Special Education*, 8(1), 19-42. Rabbi Muller founded the school and works to make the school an environment where all students' needs are met.
 - Also serving the school is Ms. Debbie Lowsky. Debbie is an MS, CCC-SLP and co-founder of ARK Therapeutic Services (<http://www.arktherapeutic.com/about-us/>). Free of charge to families, Ms. Lowsky has provided hearing and speech screenings for all children. If a child is diagnosed as having need for speech or oral motor therapy Debbie has been available (often at no charge) to provide these services. While not a paid staff member, Debbie has served children in the school for over a dozen years and is always on call when needed.

It is our hope that the above points have demonstrated that the Cutler Jewish Day School has an abundance of evidence to show that it fully meets and exceeds the requirements found in Proviso 109.15 1 (g). We hope that this will lead to the school being recognized as a "level two" school.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Meir Muller, PhD

Principal
Rabbi Meir Muller, Ph.D.

Asst. Principal
Kelly Etu Stanton, Med

Office Manger
Beth Clelland

Document B Grants Received

Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Application 2016-2017

Independent School Name: Cutler Jewish Day School

An independent school applying for or continuing to participate in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program for Fiscal Year 2016-17 is required to submit the following information:

Number and total amount of grants received from each nonprofit scholarship funding organization from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Please complete the following chart. If no grants were received from a nonprofit scholarship funding organization indicate with "0" and "\$0."

Nonprofit Scholarship Funding Organizations	Total Number of Grants Received	Total Amount of Grants Received
Advanced Carolina SFO		\$
Donors Enriching Students' Knowledge (DESK)		\$
Palmetto Kids FIRST Scholarship Program, Inc.	12	\$ 115,000
St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship Funding Organization		\$

Total number of grants is the number of individual children/students who received a grant even if the school received more than one grant for a specific child/student. The total amount of grants per child/student should not have exceeded \$10,000.

Return this form & report to EOC:

Fax: 803.734.6167
Phone: 803.734.6148
Mail: P.O. Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29211

Document C

Student Assessment Data

Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Application 2016-2017

Independent School Name: Cutler Jewish Day School

An independent school applying for or continuing to participate in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program for Fiscal Year 2016-17 is required to submit the following information:

Student test scores, by category, on national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, for all grades tested and administered by the school.

In working with its nine-member advisory committee, the EOC has determined that, to maintain student privacy and to recognize the educational needs of students, each school must submit the following:

- Summative assessment data from the 2015-16 school year that documents for *each grade tested* and for *each grade with at least 10 students in the grade*, the English language arts (reading) and mathematics achievement of students in the grade. Examples include: *TerraNova, Stanford 10, Iowa Test of Basic Skills, etc.*
- For grades 9-12, the school may provide average PSAT, SAT, ACT, or other scores as appropriate.
- For Support Level III schools, those schools that specifically exist to meet the need of only exceptional needs students with documented disabilities, the EOC will work with the Support Level III schools to provide information (including formative assessments, portfolios, etc.) that document the students' academic and social development
- Please DO NOT provide personally identifiable student information.

The following is a **template** that you may use for reporting purposes. For questions, contact the EOC.

Stanford 10
2015-16 School Year Results for _____ Assessment
National Percentiles Mean Scale Scores, Average Scores, Grade Equivalents, etc.

Grade	English language arts (Reading)	Mathematics
1		
2		
3		
4		
5*	82.9	81.6
6		
7 etc.		

* Only class tested with over ten students

Return this form and assessment data to EOC:

Fax: 803.734.6167

Phone: 803.734.6148

Mail: P.O. Box 11867

Columbia, SC 29211

Document D

Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Application 2016-2017

Independent School Name: Cutler Jewish Day School

An independent school applying for or continuing to participate in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program for Fiscal Year 2016-17 is required to submit the following information:

A copy of a compilation, review, or compliance audit of the organization's financial statements, conducted by a certified public accounting firm. By law, the compilation, review or compliance audit will be posted online at www.eoc.sc.gov.

Please answer the following questions:

	YES	NO
Did your school receive any grants last fiscal year, between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, under the ECENC program?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>If Yes, are you attaching a compilation, review or compliance audit conducted by a certified public accounting firm to this Document and submitting it to the EOC by December 30, 2016.</p> <p>Does the audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document and verify that all grants received under the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program in 2015-16 were for eligible children enrolled in the school? • Document the total amount of each grant per child from every scholarship funding organization (SFO)? • Document that no grant exceeded \$10,000 during school year 2015-16? • Document that the independent school returned a prorated amount of the grant to the SFO if any student withdrew during the school year? <p>Also, document that the total amount of each grant was used for tuition which is defined as "the total amount of money charged for the cost of a qualifying student to attend an independent school including, but not limited to, fees for attending the school and school-related transportation."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *
If No , will your school submit a compilation, review or compliance audit conducted by a certified public accounting firm by June 30, 2017 to the EOC if you receive tuition grants this fiscal year, between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Return this form & report to EOC:

Fax: 803.734.6167
 Phone: 803.734.6148
 Mail: P.O. Box 11867
 Columbia, SC 29211

* Audit is in process and will be sent as soon as completed. Meir Muller

M. WADE MILES, PC

Certified Public Accountant

Member

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

South Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants

July 7, 2016

Melanie D. Barton
Executive Director
SC Education Oversight Committee
P O Box 11867
227 Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: Cutler Jewish Day School
FEIN: 57-1072008

I am providing this letter to confirm that for the school year 2015-2016, Cutler Jewish Day School complies with the requirements of the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program as noted below.

All grants received for the school year were for eligible children enrolled in the school.

The school can document the total amount of each grant received per child from every funding organization.

The school can document that no grant exceeded \$10,000.00 per child during the school year 2015-2016.

The school returned a prorated amount to the scholarship funding organization for the one child who withdrew from the school during the school year.

All grant funds received during the 2015-2016 school year were used to pay the tuition for qualifying students.

Sincerely,



M Wade Miles
M Wade Miles, PC