

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:	Hope Academy
Independent School Contact Person:	Susan Sachs or Lisa Lane
Independent School Address:	2258 Woodruff Road
City, State, Zip Code:	Simpsonville SC 29681
Independent School Telephone Number:	(864) - 676-0028
Independent School Fax Number:	(864) - 297-3875
Independent School E-mail Address:	info@hopeacademysc.org
Independent School Website Address:	www.hopeacademysc.org

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, 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: 6-13-2014

Print Name of Signature Above: Lisa Lane

Title: Co-Executive Director

Email: lisalane@projecthopesc.org

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)



As part of Project HOPE Foundation's lifespan of services for the autism community, Hope Academy's mission is to provide supportive classes that develop and celebrate each child's academic, behavioral and social successes. Hope Academy provides a variety of educational options to meet the academic, behavioral, and social needs of a wide range of children with autism:

- **Inclusion classes:** In these classes (preschool – 5th grade), children with autism participate as full members of a classroom family alongside peers in a class specifically designed to meet the needs of children on the higher end of the autism spectrum. These classes use South Carolina Curriculum Standards as the basis for curriculum planning. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) techniques and strategies are also incorporated. Each class has both a teacher and an assistant teacher, each of whom has autism-specific training. When additional classroom support is needed, ABA-trained line therapists are included. Board Certified Behavior Analysts routinely provide oversight for these classes. Every child receiving additional ABA therapy through Project HOPE Foundation has monthly team meetings that include the child, his/her ABA therapy team, parents, and teachers. Individual ABA therapy goals developed by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst for the specific child are practiced in the classroom as appropriate.
- **Bridging the Gap:** These classes (preschool to middle school) are autism-specific in composition and taught by facilitators who are trained in ABA therapy. These classes use developmental guidelines, South Carolina Curriculum Standards, and individualized therapeutic treatment plans as the basis for curriculum planning to meet the needs of children on the spectrum who are transitioning from one-on-one into group learning. Board Certified Behavior Analysts routinely provide oversight for these classes. Every child receiving additional ABA therapy through Project HOPE Foundation has monthly team meetings that include the child, his/her ABA therapy team, parents, and teachers.
- **Hope Alive Junior:** This classroom model serves middle school students on the autism spectrum for whom a high school diploma will not be a measure of success, based on limited verbal skills and behaviors that negatively impact their ability to succeed in a typical school classroom; instead, the goal for this class is to maximize communication, optimize independent living skills, and develop community inclusion. Taught by facilitators trained in ABA, this class focuses on functional academics, life skills, interests, vocational opportunities, and experiences. Board Certified Behavior Analysts routinely provide oversight for these classes. Every child receiving additional ABA therapy through Project HOPE Foundation has monthly team meetings that include the child, his/her ABA therapy team, parents, and teachers.

Document B Grants Received

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

Independent School Name: <cdY`5WXYa m

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.	60	\$600,000
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: <cdY'5WXYa m

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 schools with less than 10 students per grade level, whole school results should be used for reporting purposes.*
- 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.

2015-16 School Year Results for B9K 5'A 5D Assessment National Percentiles Mean Scale Scores, Average Scores, Grade Equivalents, etc.

Grade	English language arts (Reading)	Mathematics
2-8	(Bridging the Gap) 176.39	172.04
2-5	(Inclusion) 206.21	211.47

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: < cdY'5WXYa m

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?	Y	<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>	Y	<input 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

Independent Accountants' Report on
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

Project HOPE Foundation
2131 Woodruff Road, Suite 2100
Greenville, South Carolina 29607

We have performed the procedures as outlined in the letter to Project HOPE Foundation dated June 9, 2016, from the S.C. Education Oversight Committee relating to Proviso 109.15 of H.5001 as ratified on June 2, 2016. These procedures were agreed to by the management of Project HOPE Foundation. This engagement to apply agreed upon procedures was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the management of Project HOPE Foundation. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

The requirements, procedures, and associated findings are as follows:

Requirement: The independent school can document and verify that all grants received under the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program in 2015-2016 were for eligible children enrolled in the school.

Management Representation: Management has indicated that the eligibility determination is made by Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. (referred to hereinafter as "PKF"). According to management, Hope Academy obtains disability documentation for each student from the student's parent or guardian. The documentation is submitted to PKF for review and determination of eligibility.

Procedure: To verify that grants received under the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program as passed through PKF were for children enrolled in the School, accountant agreed scholarship by student name as received in check payments from PKF to the school's records of attendance.

Results: School attendance records were examined noting all students that received scholarships from PKF attended the school during the 2015-2016 school year.



Requirements: The independent school can document the total amount of each grant per child from every scholarship funding organization (SFO). The independent school can document that no grant exceeded \$10,000 during school year 2015-16.

Procedure: To verify the total amount of each grant per child from the SFO, accountant examined copies of scholarship payment checks received from PKF. Accountant agreed the scholarship amount received to the school's tuition records.

Results: Accountant verified that each grant was recorded to the individual student tuition account in the school accounting records, noting that all grants received were from PKF scholarship funding organization. No grant received from PKF exceeded \$10,000 per student.

Requirement: The independent school returned a prorated amount of the grant to the SFO if any student withdrew during the school year.

Management Representation: Management has indicated that no scholarship recipients withdrew from Hope Academy during the 2015-2016 school year.

Procedure: Accountant agreed scholarship recipient name to school attendance records for each of the four quarters of the 2015-2016 school.

Results: No exceptions. Attendance records indicated each scholarship recipient attended the school for each quarter of the 2015-2016 school year.

Requirement: 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."

Procedure: Accountant agreed grant amount received from PKF to the school tuition billing records to determine that all scholarship amounts received were applied to the student's tuition billing record.

Results: No exceptions.

We have performed the procedures, where applicable, as indicated in the letter from the S.C. Education Oversight Committee, as described in the first paragraph of this report. We were not engaged to, and did not perform an audit of the Foundation's financial statements, internal controls, or accounts, the objective of which would be an expression of an opinion on specified elements, accounts, or items. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

Project HOPE Foundation

June 22, 2016

Page Three

This report is intended solely for the use of the management of Project HOPE Foundation and specified users as approved by the Foundation's management and should not be used by those who have not agreed to the procedures and taken responsibility for the sufficiency of the procedures for their purposes.

McKinley, Cooper & Co., LLC

Greenville, South Carolina

June 22, 2016