

**South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC)  
Annual Standards Assurance Form**

H.4077 (R.247) as Signed by the Governor on May 18, 2018

2018-19

**Document A – Application for Continued Participation in ECENC Program**

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](http://www.eoc.sc.gov).

Independent School Name:	Hope Academy
Independent School Contact Person:	Susan Sachs
Independent School Address:	400 Spring Forest Road
City, State, Zip Code:	Greenville SC 29615
Independent School Telephone Number:	(864) - 676-0028
Independent School Fax Number:	(864) - 297-3875
Independent School E-mail Address:	administration@projecthopesc.org
Independent School Website Address:	www.hopeacademysc.org

Please review the standards below based on H.4077 (R.247) as signed by the Governor on May 18, 2018. An "eligible school" is defined as "an independent school including those religious in nature, other than a public school, at which the compulsory attendance requirements of Section 59-65-10 may be met," and does not discriminate based on the grounds of race, color, 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 state law.

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. Please	<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, the South Carolina Independent Schools Association, or the Palmetto Association of Independent Schools.	<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. <b>Please provide a summary of the services provided based on exceptional needs of students served.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Did this school receive any grants last fiscal year (July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018) from Exceptional SC from the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund? <b>Please complete Document B.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. By December 31, 2018, will your school submit school-level test score results from the prior school year on national achievement tests <b>and</b> individual student test scores for students who received a grant from Exceptional SC in the prior school year? <b>Please complete Document C.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. By December 31, 2018, will your school provide a "compilation, review, or compliance audit of the organization's financial statements as relating to the grants received, conducted by a certified public accounting firm"? <b>Please complete Document D.</b>	<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 state law, is true, accurate, and complete under penalty of perjury in accordance with Section 16-9-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Signature: Susan B Sachs

Date: 6-4-2018

Print Name of Signature Above: Susan B. Sachs

Title: Executive Director

Email: susansachs@projecthope.sc.org

**Return this form to Melanie Barton**

- Phone: 803.734.6148
- E-mail: [mbarton@eoc.sc.gov](mailto:mbarton@eoc.sc.gov)
- Mail: P.O. Box 11867  
Columbia, S.C. 29211
- Fax: 803.734.6167
- Physical Location:  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Room 502 Brown Building  
Columbia, SC 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. These classes are designed to enable children with autism to transition successfully from one-on-one intensive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy into classrooms. We serve children across the entire autism spectrum; therefore, we have a variety of tiered classroom options to meet a range of needs.

### **Tier 1**

In these classes (preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade), students with autism have gained sufficient behavioral and social skills to participate as full members of a classroom family, focusing on academics taught by mainstream teachers, based on South Carolina Curriculum Standards. To support the academic needs of these students, we limit class size (no more than 10 in preschool and 15 in elementary school), and provide an assistant. Teachers are trained in ABA principles, which are incorporated into classroom management and teaching styles. Our goal for these students is that they graduate into public and private middle schools, equipped to thrive academically, behaviorally, and socially.

### **Tier 2**

In these classes (preschool – high school), students with autism are ready to learn in group settings but still require one-on-one instruction to maximize their potential. These classes "bridge the gap" between ABA therapy and classrooms by providing both throughout the day. These classes are currently capped at 8 students. The classroom is led by a teacher and assistant who are Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs), trained in ABA methodology. The one-on-one portion of the day is provided by an RBT overseen by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). The curriculum is based on South Carolina Curriculum Standards, developmental guidelines, and individualized therapeutic treatment plans. Our goal for these students is to build academic, behavioral, and social skills. Some students will transition into mainstream classes; others may continue to be best served in autism-specific classes.

### **Tier 3**

In these classes (elementary – high school), students with autism who are severely challenged by communication deficits are focusing on gaining the ability to express themselves, to interact with others, and to learn from their environment. These students require one-on-one support for much of the day. Taught by facilitators trained in ABA, this class focuses on functional academics, life skills, interests, vocational opportunities, and experiences. For this group, our goal is to help students succeed by becoming independent, productive, happy adults.

Corrected

**Document B  
Grants Received**

**Application for Continued Participation  
Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Program  
2018-2019**

**Independent School Name:** Hope Academy

An independent school continuing to participate in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children for Fiscal Year 2018-19 is required to submit the following information:

***Total number of grants and total amount of grants received in the preceding fiscal year, from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.***

Please complete the following chart. If no grants for any qualifying student were received from Exceptional SC in Fiscal Year 2017-18, please indicate with "0" grants received and "\$0" in total amount of grants received.

<b>Total Number of Grants Received</b>	<b>Total Amount of Grants Received</b>
82	\$604,830

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 \$11,000.

**Document C**  
**Student Assessment Data**

**Application for Continued Participation**  
**Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Program**  
**2018-2019**

**Independent School Name:** Hope Academy

An independent school applying for continued participation in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program for Fiscal Year 2018-19 is required to submit the following information **by December 31, 2018**:

*Student test scores, by category, on national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, for all grades tested and administered by the school receiving or entitled to receive scholarship grants pursuant to this section in the previous school year. The school shall also provide individual student test scores on national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, for any student in grades one through twelve who received a grant from the program during the prior school year. The information must be used to provide program level reports to determine whether students participating in the program have experienced measurable improvement. Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement.*

*Section 12-6-3790(E)(1)(b)*

The information will be used to issue an annual report.

*Annually, the Education Oversight Committee shall issue a report to the General Assembly documenting the impact of the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program on student achievement. In addition, the report must include information on individual schools if at least fifty-one percent of the total enrolled students in the private school participated in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program in the prior school year. The report must be according to each participating private school, and for participating students, in which there are at least thirty participating students who have scores for tests administered. If the Education Oversight Committee determines that the thirty participating-student cell size may be reduced without disclosing personally identifiable information of a participating student, the Education Oversight Committee may reduce the participating-student cell size, but the cell size may not be reduced to less than ten participating students.*

*Section 12-6-3790(E)(6)*

Schools applying for continued participation in the ECENC Program must provide the following:

- 1. School-level assessment results** for school year 2017-18 on national achievement tests for all grades tested in the school and for each grade with at least 10 students tested. Information should be provided for 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 schools that specifically exist to meet the needs of only exceptional needs students with documented disabilities, the EOC will work with the schools to provide information (including formative assessments, portfolios, etc.) that document the students' academic and social development.

**How many students were enrolled in your school in 2017-18?** 98

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

**2017-18 School Year Results for MAP  
National Percentiles, Mean (Average) Scale Scores, Grade Equivalents, etc.**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>English language arts (Reading)</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>
1-2 (Inclusion)	190 (Mean)	193 (Mean)
3-5 (Inclusion)	Less than 10	Less than 10
2 (BTG)	Less than 10	Less than 10
3-4 (BTG)	Less than 10	Less than 10
5-6 (BTG)	Less than 10	Less than 10
Jr High (BTG)	Less than 10	Less than 10

- 2. Individual student test scores** on national achievement tests for any child who received a grant from the program during the 2017-18 school year. No personally identifiable information will be published; instead, the information will be aggregated at the school or state level as stipulated in law.

Each school will have access to a secure data portal to upload individual student assessment results, which will include personally identifiable information. The portal will capture, at a minimum, the following information:

- Name of the student who received a grant from Exceptional SC in the prior school year along with data including date of birth, sex, grade level, etc. to ensure that the assessment results can be matched to the individual student who received a grant;
- For each student who received a grant, the results of a national assessment or assessments in 2017-18 and if possible, in 2016-17 as well to document academic growth. The name of the assessment as well as scale scores for students or national percentile ranks must be included; and
- If a student received a grant but due to the student's exceptional needs was not able to be assessed with a national assessment, the school must provide an explanation by student of the reason why a national assessment was not administered and how the school is measuring academic and personal growth for each student not assessed.

Please identify one staff person from your school who will provide the individual student test scores from this school:

<b>Name:</b>	Susan Sachs
<b>Title:</b>	Executive Director
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	864-676-0028
<b>Email Address:</b>	susansachs@projecthopesc.org

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, from the S.C. Education Oversight Committee relating to 109.10 of the 2017-2018 General Application Bill (H.5001). 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 2017-2018 were for eligible children enrolled in the school.

**Management Representation:** Management has indicated that the eligibility determination is made by Exceptional SC – South Carolina Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund (hereinafter referred to as the scholarship funding organization or SFO). According to management, Hope Academy obtains disability documentation for each student from the student's parent or guardian. The documentation is submitted to the SFO for review and determination of eligibility.

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





**Results:** School attendance records were examined noting all students that received scholarships from the SFO attended the school for each of the four quarters during the 2017-2018 school year, except for one student withdrawing.

**Requirements:** The independent school can document the total amount of each grant per child from every scholarship funding organization. The independent school can document that no grant exceeded \$10,000 during school year 2017-2018.

**Procedure:** To verify the total amount of each grant per child from the SFO, the accountant examined copies of scholarship payment checks received from the SFO. 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 the scholarship funding organization. No grant received from the SFO 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 one scholarship recipient withdrew from Hope Academy during the 2017-2018 school year. The student withdrew after the first semester, thus no scholarship was received for the student for the second semester.

**Procedure:** Accountant examined attendance records, noting that the student attended for the semester in which the scholarship applied.

**Results:** No exceptions.

**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 the SFO 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.

Project HOPE Foundation  
December 20, 2018  
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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.

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  
December 20, 2018