

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY
CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Annual Financial Statements

June 30, 2024



Contents

Independent Auditor's Report	1 - 3
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Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position	4
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets	5
Statement of Functional Expenses	6
Statement of Cash Flows	7
Notes to Financial Statements	8 - 14

Supplementary Information

Schedule of Board of Directors	16
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer	17

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	18 - 19
--	---------

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance	20 - 22
--	---------

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	23
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Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	24
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Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs	25
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Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	26
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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors
Lake Forest Elementary Charter School
New Orleans, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lake Forest Elementary Charter School (the School), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2024, the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the School as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Correction of Error

As described in Note 9 to the financial statements, the School had incurred eligible grant expenditures in previous years which were not accrued as a receivable. These costs were requested and recorded as a receivable during the year ended June 30, 2024. Revenues were understated in the prior year by \$412,345, requiring an adjustment to beginning net assets. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the School and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the School's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the School's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedule of board of directors and the schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to agency head or chief executive officer, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 24:513 A(3), are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is also not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 4, 2024 on our consideration of the School's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "LaForte".

A Professional Accounting Corporation

Baton Rouge, LA
December 4, 2024

LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2024

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,517,186
Prepaid Expenses	94,834
Grants Receivable	1,853,804
Other Receivables	<u>1,191</u>

Total Current Assets	<u>4,467,015</u>
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Fixed Assets

Furniture and Equipment	78,049
Leasehold Improvements	1,094,114
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(446,055)</u>

Total Fixed Assets, Net	<u>726,108</u>
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Other Assets

Certificates of Deposit	<u>2,521,250</u>
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Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 7,714,373</u></u>
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Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 3,598
Accrued Liabilities	94,661
Deferred Revenue	<u>112,856</u>

Total Current Liabilities	<u>211,115</u>
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Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	7,420,838
With Donor Restrictions	<u>82,420</u>

Total Net Assets	<u>7,503,258</u>
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 7,714,373</u></u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenue, Grants, and Other Support			
State and Local Public School Funding	\$ 7,679,036	\$ -	\$ 7,679,036
Federal Grants	2,252,878	-	2,252,878
Donations	230,606	87,420	318,026
Other Income	284,686	-	284,686
State Grants	218,223	-	218,223
Interest Revenue	43,581		43,581
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	5,000	(5,000)	-
Total Revenue, Grants, and Other Support	10,714,010	82,420	10,796,430
Expenses			
Program Services			
Education Programs	6,757,140	-	6,757,140
Supporting Services			
Management and General	2,518,268	-	2,518,268
Fundraising	69,289	-	69,289
Total Expenses	9,344,697	-	9,344,697
Change in Net Assets	1,369,313	82,420	1,451,733
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	5,639,180	-	5,639,180
Prior Period Adjustment	412,345	-	412,345
Net Assets, Beginning of Year, Restated	6,051,525	-	6,051,525
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 7,420,838	\$ 82,420	\$ 7,503,258

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Statement of Functional Expenses
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Program Services	Supporting Services		
	Education Programs	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Salaries	\$ 3,964,966	\$ 1,321,043	\$ -	\$ 5,286,009
Employee Benefits	1,439,507	381,214	-	1,820,721
Purchased Services	231,980	284,602	-	516,582
Supplies, Materials, and Textbooks	404,084	-	-	404,084
Food Services	134,318	67,513	-	201,831
Utilities	72,875	118,598	-	191,473
Insurance	-	188,344	-	188,344
Administration Fee	177,031	-	-	177,031
Repairs	-	139,648	-	139,648
Miscellaneous and Dues	125,717	-	-	125,717
Fundraising	97,699	17,023	-	114,722
Depreciation	76,865	-	-	76,865
Security	-	-	69,289	69,289
Phone, Internet, and Postage	21,295	-	-	21,295
Property Services	10,103	-	-	10,103
Student Transportation	700	-	-	700
Travel	-	283	-	283
Total	\$ 6,757,140	\$ 2,518,268	\$ 69,289	\$ 9,344,697

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,451,733
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	
Depreciation	76,865
Increase in Grants Receivable	(1,326,253)
Decrease in Other Receivables	5,696
Increase in Prepaid Expenses	(23,018)
Decrease in Accounts Payable	(5,060)
Increase in Accrued Liabilities	14,851
Increase in Deferred Revenue	57,993

Total Adjustments	<u>(1,198,926)</u>
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Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>252,807</u>
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Cash Flows from Investing Activities

Purchase of Fixed Assets	(150,304)
Purchase of Certificates of Deposit, net	<u>(13,730)</u>

Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	<u>(164,034)</u>
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Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	88,773
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Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	<u>2,428,413</u>
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Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	<u><u>\$ 2,517,186</u></u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Lake Forest Elementary Charter School (the School) was created as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Louisiana on March 14, 2006. The School applied to the NOLA Public Schools to operate a Type 3 charter school. The School serves eligible students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Although the School leases its building rent free, it does pay an annual usage and damage fee. The NOLA Public Schools constructed a new building to which the School relocated in January 2016.

Effective July 1, 2017, the NOLA Public Schools approved the School's request to operate as its own local educational agency.

Effective July 6, 2021, the School's charter was renewed for the period commencing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2031. Accordingly, the School entered into a new charter school operating agreement.

A summary of the School's significant accounting policies consistently applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements follows.

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements are presented in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 958, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations*. The School is required to record unconditional promises to give (pledges) as receivables and revenues and to distinguish between contributions received for each net asset category in accordance with donor-imposed restrictions. Under FASB ASC 958, the School is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets:

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions - Net assets that are resources available to support operations.

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions - Net assets that are resources that are restricted by the donor for use for a particular purpose or in a particular future period. When the donor's restriction is satisfied, either by using the resources in the manner specified by the donor or by the passage of time, the expiration of the restriction is reported in the financial statements. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions.

In addition, the School is required to present a statement of cash flows.

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported on the financial statements. The financial statements of the School are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting whereby revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

Revenues and Support

State Public School Funding

The School's primary source of funding is through the State Public School Fund. The School receives funding per eligible student in attendance on October 1st, payable in monthly installments. The October 1st student count is audited by the Louisiana Department of Education. Adjustments are made in the following year.

Federal and State Grants

Federal and state grants are on a cost reimbursement basis. An accrual is made when eligible expenses are incurred.

Private Grants and Contributions

Private grants and contributions are recognized when the donor makes a promise to give that is, in substance, unconditional. The School will not recognize a conditional promise to give until the conditions on which the promise depends are substantially met. Contributions are reported as increases in net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions. When restrictions expire (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Contributions expected to be collected in less than one year are reported at net realizable value. Those expected to be collected in more than one year are recorded at fair value at the date of the promise and are discounted at an appropriate discount rate. Future amortization of the discount will be included in contribution revenue. Management closely monitors outstanding balances and writes off any balances deemed uncollectible.

Other Income

Revenue from other sources, including student activities and fees, fundraisers, facility rentals, and after-care tuition, are recorded and recognized as revenue in the period in which the School provides the service at the amount that reflects the consideration to which the School expects to be entitled for providing the service or good.

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Revenues and Support (Continued)

Contracts vs. Contributions

The School utilizes the guidance in FASB Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2018-08 in the assessment of whether a revenue is an exchange transaction (contract) or contribution (non-contract) and considers factors including commensurate value received, reciprocity, and donor-imposed conditions. Performance obligations are determined based on the nature of the services provided by the School. Revenue from performance obligations satisfied over time is recognized based on actual time incurred in relation to the total expected period of providing the service, which is deemed to be the school year, which is simultaneous with the fiscal year. The School believes that this method provides a faithful depiction of the transfer of services over the term of the performance obligation based on the inputs needed to satisfy the obligation.

Generally, performance obligations satisfied over time relate to student activities and fees and tuition. The School measures the performance obligation throughout the school year. Revenue for performance obligations satisfied at a point in time, which include mainly income from meals and are generally immaterial, are recognized when services are provided. The School determines the transaction price based on standard charges for goods or services provided to students, which are predetermined by management. Fees are generally nonrefundable, and total refunds issued annually are considered negligible.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if historical cost is not available. Betterments that naturally add to the value of related assets or materially extend the useful lives of assets are capitalized. Normal building maintenance and minor equipment purchases are included as expenses of the School.

Income Taxes

The School is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, income from certain activities not directly related to the School's tax-exempt purpose is subject to taxation as unrelated business income.

Statement of Cash Flows

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the School considers all investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Concentrations

The School received 71% of its revenues in the year ended June 30, 2024 from the state and local public school funding and 21% of its funding from the federal government.

As noted earlier, the School is leasing its building from the NOLA Public Schools rent free. Should this lease not be extended further, it would have an unfavorable impact to the School.

Liquidity and Availability

The School's objective is to maintain liquid financial assets without donor restrictions sufficient to cover 60 days of program expenditures. It regularly monitors liquidity required to meet its operating needs and other contractual commitments. Expenditures are generally met within 30 days, utilizing the financial resources that the School has available. In addition, the School operates with a budget to monitor sources and uses of funds throughout the year.

Financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use, within one year of the statement of financial position date, comprise the following:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,434,766
Grants Receivable	1,853,804
Other Receivables	<u>1,191</u>
Total	<u>\$ 4,289,761</u>

Note 2. Cash and Cash Equivalents and Certificate of Deposit

The School's cash and cash equivalents (book balances) at June 30, 2024 were \$2,517,186 which are stated at cost and approximate market.

The School periodically maintains cash in bank accounts in excess of insured limits. The School has not experienced any losses and does not believe that significant credit risk exists as a result of this practice.

The School's investments are limited to certificates of deposit totaling \$2,521,250, which is stated at cost and approximates market.

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 3. Fixed Assets

Depreciation expense for the year ended June 30, 2024 was \$76,865. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method with useful lives of 5 to 30 years.

All assets acquired with Louisiana Department of Education funds are owned by the School while used in the purpose for which they were purchased. The Louisiana Department of Education, however, has a reversionary interest in these assets. Should the charter not be renewed, title in any assets purchased with those funds will transfer to the appropriate agency.

Note 4. Accrued Liabilities

As of June 30, 2024, the School has recorded accrued liabilities of \$94,661, which consists of accrued salaries and payroll liabilities.

Note 5. Designated Net Assets

At June 30, 2024, \$1,240,169 of unrestricted net assets represent funds raised by the Parent Teacher Organization which are designated to support the operations of the School and funds raised for the development of our Outdoor Recreation Complex.

Note 6. Restriction on Assets

Net assets with donor restrictions are restricted by donors for specific programs, purposes, or to assist specific departments of the School. These restrictions are considered to expire when payments for restricted purposes are made. At June 30, 2024, the School had net assets with restrictions of \$82,420 representing donations received for which the purpose restriction has not been met at June 30, 2024. The School had net assets released from restrictions during the year ended June 30, 2024 of \$5,000.

Note 7. Retirement Plans

Substantially all employees of the School participate in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana. The system is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by a separate board of trustees. Pertinent information relative to the plan follows.

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 7. Retirement Plans (Continued)

Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL)

Plan Description: The TRSL provides retirement benefits as well as disability and survivor benefits. Ten years of service credit is required to become vested for retirement benefits and five years to become vested for disability and survivor benefits. Benefits are established and amended by state statute. The TRSL issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the TRSL. That report may be obtained by writing to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, P.O. Box 94123, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9123. At June 30, 2024, the TRSL was 74.3% funded.

Funding Policy: Plan members are required to contribute 8% of their annual covered salary. The School is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. During the year ended June 30, 2024, the employer contribution rate was 24.8%. Member contributions and employer contributions for the TRSL are established by state law, and rates are established by the Public Retirement System's Actuarial Committee. The School's employer contributions to the plan for the years ended June 30, 2024, 2023, and 2022 were \$1,171,019, \$1,116,145, and \$1,113,156, respectively, which were equal to the required contributions. The School's first year to contribute to the plan was the year ended June 30, 2007.

403b Plan

The School provides a 403b defined contribution plan for its maintenance employees. The School provides a 4% match of employee contributions which totaled \$16,579 for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Note 8. Uncertain Income Taxes

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America provide accounting and disclosure guidance about positions taken by an entity in its tax returns that might be uncertain. The School believes that it has appropriate support for any tax positions taken, and management has determined that there are no uncertain tax positions that are material to the financial statements. Penalties and interest assessed by income taxing authorities, if any, would be included in income tax expense.

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 9. Prior Period Adjustment

The Federal Grant Revenue and Grants Receivable on the June 30, 2023 financial statements was understated in the amount of \$412,345, which was corrected in the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Note 10. Subsequent Events

In accordance with FASB ASC 855, the School has evaluated subsequent events through December 4, 2024, the date that these financial statements were available to be issued and determined that no events occurred that require disclosure. No other subsequent events occurring after this date have been evaluated for inclusion in these financial statements.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Schedule of Board of Directors
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Compensation</u>
Gina Dupart, President 6652 Manchester Road New Orleans, LA 70126	\$-0-
Denise Williams 2342 Prentiss Avenue New Orleans, LA 70122	\$-0-
Windi Brown Smith 5629 Berkley Drive New Orleans, LA 70131	\$-0-
Brian K. Richburg, Sr. 7710 Wave Drive New Orleans, LA 70128	\$-0-
Fredette Johnson 37 Winners Circle New Orleans, LA 70128	\$-0-
Tyronne Jefferson 6050 Oxford Place New Orleans, LA 70131	\$-0-
Ulysses Collins 5501 Chamberlain Drive New Orleans, LA 70122	\$-0-

See independent auditor's report

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to
Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023**

Agency Head

Mardele S. Early, Founding Chief Executive Officer

Purpose	Amount
Salary	\$237,301
Benefits - Health Insurance	\$2,517
Benefits - Retirement	\$57,189
Car Allowance	\$0
Vehicle Provided by Government	\$0
Per Diem	\$0
Reimbursements	\$0
Travel	\$0
Registration Fees	\$0
Conference Travel	\$0
Continuing Professional Education Fees	\$0
Housing	\$0
Unvouchered Expenses	\$0
Special Meals	\$0

See independent auditor's report

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT
OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors
Lake Forest Elementary Charter School
New Orleans, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Lake Forest Elementary Charter School (the School), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2024, the related statements of activities, functional activities, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 4, 2024.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the School's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the School's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "LaForte".

A Professional Accounting Corporation

Baton Rouge, LA
December 4, 2024

**REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM
AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE
REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors
Lake Forest Elementary Charter School
New Orleans, Louisiana

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Lake Forest Elementary Charter School's (the School) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the School's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. The School's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the School complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the School and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for an opinion on the compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the School's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the School's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the School's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the School's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the School's compliance with compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the School's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "LaForte".

A Professional Accounting Corporation

Baton Rouge, LA
December 4, 2024

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/ Program Title	Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Grantor Number	Federal Expenditures
United States Department of Education			
(Passed through the Louisiana Department of Education)			
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	24T1	\$ 342,545
Special Education - Grants to States	84.027	24IB	135,672
Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	84.367	24T2	35,242
Title IV - Student Support and Academic Enrichment	84.424	24T4S	6,675
COVID-19: CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Formula)	84.425U	28-21-ES3F-te	1,807,361
COVID-19: CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Interventions)	84.425U	28-21-ESEB-te	<u>11,076</u>
Total United States Department of Education			<u>2,338,571</u>
United States Department of Agriculture			
(Passed through the State of Louisiana)			
Child Nutrition Cluster	10.555	SFSP	<u>326,652</u>
Total			<u><u>\$ 2,665,223</u></u>

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

Note 1. Basis of Presentation

The schedule is prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Note 2. De Minimus Cost Rate

The School has elected to not use the 10% de minimus indirect cost rate.

Note 3. Reconciliation of Revenue Recognized in the Financial Statements to Federal Awards Expended on the Schedule

During the year ended June 30, 2024, the School requested \$412,345 in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds expended in prior years.

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

Section I. Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Type of auditor's report | Unmodified |
| 2. Internal control over financial reporting and compliance and other matters: | |
| a. Material weaknesses identified? | No |
| b. Significant deficiencies identified? | None reported |
| c. Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted? | No |
| 3. Management letter comment provided? | None |

Federal Awards

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 4. Internal control over major programs: | |
| a. Material weaknesses identified? | No |
| b. Significant deficiencies identified not considered to be material weaknesses? | None reported |
| 5. Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs | Unmodified |
| 6. Any audit findings that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)? | No |
| 7. Identification of major programs: | |
| 84.425U COVID-19: CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund | |
| 8. Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and B programs | \$750,000 |
| 9. Auditee qualified as a low-risk auditee under the Uniform Guidance | Yes |

Section II. Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

None.

Section III. Findings and Questioned Costs Related to Major Federal Award Programs

None.

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

None.

AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES REPORT

Lake Forest Elementary Charter School

Independent Accountant's Report
On Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

For the Period July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

To the Board of Directors of
Lake Forest Elementary Charter School
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on Lake Forest Elementary Charter School's (the School) control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The School's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The School has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in the LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Additionally, the LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1) *Written Policies and Procedures*

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:
- i. **Budgeting**, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
 - ii. **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated, (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list, (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders, (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law, and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
 - iii. **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

- iv. **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).
- v. **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
- vi. **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- vii. **Travel and Expense Reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- viii. **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- ix. **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- xi. **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- xii. **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

2) Board or Finance Committee

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
 - i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.

- ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*
- iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
- iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:
 - i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);
 - ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
 - iii. Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).

Results: Only one cash deposit site noted during the year. No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (e.g., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if there are no written policies or procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:

- i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;
- ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;
- iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit; and
- iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternatively, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits, and:

- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
- ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
- iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
- iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
- v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:
- i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;
 - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
 - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;
 - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and
 - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

[Note: Findings related to controls that constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality) should not be reported.]

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and
- i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and
 - ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. *Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected, the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.*

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (Cards)

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.

Results: We obtained management's representation that the listing provided is complete.

- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). Obtain supporting documentation, and:
- i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved) by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and
 - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #6B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:
- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov);
 - ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;
 - iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and
 - iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

8) Contracts

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternatively, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and:
- i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;
 - ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);
 - iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and
 - iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

9) Payroll and Personnel

- A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:
- i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
 - ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;
 - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
 - iv. Observe whether the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll-related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Results: We obtained management's representation that the employer and employee portions of third-party payroll-related amounts have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

10) Ethics

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and:
- i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and
 - ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

11) Debt Service

- A. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

12) Fraud Notice

- A. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the Legislative Auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- B. Observe that the entity has posted, on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

- A. Perform the following procedures, **verbally discuss the results with management, and report “We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.”**

- i. Obtain and inspect the entity’s most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government’s local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.
- ii. Obtain and inspect the entity’s most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
- iii. Obtain a listing of the entity’s computers currently in use and their related locations, and management’s representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

Results: We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- C. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency’s information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirements are as follows:

- i. Hired before June 9, 2020 - completed the training; and
- ii. Hired on or after June 9, 2020 - completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

Results: We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.
- B. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).
- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1st, and observe that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:
 - i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
 - ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
 - iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
 - iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
 - v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Results: The procedures are not applicable as the School is a nonprofit organization.

We were engaged by the School to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the School and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.



A Professional Accounting Corporation

Baton Rouge, LA
December 4, 2024

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY
CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Agreed-Upon Procedures
R.S. 24:514 - Performance and Statistical Data

June 30, 2024



Contents

Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

1 - 3

Schedules Required by Louisiana State Law (R.S. 24:514 - Performance and Statistical Data)

4

Schedule

General Fund Instructional and Support Expenditures
and Certain Local Revenue Sources

1

5

Class Size Characteristics

2

6

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the Board of Directors of
Lake Forest Elementary Charter School
New Orleans, Louisiana

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the performance and statistical data accompanying the annual financial statements of Lake Forest Elementary Charter School (the School) for the year ended June 30, 2024 and to determine whether the specified schedules are free of obvious errors and omissions, in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 24:514 I. The School's management is responsible for its performance and statistical data.

The School has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the performance and statistical data accompanying the annual financial statements. Additionally, the Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

General Fund Instructional and Support Expenditures and Certain Local Revenue Sources (Schedule 1)

1. We selected a sample of 25 transactions, reviewed supporting documentation, and observed that the sampled expenditures/revenues are classified correctly and are reported in the proper amounts among the following amounts reported on the schedule:
 - Total General Fund Instructional Expenditures
 - Total General Fund Equipment Expenditures
 - Total Local Taxation Revenue
 - Total Local Earnings on Investment in Real Property
 - Total State Revenue in Lieu of Taxes
 - Nonpublic Textbook Revenue
 - Nonpublic Transportation Revenue

Results: No differences were noted.

Class Size Characteristics (Schedule 2)

2. We obtained a list of classes by school, school type, and class size as reported on the schedule. We then traced a sample of 10 classes to the October 1st roll books for those classes and observed that the class was properly classified on the schedule.

Results: No differences were noted.

Education Levels/Experience of Public School Staff (No Schedule)

3. We obtained October 1st PEP data submitted to the Department of Education (or equivalent listing prepared by management), including full-time teachers, principals, and assistant principals by classification, as well as their level of education and experience, and obtained management's representation that the data/listing was complete. We then selected a sample of 25 individuals, traced to each individual's personnel file, and observed that each individual's education level and experience was properly classified on the PEP data or equivalent listing prepared by management.

Results: No differences were noted.

Public School Staff Data: Average Salaries (No Schedule)

4. We obtained June 30th PEP data submitted to the Department of Education (or equivalent listing provided by management) of all classroom teachers, including base salary, extra compensation, and ROTC or rehired retiree status, as well as full-time equivalents, and obtained management's representation that the data/listing was complete. We then selected a sample of 25 individuals, traced to each individual's personnel file, and observed that each individual's salary, extra compensation, and full-time equivalents were properly included on the PEP data (or equivalent listing prepared by management).

Results: No differences were noted.

* * * * *

We were engaged by the School to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the United States Comptroller General. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the performance and statistical data. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the School and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on the performance and statistical data accompanying the annual financial statements of the School Board, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:514.1, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "LaForte".

A Professional Accounting Corporation

Baton Rouge, LA
December 4, 2024

LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
Schedules Required by Louisiana State Law
(R.S. 24:514 - Performance and Statistical Data)
As of and for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Schedule 1 - General Fund Instructional and Support Expenditures and Certain Local Revenue Sources

This schedule includes general fund instructional and equipment expenditures. It also contains local taxation revenue, earnings on investments, revenue in lieu of taxes, and nonpublic textbook and transportation revenue. This data is used either in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula or is presented annually in the MFP 70% Expenditure Requirement Report.

Schedule 2 - Class Size Characteristics

This schedule includes the percent and number of classes with student enrollment in the following ranges: 1 - 20, 21 - 26, 27 - 33, and 34+ students. This data is currently reported to the Legislature in the Annual School Report (ASR).

**LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
General Fund Instructional and Support Expenditures
and Certain Local Revenue Sources
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

Schedule 1

General Fund Instructional and Equipment Expenditures

General Fund Instructional Expenditures

Teacher and Student Interaction Activities		
Classroom Teacher Salaries	\$ 1,884,004	
Other Instructional Staff Salaries	418,546	
Instructional Staff Employee Benefits	926,207	
Purchased Professional and Technical Services	75,633	
Instructional Materials and Supplies	63,050	
Instructional Equipment	-	
Total Teacher and Student Interaction Activities		\$ 3,367,440
Other Instructional Activities		4,389
Pupil Support Services	429,969	
Less: Equipment for Pupil Support Services	-	
Net Pupil Support Services		429,969
Instructional Staff Services	581,951	
Less: Equipment for Instructional Staff Services	-	
Net Instructional Staff Services		581,951
School Administration	911,646	
Less: Equipment for School Administration	-	
Net School Administration		911,646
Total General Fund Instructional Expenditures		<u>\$ 5,295,395</u>
Total General Fund Equipment Expenditures		<u>\$ -</u>

Certain Local Revenue Sources

Local Taxation Revenue		
Constitutional Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ -	
Renewable Ad Valorem Tax	-	
Debt Service Ad Valorem Tax	-	
Up to 1% of Collections by the Sheriff on Taxes	-	
Other than School Taxes	-	
Sales and Use Taxes	-	
Total Local Taxation Revenue		<u>\$ -</u>
Local Earnings on Investment in Real Property		
Earnings from 16 th Section Property	\$ -	
Earnings from Other Real Property	-	
Total Local Earnings on Investment in Real Property		<u>\$ -</u>
State Revenue in Lieu of Taxes		
Revenue Sharing - Constitutional Tax	\$ -	
Revenue Sharing - Other Taxes	-	
Revenue Sharing - Excess Portion	-	
Other Revenue in Lieu of Taxes	-	
Total State Revenue in Lieu of Taxes		<u>\$ -</u>
Nonpublic Textbook Revenue		<u>\$ -</u>
Nonpublic Transportation Revenue		<u>\$ -</u>

See independent accountant's report on applying agreed-upon procedures.

LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Class Size Characteristics
October 1, 2024

Schedule 2

School Type	Class Size Range							
	1 - 20		21 - 26		27 - 33		34+	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Elementary	75%	202	25%	66	0%	0	0%	0
Elementary Activity	79%	30	21%	8	0%	0	0%	0

See independent accountant's report on applying agreed-upon procedures.