

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Annual Financial Statements

June 30, 2024



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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors
The Einstein Group, Inc.
d/b/a Einstein Charter Schools
New Orleans, Louisiana

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Einstein Group, Inc. d/b/a Einstein Charter Schools (Einstein), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2024, the related statements of activities and changes in net assets, 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 Einstein 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.

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 Einstein 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, 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 Einstein'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 Einstein'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 Einstein'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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 17, 2024, on our consideration of Einstein'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 Einstein'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 Einstein'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 17, 2024

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2024

Assets

Current Assets

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ 11,045,593 |
| Grants Receivable | 8,388,551 |
| Prepaid Expenses | <u>1,866</u> |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Current Assets | <u>19,436,010</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|

Fixed Assets

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment | 492,350 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | <u>(397,347)</u> |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Total Fixed Assets, Net | <u>95,003</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total Assets | <u><u>\$ 19,531,013</u></u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Accounts Payable | \$ 153,185 |
| Accrued Liabilities | <u>859,844</u> |

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Total Liabilities | <u>1,013,029</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------|

Net Assets

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Without Donor Restrictions | <u>18,517,984</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Net Assets | <u>18,517,984</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | <u><u>\$ 19,531,013</u></u> |
|---|-----------------------------|

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

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
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 | \$ 20,216,322 | \$ - | \$ 20,216,322 |
| Federal Grants | | | |
| Grants for Education | 8,048,976 | - | 8,048,976 |
| School Food Service Revenue | 1,531,459 | - | 1,531,459 |
| Other Grants and Contributions | 199,688 | - | 199,688 |
| Other Revenue | 158,516 | - | 158,516 |
| Net Assets Released from Restrictions | 49,138 | (49,138) | - |
| Total Revenue, Grants, and Other Support | 30,204,099 | (49,138) | 30,154,961 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Program Services | 18,702,679 | - | 18,702,679 |
| Management and General | 7,137,520 | - | 7,137,520 |
| Total Expenses | 25,840,199 | - | 25,840,199 |
| Change in Net Assets | 4,363,900 | (49,138) | 4,314,762 |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year | 14,154,084 | 49,138 | 14,203,222 |
| Net Assets, End of Year | \$ 18,517,984 | \$ - | \$ 18,517,984 |

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

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Statement of Functional Expenses
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

| | Program Services | Supporting Services | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Education Programs | Management and General | Total |
| Salaries | \$ 10,188,058 | \$ 2,912,762 | \$ 13,100,820 |
| Employee Benefits | 2,966,164 | 1,536,574 | 4,502,738 |
| Supplies, Materials, and Textbooks | 1,556,352 | 807,102 | 2,363,454 |
| Purchased Services | 663,991 | 873,503 | 1,537,494 |
| Food Services | 1,140,090 | - | 1,140,090 |
| Student Transportation | 970,411 | - | 970,411 |
| Repairs | 592,240 | - | 592,240 |
| Utilities | 561,633 | - | 561,633 |
| Insurance | - | 513,514 | 513,514 |
| Dues and Miscellaneous | 20,180 | 401,441 | 421,621 |
| Rental | - | 63,929 | 63,929 |
| Phone, Internet, and Postage | 31,763 | - | 31,763 |
| Travel | 8,330 | 22,895 | 31,225 |
| Advertising | 711 | 5,800 | 6,511 |
| Depreciation | 2,756 | - | 2,756 |
| Total | \$ 18,702,679 | \$ 7,137,520 | \$ 25,840,199 |

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

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | |
| Change in Net Assets | \$ 4,314,762 |
| Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to | |
| Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities | |
| Depreciation | 2,756 |
| Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness | |
| Increase in Grants Receivable | (1,347,094) |
| Increase in Prepaid Expenses | (1,866) |
| Decrease in Accounts Payable | (79,749) |
| Decrease in Accrued Liabilities | (92,681) |
| Increase in Deferred Revenue | - |
| Total Adjustments | (1,518,634) |
| Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities | 2,796,128 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities | |
| Purchases of Furniture and Equipment | (90,558) |
| Net Cash Used in Investing Activities | (90,558) |
| Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents | 2,705,570 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year | 8,340,023 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year | \$ 11,045,593 |

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

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Einstein Group, Inc. (the Corporation) was created as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Louisiana on January 27, 2004. The Corporation applied to the Orleans Parish School Board to operate a Type 1 charter school. The Corporation does business as Einstein Charter Schools (Einstein). On March 21, 2005, the Orleans Parish School Board approved the charter of The Einstein Group, Inc. to create the Einstein Charter Schools. In July 2011, Einstein received a 6-year extension of the charter. Einstein serves eligible students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

During the year ended June 30, 2013, Einstein amended its charter agreement to include two locations. This was due to Einstein taking over the operations of a nearby charter school location. Effective July 1, 2013, the Corporation began operations of the new campus.

During the year ended June 30, 2015, Einstein amended its charter agreement to add high school grades 9 - 12. This was due to Einstein taking over the operations of a nearby charter school location. Effective July 1, 2015, the Corporation began operations of a middle school at the new campus. Effective August 2016, the Corporation began operations of a high school at that same location.

On December 10, 2024, the Orleans Parish School Board extended the charter for Sherwood Forest Elementary for three years. Village de L'est Elementary, Einstein Charter Middle, and Sarah T. Reed High were extended for five years.

Einstein leases its campuses rent free from the Orleans Parish School Board.

A summary of Einstein'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*. Einstein 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, Einstein is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets:

- a. Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions
- b. Net Assets With Donor Restrictions

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

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
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 Einstein are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

Revenues

Einstein's primary source of funding is through the State and Local Public School Funding which made up 68% of its funding for the year ended June 30, 2024. State and federal grants are on a cost reimbursement basis. An accrual is made when eligible expenses are incurred.

Grants and contributions are recognized when the donor makes a promise to give to Einstein that is, in substance, unconditional. Grants and contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in net assets without donor restrictions if the restrictions expire in the year in which the contributions are recognized. All other donor-restricted grants and contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions.

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 Einstein.

Net Assets

Einstein is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets, which are the following:

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.

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Income Taxes

Einstein 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 Einstein's tax-exempt purpose is subject to taxation as unrelated business income.

Statement of Cash Flows

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, Einstein 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.

Concentrations

Einstein received 67% of its revenues in the year ended June 30, 2024 from the State Public School Funding subject to its charter school contract, and 32% of its funding from the federal government.

As noted earlier, Einstein is leasing its buildings from the Orleans Parish School Board rent free. Should these leases not be extended further, it would have an unfavorable impact to Einstein.

Revenues and Support

State Public School Funding

Einstein's primary source of funding is through the State Public School Fund. Einstein 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.

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Revenues and Support (Continued)

Private Grants and Contributions

Private grants and contributions are recognized when the donor makes a promise to give that is, in substance, unconditional. Einstein 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 and changes in net assets 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 meals, is recorded and recognized as revenue in the period in which Einstein provides the service at the amount that reflects the consideration to which Einstein expects to be entitled for providing the service or good.

Contracts vs. Contributions

Einstein utilizes the guidance in 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 Einstein. 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. Einstein 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, there are no significant performance obligations satisfied over time. Einstein measures the performance obligation throughout the school year. Revenue for performance obligations satisfied at a point in time, which includes most student activities and income from meals, is recognized when services are provided. Einstein 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.

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Recent Accounting Pronouncements - Adopted

As of July 1, 2023, the School adopted ASU 2016-13, *Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments*, and all subsequently issued related amendments, which changed the methodology used to recognize impairment of Einstein's contract receivables. Under this ASU, financial assets are presented at the net amount expected to be collected, requiring immediate recognition of estimated credit losses expected to occur over the asset's remaining life. This is in contrast to previous U.S. GAAP, under which credit losses were not recognized until it was probable that a loss had been incurred. The School performed its expected credit loss calculation based on historical contract receivable write-offs, including consideration of then-existing economic conditions and expected future conditions. The implementation of ASC 326 did not result in a significant impact to the financial statements.

Functional Expenses

The cost of providing the Einstein's various programs and supporting services have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities and changes in net assets. The statement of functional expenses presents the natural classification detail of expenses by function. Expenses are first allocated by direct identification, and then allocated if an expenditure benefits more than one program or function. Einstein management expenses are allocated based on each school's enrollment for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Liquidity and Availability

Einstein'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 Einstein has available. In addition, Einstein 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 | \$ 11,045,593 |
| Grants Receivable | <u>8,388,551</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 19,434,144</u> |

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 2. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Einstein's cash and cash equivalents (book balances) at June 30, 2024 were \$11,045,593, which are stated at cost and approximate market.

Note 3. Restriction on Assets

Net assets with donor restrictions are restricted by donors for specific programs, purposes, or to assist specific departments of Einstein. These restrictions are considered to expire when payments for restricted purposes are made. At June 30, 2024, Einstein had no net assets with donor restrictions. During the year ended June 30, 2024, net assets of \$49,138 was released from restriction.

Note 4. Grants Receivable

As of June 30, 2024, grants receivable totaled \$8,388,551, which is a combination of state and federal grants. The grants receivable balance is considered to be fully collectible.

Note 5. Fixed Assets

Depreciation expense for the year ended June 30, 2024 was \$2,756. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method with useful lives of 5 years.

All assets acquired with Louisiana Department of Education funds are owned by Einstein 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 6. Accrued Liabilities

As of June 30, 2024, Einstein has recorded accrued liabilities of \$859,844. The entire amount is for employee salaries and other related employee benefits.

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 7. Retirement Plan

Certain employees of Einstein participate in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL). The TRSL is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by a separate board of trustees. Pertinent information relative to the plan follows.

Plan Description

The TRSL provides retirement benefits as well as disability and survivor benefits. Ten years of service credit are 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. At June 30, 2024, the TRSL was 74.3% funded. 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.

Funding Policy

Plan members are required to contribute 8% of their annual covered salary. Einstein 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. Einstein's contribution to the plan for the years ended June 30, 2024, 2023, and 2022 was \$2,936,412, \$2,682,946, and \$2,767,876, respectively, which was equal to the required contribution.

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. Einstein believes that it has appropriate support for any tax positions taken and, as such, does not have any uncertain tax positions that are material to the financial statements.

Penalties and interest assessed by income taxing authorities, if any, would be included in general administration expenses.

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 9. Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through the date that the financial statements were available to be issued, December 17, 2024, and determined that no events occurred that require disclosure. No subsequent events occurring after this date have been evaluated for inclusion in these financial statements.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Schedule of Board of Directors
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

| <u>Board Members</u> | <u>Compensation</u> |
|--|----------------------------|
| Dr. Raymond Delaney, President 1109 Dickory Avenue, D239 River Ridge, LA 70123 (504) 239-0887 | \$-0- |
| Joe Rochelle 5562 Woodlawn Place New Orleans, LA 70124 (504) 451-4885 | \$-0- |
| Clarice T. Kirkland P.O. Box 870243 New Orleans, LA 70122 (504) 253-9854 | \$-0- |
| Maya Edwards 13241 Saint Helena Place New Orleans, LA 70129 (504) 403-7521 | \$-0- |
| Angela Vance 4769 Sherwood Drive New Orleans, LA 70128 (504) 267-5294 | \$-0- |
| Durrell Laurant 3440 Peoples Avenue New Orleans, LA 70122 (504) 931-6256 | \$-0- |
| Robbie Robertson 8221 Birch Street New Orleans, LA 70118 (504) 512-9758 | \$-0- |
| Edwin Escobar 67 New England Court Gretna, LA 70056 (504) 503-0113 | \$-0- |
| Chavez Cammon 13717 Earls Court Baton Rouge, LA 70810 (504) 201-7045 | \$-0- |

See independent auditor's report.

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments
to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

Tara L. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

| Purpose | Amount |
|--|---------------|
| Salary | \$285,250 |
| Stipend | \$2,500 |
| Vacation/Sick Payout | \$28,544 |
| Benefits - Health Insurance | \$0 |
| Benefits - Retirement | \$71,277 |
| Benefits - Life Insurance | \$0 |
| Benefits - Worker's Compensation | \$0 |
| Benefits - Dental | \$0 |
| Benefits - Vision | \$0 |
| Car Allowance | \$0 |
| Tuition Reimbursement | \$5,000 |
| Per Diem | \$0 |
| Reimbursements | \$1,091 |
| 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
The Einstein Group, Inc.
d/b/a Einstein Charter Schools
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 The Einstein Group, Inc. d/b/a Einstein Charter Schools (Einstein), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Einstein's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 17, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Einstein'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 Einstein's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Einstein'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 over financial reporting 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.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Einstein'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 Einstein's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Einstein'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 that reads "LaForte".

A Professional Accounting Corporation

Baton Rouge, LA
December 17, 2024

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

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors
The Einstein Group, Inc.
d/b/a Einstein Charter Schools
New Orleans, Louisiana

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited The Einstein Group, Inc. d/b/a Einstein Charter School's (Einstein) compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Einstein's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. Einstein'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, Einstein 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 in accordance 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 Einstein and to meet our other 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 our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Einstein'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 Einstein's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and to express an opinion on Einstein'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 Einstein'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 professional 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 Einstein's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of Einstein'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 the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Einstein'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 a 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 in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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 17, 2024

THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
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 Number | Federal Expenditures |
|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| United States Department of Agriculture | | | |
| (Passed through the State of Louisiana) | | | |
| Child Nutrition Cluster | | | |
| National School Lunch Program | 10.555 | None | <u>\$ 1,531,459</u> |
| Total United States Department of Agriculture | | | <u>1,531,459</u> |
| United States Department of Education | | | |
| (Passed through the Louisiana Department of Education) | | | |
| Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies | 84.010A * | 28-24-T1-te | 1,386,323 |
| Special Education Cluster | | | |
| Special Education Grants to States | 84.027 | 24IB | 303,487 |
| Career and Technical Education | 84.048 | None | 18,071 |
| English Language Acquisition State Grants | 84.365 | 24T3 000104 | 61,407 |
| Improving Teacher Quality State Grants | 84.367 | 24T2 000706 | 95,641 |
| Comprehensive Literacy Development | 84.371 | 24CLSD 6 | 618,709 |
| Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants | 84.374 | None | 614,924 |
| Student Support and Academic Enrichment | 84.424 | 24T4S 000104 | 69,304 |
| Covid-19: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Fund | | | |
| ESSER II Incentive | 84.425D | 21E21 | 82,617 |
| ESSER III Formula | 84.425U | 21E3F | 3,110,064 |
| ESSER III Incentive | 84.425U | 21E3I | 162,105 |
| ESSER III Interventions | 84.425U | 21ESEB | 1,413,341 |
| Real | 84.425D | 23REL | <u>112,983</u> |
| Total United States Department of Education | | | <u>8,048,976</u> |
| Total Expenditures of Federal Awards | | | <u>\$ 9,580,435</u> |

* Indicates major program.

See notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

Note 1. Basis of Accounting

The schedule is prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Note 2. De Minimis Cost Rate

The 10% de minimis indirect cost rate was not used during the year ended June 30, 2024.

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
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 not considered to be material weaknesses? | None reported |
| c) Noncompliance noted? | No |
| 3) Management letter comment provided? | None |

Federal Awards

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 4) Internal control over major programs | |
| a) Material weaknesses identified? | None reported |
| 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 | |
| 10.555 - Child Nutrition Cluster | |
| 84.371 - Comprehensive Literacy Development | |
| 8) Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and B programs | \$750,000 |
| 9) Auditee qualified as a low-risk auditee under Uniform Guidance | Yes |

Section II. Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

None.

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

None.

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Schedule of Prior Year Findings and Questioned Costs
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

None.

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/b/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

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

June 30, 2024



| Contents | Schedule | Page |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures | | 1 - 3 |
| Schedules Required by State Law (R.S. 24:514 - Performance and Statistical Data) | | 4 |
| 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 The Einstein Group, Inc.,
d/b/a Einstein Charter Schools
the Louisiana Department of Education, and
the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the performance and statistical data accompanying the annual financial statements of The Einstein Group, Inc. d/b/a Einstein Charter Schools (Einstein) for the year ended June 30, 2024. Einstein's management is responsible for its performance and statistical data.

Einstein has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of determining whether the specified schedules are free of obvious errors and omissions, in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 24:514 I. Additionally, the Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor 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 exceptions 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 exceptions 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 exceptions 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 exceptions were noted.

We were engaged by Einstein 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 Einstein 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 Einstein as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:514 I, 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 18, 2024

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Schedules Required by 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.

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
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

| | | |
|---|--------------|--|
| Classroom Teacher Salaries | \$ 3,892,738 | |
| Other Instructional Staff Salaries | 345,274 | |
| Instructional Staff Employee Benefits | 2,487,411 | |
| Purchased Professional and Technical Services | 3,097 | |
| Instructional Materials and Supplies | 1,108,031 | |
| Instructional Equipment | - | |

Total Teacher and Student Interaction Activities \$ 7,836,551

Other Instructional Activities 187,042

Pupil Support Services 1,204,517

Less: Equipment for Pupil Support Services -

Net Pupil Support Services 1,204,517

Instructional Staff Services 570,601

Less: Equipment for Instructional Staff Services -

Net Instructional Staff Services 570,601

General Administration 385,215

Less: Equipment for General Administration -

Net General Administration 385,215

School Administration 1,645,734

Less: Equipment for School Administration -

Net School Administration 1,645,734

Total General Fund Instructional Expenditures \$ 11,829,660

Total General Fund Equipment Expenditures \$ -

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 \$ -

Local Earnings on Investment in Real Property

Earnings from 16th Section Property \$ -

Earnings from Other Real Property -

Total Local Earnings on Investment in Real Property \$ -

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 \$ -

Nonpublic Textbook Revenue \$ -

Nonpublic Transportation Revenue \$ -

**THE EINSTEIN GROUP, INC.
D/B/A EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOLS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Class Size Characteristics
As of October 1, 2023**

Schedule 2

| School Type | Class Size Range | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| | 1 - 20 | | 21 - 26 | | 27 - 33 | | 34+ | |
| | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number |
| Elementary | 26% | 62 | 74% | 177 | 1% | 2 | 0% | 0 |
| Elementary Activity | 27% | 5 | 72% | 13 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 |
| High | 59% | 92 | 25% | 39 | 15% | 23 | 0% | 0 |
| High Activity | 33% | 9 | 44% | 12 | 19% | 5 | 4% | 1 |
| Middle | 45% | 45 | 42% | 42 | 11% | 12 | 0% | 0 |
| Middle Activity | 21% | 5 | 63% | 15 | 17% | 4 | 0% | 0 |

Note: The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has set specific limits on the maximum size of classes at various grade levels. The maximum enrollment in grades K - 3 is 26 students and the maximum enrollment in grades 4 - 12 is 33 students. These limits do not apply to activity classes, such as physical education, chorus, band, and other classes without maximum enrollment standards. Therefore, these classes are included only as separate line items.

AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES REPORT

The Einstein Group, Inc.
d/b/a Einstein Charter Schools

Independent Accountant's Report
On Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

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

To the Board of Directors of
The Einstein Group, Inc. and
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

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

Einstein 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 LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Additionally, 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: Einstein determined that Sections #1A(iv) Receipts/Collections, #1A(x) Debt Service, and #1A(xii) Prevention of Sexual Harassment, were not applicable. No exceptions noted as a result of the procedures performed.

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 comparisons, at a minimum, on all proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual comparisons, 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: The Einstein determined that sections #2A(ii), #2A(iii) and #2A(iv) were not applicable. No exceptions noted as a result of the procedures performed.

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 within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated or 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: Einstein was unable to provide evidence that two reconciliations including items that were outstanding for more than 12 months were investigated.

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).

- 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 custodial fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.
- 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.
- 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: Einstein determined that the procedures were not applicable as all of its revenues were received electronically for the period from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

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).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of the procedures performed.

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.
- 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.
- 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 noted as a result of the procedures performed.

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 noted as a result of the procedures performed.

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 noted as a result of the procedures performed.

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.
- 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 the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
- 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.
- 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: No exceptions noted as a result of the procedures performed.

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

Results: No exceptions noted as a result of the procedures performed.

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.

- 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: Einstein determined that this section was not applicable.

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.
- 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 noted as a result of the procedures performed.

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

- 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. Einstein determined test step #13C was not applicable to charter schools.

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 1, 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: Einstein determined that this section was not applicable.

We were engaged by Einstein 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 Einstein 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 handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "LaForte".

A Professional Accounting Corporation

Baton Rouge, LA
December 19, 2024



The mission of Einstein Charter Schools is to nurture students to be academically STRONG, as well as socially and emotionally resilient.

Mr. Michael J. Waguespack
Louisiana Legislative Auditor
1600 N 3rd Street
P.O. Box 94397
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9397

RE: SAUP Agreed-Upon Procedures

The management of The Einstein Group, Inc. wishes to provide the following responses relative to the results of the 2024 statewide agreed-upon procedures engagement:

- 1) In response to the Bank Reconciliation section, the School will document that outstanding items older than 12 months are investigated.

Sincerely,

Tara Johnson
Chief Executive Officer