

JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023



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**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors
Jefferson RISE Charter School
Gretna, Louisiana

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Jefferson Rise Charter School (the School), a nonprofit public benefit corporation, which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2023, and the related statements of activities, cash flows, and functional expenses for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the School as of June 30, 2023, 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 audits 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 Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Jefferson Rise Charter 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 these 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 the School's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditors' Responsibility 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 auditors' 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.

Other Matters

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the School's financial statements as a whole. The accompanying supplementary schedules, as identified in the table of contents, and the accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of 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.

The schedules required by Louisiana State Law, included as Schedules 1 and 2, are not a required part of the basic financial statements, but are supplementary information required by Louisiana State Law. 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 combining financial statements. We have applied certain limited procedures, which are described in the Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures. However, we did not audit this information and, accordingly, express no opinion on it.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated October 31, 2023 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.



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Glendora, California
October 31, 2023

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2023**

ASSETS	<u>Jefferson RISE</u>	<u>Foundation</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,524,932	\$ 536,363	\$ -	\$ 2,061,295
Accounts Receivable - Federal and State	1,086,786	-	-	1,086,786
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	57,666	-	-	57,666
Total Current Assets	<u>2,669,384</u>	<u>536,363</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,205,747</u>
LONG-TERM ASSETS				
Restricted Cash	-	1,642,820	-	1,642,820
Deferred Rent Asset	-	383,794	-	383,794
Property, Plant, and Equipment, Net	228,143	13,722,158	-	13,950,301
Right to Use Assets - Facility, Net	16,643,227	-	(16,643,227)	-
Total Long-Term Assets	<u>16,871,370</u>	<u>15,748,772</u>	<u>(16,643,227)</u>	<u>15,976,915</u>
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 19,540,754</u>	 <u>\$ 16,285,135</u>	 <u>\$ (16,643,227)</u>	 <u>\$ 19,182,662</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 604,777	\$ 86,861	\$ -	\$ 691,638
Deferred Revenue	-	-	-	0
Bonds Payable	-	110,000	-	110,000
Lease Liability	143,047	-	(143,047)	-
Total Current Liabilities	<u>747,824</u>	<u>196,861</u>	<u>(143,047)</u>	<u>801,638</u>
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES				
Bonds Payable	-	15,760,939	-	15,760,939
Lease Liability	17,185,952	-	(16,500,180)	685,772
Total Long-Term Liabilities	<u>17,185,952</u>	<u>15,760,939</u>	<u>(16,500,180)</u>	<u>16,446,711</u>
NET ASSETS				
Without Donor Restriction	1,606,978	327,335	-	1,934,313
Total Net Assets	<u>1,606,978</u>	<u>327,335</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,934,313</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u>\$ 19,540,754</u>	 <u>\$ 16,285,135</u>	 <u>\$ (16,643,227)</u>	 <u>\$ 19,182,662</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	<u>Jefferson RISE</u>	<u>Foundation</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUES WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION				
State and Local Public School Funding	\$ 9,047,844	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,047,844
Federal Grants	2,004,326	-	-	2,004,326
Donations	42,003	40,406	-	82,409
Other Income	29,121	1,144,596	(1,058,993)	114,724
Total Revenues Without Donor Restriction	<u>11,123,294</u>	<u>1,185,002</u>	<u>(1,058,993)</u>	<u>11,249,303</u>
EXPENSES				
Program Services	9,095,487	1,393,387	(1,058,993)	9,429,881
Management and General	1,888,557	240	-	1,888,797
Fundraising	2,510	-	-	2,510
Total Expenses	<u>10,986,554</u>	<u>1,393,627</u>	<u>(1,058,993)</u>	<u>11,321,188</u>
TRANSFERS	(535,960)	535,960	-	-
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION	(399,220)	327,335	-	(71,885)
Net Assets Without Donor Restriction - Beginning of Year	<u>2,006,198</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,006,198</u>
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 1,606,978</u>	<u>\$ 327,335</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,934,313</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
Salaries and Wages	\$ 4,789,951	\$ 237,212	\$ 1,930	\$ -	\$ 5,029,093
Pension Expense	100,282	35,119	-	-	135,401
Other Employee Benefits	453,327	89,600	19	-	542,946
Payroll Taxes	288,420	86,389	-	-	374,809
Legal Expenses	-	31,629	-	-	31,629
Accounting Expenses	51,132	83,307	-	-	134,439
Instructional Materials	905,965	-	-	-	905,965
Other Fees for Services	604,883	114,829	-	-	719,712
Food Service	311,925	-	-	-	311,925
Advertising and Promotion Expenses	21,221	-	-	-	21,221
Office Expenses	41,735	70,416	-	-	112,151
Information Technology Expenses	8,122	27	-	-	8,149
Occupancy Expenses	1,442,481	68,962	561	(1,058,993)	453,011
Travel Expenses	885,656	13,026	-	-	898,682
Interest Expense	18,438	1,006,753	-	-	1,025,191
Depreciation Expense	379,120	-	-	-	379,120
Insurance Expense	181,148	8,967	-	-	190,115
Other Expenses	5,068	42,561	-	-	47,629
Sub Total	<u>10,488,874</u>	<u>1,888,797</u>	<u>2,510</u>	<u>(1,058,993)</u>	<u>11,321,188</u>
Eliminations	(1,058,993)	-	-	1,058,993	-
Total Functional Expenses	<u>\$ 9,429,881</u>	<u>\$ 1,888,797</u>	<u>\$ 2,510</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 11,321,188</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	<u>Jefferson RISE</u>	<u>Foundation</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Change in Net Assets	\$ (399,220)	\$ 327,335	\$ -	\$ (71,885)
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Flows Provided (Used) by Operating Activities:				
Depreciation Expense	17,767	361,353	-	379,120
Amortization	-	18,438	-	18,438
Change in Operating Assets:				
Accounts Receivable - Federal and State	(496,679)	-	-	(496,679)
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	(10,299)	-	-	(10,299)
Deferred Rent Asset	-	(383,794)	383,794	-
Right to Use Assets - Facility, Net	(16,643,227)	-	16,643,227	-
Change in Operating Liabilities:				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	289,323	86,861	-	376,184
Lease Liability - Operating	17,328,999	-	(17,328,999)	-
Deferred Rent Liability	(301,978)	-	301,978	-
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>(215,314)</u>	<u>410,193</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>194,879</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchases of Property, Plant and Equipment	-	(14,083,511)	-	(14,083,511)
Net Cash Used By Investing Activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(14,083,511)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(14,083,511)</u>
CASH FLOWS from FINANCING ACTIVITIES:				
Proceeds from Loans Payable	-	15,852,501	-	15,852,501
Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities	<u>-</u>	<u>15,852,501</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,852,501</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND RESTRICTED CASH	<u>(215,314)</u>	<u>2,179,183</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,963,869</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash - Beginning of Year	<u>1,740,246</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,740,246</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND RESTRICTED CASH - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 1,524,932</u>	<u>\$ 2,179,183</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,704,115</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND RESTRICTED CASH - END OF YEAR				
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year	\$ 1,524,932	\$ 536,363	\$ -	\$ 2,061,295
Restricted Cash - End of Year	-	1,642,820	-	1,642,820
Total	<u>\$ 1,524,932</u>	<u>\$ 2,179,183</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,704,115</u>
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF NONCASH FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Interest Paid	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 919,892</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 919,892</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Activities

The Jefferson RISE Charter School (the School) was created as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the state of Louisiana in 2014. The School applied to the Jefferson Parish School Board to operate a Type I charter school. The Jefferson Parish School Board approved the charter of the School for a period of three years commencing on July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2023. The charter was renewed on February 1, 2023 for a third term to expire on June 30, 2026. The School serves eligible students in eighth through twelfth grade.

The School received approximately 99% of its total revenues from federal and state grantors.

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Jefferson Rise Charter School and Friends of Jefferson RISE because Jefferson Rise Charter School has both control and an economic interest in the Foundation. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. Unless otherwise noted, these consolidated entities are hereinafter referred to as Jefferson Rise Charter School.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual method of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables and liabilities.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as prescribed by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

Use of Estimates

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

Functional Allocation of Expenses

Costs of providing the School's programs and other activities have been presented in the statement of functional expenses. During the year, such costs are accumulated into separate groupings as either direct or indirect. Indirect or shared costs are allocated among program and support services by a method that best measures the relative degree of benefit. The expenses that are allocated include salaries and wages, pension expense, other employee benefits, payroll taxes, other fees for services, office expenses, printing and postage, information technology, and other expenses, which are allocated on the basis of estimates of time and effort.

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The School defines its cash and cash equivalents to include only cash on hand, demand deposits, and liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable primarily represent amounts due from federal and state governments as of June 30, 2023. Management believes that all receivables are fully collectible, therefore no provisions for uncollectible accounts were recorded.

Property, Plant, and Equipment

Property, plant, and equipment are stated at cost, if purchased, or at estimated fair value, if donated. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the asset. The School capitalizes all expenditures for land, buildings, and equipment in excess of \$5,000.

Net Asset Classes

Net assets, revenues, gains, and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor or grantor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions – Net assets available for use in general operations and not subject to donor (or certain grantor) restrictions. The governing board has designated, from net assets without donor restrictions, net assets for an operating reserve and board-designated endowment.

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions – Net assets subject to donor- (or certain grantor-) imposed restrictions. Some donor-imposed restrictions are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or other events specified by the donor. Other donor-imposed restrictions are perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulates that resources be maintained in perpetuity. Donor-imposed restrictions are released when a restriction expires, that is, when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both.

Compensated Absences

The School does not allow employees to carryover unused vacation. Accordingly, there were no accumulated compensated absence benefits at June 30, 2023.

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Leases

The School determines if an arrangement is a lease at inception. Operating leases are included in operating lease right-of-use (ROU) assets, and operating lease liabilities on the statement of financial position. Finance leases are included in financing ROU assets, and lease liabilities – financing on the statement of financial position

ROU assets represent the School's right to use an underlying asset for the lease term and lease liabilities represent the School's obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease. ROU assets and liabilities are recognized at commencement date based on the present value of lease payments over the lease term.

The individual lease contracts do not provide information about the discount rate implicit in the lease. Therefore, the School has elected to use a risk-free discount rate determined using a period comparable with that of the lease term for computing the present value of all lease liabilities. The operating lease ROU asset also includes any lease payments made and excludes lease incentives. The lease terms may include options to extend or terminate the lease when it is reasonably certain that the School will exercise that option. The School has elected to recognize payments for short-term leases with a lease term of 12 months or less as expense as incurred and these leases are not included as lease liabilities or ROU assets on the statement of financial position.

The School has elected not to separate nonlease components from lease components and instead accounts for each separate lease component and the nonlease component as a single lease component.

Adoption of New Accounting Standards

In February 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-02, Leases (ASC 842). The new standard increases transparency and comparability among organizations by requiring the recognition of right-of-use (ROU) assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet. Most prominent of the changes in the standard is the recognition of ROU assets and lease liabilities by lessees for those leases classified as operating leases. Under the standard, disclosures are required to meet the objective of enabling users of financial statements to assess the amount, timing, and uncertainty of cash flows arising from leases. The School adopted the requirements of the guidance effective July 1, 2022 and has elected to apply the provisions of this standard to the beginning of the period of adoption with certain practical expedients available.

The School elected the available practical expedients to account for existing capital leases and operating leases as finance leases and operating leases, respectively, under the new guidance, without reassessing (a) whether the contracts contain leases under the new standard, (b) whether classification of capital leases or operating leases would be different in accordance with the new guidance, or (c) whether the unamortized initial direct costs before transition adjustments would have met the definition of initial direct costs in the new guidance at lease commencement.

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Leases (Continued)

In addition, the School elected the hindsight practical expedient to determine the lease term for existing leases. The election of the hindsight practical expedient resulted in the shortening of the lease term for the existing lease and the useful life of the corresponding leasehold improvements. As a result of the adoption of the new lease accounting guidance, the School recognized on July 1, 2022 a ROU asset at the carrying amount of the operating lease asset of \$17,022,402. The School also recognized on July 1, 2022 a lease liability of \$17,022,402, which represents the present value of the remaining finance lease payments discounted using the School's incremental borrowing rate of 6.2%.

Revenue Recognition

The School's primary sources of funding are through the State Public School Fund and federal grants, as well as private donations. Amounts received from the State Public School Fund are conditional and recognized as revenue by the School based on enrollment of students. Federal grants are recorded on a cost reimbursement basis. An accrual is made when eligible expenses are incurred.

Income Taxes

The School is a nonprofit entity exempt from the payment of income taxes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Accordingly, no provision has been made for income taxes. The School is subject to income tax on net income that is derived from business activities that are unrelated to the exempt purposes. The School files an exempt School return and applicable unrelated business income tax return in the U.S. federal jurisdiction.

Contributions

All contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Amounts received that are restricted to specific use or future periods are reported as contributions with donor restrictions. Restricted contributions that are received and released in the same period are reported as promises to give without donor restrictions. Unconditional promises to give expected to be received in one year or less are recorded at net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give expected to be received in more than one year are recorded at fair market value at the date of the promise. Conditional promises to give are not recognized until they become unconditional, that is, when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met.

Conditional Grants

Grants and contracts that are conditioned upon the performance of certain requirements or the incurrence of allowable qualifying expenses are recognized as revenues in the period in which the conditions are met. Amounts received are recognized as revenue when the School has incurred expenditures in compliance with specific contract or grant provisions. Amounts received prior to incurring qualifying expenditures are reported as deferred revenues in the statement of financial position. As of June 30, 2023, the School had \$1,248,688 in conditional grants that have not been recognized as revenue in the statement of activities because conditions have not been met. As of June 30, 2023, the School has no amounts that are recognized as deferred revenue in the statement of financial position because conditions have not yet been met.

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Evaluation of Subsequent Events

The School has evaluated subsequent events through October 31, 2023, the date these financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 2 LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

Financial assets available for general expenditure are those without donor or other restrictions limiting their use within one year of the statement of financial position date. Financial assets available for general expenditures comprise cash and cash equivalents and grants receivable for the total amount of \$3,148,081.

As part of its liquidity management plan, the School monitors liquidity required and cash flows to meet operating needs on a monthly basis. The School structures its financial assets to be available as general expenditures, liabilities and other obligations come due.

NOTE 3 CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The School maintains cash balances held in banks and revolving funds which are insured up to \$250,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). At times, cash in these accounts exceeds the insured amounts. The School has not experienced any losses in such accounts and believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on its cash and cash equivalents.

NOTE 4 PROPERTY, PLANT, AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant, and equipment in the accompanying financial statements is presented net of accumulated amortization. Depreciation expense was \$379,120 for the year ended June 30, 2023.

The components of property, plant, and equipment as of June 30, 2023 are as follows:

Land	\$ 142,149
Building	13,941,362
Leasehold Improvements	263,676
Total	<u>14,347,187</u>
Less: Accumulated Amortization	(396,886)
Total Property, Plant, and Equipment	<u><u>\$ 13,950,301</u></u>

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

NOTE 5 EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

Defined Contribution Plan

The School offers a SIMPLE IRA retirement plan to each of its qualifying employees. Employer and employee contributions are used to purchase annuity contracts for each participant employee. Employer matching contributions are made as a percentage of elective deferrals for each employee who is eligible for employer contributions. Additionally, the employer may elect to make a discretionary contribution for each qualifying employee for each plan year. The amount of employer contributions used to purchase annuity contracts for the year ended June 30, 2023 was \$135,401.

NOTE 6 LEASE – RELATED PARTY

The School leased its facilities under a lease agreement that lease expires in June of 2062.

The following tables provide quantitative information concerning the School's lease for the year ended June 30, 2023:

Right to Use Asset - Facilities	\$ 16,720,424
Accumulated Amortization	<u>(77,197)</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 16,643,227</u></u>
Operating lease cost	\$ 1,058,993
Cash Paid for Amounts Included in the Measurement of Lease Liabilities:	
Operating Cash Flows from Operating Leases	\$ 675,199
Right-of-Use Assets Obtained in Exchange for New Operating Lease Liabilities:	
Facilities	\$ 16,720,424
Weighted-Average Remaining Lease Term - Operating Leases	38.8 years
Weighted-Average Discount Rate - Operating Leases	6.20%

A maturity analysis of annual undiscounted cash flows for lease liabilities as of June 30, 2023, is as follows:

<u>Year Ending June 30,</u>	
2024	\$ 1,213,421
2025	1,211,837
2025	1,214,078
2026	1,211,591
2027	1,176,955
Thereafter	<u>39,616,938</u>
Undiscounted cash flows	45,644,820
(Less) imputed interest	<u>(28,315,821)</u>
Total present value	<u><u>\$ 17,328,999</u></u>
Short-term lease liabilities	\$ (143,047)
Long-term lease liabilities	<u>(17,185,952)</u>
	<u><u>\$ (17,328,999)</u></u>

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

NOTE 7 CONTINGENCIES COMMITMENTS

The School has received state and federal funds for specific purposes that are subject to review and audit by the grantor agencies. Although such audits could generate disallowances under terms of the grants, it is believed that any required reimbursement would not be material.

In the normal course of business, the School is subject to legal claims. After consultation with the School's legal counsel, management of the School is of the opinion that liabilities, if any, arising from such claims would not have a material effect on the School's financial position.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S 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**

Board of Directors
Jefferson RISE Charter School
Gretna, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the 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 Jefferson RISE Charter School (the School), a nonprofit public benefit corporation, which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2023, and the related statements of activities, cash flows, and functional expenses for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 31, 2023.

Report on 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.

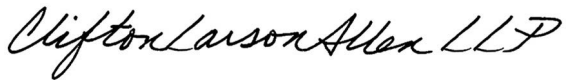
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not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

Report on 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 entity’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 entity’s internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Glendora, California
October 31, 2023



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

Board of Directors
Jefferson RISE Charter School
Gretna, Louisiana

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Jefferson Rise Charter School's 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 Jefferson Rise Charter School's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023. Jefferson Rise Charter School's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, Jefferson Rise Charter School complied, in all material respects, with the 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, 2023.

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 (GAAS); 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 Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Jefferson Rise Charter School 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 Jefferson Rise Charter 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 Jefferson Rise Charter School's federal programs.

Auditors' 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 express an opinion on Jefferson Rise Charter 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 GAAS, *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 Jefferson Rise Charter School's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *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 Jefferson Rise Charter School'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 Jefferson Rise Charter 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 the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Jefferson Rise Charter 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

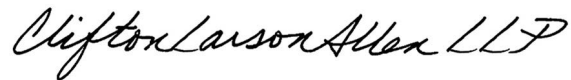
A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or 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.

Board of Directors
Jefferson RISE Charter School

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditors' 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.



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Glendora, California
October 31, 2023

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Section I – Summary of Auditors’ Results

Financial Statements

1. Type of auditors’ report issued: Unmodified
2. Internal control over financial reporting:
- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ yes x no
 - Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ yes x none reported
3. Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? _____ yes x no

Federal Awards

1. Internal control over major federal programs:
- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ yes x no
 - Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ yes x none reported
2. Type of auditors’ report issued on compliance for major federal programs: Unmodified
3. Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)? _____ yes x no

Identification of Major Federal Programs

Federal Assistance Listing Number	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
84.425D	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II) Fund
84.425U	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ESSER III) Fund

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:

\$ 750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

_____ yes X no

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

All audit findings must be identified as one or more of the following categories:

<u>Five Digit Code</u>	<u>Finding Types</u>
10000	Attendance
20000	Inventory of Equipment
30000	Internal Control
40000	State Compliance
42000	Charter School Facilities Program
43000	Apprenticeship
50000	Federal Compliance
60000	Miscellaneous
61000	Classroom Teacher Salaries
62000	Local Control Accountability Plan
70000	Instructional Materials
71000	Teacher Misassignments
72000	School Accountability Report Card

Section II – Financial Statement Findings

Our audit did not disclose any matters required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Section III – Findings and Questioned Costs – Major Federal Programs

Our audit did not disclose any matters required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a).

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

There were no findings for the year ended June 30, 2022.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
 SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO THE AGENCY HEAD
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Agency Head: Kathleen Sullivan

Purpose	Amount
Salary	\$ 139,488
Benefits - Employer Portion of Retirement	13,582
Benefits - Employer Portion of Medical/Dental/Vision	7,066
Travel	-
Cell Phone Reimbursement	-
Reimbursements	4,567
Conferences	-
Benefits - FICA Medicare	1,950
Other Compensation-Security	-
Community Relations	-
Professional Development	-
Total	\$ 166,653

See Independent Auditors' Report.

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program or Cluster Title	Federal CFDA Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Additional Award Identification	Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:				
Pass Through Program From Louisiana Department of Education: Title I, Part A, Basic Grants Low-Income and Neglected	84.010A	N/A		\$ 248,338
Title IV, Part A Special Education Cluster: IDEA Basic Local Assistance Entitlement, Part B, Section 611	84.424A	N/A		22,371
Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD)	84.027A	N/A		339,664
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act): Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II) Fund	84.371C	N/A		25,000
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ESSER III) Fund	82.425D	N/A	COVID-19	455,404
Total Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act):	84.425U	N/A	COVID-19	489,140
Total U.S. Department of Education				<u>944,544</u> 1,579,917
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:				
Pass Through Program From Louisiana Department of Education: Child Nutrition Cluster National School Lunch Program	10.555			424,409
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture				<u>424,409</u>
TOTAL FEDERAL EXPENDITURES				<u>\$ 2,004,326</u>

N/A - Pass-through entity number not readily available or not applicable.

See Independent Auditors' Report and Notes to the Supplementary Information.

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

NOTE 1 SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of the School under programs of the federal governmental for the year ended June 30, 2023. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of the Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of operations of the School, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of the School.

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

**SCHEDULES REQUIRED BY LOUISIANA STATE LAW
(R.S. 24:514 – PERFORMANCE AND STATISTICAL DATA)**



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Board of Directors
Jefferson RISE Charter School
Gretna, Louisiana

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by Jefferson RISE Charter School (the School); the Louisiana Department of Education, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (the specified parties), on the performance and statistical data accompanying the annual financial statements of the School for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023; and to determine whether the specified schedules are free of obvious errors and omissions as provided by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) Bulletin 126, in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 24:514 I. Management of the School is responsible for its performance and statistical data. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the specified parties. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures enumerated below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

Our procedures and findings relate to the accompanying schedules of supplemental information and are as follows:

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

1. We selected a random sample of 25 transactions and reviewed supporting documentation to determine if the sampled expenditures/revenues are classified correctly, based on description and nature of the revenue/expense, and are reported in the proper amounts for each of 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, and
 - Nonpublic Transportation Revenue.

Findings:
None.

Class Size Characteristics (Schedule 2)

1. 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 1 roll books for those classes and observed that the class was properly classified on the schedule.

Findings:

None.

Education Levels of Public School Staff (NO SCHEDULE)

2. 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.

Findings:

None.

Public School Staff Data: Average Salaries (NO SCHEDULE)

3. 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 obtain management's representation that the data/listing is 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.

Findings:

None.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed 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, 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.

Board of Directors
Jefferson Rise Charter School

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 Jefferson Rise Charter School, 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Glendora, California
October 31, 2023

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
GENERAL FUND INSTRUCTIONAL AND SUPPORT EXPENDITURES AND CERTAIN LOCAL
REVENUE SOURCES
SCHEDULE 1
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

General Fund Instructional and Equipment Expenditures	Column A	Column B
General Fund Instructional Expenditures:		
Teacher and Student Interaction Activities:		
Classroom Teacher Salaries	1,991,089.00	
Other Instructional Staff Services	875,135.00	
Instructional Staff Employee Benefits	551,004.00	
Purchased Professional and Technical Services	288,350.00	
Instructional Materials and Supplies	627,316.00	
Instructional Equipment	-	
Total Teacher and Student Interaction Activities	-	\$ 4,332,894
Other Instructional Activities	73,589.00	73,589
Pupil Support Services	1,450,042.00	
Less: Equipment for Pupil Support Services		
Net Pupil Support Services	-	1,450,042
Instructional Staff Services	242,447.00	
Less: Equipment for Instructional Staff Services		
Net Instructional Staff Services	-	242,447
School Administration	1,629,102.00	
Less: Equipment for School Administration		
Net School Administration	-	1,629,102
Total General Fund Instructional Expenditures (Total of Column B)		\$ 7,728,074
Total General Fund Equipment Expenditures (Object 730; Functional Series 1000-4000)		\$ -
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		-

See Independent Auditors' Report and Independent Accountants' Report on Agreed-Upon Procedures.

**JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
 CLASS SIZE CHARACTERISTICS – SCHEDULE 2
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Class Size Characteristics
 As of October 1, 2022

School Type	Class Size Range							
	1-20		21-26		27-33		34+	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Elementary								
Elementary Activity Class								
Middle High	7	21%	6	18%	3	9%	1	3%
Middle High Activity Class								
High	6	18%	4	12%	6	18%	1	3%
High Activity Class								
Combination								
Combination Activity Class								

See Independent Auditors' Report and Independent Accountants' Report on Agreed-Upon Procedures.



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Board of Directors of Jefferson RISE Charter School 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, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Jefferson Rise Charter School's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

Jefferson Rise Charter 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 LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. 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.

Results: No exceptions noted.

- 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.

Results: No exceptions noted.

- iii. ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

Results: No exceptions noted.

- 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).

Results: No exceptions noted.

- 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.

Results: No exceptions noted.

- 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.

Results: No exceptions noted.

- vii. **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-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).

Results: No exceptions noted.

- viii. **Travel and Expense Reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.

Results: No exceptions noted.

- 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.

Results: No exceptions noted.

- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.

Results: No exceptions noted.

- x. **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.

Results: No exceptions noted.

- xii. **Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Not applicable to entity

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.

Results: No exceptions noted in the procedures performed.

- 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 funds⁷. Alternately, for those entities reporting on the nonprofit 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.

Results: No exceptions noted in the procedures performed.

- 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.

Results: Not applicable to entity

- 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: Not applicable to the entity

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 four 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 two months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);

Results: No exceptions noted in the procedures performed.

- ii. Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management/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

Results: No exceptions noted in the procedures performed.

- 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 reconciling items noted over 12 months.

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 (i.e., five collection locations for five deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, 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.

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 noted in the procedures performed.

- 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 noted in the procedures performed.

- 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 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 noted in the procedures performed.

5. Nonpayroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, 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/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.

Results: No exceptions noted in the procedures performed.

- 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 noted in the procedures performed.

6. Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-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.

Results: No exceptions noted in the procedures performed.

- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #7B 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 in 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 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 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 each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Exception: Of the 5 transactions tested, 1 reimbursement included a missing receipt form, which appears to be an isolated occurrence as all other itemized receipts were provided. The same reimbursement did not include documentation of business purpose.

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 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, was approval documented).
- iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the five contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Exception: Of the 5 invoices sampled, 1 did not agree to the terms of the contract.

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 noted in the procedures performed.

- 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 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 any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records.
 - iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agree to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

Results: No exceptions noted in the procedures performed.

- 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.

Exception: No exceptions noted in the procedures performed.

- 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 in 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.

Results: No exceptions noted in the procedures performed.

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

Results: Not applicable to entity

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 noted in the procedures performed.

- 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: Not applicable to the entity

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 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.

Exception: We did not observe the fraud notice posted to the website; no other exceptions noted in 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. 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.

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: Not applicable to entity

We were engaged by Jefferson Rise Charter 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 Jefferson Rise Charter 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.



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Glendora California
October 31, 2023



JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL
LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR'S STATEWIDE AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

November 30, 2023

Jefferson RISE Charter School respectfully submits the following corrective action plan for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Audit period: 7/1/22-6/30/23

The findings from the schedule of findings and questioned costs are discussed below. The findings are numbered consistently with the numbers assigned in the schedule.

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

Exception: Of the 5 transactions tested, 1 reimbursement included a missing receipt form, which appears to be an isolated occurrence as all other itemized receipts were provided. The same reimbursement did not include documentation of business purpose.

Explanation of disagreement with finding: There is no disagreement with the finding.

Action planned/taken in response to finding: Employees that are responsible for submitting travel and travel-related expense reimbursements will be reminded to collect all receipts as required in the Employee Handbook. The employee reviewing reimbursement requests will check the reimbursement request against each receipt before approval, ensuring that a business purpose is clearly stated.

Name (s) of the contact person(s) responsible for corrective action: Chris Daniels

Planned completion date for corrective action plan: 11/30/23

8A Contracts

Exception: Of the 5 invoices sampled, 1 did not agree to the terms of the contract.

Explanation of disagreement with finding: There is no disagreement with the finding.

Action planned/taken in response to finding: Before approving invoices for payment, invoices will be checked against contracts to ensure each item corresponds to the correct contracted amount.

Name (s) of the contact person(s) responsible for corrective action: Chris Daniels

Planned completion date for corrective action plan: 11/30/23

12B Fraud Notice

Exception: We did not observe the fraud notice posted to the website; not other exceptions noted in the procedures performed.

Explanation of disagreement with finding: There is no disagreement with the audit finding.

Action planned/taken in response to finding: Fraud notice will be posted to the website.

Name (s) of the contact person(s) responsible for corrective action: Kathleen Sullivan

Planned completion date for corrective action plan: 11/30/23

If the Louisiana Legislative Auditor has questions regarding this plan, please contact Kathleen Sullivan at 504.715.8048.