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March 28, 2011

California Charter School Division
Atten: Jay Harris
1430 N Street, Suite 5401
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

Dear Mr. Harris:

Mountain Peak Charter School ("MPCS") offers the following as mitigating circumstances to request a 100% funding determination. 2009-2010 was the school's first year of operation and in 2010-2011 MPCS plans to make progress while committing funds and resources to promote academic achievement and instructional effectiveness.

While MPCS is an independent study charter, we very much believe that students are successful when they receive academic support on a consistent basis, which is why learning center classes are provided. We expend a fairly significant amount on leases to maintain a number of learning centers (Vista, Chula Vista, Tustin, and San Jacinto), which are spread across three counties (San Diego, Orange, and Riverside). In 2009-2010, a majority of Services & Operating Costs (\$393,395 out of a total of \$542,794) as noted in Section III-B(2)(c) were committed to rent payments associated with leases for these aforementioned learning centers. Students are very much encouraged to take learning center enrichment classes, use the school's computer labs, and/or meet face-to-face with teachers for tutorial support or other academic assistance.

The school maintains a Resource Library that is continually being updated with new curriculum to support student learning. A large number of used textbooks were acquired towards the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year at a discount from another charter school that was closing, resulting in lower expenditures for Books & Supplies. However, with increased student enrollment from 2009-2010, heading into 2010-2011 with growth targets of approximately 6-9%, increased levels of expenditures for instructional materials should be higher year over year.

The student / teacher ratio is at 19:1 and is expected to steadily rise to meet the target of 25:1 in accordance with overall student enrollment trends and normalization of staffing levels.

Sincerely,



Elmer Lee
Managing Director – Business Services

Where there are many paths to a relevant education...