



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Letter of Concern for Lifeline Education Charter School

March 21, 2012

Ms. Paula DeGroat
Lifeline Education Charter School
357 East Palmer Street
Compton, CA 90221

Subject: Letter of Concern for Lifeline Education Charter School

Dear Ms. DeGroat:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the administration of Lifeline Education Charter School (Lifeline) that the California Department of Education (CDE) has some specific areas of concern that are in need of improvement, and to present a course of action to attempt to remedy these concerns.

The CDE is continuing to review all aspects of Lifeline's charter as part of the renewal process. However, we have identified several concerns regarding teacher credentialing that required immediate action as indicated below. Upon further review, other areas may be discovered that will require additional attention from Lifeline administration.

The CDE, as required by California *Education Code (EC)* 47605 (I), is conducting a review of all credentialing certificates, permits, and other documents as they relate to current staffing of the Lifeline faculty. The CDE would like to request additional clarifying information regarding the topics below:

1. Appropriate Authorizations:
 - a. English Learners (EL) Authorization: Please identify the steps to obtain EL authorization for all faculty in need of such authorizations.
 - b. Please provide a copy of credentials held by Falen Demas.
 - c. Short term Staff Permit (STSP): Please provide documentation that a STSP has been requested for Juan Medina and Obed Narthey.
 - d. Special Education: Please describe Lifeline's plan for acquiring a Special Education credential for India Preto.

2. Teacher Induction Program:

- a. Please describe and list the participants in the current new teacher induction program at Lifeline.

Additionally, initial review has identified several teachers who are currently teaching outside of their field of authorization. For example, multiple subject-credentialed teachers are assigned departmentalized classes at both the middle and high school. Review indicates credentials held do not support your master schedule. Please provide a detailed plan for obtaining the appropriate authorizations for each teacher as outlined in your master schedule.

Please provide evidence regarding staffing and credentials no later than April 3, 2012. The CDE staff is available to offer technical assistance as needed.

Failure to provide substantial evidence that refutes, remedies, or proposes to remedy the alleged violations may provide grounds sufficient to form the basis for an action to revoke the Lifeline charter pursuant to *EC* Section 47607(c).

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Dmitriy Voloshin, Educational Programs Consultant, Charter Schools Division, by phone at 916-323-0482 or by e-mail at dvoloshin@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Julie Baltazar, Director
Charter Schools Division

JB:dv