



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

TOM TORLAKSON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Sent via First Class Mail and E-mail to:
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mjil@rsed.org

February 13, 2018

Dr. Frederick Ferrer, President of the Rocketship Education Board
Marie Gil, Bay Area Regional Director
Rocketship Futuro Academy
350 Twin Dolphin Drive, Suite 109
Redwood City, CA 941265

Dear Dr. Ferrer and Director Gil:

Subject: Letter of Concern Regarding the Operation of Rocketship Futuro Academy,
Request for Corrective Action, and Additional Documentation

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of several concerns the California Department of Education (CDE) has for Rocketship Futuro Academy (RFA) with regard to its adherence to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the California State Board of Education (SBE) and RFA, and RFA's fidelity to the conditions, standards, and procedures set forth in the charter. The concerns and required corrective actions for RFA are as follows:

- **Response to Requests for Plan to Address Non-Compliance Concerns:**

To date, RFA has not provided to the CDE a response to non-compliance concerns with a corrective action plan in the letter dated November 1, 2017, from Nick Schweizer, Deputy Superintendent, Systems Support Branch (Enclosure 1).

- **Corrective Action–Action Plan For English Language Development (ELD) Instruction:** Explicit ELD instruction to support English learner (EL) pupils, as outlined on p. 84 and pp. 90–92 of the RFA charter petition is not currently being implemented. The Rocketship Education (RSED) Board must provide documentation to demonstrate the appropriate levels of support and designated ELD instruction for EL pupils enrolled at RFA including, but not limited to, the master schedule with ELD protected time within the instructional day; copies of the RFA annual EL placement letter to parents of ELs; and EL reclassification notification letters to parents of ELs. This

documentation must be submitted to the CDE no later than **February 15, 2018.**

- **Corrective Action–Action Plan For Teacher Credentialing:** On November 29, 2017, the CDE was provided information from RFA, which indicates that Reasey Ngoun-Colon is now in possession of a District Intern Credential and Adiagha Mbonisi is no longer a teacher at RFA. However, in reviewing the credential template provided by RFA on September 15, 2017, and searching the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) Web site the CDE finds that of the ten RFA teachers for the 2017–18 school year, four teachers hold a district intern credential; three teachers hold a preliminary multiple subject credential; one teacher holds a clear multiple subject credential; and two teachers, Nicole Arroyo and Bindya Bhakta, have no credential. Additionally, one teacher, Deborah Angulo needs EL authorization and to pass the basic skills test.

As the employer of record, the RSED Board must provide the CDE with a plan that includes details on how the classes currently being taught by the two non-credentialed teachers, Bindya Bhakta and Nicole Arroyo will be served by appropriately credentialed teachers until credential non-compliance is resolved. The RSED Board must provide CDE with information confirming that Reach is the program in which the district intern credential holders, Reasey Ngoun-Colon, Yudith Dian, Lani Dela Torre, and Rachel Gacerez are enrolled, as well as the approved induction program in which the preliminary multi-subject credential holders, Carly Russavage, Deborah Angulo, and Maggie Ryan are participating. The RSED Board must also provide an update on where Ms. Angulo is in the process of becoming certified. This plan must be submitted to the CDE no later than **March 5, 2018.**

Please submit the requested information and documentation via e-mail to SBEOVERSIGHT@cde.ca.gov.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Christy Gardner, Education Programs Consultant, Charter Schools Division by phone at 916-319-0542 or by e-mail at cgardner@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Lisa F. Constancio, Director
Charter Schools Division

LFC:jh

cc: Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director, California State Board of Education

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Nick Schweizer, Deputy Superintendent, Systems Support Branch, California
Department of Education