

January 26, 2016

RECEIVED

FEB - 1 2016

OFFICE OF FEDERAL AND  
STATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Ms. Molly Spearman  
State Superintendent of Education  
South Carolina Department of Education  
1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Board of Trustees**

**RE: STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FIVE-YEAR  
STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Cindy Bohn Coats, Chair**  
4458 South Rhett Avenue  
North Charleston, SC 29405

**Chris Staubes, Vice Chair**  
126 Seven Farms Drive, Suite 200  
Charleston, SC 29492

**Rev. Chris Collins**  
75 Calhoun Street  
Charleston, SC 29401

**Kate Darby**  
245 Indigo Bay Circle  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

**Tom Ducker**  
2357 Sorentrve Avenue  
North Charleston, SC 29405

**Todd P. Garrett**  
338 President Street  
Charleston, SC 29403

**Rev. Dr. Eric Mack**  
5446 Rosebank Road  
Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

**Michael Miller**  
1660 Pierpont Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29414

**Tripp Wiles**  
184 East Bay Street, Suite 103  
Charleston, SC 29401

Dear Superintendent Spearman:

Over the past year, the Charleston County School District has endured several changes in leadership and organizational structure stemming from the departure of senior level personnel such as the former Superintendent, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Academic Officer, and others. While these positions have since been filled in either an interim or permanent capacity, the District is still bolstering organizational capacity under its new leadership, and acclimating to the new roles and functionalities within its system.

Furthermore, the District is currently facing a \$25 million budget deficit and undergoing a forensic audit, greatly impacting financial and human capital resources in all departments within the organization. With the upcoming expiration of the District's State Department of Education five-year strategic plan and the establishment of new leadership, the District desires to closely evaluate its previous strategic planning process and outcomes, as well as, identify new performance goals, strategies, and action plans appropriately given its current financial and human capital challenges.

In an effort to execute the strategic planning process in a manner that is both holistic and meaningful, the District would like to request a one-year grace period for the filing of its 2017-2021 strategic plan with the State Department of Education. If granted, this extension would enable the District and its leadership the time necessary to fully engage all of its internal and external stakeholders in the strategic planning process and to evaluate its current programs, data, and assessment metrics to determine the best way to measure student achievement, school climate, and educator quality in its schools. This

extension would also allow the District to encompass its State Department of Education five-year strategic plan in its new expanded five-year strategic plan, currently being developed with The Cambrian Group and CCSD and community members.

Thank you for the consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.

GP:rsk

c: Roy M. Stehle, Director  
Office of Federal and State Accountability