



SOVEREIGN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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Response to Quarterly Report on Probationary Accreditation Status

Sovereign Community School (SCS), October 21, 2021.

By Donald L. (Dusty) Delso, Ph. D, Superintendent of Sovereign Community School.

Opening Statement and Abstract

During the June 2021 meeting of the Oklahoma State School Board, Sovereign Community School gave a presentation to update the status of our school. I've discussed our staffing, curriculum changes, budget, and enrollment. The board was pleased we had experience in our administration and asked if we would be seeking additional funding sources to supplement state aid. We assured them we would and mentioned that we would be evaluating our student test scores.

We were introduced to Rebecca Budd, the Chief of High-Performance Systems and Operations. She indicated we had deficiencies that would be included in our October Quarterly report. We met with her and Brad Clark to discuss their findings. We were given an extremely long list of things we needed to complete and begin doing on a continual basis. This list ranged from financial reporting, improving how we maintain the grass and grounds on campus and moving our campus to a location somewhere in South Oklahoma City. We are currently addressing the list while running the day-to-day operations of our school. An itemized list of our progress is included in this response following our opening.

Our Regional Accreditation Officer, Kelly Bowen conducted our Fall Accreditation visit. He was pleased with our progress. He stated that it was the first time Sovereign had all reports completed and submitted on time. He commended us for our efforts.

We received a \$300,000.00 grant from the Chickasaw Nation, and a \$1,000,000.00 line of revolving credit from the Chickasaw Community Bank to assist us with our reimbursement programs. We have also received over \$20,000.00 in additional private donations for the current fiscal year.

Ms. Budd's requests and requirements are reasonable as we move toward becoming a high-performance school. This list is different from the terms outlined in our original probationary status. Probationary Status is determined by minimal competency. We had satisfied the terms of our original probationary status and received a sterling review from our regional accreditation officer. This clearly indicates that we have achieved minimal competency which is the determining factor for probationary status.

We will continue striving to achieve Ms. Budd's high-performance recommendations as she gives them to us. It will take some time to adjust and additions while we run our school daily, and we ask for your patience and understanding. We are currently focusing on increasing the academic achievements of our students.

Response to Quarterly Report Summary

To Summarize, SCS is required to:

- Have a financial management plan that includes repayment schedules for outstanding obligations and submit monthly financial reports and documentation. Our schedules are current, plan was sent to SDE (Brad Clark)
- Conduct an independent governance audit, add members as needed, and meet with sufficient frequency to address on-going challenges. To be completed by OPSRC Oklahoma Public School Response Center.
- Complete its funding year audit (FY20) completed and submitted to the State Department of Education.
- Comply with law applicable rules, regulations, and policies. SCS complies on a daily basis.

- Submit accurate and timely reports, applications, and data to various SDE functional areas such as School Personnel Records, State Aid, OCAS, Special Education, Federal Programs, and received a Fall 2021 Accreditation Report with no deficiencies and all reports present and on time and is currently looking to complete Child Nutrition and Federal Programs applications and forms with the various State Department offices.
- Submit board and committee meeting agendas, materials corresponding to agenda items, and minutes prior to each board meeting to the Oklahoma State Department of Education (Brad Clark)