Education Audit Appeals Panel State of California

Appeal of 2018-19 Audit Finding 2019-001 by:

EAAP Case No. 21-01

Scale Leadership Academy - East,

OAH No. 2021060242

Appellant.

Decision

The Education Audit Appeals Panel has adopted the attached Stipulated Agreement of the parties as its Decision in the above-entitled matter.

Effective date: November 15, 2021

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date

Joel Montero, Chairperson

for Education Audit Appeals Panel

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California RICHARD T. WALDOW Supervising Deputy Attorney General NICOLE J. KAU Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 292026 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6220 Fax: (916) 731-2125 E-mail: Nicole.Kau@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Respondent		
8	Department of Finance		
9	BEFORE THE EDUCATION AUDIT APPEALS PANEL		
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11			
12	In the Matter of the Audit Appeal of:	OAH Case No. 2021060242	
13	2018-19 Audit Finding 2019-001 by SCALE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY-EAST,	Agency Case No. 21-01	
		SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT	
15	Appellants,		
16	v.		
17 18	CALIFORNIA STATE CONTROLLER, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,		
19 20	Respondents.		
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Appellant SCALE Leadership Academy-East (Appellant), and Respondents Betty Yee, California State Controller (SCO), and DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (Finance) (collectively, the parties, and individually, each, a party) agree to a complete settlement of the above-captioned matter as follows: // //		

RECITALS

- A. The independent accounting firm of Wilkinson Hadley King & Co., L.L.P. (Auditor) conducted an annual financial compliance audit of the Appellant for the fiscal year of 2018-19, the results of which were included in the final audit report issued on or about June 30, 2019.
- B. In Audit Finding 2019-001, the Auditor determined that Appellant's independent study master agreements (agreements) did not meet all of the requirements of Education Code section 51747, subdivisions (a), (b), and (g)(8). Specifically, the agreements did not contain the maximum length of time allowed for completion of assignments, the number of allowed missed assignments before an evaluation, and that independent study is an optional educational alternative. As a result, the auditor disallowed \$2,291,386 received by the Appellant for the 2018-19 fiscal year.
 - C. The SCO certified the subject audit, audit report and audit finding.
- D. Appellant timely filed a request for formal appeal of Audit Finding 2019-001 (the Appeal) pursuant to Education Code section 41344, subdivision (d), instituting the Appeal before the Education Audit Appeals Panel (EAAP).
- E. To avoid the cost and uncertainty of litigation, the parties to this case agree to completely resolve this dispute on the terms and conditions described below.

AGREEMENT

For the purpose of completely settling and resolving the Appeal, the parties, without any admission of liability or wrongdoing, except as provided in section 1 herein, and in furtherance thereof, do agree as set forth below:

1. The Appellant shall repay in full satisfaction of Audit Finding 2019-001, the sum of \$220,000.00. The total amount of the repayment shall be withheld from the Appellant's principal apportionments in equal installments over a period of three (3) years, without interest, commencing with the Appellant's next principal apportionment following EAAP's approval and adoption of the settlement, or notice thereof, whichever is later.

- 2. This stipulated agreement is subject to and conditioned upon approval and adoption by EAAP, pursuant Education Code section 41344.1, subdivision (b) and upon ratification by the Appellant's Governing Board.
- 3. This stipulated agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original. Facsimile and .pdf signatures by the parties and/or their designated representatives are deemed the equivalent of original signatures.
 - 4. The parties shall bear their own attorneys' fees and costs relative to the Appeal.

9 // 10 // 11 // 12 // 13 // 14 // 15 // 16 //

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

19 //

//

//

17

18

20 //

21 //

22 //

23 //

24 //

25

26

27

28

1	Dated:09/30/2021	SCALE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
2 3 4		By:
5 6 7 8	Dated:9\2021_	By: CHRIS SHOCKLEY Executive Director
9 10	Dated:	OFFICE OF THE STATE CONTROLLER
11 12 13 14	Dated:	By: John Dickerson, Staff Counsel Counsel for the Hon. Betty Yee State Controller DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
15 16		By:
17 18	APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY Dated:	ROB BONTA
19 20	Baca.	Attorney General of California RICHARD T. WALDOW
21		Supervising Deputy Attorney General
22		By: Nicole J. Kau Departs Attorney Congrel
23		Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Department of Finance
24		
25		
26		
27	LA2021602239 64500123.docx	

1	Dated:	SCALE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY- EAST
2	e i	DI IOI
3		By: Charlene Wynder, Esq.
4		WYNDER LAW, INC. Attorneys for SCALE Leadership
5		Academy-East
6	Dated:	SCALE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY-
7		EAST
8		By:
9		CHRIS SHOCKLEY Executive Director
10		
11	Dated: 2-70-2021	OFFICE OF THE STATE CONTROLLER
12		20/1
13 14	-	By: John Dickerson, Staff Counsel Counsel for the Hon. Betty Yee
15		State Controller
16	Dated: 9-30-2021	DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
17		By: Ohris Fr
18		CHRIS FERGUSON Program Budget Manager Department of Finance
19	APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY	Department of Finance
20	10/1/01	
21	Dated:	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California
22	*	RICHARD T. WALDOW Supervising Deputy Attorney General
23		By: Nicole J. Kau
24		Nicole J. Kau Deputy Attorney General
25		Attorneys for Department of Finance
26		
27	LA2021602240; 64499582.docx	
28		