

STEPHON J. BOWENS
Managing Attorney
stephon@bowens-averhart.com

BOWENS & AVERHART, PLLC

555 Fayetteville Street, Ste 300
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Office: (919) 741-6798
Fax: (888) 686-0456
www.bowens-averhart.com

SALEISHA N. AVERHART
Attorney at Law
saleisha@bowens-averhart.com

Via: Electronic Mail
Allison.Schaffer@dpi.nc.gov

March 21, 2022

Allison Schaffer, General Counsel
North Carolina State Board of Education
6302 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

**Re: Request to Amend Charter Agreement
Torchlight Academy – 92L**

Dear Attorney Schaffer:

Please allow this letter to serve as a formal request to the North Carolina State Board of Education (“SBE”) to allow the amendment of the Charter Agreement by the Board of Directors. The proposed amendment is for the SBE to formally accept the separation of Torchlight Academy Schools, LLC (the “EMO”) from engagement with Northeast Raleigh Charter Academy d/b/a Torchlight Academy (the “School”). The Charter Agreement executed by the School contemplated an extended ongoing relationship with the EMO. However, in light of recent events the Board of Directors for the School have deemed the ongoing relationship with the EMO to no longer be in the best interests of the School.

For the foregoing reason, the School formally requests the SBE to approve the amendment to the Charter Agreement removing Torchlight Academy Schools, LLC, as its EMO, allowing the School to revert to independent operation as it had prior to the 2015-2016 academic school year. The School is making great strides to address the concerns raised by the SBE and approval of this request is one among many changes that will allow the School to move forward in the future.

Should you have any concerns or questions in the interim, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Stephon J. Bowens
Stephon J. Bowens
General Counsel

Cc: Eric Davis, North Carolina State Board of Education Chairman
Catherine Truitt, Superintendent of North Carolina Public Schools
Dave Machado, Executive Director Office of Charter Schools
Cheryl Turner, Chairperson, Charter School Advisory Board
Stephanie Lloyd, Assistant Attorney General
Ashley Baquero, Office of Charter Schools
Dr. Pam Banks-Lee, Chair Torchlight Academy Board of Directors