

For Immediate Release – June 4, 2021

Bridges Academy

The Board of Directors of Bridges Academy

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*Bridges Academy to Relinquish Charter
School Will Close as Investigation Continues*

It is with great sadness that the Board of Directors of Bridges Academy announces its vote to relinquish its charter and begin the process of closing the school. The closure will be effective June 30, 2021.

In April, the Board engaged an outside consulting team on an interim basis to assist the Board in enhancing and rebuilding our leadership team. This decision was made after leadership and administrative changes within Bridges Academy. During the consultant's initial review process, irregularities within the school's operations were discovered. Soon after this discovery, the State Auditor separately initiated an investigative audit of the school.

The Board has been fully cooperating with the state audit, while also conducting its own investigation into finances, administration, and provision of services. Bridges Academy's consultant team is presently providing leadership support, coordination of the school's internal investigation, and assistance with the state audit.

As both the state audit and the school's investigation have continued, it has become apparent that there were financial irregularities that threaten the financial well-being of the school, and impact Bridges Academy's ability to operate within the boundaries of its charter. These irregularities were concealed from the Board of Directors and have resulted in insurmountable financial challenges. After painstaking reflection and deliberation, on June 4, 2021, Bridges Academy's board of directors voted to relinquish its charter and move forward with closure of the school effective June 30, 2021.

This decision impacts a community of people whose needs have been met by Bridges Academy since 1996. We did not make this decision lightly, and we recognize the uncertainty this creates for our families. We will continue to share information with our community as the investigations move forward, and we will do whatever we can to assist families in next steps.

Bridges Academy has been honored to serve our school community. The Board of Directors will continue its cooperation with the state audit, the Office of Charter Schools, as well as the Charter School Advisory Board and the State Board of Education as we wind down operations.

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