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September 18, 2020

Dear Renew Sci Tech Academy Families,

Thank you for working with NOLA Public Schools and Renew Sci Tech Academy throughout this most unprecedented time in American education. I hope the start of the 2020-2021 school year is going well for you and your family. Your students are our top priority at NOLA Public Schools, and we want to ensure you are well informed about the performance of your school and important decisions related to it that will be made this coming fall.

As a part of our unique school system, all charter schools participate in a routine evaluation process during the last year of their charter contract. As part of my commitment to communicating openly with families, I am writing to let you know that, given the following implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, Renew Sci Tech Academy will be participating in a revised charter school renewal process this year:

- Students did not participate in state standardized testing at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year. Therefore, the state is unable to provide schools with a School Performance Score (SPS) and Progress Index (PI)
- The SPS scores and Progress Index are two data points that the district uses in our standards for charter renewal

My administration has worked to pass policy changes this year that allows me to consider additional information for each school that does not meet the current automatic renewal standards, through a Comprehensive Evaluation Process. Renew Sci Tech Academy currently does not meet our standards for automatic renewal and will participate in the Comprehensive Evaluation process this year.

This process is designed to gather additional data to make an informed decision related to the renewal of your student's school. In addition to your school's written submission, a public hearing will take place on Tuesday, September 22nd at 5pm via Zoom. This will be a time designated for Renew Sci Tech Academy to present data aligned with its current charter term to the school board and myself to help inform us of its progress over its current charter term. The district will also be reaching out to you via email in early October asking you to complete an online survey that will provide us with additional information related to your experiences and satisfaction at Renew Sci Tech Academy. Through this comprehensive process we are requiring your school to host meetings with parents to share academic data and plans for school improvement if it is granted a charter renewal. These meetings will occur during the month of October as well. We strongly advise your participation in these meetings to have your voices heard by your school administration and to hold your school accountable to academic improvement.

You do not need to take any action at this time. We simply want to let you know this is occurring, and that we are available to support you and your family with any questions or needs you may have.

When the school district reviews a school's performance, it determines to what extent schools have met specific standards, as described in the Charter School Accountability Framework, which focus primarily on student learning outcomes. We also review how well schools have complied with federal, state and local law and policy. You can learn more about our renewal standards on pages 5-8 at: <https://opsb.us/schools/charter-school-performance-framework/>.

If a school meets the performance standards, it will be renewed and continue to serve students for years to come. If a school does not meet those performance standards, the school district will consider other options which are either identifying a new organization to lead the school or ensuring you have priority in choosing a new school for the following school year. Due to the impact of COVID-19, this year all schools that did not meet the automatic renewal standard will be allowed to participate in the Comprehensive Evaluation Process described above.

Renewal decisions will be made no later than December 19, 2020. All schools participating in this process will continue to serve students for the remainder of this school year as normal. You will hear again from the school district as soon as the renewal decision is made final and we will work with you on any next steps that may be needed.

Again, no action is needed on your part. However, if you have any questions, you can reach NOLA Public Schools at 504-304-3520. Otherwise, please continue to enjoy the school year and look for additional information later this year. Thank you.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henderson Lewis, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H' and a distinct 'Jr.' at the end.

Dr. Henderson Lewis Jr., Superintendent