



August 30, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Hmong College Prep Academy
1515 Brewster Street
St Paul, MN 55108

Dear Ms. Robideau and Dr. Hang,

This letter is to inform Hmong College Prep Academy (HCPA) of the results of the SY 2020-2021 Site Visit and subsequent reviews prompted by Minnesota Department of Education inquiries.

Hmong College Prep Academy has qualified for Authorization Level 3.

As an authorizer, Bethel University holds the schools it authorizes accountable in four major areas: academic and educational program; fiscal management - budget and finances; governance and leadership; and, operations and legal compliance.

Bethel conducted a review of HCPA in the fall of 2020. A draft of the 2020-2021 HCPA Assessment Rubric and Summary was shared with school leadership and the HCPA board in the March 31, 2021 board packet. It is attached for your reference. The Assessment Rubric and Summary could not be finalized at that time because of the missing FY20 audit. The final 2020-2021 HCPA Assessment Rubric and Summary, attached, replaces the earlier draft. The final Assessment Rubric and Summary has been completed to include recently discovered evidence, which is summarized in the following paragraphs.

Between April 2021 and July 2021 Bethel University, as HCPA's authorizer, received multiple inquiries from the Minnesota Department of Education regarding HCPA's conduct in the area of conflict of interest. These inquiries and the subsequent investigation produced evidence of significant concerns in the areas of finance, governance, and legal compliance. These consequential issues and violations of state statute warrant Bethel to issue a Level 3 authorization status. The findings indicate ongoing failures, necessitating remediations that go beyond Authorization Level 2.

The attached timeline of events related to a five-million-dollar investment with Woodstock illustrates areas of great concern related to managing finances, governance, and legal compliance. To serve the public good and preserve the school's interests, HCPA is required to complete the

directed corrective action plan. The components of the plan are listed in the Final 2021-2021 HCPA Assessment Rubric and detailed in the attached Corrective Action document. The corrective actions will be reviewed at the 2021-2022 site visit or as described in the Corrective Action document.

In addition to the corrective action plan, Bethel, as HCPA's authorizer, is recommending the following:

- The HCPA Board is led by a board member who is not a HCPA employee.
- The HCPA Board terminates the current superintendent and fills the position with a highly qualified candidate with no prior connection to HCPA.
- The HCPA Board hires an outside board consultant, whose qualifications are reviewed and approved by Bethel as authorizer, to fulfill the roles outlined in the corrective action plan.

Sincerely,



Heather Ross
Partnerships Coordinator
Department of Education

cc: Mr. Daron Korte, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education
(email only)
Paula Higgins, Charter Center, Minnesota Department of Education (email only)

attachments

DRAFT 2020-2021 HCPA Assessment Rubric and Summary
Final 2020-2021 HCPA Assessment Rubric and Summary
Corrective Action Plan
Timeline of events