

**South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC)
Annual Standards Assurance Form**

H.4077 (R.247) as Signed by the Governor on May 18, 2018

2018-19

Document A – Application for Continued Participation in ECENC Program

Please complete the information requested below concerning your independent school. This information will be listed on the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee's website, www.eoc.sc.gov.

Independent School Name:	Palmetto Christian Academy
Independent School Contact Person:	Lisa Shimakonis
Independent School Address:	301 Egypt Road
City, State, Zip Code:	Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
Independent School Telephone Number:	(843) - 881-9967
Independent School Fax Number:	(843) - 881-4662
Independent School E-mail Address:	admissions@palmettochristianacademy.org
Independent School Website Address:	www.palmettochristianacademy.org

Please review the standards below based on H.4077 (R.247) as signed by the Governor on May 18, 2018. An "eligible school" is defined as "an independent school including those religious in nature, other than a public school, at which the compulsory attendance requirements of Section 59-65-10 may be met," and does not discriminate based on the grounds of race, color, or national origin. Please indicate whether your school has met each standard to ensure the following academic requirements are being met. The S.C. Education Oversight Committee reserves the right to request additional documentation to show the school is in compliance with state law.

STANDARDS	YES	NO
1. Offers a general education to primary or secondary school students.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is located in this state.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Has an educational curriculum that includes courses set forth in the state's diploma requirements, graduation certificate requirements (for special needs children), and where the students attending are administered national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, at progressive grade levels to determine student progress. Please	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Has school facilities that are subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is a member in good standing of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, the South Carolina Independent Schools Association, or the Palmetto Association of Independent Schools.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Provides a specially designed program or learning resource center to provide needed accommodations based on the needs of exceptional needs students or provides onsite educational services or supports to meet the needs of exceptional needs students, or is a school specifically existing to meet the needs of only exceptional needs students with documented disabilities. Please provide a summary of the services provided based on exceptional needs of students served.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Did this school receive any grants last fiscal year (July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018) from Exceptional SC from the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund? Please complete Document B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. By December 31, 2018, will your school submit school-level test score results from the prior school year on national achievement tests and individual student test scores for students who received a grant from Exceptional SC in the prior school year? Please complete Document C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. By December 31, 2018, will your school provide a "compilation, review, or compliance audit of the organization's financial statements as relating to the grants received, conducted by a certified public accounting firm"? Please complete Document D.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I assure that all documents submitted to the SC Education Oversight Committee for the purpose of applying as an eligible school, as defined by state law, is true, accurate, and complete under penalty of perjury in accordance with Section 16-9-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Signature: Lisa Shimakonis

Date: 6-29-2018

Print Name of Signature Above: Lisa Shimakonis

Title: Director of Admissions

Email: admissions@palmettochristianacademy.org

Return this form to Melanie Barton

- Phone: 803.734.6148
- E-mail: mbarton@eoc.sc.gov
- Mail: P.O. Box 11867
Columbia, S.C. 29211
- Fax: 803.734.6167
- Physical Location:
1205 Pendleton Street
Room 502 Brown Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Summary of Special Services Provided by the Resource Room at Palmetto Christian Academy

Accommodations Plans (similar to 504 Plans in the public school setting) – A written plan summarizing the findings of a psycho-educational evaluation and the recommended accommodations based upon that evaluation. The plan is signed by teachers, administrators, parents, and the coordinator of the resource room services. The plan is reviewed and if necessary revised each academic year.

Study Skills Class – One-on-one or small group instruction, training students in the science and art of evidence-based study skills' strategies; applying these strategies to the work given to them from the regular classroom teachers. Meets one to two times per week.

Rx for Discovery Reading - One –on-one or small group reading intervention for those identified as having reading difficulties; applying the 5 components of reading as identified by the National Reading Panel (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension). This is a pull-out program that meets twice weekly for 45 minutes.

Rx for Discovery Math – One –on-one or small group math intervention for those identified as having math difficulties. This pull-out program meets twice weekly instructing the students in the areas of number sense, mathematical vocabulary, numerical concepts, estimation, calculation, and applied mathematics in word problems.

Educational Therapy (“Discovery”) – Students are identified through a psycho-educational evaluation as having specified learning disabilities. This is a one-on-one educational therapy program. It is under the auspice of the National Institute for Learning Development (NILD). This is a pull-out program that meets twice weekly for 80 minutes per session.

In order to develop successful, independent learners, NILD Educational Therapy® focuses on developing four key components:

- **cognition**
- **perception**
- **academics**
- **emotions**

Our **focus** is to address the underlying causes of learning difficulties rather than simply treating the symptoms. NILD educational therapy is a true **therapy** because it is individualized and aims the intervention just above the student's level of functioning and raises expectations for performance. Students are trained to view themselves as **competent, confident** learners.

The **goal** of NILD Educational Therapy® is to help students develop **tools** of independent learning in the classroom and in life.

Our **interventions** can be one-on-one or small group. Each session includes a variety of techniques designed to address students' specific areas of difficulty and to improve their overall ability to **think, reason, and process** information. Techniques emphasize basic skill areas such as reading, writing, spelling, and math, as well as applying reasoning skills within each area. Students are taught by highly trained NILD Educational Therapists who utilize our unique methodology.

**Document B
Grants Received**

**Application for Continued Participation
Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Program
2018-2019**

Independent School Name: Palmetto Christian Academy

An independent school continuing to participate in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children for Fiscal Year 2018-19 is required to submit the following information:

Total number of grants and total amount of grants received in the preceding fiscal year, from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Please complete the following chart. If no grants for any qualifying student were received from Exceptional SC in Fiscal Year 2017-18, please indicate with "0" grants received and "\$0" in total amount of grants received.

Total Number of Grants Received	Total Amount of Grants Received
2 11	\$ 32,413.09

Total number of grants is the number of individual children/students who received a grant even if the school received more than one grant for a specific child/student. The total amount of grants per child/student should not have exceeded \$11,000.

Document C
Student Assessment Data

Application for Continued Participation
Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Program
2018-2019

Independent School Name: Palmto Christian Academy

An independent school applying for continued participation in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program for Fiscal Year 2018-19 is required to submit the following information **by December 31, 2018**:

Student test scores, by category, on national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, for all grades tested and administered by the school receiving or entitled to receive scholarship grants pursuant to this section in the previous school year. The school shall also provide individual student test scores on national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, for any student in grades one through twelve who received a grant from the program during the prior school year. The information must be used to provide program level reports to determine whether students participating in the program have experienced measurable improvement. Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement.

Section 12-6-3790(E)(1)(b)

The information will be used to issue an annual report.

Annually, the Education Oversight Committee shall issue a report to the General Assembly documenting the impact of the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program on student achievement. In addition, the report must include information on individual schools if at least fifty-one percent of the total enrolled students in the private school participated in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program in the prior school year. The report must be according to each participating private school, and for participating students, in which there are at least thirty participating students who have scores for tests administered. If the Education Oversight Committee determines that the thirty participating-student cell size may be reduced without disclosing personally identifiable information of a participating student, the Education Oversight Committee may reduce the participating-student cell size, but the cell size may not be reduced to less than ten participating students.

Section 12-6-3790(E)(6)

Schools applying for continued participation in the ECENC Program must provide the following:

- 1. School-level assessment results** for school year 2017-18 on national achievement tests for all grades tested in the school and for each grade with at least 10 students tested. Information should be provided for English language arts (reading) and mathematics achievement of students in the grade. Examples include: *TerraNova*, *Stanford 10*, *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*, etc. For grades 9-12, the school may provide average PSAT, SAT, ACT, or other scores as appropriate.

For schools that specifically exist to meet the needs of only exceptional needs students with documented disabilities, the EOC will work with the schools to provide information (including formative assessments, portfolios, etc.) that document the students' academic and social development.

How many students were enrolled in your school in 2017-18? 483

The following is a **template** that you may use for reporting purposes. For questions, contact the EOC office.

**2017-18 School Year Results for (NAME OF ASSESSMENT)
National Percentiles, Mean (Average) Scale Scores, Grade Equivalents, etc.**

Grade	English language arts (Reading)	Mathematics
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

- 2. Individual student test scores** on national achievement tests for any child who received a grant from the program during the 2017-18 school year. No personally identifiable information will be published; instead, the information will be aggregated at the school or state level as stipulated in law.

Each school will have access to a secure data portal to upload individual student assessment results, which will include personally identifiable information. The portal will capture, at a minimum, the following information:

- Name of the student who received a grant from Exceptional SC in the prior school year along with data including date of birth, sex, grade level, etc. to ensure that the assessment results can be matched to the individual student who received a grant;
- For each student who received a grant, the results of a national assessment or assessments in 2017-18 and if possible, in 2016-17 as well to document academic growth. The name of the assessment as well as scale scores for students or national percentile ranks must be included; and
- If a student received a grant but due to the student's exceptional needs was not able to be assessed with a national assessment, the school must provide an explanation by student of the reason why a national assessment was not administered and how the school is measuring academic and personal growth for each student not assessed.

Please identify one staff person from your school who will provide the individual student test scores from this school:

Name:

Lisa Shimalkonis

Title:

Director of Admissions

Telephone Number:

843-881-9967

Email Address:

lisas@palmtechnicianacademy.org

2017-2018 School Year Results for Terra Nova Assessment
National Percentiles Mean Scale Scores

Grade	English Language Arts (Reading)	Mathematics
K	91	75
1	95	85
2	79	74
3	84	83
4	75	66
5	83	79
6	75	65
7	75	79
8	89	83
9	85	78
10	77	65



HYLAND RUDDY & GARBETT, CPAs, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS • CONSULTANTS

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Palmetto Christian Academy

SC Educational Oversight Committee

We have examined Palmetto Christian Academy's compliance with the requirements listed on the attached letter during the school year 2017-2018. Management of Palmetto Christian Academy is responsible for Palmetto Christian Academy's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on Palmetto Christian Academy's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether Palmetto Christian Academy complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether Palmetto Christian Academy complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

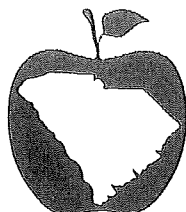
Our examination does not provide a legal determination on Palmetto Christian Academy's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, Palmetto Christian Academy complied, in all material respects, with compliance the requirements listed in Attachment A. during the school year 2017-18.

Hyland Ruddy & Garbett CPAs, LLC.

Mt. Pleasant, SC

December 20,2018



EXCEPTIONAL SC

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Dear Headmaster,

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Exceptional SC, we have enclosed a list of your school's Exceptional SC scholarship award recipients for the Fall 2018 semester.

We are very excited to send you this scholarship money earlier in the school year than ever before. **As the only authorized organization for this special needs scholarship program**, we take our responsibility seriously and have worked hard in the past month to not only raise the entire \$12 million that state law allows, but also to ensure an efficient and timely awards process.

As you might know, we set two new records for the program just this summer:

1. Nearly 2,900 students applied to the program this year, and
2. We actually raised ALMOST \$17 million dollars in our fundraising stage.

It truly broke our hearts to have to return almost \$5 million that exceeded our legislatively-mandated cap to those donors who wanted to support the work that you are doing for these children. Without the cap, we could have funded nearly EVERY single student who applied with the money we raised.

Just so you are aware, we have notified the parents of students who will not be receiving a Fall 2018 scholarship and will be reevaluating available funding for those students in Spring 2019.

We absolutely plan to grow and expand this program in the coming years. Now that we have been codified into permanent law, we can more readily push for additional funding each year in the state budget. Please be looking for future communications from us on ways to engage your parents in this legislative outreach.

As always, we look forward to working with you. If you have any questions or if there are ways we can assist you, please let us know.

Most sincerely,

Thomas E. Persons, Sr
Chairman of the Board

Chad Connelly
Executive Director