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October 8, 2020

A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation – Florida
Attn: Kimberly Dyson
P.O. Box 15719
Tampa, Florida 33684-5719

Dear Ms. Dyson:

It has come to the Department's attention that your scholarship funding organization, AAA Scholarship Foundation, Inc. failed to find eligible for the 2020-21 school year, a number of 2019-20 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC) families. These denials were based on the students' family income modifications. As you are aware, the 2020 legislative session passed CS/HB 7067 which among other provisions allowed the opportunity for a current FTC student the ability to re-enroll in the program regardless of a family income modification.

As a long time participant and administrator in this program, we value both your fundraising efforts as well as your administrative attention to detail. That said, it's important for our programs that the changes to law be implemented with both fidelity and expediency. In the case of the denied students seeking re-enrollment under FTC, we have submitted those names to Step Up for Students, who in turn have emailed each family to ensure that, if still interested, those families may re-enter the program through their organization.

We understand your concerns with your organization's tax exempt status with the IRS, however, in order to continue participation in Florida's FTC program, all statutory requirements must be observed. The fact is you assured our Department that you would follow Florida laws in writing when you applied and subsequently renewed as a scholarship funding organization. Therefore, we request that you update your assurances to reflect compliance with the revised law by amending AAA's 2021-22 renewal application for scholarship participation. The changes should specifically include the omission of household income verification as an eligibility criteria in the renewal process.

Your response to this request will be placed on the agenda as an item for discussion at our November 10 State Board of Education meeting. We hope that the discussion will reflect your compliance, going forward, and closure to this matter. Thank you in advance for your response. We look forward to our continued partnership in Florida's school choice options.

Sincerely,

Dakeyan Graham, Ph.D.

Dakeyan Graham, Ph.D., Executive Director
Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice