



May 17, 2019

*Good afternoon Odyssey Charter School Community,*

On May 13 we informed the Odyssey Charter School (OCS) community that the Department of Education (DOE) unofficially informed us that OCS will be placed under formal review.

Yesterday, May 16, we received official notification of the Formal Review from DOE. OCS leadership took the time last evening and this morning to collectively review DOE's position. The timeline for the Formal Review is May 28-July 18.

We pride ourselves on transparency and it is important to us that you hear all the specifics directly from the OCS leadership. More details will follow as OCS leadership continues to analyze DOE's notification.

In order to understand what precipitated this Formal Review, we have provided an overview:

- March 19, 2019 – OCS, DOE, and the Delaware Public Integrity Commission (PIC) meet to discuss OCS Board practices and DOE complaints
- April 2, 2019 – PIC delivers an advisory opinion with recommendations on the issues discussed in the March 19 meeting
- DOE's Charter School Office representatives meet twice with administration and requests a plan to address the PIC's recommendations from OCS by May 1
- May 1, 2019 - OCS submits a plan to the DOE to address the PIC's recommendations [Read the OCS Board Plan to DOE](#)
- May 13, 2019 - DOE unofficially informs OCS that the school will be placed on Formal Review
- May 16, 2019 – DOE officially informs OCS that the school is placed on Formal Review and details its position [Read the Formal Review Letter](#)

OCS has been given a forum to address DOE's concerns and a defined process to follow. Through this process, we are optimistic that this will strengthen our trust with DOE and you, our OCS community.

It is important to remember that DOE and OCS have enjoyed a strong relationship and we have been working together since the school's inception.

The OCS Board and OCS leadership will announce dates for a town hall meeting shortly.

We are a family and we *deeply* value the trust you have in us. Together we will continue to work towards one goal – the success of our 1800 students.

Joe Wolcott, Denise Parks, and Riccardo Stoeckicht