

**MEMORANDUM**

**To: SUNY Authorized Charter School Leaders, Board Chairs and Fiscal Contacts**

**From: Barbara Acenowr, Managing Director for Finance and Operations**

**Subject: Guidance: 2019-20 Annual Audit Submission**

**Date: July 29, 2020**

The Institute would like to take this opportunity to remind charter school education corporations about submission dates for the following reports. Please note that all information due to the Institute needs to be submitted via the [Epicenter portal](https://my.epicenternow.org/Login) (<https://my.epicenternow.org/Login>) in order to be recorded as received and processed.

Documents sent to any email address may not be redirected and/or processed.

Please be sure your education corporation submits the information correctly and timely.

**Audited Financial Reports and Related Year End Documents for the Fiscal Year 2019-20**:

The Institute has posted an Audit Guide for SUNY authorized charter schools on the Institute website at [www.newyorkcharters.org/fiscal/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/fiscal/).

**In accordance with the charter agreement, due on November 1st of each year are the following audit-related items (grace period to November 2, 2020, because of a weekend):**

* **Institute’s Audited Financial Report Template** (Excel) which can be found on the Institute’s website at [www.newyorkcharters.org/fiscal/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/fiscal/).
* **Audited Financial Report** (PDF – all combined into one file if possible) from the independent auditors covering all the requirements. And, if existing, any of the following:
  + management letter;
  + management letter response;
  + advisory letter;
  + corrective action plan; and,
  + Federal Single Audit (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F) if the education corporation received more than $750,000 in federal funding or the Single Audit Exemption Form.
* **COVID-19 Financial Impact** – (PDF) which can be found on the Institute’s website at [www.newyorkcharters.org/fiscal/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/fiscal/) . Please provide narrative answers to provide clarity as to the financial impact (savings and cost overages) experienced from COVID-19 shutdown.
* **Form 990** (PDF) or, if the education corporation has filed for an extension with the IRS, Form 8868 (PDF). If filing for an extension with the IRS, please be certain to state the reason on the transmittal sheet in the Institute’s Audit Template (Excel) and indicate when the education corporation expects to complete the tax return. Once the tax return is completed and filed, please upload a copy via the Epicenter portal to ensure that the Institute has access to your education corporation’s most recent filing. Lastly, please verify that the IRS filings can be found on GuideStar at [www.guidestar.org/](http://www.guidestar.org/)
* **ESSA Financial Transparency Reporting** – To make the federal ESSA reporting as seamless as possible, SUNY has created a crosswalk from the existing functional expense spreadsheet already required as part of the audit submission to autofill the ESSA reporting requirements. Refer to the link for the most up to date draft and final reporting guidance:

[**http://www.p12.nysed.gov/psc/documents/ESSAFiscalTransparencyGuidanceforCharterSchools.pdf**](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/psc/documents/ESSAFiscalTransparencyGuidanceforCharterSchools.pdf)

**The Institute recognizes that audit reports issued by independent auditors vary in layout and no one format meets every education corporation’s needs. This variation between reports is one of the reasons why the Institute requires the use of the standardized Excel template (that includes four schedules and a transmittal form). It is recommended for schools wishing to simplify the template input process to request their auditor to provide at least the same level of detail required by the Institute’s template.**

***Do not in any way attempt to alter the template as the cells are linked to other pages and calculations.***

**PLEASE NOTE: The Institute uses financial data entered on the audit templates as source documents for upload into the SUNY Fiscal Dashboard.**