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Daniel P. Foganholi, Sr.
Erika Fritz-Ochs
Luis Fuste

March 10, 2026

VIA CERTIFIED AND REGULAR MAIL

Crystal River Learning Academy (via email and U.S. mail)
Attn: Tara Salute
406 NE 1st Street
Crystal River, Florida 34429
Email: tara@crlearningacademy.org

Re: Administrative Complaint – Immediate Suspension of Scholarship Payments and Revocation of Scholarship Program Eligibility

Dear Private School Administrator:

As explained in the attached Administrative Complaint, scholarship payments to Crystal River Learning Academy are immediately suspended, and your eligibility to participate in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Personalized Education Program and the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities will be revoked. The process for challenging such action is identified therein.

If you have any questions about scholarship program requirements, please view our website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org, or contact the School Choice information hotline at 800-447-1636.

Sincerely,

Anastasios Kamoutsas

Enclosure

cc: Step Up for Students
A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation



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FILED AGENCY CLERK
2025 MAR 10 AM 8:36
DEPT OF EDUCATION
TALLAHASSEE FLA

TO: Tara Salute
Crystal River Learning Academy

FROM: Anastasios Kamoutsas

SUBJECT: Administrative Complaint
Kamoutsas v. Tara Salute and Crystal River Learning Academy
Agency Case Number: **DOE-2026-4430**

Crystal River Learning Academy (CRLA) is a registered business provider with Step Up For Students (SUFS) that offers part-time tutoring services to students enrolled in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Personalized Education Program (FTC-PEP) and the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA), in accordance with sections 1002.395 and 1002.394 of the Florida Statutes. According to SUFS records, Tara Salute is the director and owner of CRLA, and she has also been approved under an individual provider account to provide part-time tutoring services. Furthermore, records with the Department of State, Division of Corporations show that Tara Salute is the Chairman/President of CRLA. It is the Commissioner's intention to immediately suspend all scholarship payments to CRLA and Tara Salute, and to revoke the eligibility of both CRLA and Tara Salute to participate in the FTC-PEP and FES-UA scholarship programs for the following reasons:

Unregistered Private School: CRLA represents itself as a full-time private school. Pursuant to section 1002.42(2), Florida Statutes, private schools are required to register with the Florida Department of Education and to submit an annual survey to the Department each year. Department records indicate that CRLA has not registered with the Florida Department of Education nor submitted the required annual survey, this act being contrary to and in violation of section 1002.42(2)(b), Florida Statutes.

Fraud: The Department was notified by an individual that Tara Salute, the owner of CRLA, should not be allowed to work with children due to allegations of having an inappropriate relationship with a minor. In response, the Department contacted SUFS to verify whether CRLA and Tara Salute are registered as approved providers eligible to offer part-time tutoring services.

Following a thorough review of the inquiry, SUFS identified discrepancies and provided the Department with the records for both CRLA and Tara Salute for further investigation. Upon examining these records, the Department found that, to be eligible for part-time tutoring services, appropriate eligibility documents must be submitted. Tara Salute had uploaded a teaching certificate for Chloe Jones as her eligibility documentation. Further investigation revealed that on

February 15, 2015, a final order was issued that permanently revoked Tara Salute's teaching certificate due to her arrest and charge for Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor. Ms. Salute entered into a plea agreement with the State and pled "nolo contendere" to the charge of Child Abuse Without Great Bodily Harm. This constitutes fraud or abuse as contemplated in section 1002.394(4)(b)8., Florida Statutes.

Section 1002.394(8)(b), Florida Statutes, provides that the Commissioner may suspend or revoke program participation or use of program funds by the student or participation or eligibility of an organization, eligible postsecondary educational institution, approved provider, or other party for a violation of section 1002.394, Florida Statutes. Further, section 1002.394(8), Florida Statutes, provides that the Commissioner In determining whether to suspend or revoke participation may consider factors that include, but are not limited to criminal proceedings in which the person or entity or its officers or employees were found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, any offense involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty, or moral turpitude.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to sections 120.569, 120.57, and 1002.421(3)(d)2., Florida Statutes, you are entitled to dispute this decision through legal administrative procedures and to be represented by counsel or other qualified representatives. If you wish to do so, you must make a written request for an administrative hearing in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 28-106 Florida Administrative Code. The Department's agency clerk must receive the written request within 15 calendar days of the date you receive this letter.

The written request must be submitted to:

Chris Emerson, Agency Clerk
Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street, Room 1520
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

If the written request is not received by the Department within 15 days of receipt of this letter, you will waive the opportunity to contest the decision through administrative proceedings, and the Commissioner of Education will issue a final order, subject only to judicial review pursuant to section 120.68, Florida Statutes. Pursuant to section 120.573, Florida Statutes, the respondent is advised that mediation is not available.

Executed on this 10th day of March, 2026.



Anastasios Kamoutsas

[Certificate of Service on the following page]

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was furnished by certified and regular U.S. Mail to:

Crystal River Learning Academy (via email and U.S. mail)
Attn: Tara Salute
406 NE 1st Street
Crystal River, Florida 34429
Email: tara@crlearningacademy.org

this 10th day of March, 2026.



Agency Clerk