

THE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM) Charter School Contract

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2029

Approved by Douglas County School District's Board of Education on <u>April 23, 2024</u>

Approved by STEM Charter School's Board on April 16, 2024

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CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT

FOR THE SCIENCE TECHNOLGY ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM) CHARTER SCHOOL

This Charter School Contract ("Contract") is made and entered into on the dates identified below (the date of the final signature being the "Effective Date" of the Contract) by and between **Douglas County School District RE-1** (the "District") and **The Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM)**, a public charter school organized as a Colorado non-profit corporation (the "School") (collectively, the "Parties").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Colorado General Assembly has enacted the Charter Schools Act, C.R.S. §§ 22-30.5-101 *et seq.* (the "Act"), allowing for the creating and operating of charter schools within the state by its terms and for certain purposes as enumerated in C.R.S. § 22-30.5-102(2) & (3); and

WHEREAS, on or before September 1, 2023, a renewal application was submitted by the STEM School asking the District to renew its contract for a period of five (5) years, commencing on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2029; and

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2024, the District Board of Education ("District Board") adopted a resolution approving the School's charter school renewal for a term of five (5) years (the "Resolution", attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein as **Attachment 1**).

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing Recitals and the mutual understandings, releases, covenants and payments contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

SECTION ONE: ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL

1.1 Term; Conditions Precedent

This contract is effective as of July 1, 2024 and shall continue in effect through June 30, 2029. Although this Contract renews the operation of the School for a period of five (5) years, any financial commitment on the part of the District contained in this Contract is subject to annual appropriation by the District and the Parties agree that the District has no obligation to fund the financial obligations under this Contract other than for the current year of the Contract term. The District has not irrevocably pledged and held for payment sufficient cash reserves for funding the School or for providing services herein for any subsequent fiscal year during the remaining term of the Contract. A School Contract may be renewed for an additional period upon application for renewal in accordance with the state law and District Board approval of the renewal of the application.

1.2 Charter School Corporate Status

The School is incorporated as a Colorado non-profit corporation. The School shall continue to operate as a Colorado non-profit corporation and shall assure that its operation is in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

- A. <u>Compliance with Contract</u>. The School will be bound by and operated in a manner consistent with the terms of this Contract so long as such terms are in accordance with state, federal and local law.
- B. <u>Corporate Purpose</u>. The purpose of the School as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation will be limited to the operation of a charter school pursuant to the Act.
- C. <u>Charter School Legal Status</u>. The School is incorporated as a Colorado non-profit. The School shall continue to operate as a Colorado non-profit corporation and shall assure that its operation is in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The School shall notify the District promptly of any change in its corporate and/or tax exemption status. The School is organized and maintained as a separate legal entity from the District for all purposes of this Contract. As provided by the Act, the School shall constitute a public school in Colorado. Notwithstanding its existence as a separate legal entity, the educational programs conducted by the School are considered to be operated by the School as part of the District. As such, the School is subject to Colorado laws and District policies that apply to all public schools unless waived in accordance with Section 4.5 of this Contract. Further, the School is a public entity within the meaning of C.R.S. § 24-10-106 and is therefore entitled to the protections of the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act. The School also is a local public body within the meaning of C.R.S. § 24-6-402(1)(a), and is additionally subject to the Sunshine Law and the Open Records Act.
- D. <u>Dissolution</u>. Upon dissolution of the School, assets of the School remaining after paying the School's debts and obligations incurred in connection with activities authorized by this Contract, and not requiring return or transfer to donors or grantors, will become the property of the District or another charter school within the District, as determined by the District and the School in advance of dissolution. The School will execute all necessary documents required to convey such items. At the time of donation, any property requiring return or transfer to the donor or grantor shall be clearly marked and properly inventoried. Upon dissolution, all such documentation shall be provided to the District.
- E. <u>Non-Commingling</u>. Assets, funds, liabilities and financial records of the School shall be kept separate from assets, funds, liabilities, and financial records of any other person, entity, or organization including any education management provider whose services are retained by the School as well as other charter schools who retain the services of the same education management provider.

SECTION TWO: DISTRICT-SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP

2.1 District Rights and Responsibilities

- A. <u>Right to Review</u>. The School shall operate under the auspices of, and shall be accountable to, the District and subject to all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, and District policies and regulations including the requirements of the applicable Douglas County Charter School Procedure Manual as revised from time to time, unless specifically waived. All records established and maintained in accordance with the provisions of this Contract, policies and regulations, and federal and state law and regulations shall, subject to the limitations set forth below, be open to inspection and review and made available in a timely manner to District officials. Records include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. School records, including but not limited to, student cumulative files, policies, special education and related services;
 - ii. Financial records;
 - iii. Educational program, including test administration procedures and student protocols;
 - iv. Personnel records, including evidence criminal background checks have been conducted;
 - v. School operations, including health, safety and occupancy requirements;
 - vi. Inspection(s) of the facility or facilities; and
 - vii. Board minutes, meeting notices, agendas, other records, and communications.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the District shall not have access to (1) documents constituting communications with the School's attorney and which are protected by attorney client privilege, or attorney work product doctrine; or (2) documents that would otherwise be executive session minutes, or attorney client consultation in executive session or subject to work product exception relating to negotiations with the District.

The District may make announced or unannounced visits to the School to fulfill its oversight responsibilities. Except in emergencies, and when directed by the Superintendent of Schools, visits should be pre-arranged in a professional manner to avoid needless disruption of the educational process.

B. <u>Complaints</u>. The District agrees to notify the School regarding any complaints about the School that the District receives, whether verbal or written. The notification shall be made within ten (10) business days of receipt of the complaint by the District and shall include

information about the substance of complaint, together with copies of any written communications or evidence, taking into consideration any complainant's request for anonymity. School shall promptly investigate any complaint about the School forwarded from the District pursuant to this Section 2.1.B. and, as appropriate to the nature of the information in the complaint and findings of an investigation, shall take interim measures to address any concern and take prompt remedial action to address the matter. School shall keep the District apprised of interim and remedial measures taken in response to the complaint forwarded to the School by notification to the Choice Programming Office. School's failure to comply with its obligations related to its obligations herein at Section 2.1.B. shall be a material breach of this Contract.

- C. <u>School Health or Safety Issues</u>. The District shall immediately notify the School of any circumstances requiring School closure, lockdown, emergency drills or any other action that may affect the School's health or safety.
- D. <u>Access to Data and Information</u>. The District will timely provide the School with access to any data and information pertaining to the School that it receives from the State or other sources including but not limited to test scores, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) school improvement status, SPF, accreditation, special education, and funding information.
- E. <u>Accreditation Data and Process</u>. The District shall provide to the School in a timely manner the data used by the Colorado Department of Education ("Department") to conduct its analysis of the School's performance and the Department's initial recommendation considering the type of performance plan the School should be required to implement. The District shall give due consideration to any appeal made by the School to the plan assignment, provided that the School has submitted valid and reliable data for consideration in accordance with a reasonable deadline established by the District. The District shall present any appeal it reasonably determines to be valid to the Department as required by law. The District shall provide to the School in a timely manner the final plan assignment determination that the School shall implement, the final accreditation status assigned to the School and the District's assessment of the progress made by the School toward the goals and objectives set forth in Section 6.3 of this Contract.
- F. <u>Access to Student Records</u>. The School shall timely make available to the District information regarding special education and related services for students of the School, and additionally, upon request of the District, shall provide cumulative files of a student or students to the extent necessary in order to comply with reporting requirements imposed by applicable state or federal law. The District shall timely make available to the School cumulative files and/or student information, including but not limited to information regarding special education and related services for students of the School. The School shall use such information exclusively for fulfillment of its educational responsibilities or for compliance with the law and shall not use student information acquired from the District for any other purpose.

2.2 School Rights and Responsibilities

A. <u>Records</u>. The School agrees to comply with all federal, state, and District record keeping and reporting requirements including those pertaining to students, governance, and finance. The School shall be notified in a timely manner following adoption of new or materially modified District policies concerning the maintenance, retention, and disclosure of student records. The School's obligation herein includes maintaining up-to-date information about enrolled students in the District's student information system. In addition, the School and the District shall ensure that records for students enrolling in the School or other District schools are transferred in a timely manner, but not to exceed fourteen (14) business days following request for the same unless prior approval for a delay is provided by the requesting entity. Financial records shall be reported online in accordance with the Financial Transparency Act and any other federal and state laws addressing financial transparency and reconciled at least monthly. All records shall be maintained at the School and shall be open to inspection, consistent with law, during reasonable business hours. The School further agrees to assist the District in accessing or reviewing any records as part of its oversight responsibility or to address its compliance requirements.

B. Notification Provided to the District.

- i. <u>Timely Notice</u>. The School shall timely notify the District (and other appropriate authorities) in the following situations:
 - a) The discipline of employees at the School arising from misconduct or behavior that may have resulted in harm to students or others, or that constituted serious violations of law including an incident of school violence, as that term is defined by C.R.S. § 24-10-106.3; or
 - b) Any complaints filed against the School by any governmental agency including, but not limited to OCR, CCRD, and EEOC.
- ii. <u>Immediate Notice</u>. The School shall immediately notify the District of any of the following:
 - a) Conditions that may cause it to vary from the terms of this Contract, applicable District requirements, or applicable federal or state law;
 - b) Any circumstance requiring the unplanned closure of the School, including, but not limited to, a natural disaster, such as an earthquake, storm, flood or other weather related event, other extraordinary emergency, or destruction of or damage to the School facility or facilities;
 - c) The arrest, dismissal or resignation of any members of the Charter Board or School employees for a crime punishable as a felony, any crime related to the

misappropriation of funds or theft, or any misdemeanor criminal offenses involving children. Additionally, the School shall comply with the provisions of C.R.S. § 22-30.5-110.7 and other relevant laws as required.

- d) Misappropriation of funds;
- e) A default on any obligation, which shall include debts for which payments are past due by sixty (60) days or more; or
- A failure to maintain its corporate status with the Colorado Secretary of State's Office that is not cured within sixty (60) days of notice of the same.
- C. <u>Compliance</u>. The School shall comply with all federal and state laws, local ordinances, and District policies applicable to charter schools, except to the extent that the School has obtained waivers from state law and District policies in accordance with Section 4.5. A list of some, but not all, of the federal and state laws with which the School must comply are listed in **Attachment 2**. Lack of inclusion in **Attachment 2** does not excuse noncompliance or non-performance by the School.
- D. <u>Reports</u>. The School shall provide to the District in a timely manner any reports necessary and reasonably required for the District to meet its oversight and reporting obligations. Required reports include, but are not limited to, those listed below along with projected due dates for the current school year. Timely written notification shall be provided when due dates are changed, or additional reports are to be provided. The District will annually update the list of required reports and due dates and provide this information to the School. Failure to provide any reports within ten (10) calendar days after the date due is a material violation of this Contract, and the District may take actions outlined in Section 2.2.1. If any date identified in this Section and its Subsections falls on a Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday, the report shall be due on the next following business day.
 - i. <u>Reports Related to Accreditation</u>. The School shall provide the District all required documents set forth on the Data Submission timeline that include but are not limited to: (1) a financial statement disclosing costs of administration, instruction, facilities, instructional materials, and other categories of expenditures, and revenues; (2) a description of the assessments used to measure student progress; (3) a summary of student assessment results, including evidence the School met, exceeded, or made reasonable progress toward meeting its objectives; (4) a description of the staffing of the School, summarizing the qualifications of staff members in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act ("ESSA"), if required by CDE or the District; (5) a description of the District services provided to the School and their effectiveness and efficiency; and (6) Colorado Department of Education annual report requirements not otherwise listed above.

- ii. <u>Financial Reports and Reporting of Enrollment Projections</u>. School shall submit required financial reports and enrollment projections as indicated in the timeline below and as otherwise required by this Contract or applicable law. Required financial reports shall be submitted in the format requested by District and in accordance with C.R.S. §§ 22-44-301 *et. seq.*
 - a) Proposed balanced budget for the following school year on or before April 15.
 - b) Projected enrollment for the following school year on or before November 1.
 - c) Revised budget for the present school year on or before December 15.
 - d) Final revised School budget for the current school year on or before May 15.
 - e) Adopted Budget for the following school year on or before May 30.
 - f) Quarterly and Year-End financial reporting: In accordance with Section 7.8, School shall prepare quarterly financial reports for the District in compliance with C.R.S. § 22-45-102(I)(b), and post required reports pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 22-44-301 et seq. Such reports shall be submitted to the District on or before the following dates:
 - 1. 1st Quarter by October 31;
 - 2. 2nd Quarter by January 31;
 - 3. 3rd Quarter by April 30; and
 - 4. 4th Quarter by August 30.

An unaudited year-end financial report shall be submitted by August 30. Any other year-end reports shall be submitted upon request.

- iii. <u>Reporting of Audit</u>: Annual audit drafts are due by October 15 and final copies on or before October 31. Audit information includes an audit performed by a Certified Public Accountant, CDE data pipeline file, and CDE Assurances for Financial Accreditation.
- iv. <u>School Calendar</u>. The School shall provide the school calendar for the following school year on or before November 5 of each year.
- v. <u>Health and Safety Information</u>. The following information shall be reported, including:
 - a) an updated monthly report of fire and safety drills for the current school year pursuant to the School's Emergency Drills Summary on or before the last day

of each month;

- b) updated emergency plans, emergency contact information, etc. to be submitted by September 1, and within seven (7) business days of any revisions thereafter.
- vi. <u>Bond Documentation</u>. The School shall provide closing documents and bank statements no later than five (5) business days after request by District.
- vii. <u>Safe School Plan</u>. The School shall comply with the Colorado Safe Schools Act, including C.R.S.§ 22-32-109.1 and shall comply with District policy addressing safe schools, including Policy No. ADD, unless otherwise waived, and complete the required information annually by August 31 of each school year. The School shall submit the information to the District's Director of Security and the District's Choice Programming Office. The District will be responsible for communicating the information to local responders.
- viii. <u>Governance Information</u>. The School shall provide the following information to the District's Choice Programming Office before the dates, identified below:
 - a) Charter Board membership (i.e., names/contact info, terms) August 15;
 - b) Charter Board member conflict of interest disclosures August 15
 - c) Current Bylaws within ten (10) business days after any material changes, and
 - d) Current Articles of Incorporation within ten (10) business days after any material changes.
- ix. <u>Insurance Certification</u>. The School shall annually provide insurance certification to the District's Choice Programming Office by August 15 for each year of the Contract's term.

E. <u>Procedures Related to Expansion and Replication</u>. The School acknowledges and agrees that its charter is for the operation of a single charter school serving grades K-12 and a Pathways in Technology Early College Program at its main campus located at 8773 S. Ridgeline Boulevard, Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129 as well as supporting secondary locations at 8878 Barrons Blvd., Highlands Ranch, Colorado 801029 and 8920 Barrons Blvd., Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129. The School may move its location only with the written approval of the District, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld if the new location is consistent with the School's mission, vision, and goals. If School desires to expand grade levels at the same location of the existing charter school building(s) or desires to increase student enrollment through additional space, School will follow the expansion procedures set forth in the District's Charter School Procedures Manual. If the School desires to establish one or more

additional school buildings at different locations to serve its existing grade levels in the District using the same education model, then the School shall follow the replication process set forth in the District Charter School Procedure Manual. If the School desires to establish new school building(s) to serve students at its existing grade levels using the same education model as well as to expand grade levels, then School must follow both the expansion and replication procedures identified in the Charter School Procedure Manual.

- F. <u>Plan for Graduation Competencies</u>. School shall maintain a detailed plan outlining the School's graduation competencies which meet Colorado Department of Education requirements.
- G. <u>Indemnification</u>. To the extent permitted by law and not covered by insurance or not otherwise barred by the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, the District and School each agree to indemnify and hold the other and its respective employees, directors, officers, agents and assigns harmless from all liability, claims and demands of third parties arising on account of personal injury, sickness, disease, death, property loss, or damage or any other losses of any kind whatsoever that are proximately caused by the negligent acts of the indemnitor or its respective employees, directors, officers, agents and assigns. The forgoing provision shall not be deemed a relinquishment or waiver of any applicable bar or limitation on liability provided by the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act or other law.
- H. <u>Procedures for Articles of Incorporation and Bylaw Amendments</u>. The School shall follow the requirements of the Colorado Revised Non-Profit Corporations Act in amending its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and shall provide the District with notice of any such material modifications, as defined in Section 3.1 below. The Bylaws or policies of the School shall include a requirement that each Charter Board member annually sign a conflict of interest disclosure, which shall at a minimum meet the requirements set forth in **Attachment 3**.
- I. <u>District-School Dispute Resolution Procedures</u>. In the event any dispute arises between the District and the School concerning this Contract and are not subject to immediate appeal to the State Board of Education (the "State Board"), including but not limited to the implementation of or waiver from any District policies, regulations or procedures, such disputes shall be subject to the dispute resolution process set forth in this Section, unless specifically otherwise provided.
 - i. The School and the District agree that the existence and details of a dispute notwithstanding, both Parties shall continue their performance hereunder without delay except for any performance which may be directly affected by such dispute.
 - ii. Either party shall notify the other party that a dispute exists between them within 30 (thirty) days from the date the dispute arises. Such notification shall be in writing and shall identify the Section of the Contract that is in dispute and the grounds for the position that such Section is in dispute. The matter shall be immediately submitted to

the Lead Administrator and the Superintendent of the School District, or their respective designees, for further consideration and discussions to attempt to resolve the dispute.

- iii. In the event these representatives are unable to resolve the dispute informally, then within thirty (30) days after the date of notification by one Party to the other Party of the existence of a dispute, the matter may be submitted to mediation by notice given by the Requesting Party (the "Moving Party") in writing to the other Party.
- iv. If a Party requests mediation, the Parties shall submit the matter to an independent mediator, who shall be agreed upon by the Parties within fifteen (15) calendar days following the Moving Party's written request for mediation. If the Parties are unable to agree upon a mediator within that time, the Parties shall jointly obtain a list of available mediators from the Judicial Arbiter Group, Denver, Colorado and have it delivered to the Non-Moving Party, who shall strike one, return the list to the Moving Party, and so forth, until one name remains. The remaining person shall be selected as the mediator. This striking process shall be completed within ten (10) days after delivery of the list to the Non-Moving party.
- v. The mediation shall be scheduled and concluded within ninety (90) days of the moving party's written request for mediation, with final written findings entered by the mediator and served on both Parties within said 90-day timeframe. The mediator shall also apportion all costs reasonably related to the mediation equally between both Parties. The mediation process shall be closed to the public and all information submitted during mediation shall be confidential to the extent permitted by law. If the dispute is still not resolved at the conclusion of the mediation, the mediator shall make an advisory recommendation to the District Board, which shall in turn make a decision on the matter and release the mediator's written findings within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the advisory recommendation. The decision of the District Board shall be final; provided, however, that the School may appeal to the State Board concerning those matters within the State Board's jurisdiction in accordance with governing law.
- J. <u>School Violations of Law or this Contract</u>. If the School is subject to nonrenewal or revocation for any of the reasons listed in C.R.S. § 22-30.5-110(3), or any of the other reasons listed in this Contract, is in material (as opposed to merely technical) violation of state or federal law or regulations, or otherwise materially breaches the Contract, the District may, but is not required to, impose other remedies prior to initiating revocation procedures in accordance with Section 11.3. Remedies include, but are not limited to, those listed below. These remedies may be applied individually, in succession, or simultaneously. Prior to taking any of the actions below, the District shall send a notice as provided in subsection I below.
 - i. <u>Withholding Funds</u>. This remedy may be applied in situations where the School could

reasonably take actions to remedy the breach prior to the withholding of funds. The District may only withhold funds in situations as allowed by C.R.S. § 22-30.5-105(2)(c)(IV). Any action taken pursuant to this subsection is subject to review as provided in C.R.S. § 22-30.5-112(8).

- ii. <u>Plan Submission</u>. The District may require the submission of a plan to remedy the deficiency. Upon the written request of the District, the School shall develop a plan to remedy the failure or deficiency and submit it to the District for review and comment. The plan may be revised at the discretion of the School. The District may require the School to review and revise the plan if it reasonably determines that the plan is not effective in remedying the deficiency. This remedy may be applied if the School fails (a) to make progress toward achieving its goals and objectives as described in this Contract after a reasonable period of time, (b) to achieve District accreditation requirements, (c) to implement its educational program as described in this Contract after a reasonable period of time, or (d) fails to complete two or more required reports by the established deadlines.
- iii. <u>Seeking Technical Assistance.</u> The District may require the School to seek technical assistance from a provider if the School is required to prepare and implement a priority improvement plan or turnaround plan. If the School has an education management provider, the School shall seek technical assistance from a provider other than the School's education management provider.
- iv. <u>Exercise of Emergency Powers.</u> The District may request that the Commissioner issue a temporary or preliminary order in accordance with C.R.S. §§ 22-30.5-701 et seq., if the conditions of an emergency exist, as defined therein.
- K. <u>Procedural Guidelines for School Violations of Law or this Contract</u>. Prior to applying a remedy other than seeking an order under the Emergency Powers set forth in C.R.S. §§ 22-30.5-701 *et seq.*, the District shall, to the extent practicable, engage in the following process:
 - i. The District shall give the School written notice of an alleged breach of contract (including, without limitation, a violation of applicable law). The notice shall state the alleged breach, the basis for the finding, the time by which the District expects the alleged breach to be remedied, and the expected remedy.
 - ii. The District shall give the School a reasonable opportunity to contest the District's determination that a breach has occurred. In a non-emergency situation, this means the Lead Administrator or designee shall be given an opportunity to meet with the Superintendent or designee to discuss the notice within five (5) business days.
 - iii. If the breach is not cured within the time specified in the notice, the District may apply remedies 2.2.J. (i) through (iv).

- L. <u>District Violations of School Law or this Contract</u>. If the School believes that the District has violated any provision of this Contract or applicable law, the School may initiate dispute resolution procedures in accordance with Section 2.2.G, file an appeal with the State Board, or seek other remedies provided by law.
- M. <u>Emergency Powers</u>. If the District seeks a preliminary order under the Emergency Powers set forth in C.R.S. §§ 22-30.5-701 *et seq.*, it shall follow the procedures set forth therein.

SECTION THREE: SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

3.1 Governance

The School's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws shall not conflict with the School's obligation to operate in a manner consistent with this Contract. The Charter Board will adopt and operate under policies that provide for governance of the operation of the School in a manner consistent with this Contract. The Charter Board shall operate in accordance with these documents. Any material modification of the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws shall be made in accordance with the procedures described in Section 2.2.F of this Contract. As used herein, a "material modification" shall include a modification that significantly increases the number or percentages of votes required to take major actions, that changes the selection method or qualifications of the Charter Board or changes the purpose of the entity.

3.2 Corporate Purpose

The purpose of the School as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation shall be limited to the operation of a charter school pursuant to the Colorado Charter Schools Act, C.R.S. §§ 22-30.5-101 *et seq.* and purposes ancillary thereto and in support thereof.

3.3 Transparency

- A. The School shall make Charter Board-adopted policies, meeting agendas and minutes, Charter School's School Accountability Committee meeting agendas and minutes, and related documents readily available for public inspection including posting of such information on the School's Website. The School shall also post on its website in a timely manner information about Charter Board members, Charter Board meetings, financial information and audits, relevant School documents, the School's process for resolving public complaints, and other information that may be of interest to students, parents, and community members. The School shall conduct meetings consistent with principles of transparency, the Colorado Open Meetings and Open Records laws, and shall adopt and strictly enforce a conflict of interest policy including a policy to avoid conflicts of interest between the School and any education management provider whose services are retained by the School.
- B. More specifically, the School shall conspicuously post and maintain on its website the following information:

- i. School's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws;
- ii. Information about Charter Board Members and their job descriptions, including their roles and responsibilities to the School and public;
- iii. Notice of Charter Board meetings including date, time and location for the meetings;
- iv. Minutes of Charter Board meetings;
- v. Student/Parent/Family Handbook(s) and such Handbook(s) shall include information related to the means for parents to provide input and engage in the School Community, the means for parents and students to submit complaints to School officials; and, a list and explanation of supports available to students, including social/emotional supports;
- vi. All financial information required to be shared with the District's Choice Programming Office on a quarterly basis as required by Section 7.8 of this Contract;
- vii. Annual audits for the last three years;
- viii. Annual Information Return (the IRS Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, or 990–PF) for the most recent three years;
- ix. IRS Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Tax-Exempt Status, including any papers submitted in support of the Application and any letter or other document issued by the IRS with respect to the Application;
- x. School's current and applicable Strategic Plan;
- xi. The applicable complaint procedure for resolving public complaints as required by Section 3.5 of this Contract; and
- xii. The "Communications Pathways" established by STEM, including current names, telephone numbers and email addresses for all positions identified on the "Communications Pathways" chart or other informational publication.
- C. <u>Transparency of Information Related to SAC</u>. The School shall place in a conspicuous position on the main page of its website a link to the page(s) for its school accountability committee (SAC), which web page(s) shall contain, at a minimum, the following information: (a) a list of the SAC members; (b) name and contact information of the current SAC chair and district accountability liaison; (c) a list of meeting dates, times, and locations for the current school year; (d) agendas for all meeting; (e) approved meeting minutes; and (f) a copy of the SAC bylaws.

3.4 Complaints

- A. The School shall establish and maintain a process for resolving public complaints, including complaints regarding curriculum, which shall include an opportunity for complainants to be heard. The School shall submit to the District's Choice Programming Office for approval (which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed) its process for resolving public complaints, including complaints regarding curriculum, which must provide an opportunity to be heard and an appeal process that provides for a final administrative appeal to be heard by the Charter Board. Any material changes to the process shall be submitted to the District's Choice Programming Office for approval prior to implementation, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed.
- B. To the extent that the District received a complaint regarding the School, District agrees to notify the School within ten (10) days of receipt by the District and shall include information about the substance of the complaint, taking into consideration any complainant's request for anonymity. Thereafter, any such complaint shall be addressed consistent with Subsection 3.5.A. above. The District shall be notified of the Resolution of the complaint within thirty (30) business days of resolution by notification to the District's Choice Programming Office.

3.5 Contracting for Educational Services

Unless approved by the District in writing, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, the School shall not enter into a contract or subcontract for the management or administration of its special education program and related services. Such permission is not required if the School desires to enter into a contract or subcontract for the management or administration of its general education instructional program or services so long as, at a minimum, such contract or subcontract satisfies the requirements set forth in **Attachment 4.** If the School fails to comply with this Section, it shall be a material breach of the Contract.

3.6 Contracting for Operational and Administrative Services

- A. Pursuant to relevant law, the School may contract with third party providers for operational and administrative services. The School shall follow applicable laws, as they apply to charter schools, related to procuring and contracting for goods and services and adhere to best practices, including standards related to arms-length negotiations and arrangements and conflicts of interest. The School will adopt policies and procedures relating to the procurement and contracting of goods and services. The District may offer guidance on such policies and review contracts on a case by case basis as requested by the School.
- B. The District acknowledges that the School may contract with an education management provider or charter school management consultant for operational and administrative services. This Contract and the District's obligations hereunder are conditioned upon School developing an agreement with such education management provider or charter school

management consultant that satisfies the requirements set forth in **Attachment 4**. If School fails to comply with this provision, it shall be a material breach of the Contract.

3.7 Volunteer Requirements

Any requirement adopted by the School that requires parents to commit to or accrue a number of volunteer hours shall be subject to a waiver process that considers individual family circumstances, and the School shall not condition the continued enrollment of any student on the commitment of the student's parent(s) to provide any number of volunteer hours or donations in lieu thereof. A copy of the School's volunteer policy and any changes thereto shall be provided to the District.

3.8 Conflict of Interest

Members of the Charter Board or any governing committee established for the School shall comply with state law and District policies and regulations regarding ethics and conflict of interest. Subject to approval of the District as applicable, if the School enters into a contract with an education management provider and/or a charter school management consultant, then School acknowledges and agrees that its board members shall not be employed by such provider/consultant or such provider's/consultant's affiliate and shall not be employed with another charter school who retains the services of such provider/consultant.

SECTION FOUR: OPERATION OF SCHOOL AND WAIVERS

4.1 Operational Powers

The School shall be responsible for its own operations, and shall have authority independently to exercise the following powers (together with such powers as provided for elsewhere in this Contract and as allowed by the Act): contracting for goods and services; preparation of budgets; selection, supervision, evaluation, and determination of compensation for personnel; promotion and termination of personnel; leasing facilities for the School; accepting and expending gifts, donations, or grants of any kind in accordance with such conditions prescribed by the donor as are consistent with law and this Contract; and adoption of policies and Bylaws consistent with the terms of this Contract.

4.2 Evaluations and Trainings

- A. <u>Lead Administrator Evaluation</u>. The Charter Board shall conduct a performance evaluation of the Lead Administrator at least annually, which evaluation shall include measurable goals related to legal compliance, school safety and security, social and emotional health of students and staff, parent communication, special education compliance, and staff and parent community feedback.
- B. <u>Employee Evaluations</u>. The Lead Administrator or designee shall conduct performance evaluations of the School's employees at least annually in accordance with the School's personnel policies.

C. <u>Training</u>. The Charter Board shall adopt a policy for its annual training plan. Further Charter Board members will satisfactorily complete the online charter school governing board training modules recommended by the Department, or comparable training, within a year of: (a) executing this Contract (for those members currently serving on the Board or provide evidence of prior completion) or (b) being seated on the Board (for all future Board members), whichever comes first. Failure to complete this requirement will be noted in the Annual Performance Report Compiled by the District.

4.3 Transportation and Food Services

- A. <u>Transportation</u>. The District and the School acknowledge and agree that transportation is not provided to students attending the School by the District, unless separately arranged by contract with the District. In all other circumstances, the School shall be responsible for providing transportation services, if any, to students attending the School. The District and the School agree that enrollment at the School is a choice and as such students with disabilities who choose to attend School are generally not eligible for transportation services.
- B. <u>Food Services</u>. Since the District is the School's contracted School Food Authority, School may not opt out of providing free lunches to its students so long as the District provides free lunches to its students.

4.4 Insurance

The School shall purchase insurance protecting the School and Charter Board, School employees, and volunteers (if allowable by policy), and District where appropriate, consisting of comprehensive general liability insurance, errors and omissions liability insurance (school entity liability insurance), and such other insurance as identified below which identifies the minimum coverages for the current school year:

Comprehensive general liability - \$2,000,000 Per Occurrence/\$5,000,000 Annual Aggregate. Sexual Misconduct or Molestation - \$5,000,000. Officers, directors and employees errors and omissions - \$2,000,000 Cyber, internet, security insurance -- \$1,000,000 Property insurance - As required by landlord. Motor vehicle liability (if appropriate) - \$1,000,000. Crime coverage: \$100,000. Bonding (if appropriate): Minimum amounts: \$25,000. Maximum amounts: \$100,000. Workers' compensation - (as required by state law).

The District shall provide at least sixty (60) days' prior written notice if these coverage limits are changed, and all changes shall be commercially reasonable. Insurance terms and conditions must be reasonably acceptable to the District and underwritten by insurers that are legally authorized in the State of Colorado

and that are rated by A.M. Best Company not lower than "A-VII". Use by the School of the Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool will not require preapproval by the District.

The School shall provide certificates of insurance to the District's Risk Director by August 15 annually. An endorsement and waiver of subrogation as noted below shall be provided to the District's Director of Risk:

- <u>Endorsement</u>: These insurance policies shall name the Douglas County School District RE-1, its officers, directors, board of education, and employees as additional insureds and shall provide for written notice to District before cancellation or non-renewal of such insurance.
- <u>Waiver of Subrogation</u>: A waiver of subrogation must be included as an attached endorsement for the following policies, as applicable: commercial general liability, motor vehicle, workers' compensation, and sexual abuse or molestation.

All of the School's insurance policies purchased by the School shall state that coverage shall not be suspended, voided, cancelled, reduced in coverage or in limits, except after thirty (30) calendar days prior written notice by electronic or certified mail, return receipt requested, sent to the School and the District's Risk Manager. The School shall notify the District's Risk Manager within ten (10) calendar days if for any reason there is a lapse in insurance coverage. The School is solely responsible for any deductibles payable under the policies purchased by the School. Both Parties shall secure policies that are primary and noncontributory to insurance obtained by the other party and/or any obligation of indemnification under this contract.

4.5 Waivers

A. State Laws and Regulations.

- i. <u>Automatic Waivers</u>. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 22-30.5-103, automatic waivers are those automatically granted upon the establishment of a charter contract. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 22- 30.5-104(6), the State Board will adopt, by rule, a list of automatic waivers for which the School is *not* required to submit a replacement plan, or statement, to the Colorado Department of Education, to specify the manner in which the School intends to comply with the intent of the state statute or State Board rule. The list in effect as of the Effective Date is attached in **Attachment 5**.
- ii. <u>Waiver Requests</u>. Waivers are neither necessary nor appropriate when a statute or rule by express terms does not apply to a charter school, nor when a District power or duty has been fully delegated, as more specifically stated in this Contract, to the School. The School is expected to only seek waivers if a statute or rule applies to the School and the waiver is consistent with the School's operational or educational needs.
- iii. <u>Non-automatic Waiver Requests</u>. If School complies with the timely provision of the School's rationale in support of waiver request from District policies, then District

Board agrees to jointly request waiver of the state laws and regulations that are listed in **Attachment 6**. To the extent the State Board does not grant the requested waivers or imposes conditions upon the School with respect to such waivers, it is agreed that representatives of the Parties shall meet to negotiate the effect of such State Board action.

iv. Subsequent Waiver Requests. The School may request additional non-automatic waivers. Upon receipt of such request, the District shall have thirty (30) calendar days to review the request and, thereafter, shall present the matter before the District Board at its next regular meeting. The District Board shall, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, have thirty (30) calendar days to consider the matter prior to rendering a decision at a regular meeting. The District agrees to jointly request such a waiver from the State Board if the District's Board first approves the request. State Board approval of requests to waive State law or regulations shall not be unreasonably withheld. To the extent the State Board does not grant the requested waivers or imposes conditions upon the School with respect to such waivers, it is agreed that representatives of the Parties shall meet to negotiate the effect of such State Board action. Any such requests for waivers must include a statement articulating how the School plans to comply with the intent of the statute, rule, or policy for which waiver is required.

B. District Policies.

- i. <u>Applicable Waivers.</u> District and School agree that waivers in place for the current 2023-24 school year attached at **Attachment 7** shall be carried over and enforced during the term of this Contract unless otherwise revised pursuant to this Contract and Board Policy LBD-R-3.
- ii. <u>Subsequent Waiver Requests</u>. The School may request additional waivers through the systematized process implemented by the District's Choice Programming Office pursuant to Board Policy LBD-R-3, . Upon receipt of such request, the District shall have thirty (30) calendar days to review the request and, thereafter, shall present the matter before the District Board at its next regular meeting. The District Board shall, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, have thirty (30) calendar days to consider the matter prior to rendering a decision at a regular meeting. Waivers of District policies may be granted only to the extent permitted by state law and Board Policy LBD-R-3. Waiver of District policies shall not be unreasonably withheld. Consistent with Board Policy LBD-R-3, any such requests for waivers must include a statement articulating how the School plans to comply with the intent of the statute, rule, or policy for which waiver is required. To the extent additional waivers are granted or waivers are otherwise amended, they shall be attached to this Contract at Attachment 8 which shall be amended to reflect the additional waiver and its effective date.

iii. <u>Revocation of Waivers.</u> For reasonable cause and after providing notice to the School, the District's Board may revoke waivers previously granted.

4.6 Bidding Requirements

Unless purchased from or through the District, contractual services and supplies, materials and equipment shall be procured through a system of competitive bidding, as required by the School's policy, which will comport with best practices for charter schools and state law.

4.7 Traffic Planning

Charter School site location and the process of student loading and unloading is critical for safe and efficient traffic operations both on school property and the surrounding roadway network. Charter School staff, parents and students need to be aware of this reality and participate in providing a safe and organized flow of traffic. School will follow the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) in effect for each of its buildings.

The TMP must be readily available to all parents and students. Any physical changes to the school site (such as building expansion, parking lot revision, stacking lane revision, etc.) or substantial changes in enrollment will require an amendment to the TMP, in addition to local government land use approvals. TMP's and Traffic Impact Analyses are site specific, therefore, if School changes locations, a new TMP and Traffic Impact Analysis will be required. Any amendments to the TMP under these circumstances will be coordinated with and approval sought from the local government jurisdiction.

SECTION FIVE: SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND DEMOGRAPHICS

5.1 School Grade Levels

The School may serve students in grades **K-12** and in a Pathways in Technology Early College Program at its main location at 8773 S. Ridgeline Blvd., Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129 as well as supporting secondary locations at 8878 Barrons Blvd., Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129 and 8920 Barrons Blvd., Highlands Ranch, CO 80129, all within the geographical boundaries of the District.

5.2 Student Demographics

As required by the Colorado Charter Schools Act, C.R.S. § 22-30.5-104(3), School enrollment procedures shall be conducted by the School in a nondiscriminatory manner. The School shall implement a recruitment and enrollment plan that ensures that it is open to any child who resides in the District. The School is committed to the goal of enrolling and retaining a student population that will be reasonably representative of the percentage of students that are eligible for free or reduced lunch, English language learners, and special education programs within the District average, taking into account the demographics of other public schools within a reasonable proximity to the School. The Parties acknowledge that the School's good faith effort to enroll and retain said representative populations, may not, in and of itself, ensure achievement of this goal, and that as a public school, the School cannot turn

away students that meet its enrollment procedures as described in Attachment 9.

5.3 Maximum and Minimum Enrollment

The School and the District agree that during the term of this Contract, the School's total enrollment shall not exceed the capacity of the School's facility or site. The minimum enrollment is determined to be the lowest enrollment necessary for financial viability, as reasonably determined by both Parties. Further, the School and the District agree that:

- the School's total enrollment shall be limited to assure that the School can facilitate the academic success of the students enrolled at the School; and
- the School's total enrollment shall be limited to ensure that the School can facilitate the School's ability to achieve all objectives in the charter contract.

5.4 Eligibility for Enrollment

The School shall limit enrollment of students accepted through the process outlined below, including enrollment procedures for students with disabilities, to those who meet the School's age and grade requirements, are not otherwise ineligible to enroll based on criteria in Article 33 of Title 22 or who meet the criteria in C.R.S. § 22-33-106(3)(f) in another District school. All enrollment decisions shall be made in accordance with applicable state and federal law and policy, and the requirements outlined in Section 5.6 below with respect to the admission process and procedures for enrollment of students with disabilities.

5.5 Enrollment Preferences, Selection Method, Timeline and Procedures

- A. It is agreed that enrollment preferences and selection methods are left to the discretion of the School so long as the School complies with the District's enrollment policies (specifically, JCA-JFB and JCA-JFB-R, except to the extent those may be inconsistent with this Contract, and the requirements of state and federal law, including allowance for equal educational opportunities.
- B. School agrees to adhere to District open enrollment timelines and procedures as described in **Attachment 10**.

5.6 Admission Process and Procedures for Enrollment of Students with Disabilities

- A. The two-step process shall be implemented when considering whether a student who is eligible for special education services is able to enroll in School. The two-step process includes an admissions phase of the process and an enrollment phase of the process.
- B. The School shall conduct its admission process, including any lottery or similar process, without inquiry into the disability status of students. The School's application materials should not in any way include questions about disability status or whether or not a student has an

IEP or Section 504 Plan.

- C. School may not inquire into whether a student has an IEP until the student has been admitted into the enrollment phase of the process, meaning that no such inquiry shall be made until the student has been successful in any lottery or similar process and School has offered a space to the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) has accepted the offer. Following a student's admission into the enrollment phase of the process, the School may inquire about disability status and request a copy of the student's IEP.
- D. After receipt by School of the student's IEP, School shall cooperate with the District's Special Education Director or designee in any initial review of a student's IEP to address whether the student's IEP can be appropriately implemented at the School.
 - i. If it is determined that student's IEP can be appropriately implemented at School after the initial review of a student's IEP, student shall be enrolled to attend School.
 - ii. If it is initially determined that student's IEP may not be able to be appropriately implemented at School, an IEP team meeting shall be convened to determine whether the student's IEP can be appropriately implemented at School.
 - a. If the IEP team determines that student's IEP can be appropriately implemented at School, student shall be enrolled to attend School.
 - b. If the IEP team determines that student's IEP cannot be appropriately implemented at School, student's enrollment to attend School may be denied and the IEP shall include a specific explanation of the IEP team's determination or a separate prior written notice that meets the requirements of state and federal law shall be provided to parents.
- E. Admission of applicants with an IEP or Section 504 Plan shall be in compliance with District requirements and procedures concerning the education of students with disabilities. Every student who is admitted with an IEP or Section 504 Plan from a previous school shall be placed directly in a program that meets the requirements of such IEP or Section 504 Plan, unless and until a review staffing by the IEP team or Plan review meeting is held and the IEP or Section 504 Plan is changed.
- F. The School recognizes and agrees that it is solely and exclusively responsible for providing services and accommodations to students who have a disability within the meaning of Section 504 and the ADA but are not eligible for special education and related services under the IDEA, and that nothing in this Contract shall be construed to require the District to provide services or accommodations to such students.
- G. An application for attendance at School may be denied for a student with disabilities in the same manner and for the same reasons as such application may be denied for a student

without disabilities.

5.7 Participation in Other District Programs

No student may be jointly enrolled in the School and another District school or program without the written agreement of the District and the School. Such written agreement shall include the manner in which the costs of instruction shall be divided between the School and the District. Payment by the School to the District, if any, pursuant to any such agreement shall be deemed payment for a purchased service under the Charter Schools Act.

5.8 Non-Resident Admissions

Subject to its enrollment guidelines, the School shall be open to any child who resides within the District and to any child who resides outside the District, subject to compliance with applicable Colorado public schools of choice statutes, District policy (unless otherwise waived) and this Contract. If the School has more applicants than it has space, preference shall be given to those students who reside within the District. The School shall handle denial of admission in a manner consistent with state law and District policy/regulations. Once accepted for enrollment, a non-District resident student may reenroll for subsequent school years until completing his or her schooling at the School.

5.9 Student Movement

Any movement of students between the School and any District school, including the school serving the student's resident address that is not operated pursuant to a charter school contract, shall be in accordance with applicable law and District policy.

5.10 Expulsion and Denial of Admission

The School agrees that it shall comply with all District policies/regulations concerning student attendance, standards of conduct and discipline, unless and until the School adopts its own written policies in accordance with this Contract and applicable law. Where the School's Administration and/or Charter Board recommends a student for expulsion, the proceedings shall be referred to the District for handling through the District's expulsion processes. However, the Charter Board, or its designee, shall make findings of fact and recommendations which shall be provided to the District's Superintendent or designee for use and consideration when the District implements its expulsion processes. Any decision to expel a Charter School student by the District Board shall specify which District schools the student is expelled from attending and which schools, if any, the student may attend as an alternative. Any general education services required by law to be provided to suspended or expelled School students shall be the sole responsibility of the School, in cooperation with the District, with all costs for such services to be borne by the School. Any special education and related services required by law to be provided to suspended or expelled students shall be the sole responsibility of the School in cooperation with the School, in cooperation with the District, with all costs for such services to be borne by the School.

The District's Board shall have final authority regarding appeals in student expulsion cases.

5.11 Continuing Enrollment

Pursuant to Colorado state law, students who enroll in the School shall remain enrolled in the School through the highest grade served by the School, absent expulsion, graduation, court ordered placement, or placement in a different school pursuant to an IEP and the School shall be considered the student's home school for purposes of choice enrollment. Students wishing to transfer from the School to another school in the District may do so only through the District's within-District choice enrollment and transfer procedures.

SECTION SIX: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

6.1 Vision

The vision set forth in the Renewal Application is accepted by the District, as amended by this Contract, which is:

Never Stop Innovating.

6.2 Mission

The mission set forth in the Renewal Application is accepted by the District, as amended by this Contract, which is:

A world of exponential possibilities where every child develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead and succeed in an ever-changing future.

6.3 Goals, Objectives, and Pupil Performance Standards

The goals, objectives and pupil performance standards set forth in the Application are accepted by the District, as amended by this Contract, and subject to the following requirements:

- A. <u>Accreditation</u>. The School shall be accredited with Improvement Plan or Performance Plan in accordance with written District guidelines and state law. The School acknowledges that these indicators may change over time and that the District agrees to provide the School with opportunity for input into any proposed changes before they are finalized. The School shall comply with the educational accountability and or accreditation provisions of Colorado law, as amended from time to time, including but not limited to: the Educational Accountability Act of 2009, C.R.S. §§ 22-7-101 *et seq.*; the Education Reform Act, C.R.S. §§ 22-7-401 *et seq.*; the School Accountability Reporting Act, C.R.S. §§ 22-7-601 *et seq.*; Educational Accreditation Act of 1998, C.R.S. §§ 22-11-101 *et seq.*; and the Accreditation Rules of the State Board, including but not limited to tailoring educational programming to meet the individual needs of "exceptional children" as defined in such rules, unless waived.
- B. Identification for Support and Improvement Under ESSA. If the School has been identified or

targeted for support and improvement, they must promptly address the areas identified as deficient.

C. <u>Opportunity for Comment</u>. Reasonable progress towards all goals in this Contract shall be evaluated through the Colorado School Performance Framework, any additional federal requirements, and any other agreed-upon measures and metrics. The School will be given an opportunity for input and comment before the District finalizes its assessment of the School's achievement on the objectives listed above.

D. Student Welfare and Safety.

- i. The School shall comply, except as waived, with all District approved policies and regulations, and comply with all applicable federal and state laws, concerning student welfare, safety and health, including, without limitation, District policies and laws addressing the reporting of child abuse, accident prevention and disaster response and laws governing incidents of school violence under C.R.S. § 24-10-106.3, and any state regulations governing the operation of school facilities.
- ii. The School shall hire and retain appropriately licensed special education teachers and special service providers, including without limitation mental health professionals and counselors, in a manner that meets or exceeds District staffing ratios.
- iii. The School shall timely complete safety assessment reports, including without limitation, threat assessment, child abuse, and suicide assessment reports, and shall submit such reports to the District.
- iv. The School shall review safety assessment data spreadsheets supplied by the District prior to the start of each academic semester.
- v. The School shall timely and accurately report student behavior and attendance data to the District in accordance with applicable law and will submit such information in Infinite Campus.
- E. <u>Academically Exceptional Students</u>. The School shall identify academically low-achieving, atrisk students, gifted and talented, and other "exceptional children" as defined by law, including in regulations adopted by the State Board, and shall provide its educational program to these students in a manner that appropriately serves their needs in accordance with applicable law, as set forth in the Application and this Contract.

6.4 Educational Program Characteristics

The School shall implement and maintain the following characteristics of its educational program, subject to modification with the District's written approval, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed:

Standards that meet or exceed Colorado Academic Standards Core Knowledge Curriculum Character Education Community Partnerships Parent Engagement Multi-tiered System of Support

6.5 GED and On-Line Programs

The School's educational program as contained in the application and currently operated and as reviewed by the District does not include an on-line program pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 22-33-104 *et seq.*, or a GED and the School is accordingly prohibited from offering such online or GED programs.

6.6 Curriculum, Instructional Program and Pupil Performance Standards

- A. The School shall have the authority and responsibility for designing and implementing its educational program, subject to the conditions of this Contract. The educational program, pupil performance standards and curriculum designed and implemented by the School shall meet or exceed the Colorado Academic Standards, shall be designed to enable each pupil to achieve such standards, and shall be consistent with the School's vision and mission.
- B. With respect to each subject area not tested under the state's standardized testing program for which the District has developed embedded assessments designed to measure achievement of standards, the School shall notify the Lead Administrator in writing prior to July 1 of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which such embedded assessments were developed as to whether it will use the District's embedded assessments or whether it will use its own embedded assessments. If the School intends to use its own embedded assessments, it shall submit its proposed assessment program for review with its written notice to the Lead Administrator. If the School uses the District's embedded assessments, it shall adhere to all District timelines for developing (if applicable) and administering assessments.

6.7 Tuition and Fees

- A. <u>Tuition</u>. The School shall not charge tuition, except as otherwise provided in C.R.S. § 22-20-109(5), C.R.S. § 22-32-115(1) and (2) and C.R.S. § 22-54-109, other than for PRE-K, full-day kindergarten programs, before and after school programs or as otherwise permitted by law.
- B. <u>Fees</u>. Student fees may be charged by the School so long as in accordance with applicable Colorado law, including but not limited to the provisions of C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(0) & (p) and C.R.S. § 22-32-117.
- C. <u>Indigent Students</u>. The School shall waive all fees for indigent students in accordance with applicable federal and state law. On all fee lists and schedules, the School shall include notification of the policy of waiver of fees for indigent students. The School shall survey its

student population for eligibility for free and reduced lunches under federal guidelines in accordance with State Board regulations.

6.8 English Language Learners

The School shall provide resources and support to English language learners to ensure that English language learners are given meaningful access to grade level content, acquire proficiency in English, and achieve grade level standards. The School shall follow the District's procedures for identifying, assessing, monitoring and exiting English language learners.

6.9 Education of Students with Disabilities

- A. The School recognizes and agrees that it is solely and exclusively responsible for providing services and accommodations to students who have a disability within the meaning of Section 504 and the ADA, but are not eligible for special education and related services under the IDEA, and that nothing in this Contract shall be construed to require the District to provide services or accommodations to such students.
- B. School shall provide special education services to students eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) consistent with an enrolled student's IEP.
- C. Special education services at the School shall be commensurate with those provided at other District schools. If the School hires its own special education teacher(s) they will be subject to review of licensing by District personnel.
- D. The cost for special education services provided by the District pursuant to this Section is described in the DCSD Purchased Services Agreement, negotiated between the School and District on a yearly basis. In addition to these costs, the School shall be responsible for providing and paying the cost of defense for any and all charges, complaints or investigations concerning special education by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the Colorado Department of Education (state complaints), the Department's Federal Complaints Officer, or IDEA due process proceedings and the District shall be available for assistance and consultation. The District and the School agree that enrollment at the School is a choice and as such students with disabilities are generally not eligible for transportation services.
- E. The School agrees to comply with all Board policies and regulations and the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations concerning the education of children with disabilities, and shall provide for the attendance of any School employees who should be present at any meetings at which IEPs are developed or modified. If the School and the District disagree as to the correct interpretation or application of a statute or regulation concerning the education of students with disabilities, the District's position shall control.
- F. The School shall use District special education forms and procedures and the School shall

document on those forms compliance with the requirements of federal and state law, including procedural due process. The District shall respect the School's curriculum, instructional program, and mission in the development of IEPs for students enrolled in the School.

- G. The School's special education teachers may participate in monthly staff meetings sponsored by the District and newly hired special education teachers shall attend District orientation sessions during the fall semester following their employment.
- H. The District or the School may identify from time to time changes to the educational program of the School that (a) are reasonably necessary to comply with applicable law for educating students with disabilities, or (b) provide cost savings or other benefits in connection with educating students with disabilities. After good faith discussion of these changes with the School, the District shall have the right to require such changes necessary to comply with law and shall have the right to request other changes on behalf of students with disabilities.
- I. Special education programs and services shall be available to each student as part of the regular school day in accordance with the least restrictive environment mandate of federal and state law.

6.10 Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities

Subject to the provisions of C.R.S. § 22-32-116.5 and this Contract, a student at the School who meets the prerequisites for participation may try out for extracurricular and interscholastic activities not offered at the School. The School or parents shall be responsible to make appropriate arrangements consistent with state law with the District schools of charter-enrolled students seeking to participate in activities not otherwise sponsored by the School. The student may try out at the school in the District designated by the District in accordance with the law and applicable Colorado High School Activities Association "CHSAA" rules. The School and the student shall comply with all applicable rules of CHSAA, the District and the school of participation; all eligibility requirements; and all responsibilities and standards of conduct, including related classroom and practice requirements. Where such participation requires payment of a fee, the student or the School shall be responsible for payment of the fee.

The District is not required to provide transportation of the School's students to other schools in the District to enable them to participate in extracurricular and athletic practices, rehearsals, and meetings, or to otherwise expand transportation provided for such activities and events. The School and/or parents of students enrolled in the School shall be responsible for transportation for such activities for all students of the School, including students with disabilities, as necessary for such participation. In the event the District provides transportation for an extracurricular group or athletic team to participate in a competition, students of the School shall be provided District transportation from the same departure and return points as provided to the other District student participants in the activity. Nothing herein shall be construed to require modification by either party of any calendar or schedules for extracurricular programs.

6.11 Collaboration with District

- A. The School shall provide reasonable notice to the District before entering into any intergovernmental agreements with other government entities.
- B. The School may take part in cooperative purchasing discounts and/or promotions made available to other District schools through the District or by third-party contracting organizations.

SECTION SEVEN: FINANCIAL MATTERS

7.1 Revenues

- A. Funding.
 - i. The District shall provide funding to the School in an amount equal to 100% of the District's Per Pupil Revenue (PPR) as the same may be established from year to year, adjusted in accordance with the State Finance Act or other matters impacting the PPR for each student enrolled in the School. So long as the School is not in material breach of this Contract, this funding will be made available to the School in twelve (12) monthly installments, commencing July of each fiscal year. Funds shall be disbursed within five (5) business days of being received by the District. If the School fails to open during any school year, those funds paid to the School prior to October 1 shall be refunded by the School to the District. The term "enrolled" as used in this provision shall be deemed to mean enrolled as of the official counting dates or periods and in accordance with the School Finance Act of 1994, found at C.R.S. §§ 22-54-101 *et seq.* and the State Department of Education regulations. If the State Auditor disallows counting of some of the School's students, then its funding for a following school year will be reduced by the same amount.
 - ii. In addition to the foregoing provisions, to the extent the District experiences any reduction in state equalization support by a legislative rescission or other action, proportionate reductions will be made to the School's funding by adjustment or set-off in subsequent months.
 - iii. On or before March 15 of each year of the charter, the School and the District will begin negotiations concerning funding for the ensuing fiscal year in order that the amounts may be determined in conjunction with the District's and the School's budget development and adoption processes. In future fiscal years, it is agreed that the amount of funding provided to the School from the District shall not be less than that required by law or as may be agreed to by the Parties.
 - iv. The School will be able to apply for federal and state grant funds under the same conditions as other District schools, including approval by the District's Grant

Coordinator. If requested, the District will provide special education services in accordance with such fees, as may be agreed to between the Parties. Any state reimbursement for transportation of special needs students by the District will be retained by the District.

- v. The funding of that portion of the PPR paid by the District to the School shall be established based on the official student enrollment count for students enrolled in the School for each year as approved and/or accepted by the State Auditor reduced by an appropriate proportionate reduction in state equalization support as a result of legislative action, payable in 12 equal monthly payments. This amount shall not be increased or decreased due to any change in monthly enrollment during the year. Provided, however, the District reserves the right upon 30 calendar days prior written notice to the School to adjust the payments to be made to the School in the event of a substantial reduction in the School's monthly student count as may be determined by the District considering the interests of the School and the District in collaboration with the School, in which event the pro-rata share of funds shall be retained by the District. In the event the District should, for any reason, lose the state funding allocated to any student who has withdrawn from the School, said funding shall be deducted from subsequent payments to the School.
- vi. The School must provide an address of record, the name of the contact person for fiscal matters and where funds are to be sent at least 30 calendar days in advance of when funds are to be made available.
- vii. The School will make no supplemental budget requests to the District to cover unanticipated expenditures or debts.

B. Bond and Mill Levy Funds.

- i. <u>Bond Issues</u>. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 22-30.5-404, the District shall have the sole determination of whether or not capital construction is includable in a Bond issue for the School. The District will comply with all statutory requirements for making such determination.
- ii. <u>Mill Levy</u>. The District shall share mill levy funds with the School in accordance with applicable law and District policy.

7.2 Disbursement of Per Pupil Revenue

A. <u>Adjustment to Funding</u>. The District's disbursement of funds shall be adjusted as follows: In December or January funding will be adjusted factoring in the final October one day count and adjusted per pupil funding as determined by the Colorado Department of Education. To the extent that the District experiences any reduction or increase in state equalization support

by a legislative rescission, one day count audits or other action, proportionate reductions or increases shall be made to the School's funding.

7.3 Budget

On or before April 15 each year, the School shall submit to the District its proposed balanced budget for the following school year for District review for statutory compliance and compliance with the terms and conditions of this Contract. The budget shall be prepared in accordance with C.R.S. § 22-30.5-111.7(1)(a) and C.R.S. § 22-30.5-112(7) and the state-mandated chart of accounts. The budget as approved by the Charter Board and any subsequent approved revisions shall be submitted to the District along with the Charter Board resolution approving the budget or budget revision. Proposed budgets that spend down reserves shall include a narrative addressing 1) why reserves are being spent 2) the duration of the reduction and 3) the date when the school will return to a balanced budget. A material violation of this Section may result in the District initiating remedies described in Section 3.2.1.

7.4 Enrollment Projections

The School shall provide the District with its latest and best estimates of its anticipated enrollment for the next school year by March 15, along with any discussion or plans under consideration for any increase or decrease of enrollment greater than 5 percent (5%) of the official membership for the current school year. The Parties agree that the purpose of this Section is to provide information to allow the District to prepare its future budgets, and that any information provided under this Section shall not be used by the District for the purpose of funding or for restricting the School's enrollment or otherwise inhibiting the growth of the School.

7.5 TABOR Reserve

The School's ending fund balance shall comply with the emergency reserve requirements of Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution ("TABOR Reserve"). The School will establish and maintain a TABOR Reserve account and ensure that balances are appropriate, in keeping with Colorado Constitutional requirements and consistent with state and District policies and law.

7.6 Contracting

The School shall not extend the faith and credit of the District to any third person or entity. The School acknowledges and agrees that it has no authority to enter into a contract that would bind the District, and the School's authority to contract is limited by the same provisions of law that apply to the District. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the District, each contract or legal relationship entered into by the School shall include the following provisions:

A. The contractor acknowledges that the School is not an agent of the District, and accordingly contractor expressly releases the District from any and all liability under this agreement.

B. Any financial obligations of the School arising out of this agreement are subject to annual appropriation by the Charter Board.

7.7 Annual Audit and Trial Balance

The School shall undergo an independent financial audit conducted in accordance with governmental accounting standards performed by a certified public accountant each fiscal year. A draft of the results of the audit shall be provided to the District in written form by October 15 of each year. The School shall pay for the audit. The final audit shall be provided to the District on or before October 31. If, for causes within the School's control, the audit is not provided to the District by October 15 and October 31 of each year as outlined above, it shall be considered a material breach of contract, and the School shall have ten (10) business days, or such other time as the Parties may agree, to cure such breach. If the failure to provide the audit to the District by October 31 is due to causes beyond the School's control, the School shall nevertheless use its best efforts to provide the audit to the District at the earliest possible time. The School shall comply with all deadlines as set by CDE and the District. Any requests for extensions must be approved by the District.

7.8 Quarterly Reporting

The School shall prepare quarterly financial reports for the District in compliance with C.R.S. § 22- 45- 102(I)(b) in substantially the same format as shown in **Attachment 11**, which may be changed from time to time, and post required reports pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 22-44-301 *et seq.* Quarterly reports shall be submitted to the District electronically to the Choice Programming Office.

7.9 Non-Commingling

Assets, funds, liabilities and financial records of the School shall be kept separate from assets, funds, liabilities, and financial records of any other person, entity, or organization.

7.10 Loans

No loans may be made by the School to any person or entity other than reasonable employee advances or to other related or controlled entity, without District approval, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed. School may not enter into financial relationships with other charter schools who have retained the services of the School's education management provider.

7.11 District Loans

Schools may not borrow funds from the District without approval from the District Board. TABOR reserves must be maintained throughout the fiscal year. If the School has an unplanned emergency that could result in borrowing, the District Chief Financial Officer should be notified to discuss the financial issue, forecast and revised business plan.

SECTION EIGHT: PERSONNEL

8.1 Employee Status

All employees hired by the School shall be employees of the School and not the District. All employee discipline decisions shall be made by the School. The District shall have no obligation to employ School employees who are released or leave the School.

A. <u>Background/Fingerprinting</u>. The School shall establish and implement procedures for conducting background checks (including a check for criminal records) of all employees to the extent required by state and federal applicable laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to C.R.S. § 22-30.5-110.5 and C.R.S. § 22-30.5-110.7. This includes ensuring that all independent contractors and companies that place employees in the School complete the requisite background checks.

8.2 Affordable Care Act

The School is not a part of a "Controlled Group" with the District for purposes of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("PPACA"). To the extent permitted by law, the School shall indemnify and hold the District and its Board members, employees, and agents harmless from and against all damages, losses, and expenses arising out of or resulting from the School's failure to comply with PPACA and its related regulations. The School's indemnification obligation hereunder shall survive the termination of this Contract.

8.3 PERA Membership

All the School employees shall be members of the Public Employees Retirement Association ("PERA") and subject to its requirements. The School shall be responsible for the cost of the employer's respective share of any required contributions.

8.4 Equal Opportunity Employer

The School affirms that, consistent with applicable law and District policies/regulations, it shall not discriminate against any employee on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry, age or disability in its recruitment, selection, training, utilization, termination or other employment-related activities.

8.5 Employee Welfare and Safety

The School shall comply with all District policies/regulations, and all applicable federal and state laws, concerning employee welfare, safety and health issues, including but not limited to the requirements of federal law for a drug-free workplace and statutorily required training concerning the Child Protection Act of 1987, C.R.S. §§ 19-3-301 *et seq.* and C.R.S. § 24-10-106.3.

8.6 Employee Records

The School shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining personnel records for its employees in compliance with all applicable District policies/regulations, and applicable federal and state laws, concerning the maintenance, retention and disclosure of employee records, including but not limited to the requirements of the Colorado Open Records Act, §§ 24-72-201 *et seq.*

8.7 Employee Conduct

All School employees shall comply with applicable District staff conduct policies, including nondiscrimination policies, unless expressly waived in writing pursuant to Section 4.5 of this Contract, and applicable state law, concerning staff conduct and staff conflicts of interest.

SECTION NINE: SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE DISTRICT

9.1 Direct Costs

The School and the District agree to negotiate payment to the District of the School's share of the direct costs incurred by the District for charter schools pursuant to C.R.S. § 22-30.5-1 12(2)(b.5). Such negotiations shall be concluded by March 15 of the year preceding that to which the costs apply. Unless set forth in this Contract or a separate written agreement, such costs are reflected in the applicable DCSD Purchased Services Agreement as amended yearly. If the School and the District do not reach an agreement regarding the payment of direct costs prior to the end of a fiscal year, the District may withhold an amount equal to the total amount of direct costs incurred in the prior year until such an agreement is reached.

9.2 District Services

Except as provided by applicable written agreement between the School and the District, or as may be required by law, the School shall be responsible for all costs associated with its school operations, including the cost of contracting for goods and services. The DCSD Charter School Purchased Services Agreement providing for the District to provide services or support to the School shall be negotiated annually and subject to all terms and conditions of this Contract, except as may otherwise be agreed in writing. Such DCSD Charter School Services Agreement shall be finalized by March 30 of the fiscal year preceding that to which the purchased services apply, unless otherwise agreed to by both Parties.

SECTION TEN: FACILITIES

10.1 School Facility

The School shall be responsible for the construction, renovation and maintenance of any facilities owned or leased by it for the operation of School. The School shall provide the District with a copy of the lease, deed, closing statement or other facility agreement granting the School the right to use the same within 5 business days of closing, refinancing or leasing. The School has or shall comply with C.R.S. § 22-32-124,

and shall obtain all applicable use permits or certificates of occupancy necessary for the facilities owned or leased by it to be used and occupied as a school. The District shall have access at all reasonable times to any such facilities for purposes of inspecting the same and as provided in Section 2.1 above. If the School leases or owns other property, they will be fully responsible for that property.

10.2 Use of District Facilities

The School may use District facilities in accordance with District policies KF and KF-R, Community Use of School Facilities.

10.3 Long-Range Facility Needs

If the District considers the submittal of ballot issues to its voters regarding future tax increases for either bonded indebtedness or capital construction, it shall invite the School to participate in discussions regarding such possible ballot issues to also meet the long-range capital facility needs of the School.

10.4 Location Subject to District Approval

During the term of this Contract, the School shall not establish any educational programs at any location other than at the main location at 8773 S. Ridgeline Blvd., Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129 and existing supporting secondary locations at 8878 Barrons Blvd., Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129 and 8920 Barrons Blvd., Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129. The School may move its location only with the written approval of the District. Any requested change in location shall be consistent with the application and the School's mission.

10.5 Emergency Facility Closures

During any period in which curriculum or program delivery systems are materially modified due to a disaster declaration, public health order, or other cause rendering ordinary use of the school facility impractical, the School shall provide appropriate services consistent with requirements of CDE or any other requirements of federal, state, or local law or regulation. The School shall provide the School District with timely notice of changes necessitated by such exigencies, identify any needed waivers of District policy or state statute, and provide other details of the plan for providing services and returning to ordinary operations. The School shall reasonably cooperate with the District in addressing any concerns the District may have with changes made or to be made by the School.

SECTION ELEVEN: CHARTER RENEWAL, REVOCATION AND SCHOOL-INITIATED CLOSURE

11.1 Renewal Timeline and Process

The School shall submit its renewal application by no later than September 1 of the year prior to the year in which the School's Charter expires. At least fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the date on which the District Board will consider whether to renew the charter, District personnel shall provide to the District Board and School a written recommendation, including the reasons supporting the recommendation, concerning whether to renew the charter. The District Board shall rule by resolution on the renewal application no later than February 1 of the year in which the charter expires, or by a mutually agreed upon date following a public hearing where the School shall have the opportunity to address the District Board about its renewal request. If the District Board decides to not renew the Contract, it shall detail the reasons in its resolution.

11.2 Renewal Application Contents

In addition to contents required by law, the renewal application should include comments and additional information provided by the School about its progress toward meeting the District's accreditation indicators. The format of the renewal application shall be provided to the School by the District prior to July 1 of the year in which the application is due.

11.3 Criteria for Renewal or Non-Renewal and Revocation

The District may terminate the Contract and revoke the charter for any of the grounds provided by state law, including C.R.S. § 22-30.5-110(3), as they exist now or may be amended or material breach of this Contract. Grounds for termination, revocation, or denial also include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 22-11-210(1)(d), the School is accredited with a priority improvement plan or turnaround plan for a combined total of five (5) consecutive years or any lesser number of years established by the State Board after which closure, or restructuring is required.
- B. The School is accredited with a turnaround plan and does not attain a higher accreditation rating at its next performance review in accordance with C.R.S. § 22-11-406(3).
- C. The District shall comply with all guidelines found in C.R.S. § 22-30.5-110 and any other relevant provisions regarding renewal, non-renewal and revocation.

11.4 Termination and Appeal Procedures

The District shall provide the School written notice of the grounds for termination and the date of the termination hearing before the District Board. Prior to providing this notice, the District shall, to the extent practicable, send the School a notice of concern and a notice of breach, the content of which are described in Section 2.2.1 (i). Termination shall not take effect until the School has exhausted its opportunity to appeal such decision to the State Board. The District may impose other appropriate remedies (see Section 2.2.1) for breach.

11.5 School-Initiated Closure

Should the School choose to terminate this Contract before the end of the Contract term, it may do so in consultation with the District at the close of any school year and upon written notice to the District given at least ninety (90) days before the end of the school year. Notice would ideally be given by January 1 to allow families to take advantage of District choice enrollment dates.

11.6 Dissolution

In the event the School should cease operations for whatever reason, including the non-renewal or revocation of this Contract, the School agrees to continue to operate its educational program until the end of the school year or another mutually agreed upon date. The District shall supervise and have authority to conduct the winding up of the business and affairs for the School; provided, however, that in doing so, the District does not assume any liability incurred by the School beyond the funds allocated to it by the District under this Contract. Should the School cease operations for whatever reason, the District maintains the right to continue the School's operations as a District facility until the end of the school year. The District's authority hereunder shall include, but not be limited to, 1) the return and/or disposition of any assets acquired by purchase or donation by the School during the time of its existence, subject to the limitations of Section 11.7 below and 2) reassignment of students to different schools. School personnel and the Charter Board shall cooperate fully with the winding up of the affairs of the School including convening meetings with parents at the District's request and counseling with students to facilitate appropriate reassignment.

11.7 Return of Property

In the event of termination or dissolution, all property owned by the School that was purchased in whole or in part with funding provided by the District, including, but not limited to, real property, shall be returned to and shall remain the property of the District. Notwithstanding the above, the District shall not have the right to retain property leased by the School, unless the District chooses to comply with the terms of that lease. All non-consumable grants, gifts and donations or assets purchased from these revenue sources shall be considered the property of the School unless otherwise identified by the donor in writing. Assets purchased exclusively with tuition paid by parents for a preschool program operated by or in conjunction with the School shall not be subject to this paragraph. Assets not purchased with public funding provided by the District may be donated to another mutually agreeable not for-profit organization.

SECTION TWELVE: GENERAL PROVISIONS

12.1 Order of Precedence

In the event of any conflict among the organic documents and practices defining this relationship, it is agreed that this Contract shall take precedence over policies of either Party and the Application; applicable policies of the District Board that have not been waived shall take precedence over policies and practices of the School and the Application; and policies of the School and mutually-acceptable practices developed during the term of the charter contract shall take precedence over the Application.

12.2 Amendments

No amendment to this Contract shall be valid unless ratified in writing by the District Board and the Charter Board and executed by authorized representatives of the Parties.

12.3 Merger

This Contract contains all terms, conditions, and understandings of the Parties relating to its subject matter. All prior representations, understandings, and discussions are merged herein and supersede by this Contract.

12.4 Non Assignment

Neither Party to this Contract shall assign or attempt to assign any rights, benefits, or obligations accruing to the party under this Contract unless the other party agrees in writing to any such assignment. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed.

12.5 Governing Law and Enforceability

This Contract shall be governed and construed according to the Constitution and Laws of the State of Colorado. If any provision of this Contract or any application of this Contract to the School is found contrary to law, such provision or application shall have effect only to the extent permitted by law. Either party may revoke this Contract if a material provision is declared unlawful or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction or the Parties do not successfully negotiate a replacement provision. The Parties agree, that upon any material changes in law that may materially impact the relationship of the Parties, the Parties shall as soon as reasonably practical after the effective date of such change in law, amend this Contract to reflect such change in law.

12.6 No Third-Party Beneficiary

The enforcement of the terms and conditions of this Contract and all rights of action relating to such enforcement shall be strictly reserved to the District and the School. Nothing contained in this Contract shall give or allow any claim or right of action whatsoever by any other or third person. It is the express intent of the Parties to this Contract that any person receiving services or benefits hereunder shall be deemed an incidental beneficiary only.

12.7 No Waiver

The Parties agree that no assent, express or implied, to any breach by either of them of any one or more of the provisions of this Contract shall constitute a waiver of any other breach.

12.8 Notice

Any notice required, or permitted, under this Contract, shall be in writing and shall be effective upon actual receipt or refusal when sent by personal delivery or email (subject to verification of service or acknowledgement of receipt) or one day after deposit with a nationally recognized overnight courier, or three days after mailing when sent by certified mail, postage prepaid to the Lead Administrator for notice to the School, or to the designated District representative for notice to the District, at the addresses set forth below. Either party may change the address for notice by giving written notice to the other party.

Notice to School:

Chief Innovation Officer/Lead Administrator STEM Charter School 8890 Barrons Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Notice to District:

Superintendent Director of Choice Programming Douglas County School District RE-1 620 Wilcox St. Castle Rock, CO 80104

12.9 Severability

If any provision of this Contract is determined to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remainder of the Contract shall remain in full force and effect, unless otherwise terminated by one or both of the Parties in accordance with the terms contained herein.

12.10 Interpretation

- A. <u>Standard of Compliance</u>. In the event of any disagreement or conflict concerning the interpretation or enforcement of this Contract, the Application, and District policies, procedures, regulations, or other requirements, unless waived, and compliance by the School therewith shall be required and measured in the same manner as may be applied and expected by the District of otherwise-comparable District schools.
- B. <u>Business Days</u>. As used in this Contract "business day" means any day other than a Saturday or Sunday or a day on which government institutions in the state of Colorado are closed.
- C. <u>Counterparts; Signature by Facsimile</u>. This Contract may be signed in counterparts, which when taken together, shall constitute one original Contract. Signatures received by facsimile or electronically by either of the Parties shall have the same effect as original signatures.
- D. <u>Conflict with Attachments</u>. In the event of conflicts or inconsistencies between this Contract, the Attachments, or the Application, such conflicts or inconsistencies shall be resolved by reference to the documents in the following order of priority: first, the terms of this Contract, second, the Attachments, and last the Application.

12.11 Nonreligious, Nonsectarian Status

The educational program of the School shall be nonreligious, nonsectarian, and, consistent with applicable

law and District policy, shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity, religion, ancestry, disability or need for special education services, or on any other basis protected by state or federal law.

[SPACE BELOW INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Contract as of the date first above written.

THE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM) CHARTER SCHOOL,

a Colorado non-profit corporation

File Perna 7

President, Board of Directors

Date: _____

By:

ATTEST:

Michelle Horne

Secretary, Board of Directors

(THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have entered into and executed this Contract as of the date(s) written below.

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

By: Christy Williams

President, Board of Education

24-24 Date:



By: **Becky Myers**

Secretary, Board of Education

ATTACHMENT 1: DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION CONCERNING RENEWAL APPLICATION

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RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

(Approving STEM Charter School Renewal Application)

WHEREAS, the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Charter School, also known as STEM School Highlands Ranch, has been a Douglas County School District RE-1 since 2011; and

WHEREAS, on or before September 1, 2023, STEM submitted to the Board a charter school renewal application seeking renewal of its charter for a term commencing on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2029 (the "Renewal Application"); and

WHEREAS, District staff have reviewed the Renewal Application and have provided a written recommendation, including the reasons supporting the recommendation, regarding the Renewal Application; and

WHEREAS, at a public Board meeting held on December 12, 2023, STEM presented additional information to the Board regarding the Renewal Application; and

WHEREAS, the Board has thoroughly considered the Renewal Application, Board policy, the Act, oral and written submissions from STEM and the public, and recommendations of District staff.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

1. That approval of the Renewal Application is in the best interests of the District, its students, and the community, and STEM's charter is hereby renewed for a five-year term, subject to the conditions set forth in this Resolution.

2. That the District and STEM negotiate and enter into a mutually acceptable charter school renewal contract no later than ninety (90) days after the adoption date of this Resolution, unless otherwise agreed between the District and STEM. Such renewal contract shall contain the District's standard terms and conditions.

3. The Board hereby authorizes the Board President, the Superintendent of Schools, or their respective designees to negotiate and execute such contract.

Adopted this 23th day of January, 2024 by a vote of 6-0.

AYES: Geiger, Meek, Myers, Thompson, Williams, Winegar

NAYS: N/A

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

By:

Christy Williams

Christy Williams, President Board of Education



Myena Ne Alu

Becky Myers, Secretary Board of Education

ATTACHMENT 2: SELECTED LAWS APPLICABLE TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

Governance, Records, and Charter Schools

- 1. Colorado Charter Schools Act: C.R.S. § 22-30.5
- 2. Colorado Open Meetings Law: C.R.S. §§ 24-6-401 et seq.
- 3. Colorado Open Records Act: C.R.S. §§ 24-72-201 et seq.
- 4. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974: 20 U.S.C. § 1232g
- 5. Colorado Code of Ethics: C.R.S. §§ 24-18-101 et seq.
- 6. Non-Profit Corporation Act: C.R.S. §§ 7-121-101 et seq.

Safety and Discipline

- 7. Certificate of occupancy for the school facility: C.R.S. § 22-32-124
- 8. Safe School Plan: C.R.S. § 22-32-109.1(2)
- 9. Grounds for suspension, expulsion, and denial of admission of students: C.R.S. § 22-33-106
- 10. Procedures for suspension, expulsion, and denial of admission of students: C.R.S. § 22-33-105
- 11. Services for expelled students: C.R.S. § 22-33-203
- 12. Child Protection Act of 1987: C.R.S. §§ 19-3-301 et seq.
- 13. Background checks for employees: C.R.S. § 22-1-121

Educational Accountability

- 14. Educational Accountability: C.R.S. §§ 22-7-101 *et seq.*, C.R.S. §§ 22-11-101 *et seq.* (especially C.R.S. § 22-11-210 and C.R.S. §§ 22-11-401 *et. seq.*)
- 15. Accreditation: Accreditation Rules of the State Board of Education: 1 CCR 301-1
- 16. ESEA Act: P.L. 107-110
- 17. Colorado READ Act: C.R.S. §§ 22-7-1201 et seq.
- 18. Graduation Requirements: Adopted by the State Board pursuant to C.R.S. § 22-2-106 (See CDE website for most up to date guidelines).
- 19. Postsecondary and workforce planning, preparation, and readiness assessments: C.R.S. § 22-7-106

Curriculum, Instruction, and Extra-Curricular Activities

- 20. Instruction in federal and state history and government: C.R.S. § 22-1-104
- 21. Honor and use of the U.S. Flag: C.R.S. § 22-1-106
- 22. Instruction in the Constitution: C.R.S. §§ 22-1-108, 109
- 23. Instruction in the effects of use of alcohol and controlled substances: C.R.S. § 22-1-110
- 24. On-line programs: C.R.S. § 22-33-104.6
- 25. Participation in sports and extra-curricular activities: C.R.S. § 22-32-116.5
- 26. Content standards: C.R.S. § 22-7-407
- 27. Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act: C.R.S. §§ 22-35-101 et seq.

Exceptional Students

- 28. Discipline of students with disabilities: 20 U.S.C. § 1415(k), 34 C.F.R. § 519-529
- 29. Exceptional Children's Educational Act: C.R.S. §§ 22-20-101 et seq.
- 30. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: 29 U.S.C. § 794
- 31. Americans with Disabilities Act: 42 U.S.C. § 12101
- 32. Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1401 et seq.
- 33. English Language Proficiency Act: C.R.S. §§ 22-24-101 et seq.

Finance

- 34. School Funding Formula: C.R.S. § 22-54-104(3)
- 35. Funded pupil enrollment: C.R.S. § 22-54-103(10)
- 36. Tuition: C.R.S. § 22-20-109(5), C.R.S. § 22-32-115(1) and (2), C.R.S. § 22-54-109
- 37. Fees: C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(o) and (p), C.R.S. § 22-32-117
- 38. Allocation of funds to a capital reserve fund: C.R.S. § 22-54-105(2)(b)
- 39. Expenditures from a capital reserve fund: C.R.S. § 22-45-103, C.R.S. § 24-10-115, Article 13 of title 29
- 40. Allocation of funds for instructional supplies and materials: C.R.S. § 22-54-105(I)
- 41. Allocation of funds for at-risk students: C.R.S. § 22-54-105
- 42. Colorado Department of Education Financial Policies and Procedures
- 43. Excess tuition charges for out-of-District special education students: C.R.S. § 22-20-109(5)
- 44. Participation in PERA : C.R.S. § 22-30.5-512 and C.R.S. § 22-30.5-111(3)
- 45. Financial Transparency Act: C.R.S. §§ 22-44-301 et seq.

ATTACHMENT 3: CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM

DCSD Charter Board Conflict of Interest Form

____ Charter School Board Due September Member Certification

1 of each year

Form

Note: The purpose of this document is to provide disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest by charter school board members. The Charter School Board operated according to its own Bylaws and applicable law in regard to conflicts of interest. However, this form is a public document and will be available at the School for inspection by other board members, the staff, or the community. In addition, a copy of the form will be uploaded into the School's online file cabinet maintained by the district.

Background

1. Board member name: _____

2. I affirm that I am at least 18 years of age by the date of appointment to the School Board. _____ Yes, I affirm.

3. Indicate whether you have ever been convicted or pled "no contest" of one or more of the following: a. A misdemeanor related to honesty or trustworthiness, or b. A felony.

____No ____Yes. If the answer to this question is yes, please provide details of the offense, the date, disposition, etc., in an attachment.

4. Indicate if you have ever entered into a settlement agreement, consent decree, adjournment in contemplation of dismissal, assurance of discontinuance or other, similar agreement with the Securities Exchange Commission, Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Attorney General or the Attorney General of any state, a U.S. or District Attorney or any other law enforcement or regulatory body concerning the discharge of your duties as a board member for a for-profit or non-for profit entity or as an executive of such entity. If the answer to this question is yes, please provide details of the agreement.

____No ____Yes

Conflicts

1. Indicate whether you, your spouse, or anyone in your immediate family meets either of the following conditions:

a. is doing or plans to do business with the School (whether as an individual or as a director, officer, employee or agent of any entity.

b. any entity in which one of the above-identified individuals has an interest in going business or plans to do business with the School. If so, indicate and describe the precise nature of your relationship and the nature of the business that such person or entity is transacting or will be transacting with the School in an attachment. Note: in accordance with C.R.S. §7-128-501 (5), an immediate family member is a spouse, descendant, ancestor, sibling, spouse or descendant of a sibling, or a designated beneficiary.

____ Not applicable ____ Yes

2. Indicate if you, your spouse or other immediate family members anticipate conducting, or are conducting, any business with a contractor who is conducting business with the School. If so,

please indicate the precise nature of the relationship with the contractor and the business that is being or will be conducted.

____ Not applicable ____ Yes

 Indicate any potential ethical or legal conflicts of interest that might exist for you as a member of the School Board or another School or non-profit board. Note: being a parent of a School student, serving on another charter School's board or being employed by the School may present potential conflicts for certain issues.
 ____ None Yes

Please specify Disclosures for Schools Contracting with an Educational Service Provider

 Indicate whether you, your spouse, or any immediate family member has a personal or professional relationship with any employees, officers, owners, directors or agents of that provider. If the answer is in the affirmative, describe any such relationship.
 _____ Not applicable _____ Yes

Conflicts for Schools Contracting with an Educational Service Provider

1. Indicate whether you, your spouse or other immediate family members have, anticipate in the future, or have been offered a direct or indirect ownership, employment, contractual or management interest in the provider. For any interested indicated, please provide a detailed description.

____ Not applicable ____ Yes

2. Indicate if you, your spouse or other immediate family member anticipate conducting, or are conducting any business with the provider. If so, indicate the precise nature of the business that is being or will be conducted.

____ Not applicable ____ Yes

I affirm that I have read the charter school's Bylaws and conflict of interest policies.

I, _____, certify to the best of my knowledge and ability that the information I am providing to Douglas County School District in regard to my service as a member of the board of directors of the Charter School is true and correct in every respect.

Signature

Date

ATTACHMENT 4: EDUCATION MANAGEMENT PROVIDER (EMP) AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. The maximum term of an EMP agreement must not exceed the term of the charter. The School shall have the right to terminate the EMP agreement without cause or a financial penalty. The fee provision of the EMP agreement shall be renegotiated on an annual basis and shall not automatically adjust.

2. EMP agreements must be negotiated at 'arms-length.' The School's board and EMP must have independent legal counsel to represent their interests in reaching a mutually acceptable management agreement.

3. No provision of the EMP agreement shall interfere with the charter board's duty to exercise its statutory, contractual and fiduciary responsibilities governing the operation of the School. No provision of the EMP agreement shall prohibit the charter board from acting as an independent, self-governing public body, or allow decisions to be made other than in compliance with the Colorado Sunshine Law.

4. An EMP agreement shall not restrict the charter board from waiving its governmental immunity or require a charter board to assert, waive or not waive its governmental immunity.

5. No provision of an EMP agreement shall alter the charter board's treasurer's legal obligation to direct that the deposit of all funds received by the School be placed in the School's account.

6. EMP agreements must contain at least one of the following methods for paying fees or expenses: 1) the charter board may pay or reimburse the EMP for approved fees or expenses upon properly presented documentation and approval by the charter board; or 2) the charter board may advance funds to the EMP for the fees or expenses associated with the School's operation provided that documentation for the fees and expenses are provided for charter board ratification.

7. EMP agreements shall provide that the financial, educational and student records pertaining to the School are School property and that such records are subject to the provisions of the Colorado Open Records Act. All School records shall be physically or electronically available, upon request, at the School's physical facilities. Except as permitted under the charter contract and applicable law, no EMP agreement shall restrict the District's access to the School's records.

8. EMP agreements must contain a provision that all finance and other records of the EMP related to the School will be made available to the School's independent auditor.

9. The EMP agreement must not permit the EMP to select and retain the independent auditor for the School.

10. If an EMP purchases equipment, materials and supplies on behalf of or as the agent of the School, the EMP agreement shall provide that such equipment, materials and supplies shall be and remain the property of the School.

11. EMP agreements shall contain a provision that if the EMP procures equipment, materials and supplies at the request of or on behalf of the School, the EMP shall comply with competitive bidding processes and shall not include any added fees or charges with the cost of equipment, materials and supplies purchased from third parties.

12. EMP agreements must contain a provision that clearly allocates the respective proprietary rights of the charter board and the EMP to curriculum or educational materials. At a minimum, EMP agreements shall provide that the School owns all proprietary rights to curriculum or educational materials that (i) are both directly developed and paid for by the School; or (ii) were developed by the EMP at the direction of the School's governing board with School funds dedicated for the specific purpose of developing such curriculum or materials. EMP agreements may also include a provision that restricts the School's proprietary rights over curriculum or educational materials that are developed by the EMP from funds from the School or that are not otherwise dedicated for the specific purpose of developing School curriculum or educational materials. All EMP agreements shall recognize that the EMP's educational materials and teaching techniques used by the School are subject to state disclosure laws and the Open Records Act.

13. EMP agreements involving employees must be clear about which persons or positions are employees of the EMP, and which persons or positions are employees of the School. The EMP agreement shall prohibit the EMP from leasing employees to the School and shall prohibit co-employment of School and EMP employees.

14. EMP agreements must contain insurance and indemnification provisions outlining the coverage the EMP will obtain. The EMP's insurance is separate from and in addition to the insurance for the charter board that is required according to the charter contract. Insurance coverage must take into account whether or not staff at the School are employees of the EMP or the School.

15. Marketing and development costs paid by or charged to the School shall be limited to those costs specific to the School program, and shall not include any costs for the marketing and development of the EMP. Other reimbursable costs of EMP charged to the School, including, but not limited to, overhead, corporate, and travel costs, shall be defined with reference to specific dollar amounts.

16. If the School intends to enter into a lease, execute promissory notes or other negotiable instruments, or enter into a lease-purchase agreement or other financing relationships with the EMP, then such agreements must be separately documented and not be a part of or incorporated into the EMP agreement. Such agreements must be consistent with the School's authority to terminate the EMP agreement and continue operation of the School.

17. The EMP agreement shall provide for the annual performance evaluation of the EMP in accordance with School policy. The EMP performance evaluation shall be subject to state disclosure laws, including, but not limited to, the Open Records Act.

ATTACHMENT 5: AUTOMATIC WAIVERS OF STATE LAWS

Automatic Waivers	
<u>State Statute</u> <u>Citation</u>	Description
C.R.S. § 22-32- 109(1)(f)	Local board duties concerning selection of staff and pay
C.R.S. § 22-32- 109(1)(t)	Determine educational program and prescribe textbooks
C.R.S. § 22-32- 110(1)(h)	Local board powers-Terminate employment of personnel
C.R.S. § 22-32- 110(1)(i)	Local board duties-Reimburse employees for expenses
C.R.S. § 22-32- 110(1)(j)	Local board powers-Procure life, health, or accident insurance
C.R.S. § 22-32- 110(1)(k)	Local board powers-Policies relating the in-service training and official conduct
C.R.S. § 22-32- 110(1)(ee)	Local board powers-Employ teachers' aides and other non-certificated personnel
C.R.S. § 22-32-126	Employment and authority of principals
C.R.S. § 22-33- 104(4)	Compulsory school attendance-Attendance policies and excused absences
C.R.S. § 22-63-301	Teacher Employment Act-Grounds for dismissal
C.R.S. § 22-63-302	Teacher Employment Act-Procedures for dismissal of teachers
C.R.S. § 22-63-401	Teacher Employment Act-Teachers subject to adopted salary schedule
C.R.S. § 22-63-402	Teacher Employment Act-Certificate required to pay teachers
C.R.S. § 22-63-403	Teacher Employment Act-Describes payment of salaries
C.R.S. § 22-1-112	School Year-National Holidays

ATTACHMENT 6: NON-AUTOMATIC WAIVERS OF STATE LAWS AND/OR REGULATION



Charter School Waiver Request Addendum

Use the addendum template below to list the non-automatic waiver(s) from statute and rule and the related replacement plans that the charter school is requesting.

School Name: STEM School Highlands Ranch

School Address (mailing): 8873 S. Ridgeline Blvd Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Charter School Waiver Contact Name: Matt Cartier

Charter School Waiver Contact's Phone Number: (303)683-7836

Charter School Waiver Contact's Email: matt.cartier@kosonschools.org

Automatic Waivers	
<u>State Statute</u> <u>Citation</u>	Description_
C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(f)	Local board duties concerning selection of staff and pay
C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(t)	Determine educational program and prescribe textbooks
C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(h)	Local board powers-Terminate employment of personnel
C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(i)	Local board duties-Reimburse employees for expenses
C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(j)	Local board powers-Procure life, health, or accident insurance
C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(k)(l)	Local board powers-Policies relating the in-service training and official conduct
C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(ee)	Local board powers-Employ teachers' aides and other non-certificated personnel

C.R.S. § 22-32-126	Employment and authority of principals
C.R.S. § 22-33-104(4)	Compulsory school attendance-Attendance policies and excused absences
C.R.S. § 22-63-301	Teacher Employment Act-Grounds for dismissal
C.R.S. § 22-63-302	Teacher Employment Act-Procedures for dismissal of teachers
C.R.S. § 22-63-401	Teacher Employment Act-Teachers subject to adopted salary schedule
C.R.S. § 22-63-402	Teacher Employment Act-Certificate required to pay teachers
C.R.S. § 22-63-403	Teacher Employment Act-Describes payment of salaries
C.R.S. § 22-1-112	School Year-National Holidays

C.R.S. § 22-9-106 Local Board of Education-Duties-Performance Evaluation System; C.R.S. § 22-2-112(1)(q)(I) Commissioner-Duties

Rationale: STEM School Highlands Ranch or designee must have the ability to perform the evaluation of all personnel. Should any other designated administrator not have a Principal Licensure, this should not preclude him or her from administering the evaluations under the direction of the Principal. The Board of Directors must also be able to perform the evaluation for the Chief Innovation Officer. Additionally, STEM School Highlands Ranch should not be required to report its teacher evaluation ratings as a part of the commissioner's report as required by C.R.S. § 22-2-112(1)(q)(I), but will still report on in-field/out-of-field.

Replacement Plan:

STEM School uses its own evaluation system as agreed to in the charter contract with Douglas County School District. STEM School's evaluation system continues to meet the intent of the law as outlined in statute. Staff is annually trained in this evaluation system. The methods used for the school's evaluation system include quality standards that are clear and relevant to the administrators' and teachers' roles and responsibilities, be based on research-based practices guiding the science of reading, have the goal of improving student academic growth, and meet the intent of the quality standards established in C.R.S. §§ 22-9-101 et seq. The school will not be required to report its teacher evaluation data through applicable state collections; however, teacher performance ratings data will be reviewed by the school and used to inform hiring

practices and professional development. Core course level participation will continue to be reported pursuant to C.R.S. § 22-11-503.5, as this is a non-waivable statute.

Duration of Waivers:

The waiver will extend for the duration of the contract.

Financial Impact: The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District or the STEM School Charter budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:

Since teacher performance has a critical impact on the performance of the entire school, the impact of this waiver will be measured by the same performance criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as set forth in the charter contract. The Board of Directors of the school and school leader will annually evaluate the effectiveness of their evaluation system and make adjustments as they may deem appropriate.

Expected Outcome:

If granted, the waiver will enable the school to implement its program and evaluate its teachers in accordance with its Performance Appraisal System, which is designed to produce greater accountability and be consistent with the school's goals and objectives. This will benefit staff members as well as students and the community.

C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(n)(I) Board of Education-Specific Duties School Calendar C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(B) Board of Education-Specific Duties Adoption of District Calendar

C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(A) Board of Education – Teacher Pupil Contact Hours

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch prescribes the actual details of its own school calendar to best meet the needs of its students. As such, the school has a calendar that may differ from the rest of the schools within Douglas County District. STEM School Highlands Ranch will always meet at least the minimum required time and days as outlined in state law.

Replacement Plan:

The final calendar and the school's daily schedule is designed and approved by the STEM School's Board of Directors and meets or exceeds the requirements in state statute. The Board adopted a policy that specifies a process regarding how and when a calendar is adopted and how changes to the calendar are made. A copy of the calendar is distributed to parents of STEM School. To the extent possible, STEM School Highlands Ranch will endeavor to develop a calendar that aligns with the calendar of Douglas County School District.

Duration of Waivers:

The waiver will extend for the duration of the contract.

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District or the STEM School Highlands Ranch budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:

The impact of this waiver will be measured by the same performance criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as set forth in the charter contract.

Expected Outcome:

As a result of this waiver, the school will be able to operate in accordance with its own schedule, designed to meet the needs of its community and educational program, which is vital to the success of its program.

C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(b) Local Board Duties Concerning Competitive Bidding C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(y) Local Board Powers-Accepting Gifts, Donations, and Grants

Rationale:

In order to manage its own budget and finances, STEM School Highlands Ranch must be granted the authority to develop its own financial policies and practices. STEM School Highlands Ranch, rather than Douglas County School District, is in the best position to know what goods and services are needed and which vendors and providers may be available.

Replacement Plan: STEM School Highlands Ranch Board of Directors adopted a policy concerning competitive bidding, as required by applicable law, and for selecting successful bidders on projects/contracts. STEM School Highlands Ranch will ensure the process is open, transparent, and in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. Additionally, the board adopted a policy for accepting gifts, grants and donations.

Duration of Waivers:

The waiver will extend for the duration of the contract.

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District or the STEM School Highlands Ranch budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:

The impact of this waiver will be measured by the same performance criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as set forth in the charter contract.

Expected Outcome:

STEM School Highlands Ranch expects that, because of this waiver, it will be able to manage its own financial affairs.

C.R.S. § 22-63-201 Employment Certificate Required

Rationale: STEM School Highlands Ranch must be granted the authority to hire teachers and principals that will support the school's goals and objectives. The principal will not function as a traditional District school principal, but rather will be responsible for a wider range of tasks and act as the school's chief executive officer. East Elementary Charter will seek to attract principals and teachers from a wide variety of backgrounds, including, but not limited to teachers from out-of-state, teachers with a lapsed Colorado certificate, persons with several years of successful teaching experience in a setting not requiring a license, as well as persons with business or professional experience. **Replacement Plan:** All STEM School Highlands Ranch Charter employees meets the guidelines set forth in the Colorado state ESSA plan, specifically (1) endorsement on a Colorado teaching license; (2) holding at least a BA or higher in the relevant subject area; (3) completing 36 semester credit hours in the subject matter in which s/he teaches; or (4) passing a State Board approved content exam in the relevant subject area. All school employees will meet applicable fingerprinting and background check requirements. Special Education Teachers will hold the requisite state license and endorsement. STEM School Highlands Ranch will report the number of in-field/out-of-field teacher designations, years of experience of teachers, or any other requirements promulgated by CDE.

Duration of Waivers: The waiver will extend for the duration of the contract.

Financial Impact: The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District or the STEM School Charter budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated: The impact of this waiver will be measured by the same performance criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as set forth in the Charter Agreement.

Expected Outcome: As a result of this waiver, STEM School Highlands Ranch Charter will be able to operate in accordance with its own program and hire teachers that best fit the school's design, which is vital to the success of its program.

C.R.S. § 22-63-202 Teacher Employment, Contracts in Writing-Duration-Damage Provision

C.R.S. § 22-63-203 Probationary Teachers-Renewal and Non-renewal of Employment Contract

Rationale: To manage its own personnel, STEM School Highlands Ranch Charter must be granted the authority to select its own teaching staff, develop its own employment agreements and terms and conditions of employment.

Replacement Plan: All STEM School Charter employees will be employed on an at-will basis. STEM School Charter has written teacher agreements with the terms of non-renewal and renewal of employment agreements, and payment of salaries upon termination of employment of a teacher. As a result of these waivers, the school will be able to employ professional staff possessing unique skills and/or background, filling all staff needs.

Duration of Waivers: The waiver will extend for the duration of the contract.

Financial Impact: The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County District or the STEM School Charter budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated: The impact of this waiver will be measured by the same performance criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as set forth in the Charter Agreement.

Expected Outcome: STEM School Charter expects that, as a result of this waiver, it will be able to manage its own personnel affairs.

C.R.S. § 22-63-206 Transfer of Teachers

Rationale: STEM School Charter has a unique curriculum for which having the proper teaching staff is essential. No other school nor Douglas County School District should have the authority to transfer its teachers into or from STEM School Highlands Ranch Charter.

Replacement Plan: STEM School Highlands Ranch Charter will not participate in the district's transfer policies and procedures; however, to the extent that teachers are transferred to other positions or grades within the school, there shall be no discrimination shown toward any teacher in the assignment or transfer of that teacher because of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, or membership or non-membership in any group or organization. Race includes hair texture, hair type, or a protective hairstyle that is commonly or historically associated with race.

Duration of Waivers: The waiver will extend for the duration of the contract.

Financial Impact: The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District or the STEM School Charter budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated: The impact of this waiver will be measured by the same performance criteria and assessments that apply to the STEM School Charter, as set forth in the Charter Agreement.

Expected Outcome: STEM School Highlands Ranch Charter expects that, as a result of this waiver, it will be able to manage its own personnel affairs.

ATTACHMENT 7: WAIVERS OF DISTRICT POLICIES

STEM School Highlands Ranch Automatic Waiver Request Template

Use the addendum template below to list **automatic waiver(s)** from policy and rule and the related replacement plans that the charter school is requesting.

Automatic district waivers still require a developed plan, process, or policy on record. DCSD has streamlined this process with its "Automatic Waiver Request Template" document. This document allows charter schools to reference their replacement policy using existing material (e.g., Staff or Student Handbook, Application, Policy Handbook, etc.). This process is not intended to be exhaustive, rather it aims to help protect the autonomy of the charter school.

Contact Information

School Name: STEM School Highlands Ranch

School Address (mailing): 8773 S. Ridgeline Blvd, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Charter School Waiver Contact Name: Michelle Gasser/LynAnn Kovalesky

Charter School Waiver Contact's Phone Number: 303-683-7836

Charter School Waiver Contact's Email: michelle.gasser@stemk12.org

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title

BBBE Unexpired Term Fulfillment Vacancies 06.18.19

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link: This policy is covered in Section 3.4 of the STEM School Bylaws.

STEM School Bylaws (amended 8.2018)

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title

BC School Board Member Conduct 06.18.19

BCA_E_1 Code of Ethics for School Board Members 08.20.19

BCB School Board Member Conflict of Interest 06.18.19

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link: This policy is covered in Article 7 and Section 8.5 of the STEM School Bylaws.

STEM School Bylaws (amended 8.2018)

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title:

BE School Board Meetings 06.18.19

BEDH Public Participation at School Board Meetings 06.18.19 (1)

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

This policy is covered in Sections 3.5, 3.6, and 7.4, of the STEM School Bylaws.

STEM School Bylaws (amended 8.2018)

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title:

BG Policy Process 04.02.2019

BG E Policy Process Delegation of District Policy 04.02.19

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

This policy is covered in Article V of the STEM School Bylaws.

STEM School Bylaws (amended 8.2018)

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title:

DFE Gate Receipts and Admissions (Royalties) 12.03.02

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

STEM School Highlands Ranch follows the policies set forth by CHSSA with regard to gate and game admission cost. If no policy is applicable STEM School Highlands Ranch will maintain a non for profit policy which allows for covering all costs specific to an event.

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title:

IGA Curriculum Development 05.2012

IGA-E District Course Proposal Form 11.07.18

IGA-E-1 District Concurrent Enrollment Program Proposal 11.07.18

IGA-R Curriculum Development 11.07.18

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

STEM School Highlands Ranch is responsible to identify, deliver, and monitor curriculum that aligns with the Colorado Academic Standards. Curriculum Development and Course proposals are approved by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Curriculum Committee, a Board Committee, and approved by the STEM Board of Directors. In addition, curriculum development and decision making aligns with the vision and mission of STEM School Highlands Ranch and a model of Problem Based Learning.

STEM School Highlands Ranch Mission: Never Stop Innovating

Vision: We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead and succeed in an ever-changing future.

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title:

IJ Textbook and Instructional Materials Selection and Adoption 07.15.14

IJ-E Textbook and Instructional Materials Selection and Adoption Request Checklist 03.06.19

IJ-E-1 Proposal to Adopt a Textbook 03.2019

IJ-E-2 Novel Book-Length Work Proposal 03.2019

IJ-E-3 District Initiated Texbook_required curriculum materials adoption proposal 7.2020

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

STEM School Highlands Ranch is responsible to identify, deliver, and monitor curriculum that aligns with the Colorado Academic Standards. Curriculum development, Instructional resources, and course proposals are approved by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Curriculum Committee, a Board Committee, and approved by the STEM Board of Directors. In addition, curriculum development and decision making aligns with the vision and mission of STEM School Highlands Ranch and a model of Problem Based Learning.

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Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title:

IJ-R Procedures for Reviewing and Recommending Textbooks and Instructional Materials 03.06.19

IJA Selection of Controversial Learning Resources 05.2012

IJA-R Selection of Controversial Learning Resources 05.2012

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

STEM School Highlands Ranch is responsible to identify, deliver, and monitor curriculum that aligns with the Colorado Academic Standards. Curriculum development, Instructional resources, and course proposals are approved by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Curriculum Committee, a Board Committee, and approved by the STEM Board of Directors. In addition, curriculum development and decision making aligns with the vision and mission of STEM School Highlands Ranch and a model of Problem Based Learning.

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Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title:

IJOA Field Trips and Excursions 11.28.05

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

STEM School Highlands Ranch is responsible for managing its own field trips. Furthermore, all field trips align with the vision and mission of STEM School Highlands Ranch and a model of Problem Based Learning.

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Vision: We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead and succeed in an ever-changing future.

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title:

IKAB Student Progress Reports to Parents-Guardians and Students 01.28.08 IKAB-R-1 Student Progress Reports to Parents and Students 01.26.08

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

STEM School Highlands Ranch will align with this policy but governs its own student reporting, which is communicated in the Parent/Student Handbook on page 22. <u>Parent/Student Handbook</u>

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title:

JICA Student Dress 09.15.20

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

STEM School Highlands Ranch agrees with the majority of the DCSD policies related to dress code but has modified a few policies in order to suit the culture and student choice within the student body. Staff and students were involved in adopting the dress code which is communicated in the Parent/Student Handbook on page 26. Parent/Student Handbook

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title: <u>IKF-R-4</u>- High School Grading and Transcripts

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

STEM High School Academic Planning Guide p. 10

We will award all current 9th -12th grade students the following credit equivalency for any concurrent enrollment courses taken at STEM or at a qualifying school of higher education. This is so that our students are able to complete their transfer degrees by their 13th or 14th year.

Concurrent Enrolment Credit Equivalency

Students completing college-level concurrent enrollment college level courses with a grade of C- or higher will be awarded credit equivalency as follows:

1 semester credit	.5 year high school credit
2-3 semester credits	1 year high school credit
4 semester credits	1.5 years high school credit
5 semester credits	2 years high school credit

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title (JQE-E Student Fees Appendix A FY 2020-2021)

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

STEM School Highlands Ranch is responsible for managing its own student fee structure. Furthermore, all student fees align with the DCSD Student Fee policies and regulations. Student fees are utilized to provide additional curricular and technology resources to support the mission and vision.

STEM School Highlands Ranch Mission: Never Stop Innovating

Vision: We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child

develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive,

lead and succeed in an ever-changing future. <u>STEM 2023-2024 Student Fees</u>

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title <u>KF</u> Community Use of School Facilities 03.16.04 K<u>F-R-1 Community Use of School Facilities 04.03.13</u>

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

STEM School Highlands Ranch is responsible for managing its own facilities and the use of its facilities. STEM School Highlands Ranch partners with the community to ensure the alignment to the mission and vision. STEM School Highlands Ranch requires each partner to complete a Charter Use Application and Contract when utilizing the school owned facilities.

STEM School Highlands Ranch Mission: Never Stop Innovating Vision: We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead and succeed in an ever-changing future.

Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan / Process

Policy Citation and Title IJA-E-3 Guest Speaker Permission Form 05.2012

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

STEM School Highlands Ranch is responsible to identify, deliver, and monitor

Curriculum, partnerships and guests that may be interacting with STEM students. All guest

presentations align with the Colorado Academic Standards. Curriculum development,

Instructional resources, and guest speakers or presenters are approved by the STEM School

Highlands Ranch Director of Curriculum and Instruction. In addition, curriculum development

and decision making aligns with the vision and mission of STEM School Highlands Ranch and

a model of Problem Based Learning.

All guest speakers and partnerships follow the volunteer process which includes background

checks.

STEM School Highlands Ranch Mission: Never Stop Innovating

Vision: We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child

develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead

and succeed in an ever-changing future.

STEM School Highlands Ranch DCSD Non-Automatic Waiver Request Template

Use the template below to list the **non-automatic waiver(s)** from policy and rule and the related replacement plans that the charter school is requesting.

Contact Information

School Name: STEM School Highlands Ranch

School Address (mailing): 8773 S. Ridgeline Blvd, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Charter School Waiver Contact Name: Michelle Gasser/LynAnn Kovalesky

Charter School Waiver Contact's Phone Number: 303-683-7836

Charter School Waiver Contact's Email: michelle.gasser@stemk12.org

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title: <u>DB Annual Budget 08.20.19</u> <u>DB R Annual Budget (SBB Model) Regulation 08.20.19</u>

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch has its own guidelines for Budget, including those from the Board and those from the Bond holders through our financing. State regulations such as Tabor are still met. Expenditures not incurred over the Board appropriated amount each year.

Replacement Plan, Process or Policy Link:

These policies are governed by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Board of Directors and follow the Financial Controls and Policies in place as evidenced in the <u>STEM Financial Controls Policy</u> (Process and Management of Budget, pg. 1-3).

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District. STEM School Highlands Ranch will operate within its own budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers will be evaluated:

STEM School Highlands Ranch will complete the annual audit which aligns to the Douglas County School District and Colorado State Statutes.

Expected Outcome:

As a result of these waivers, the school will be expected to implement the necessary policies needed with respect to the district policy.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title:

DFA Cash Management and Investment Policy 03.05.19 DFA-R Cash Management and Investment Regulation 03.05.19

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch has its own guidelines for Budget, including those from the Board and those from the Bond holders through our financing. State regulations such as Tabor are still met. Expenditures not incurred over the Board appropriated amount each year. STEM School Highlands Ranch Board of Directors has the authority to determine investments of school funds, within the guidelines of CDE and Bond Finance.

Replacement Plan:

These policies are governed by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Board of Directors and follow the Financial Controls and Policies in place as evidenced in the <u>STEM Financial Controls Policy</u> (Section 3, Management Policies, pgs 3-4).

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District. STEM School Highlands Ranch will operate within its own budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers will be evaluated:

STEM School Highlands Ranch will complete the annual audit which aligns to the Douglas County School District and Colorado State Statutes.

Expected Outcome:

As a result of these waivers, the school will be expected to implement the necessary policies needed with respect to the district policy.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title:

DG Banking Services Deposit of Funds Authorized Signatures and Check Writing 08.16.16

DG-R Banking Services (and Deposit of Funds) Regulation 08.04.16.

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch has its own guidelines for banking services. STEM School Highlands Ranch is responsible for its own fiscal management and policies.

Replacement Plan:

These policies are governed by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Board of Directors and follow the Financial Controls and Policies in place as evidenced in the <u>STEM Financial Controls Policy</u> (Section 3, Management Policies, pgs 3-4).

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District. STEM School Highlands Ranch will operate within its own budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers will be evaluated:

STEM School Highlands Ranch will complete the annual audit which aligns to the Douglas County School District and Colorado State Statutes.

Expected Outcome:

As a result of these waivers, the school will be expected to implement the necessary policies needed with respect to the district policy.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title:

DH Bonded Employees and Officers 12.03.02

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch has its own guidelines for banking services. STEM School Highlands Ranch is responsible for its own fiscal management and policies. STEM School Highlands Ranch has adopted its own insurance policy for Risk Management. Guidelines of the law are covered in this policy.

Replacement Plan:

These policies are governed by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Board of Directors and follow the Financial Controls and Policies in place as evidenced in the <u>STEM Financial Controls Policy (Section 5, Internal Controls, pg., & Section 6, Conflicts of</u> <u>rest</u> pg. 11).

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District. STEM School Highlands Ranch will operate within its own budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers will be evaluated:

STEM School Highlands Ranch will complete the annual audit which aligns to the Douglas County School District and Colorado State Statutes.

Expected Outcome:

As a result of these waivers, the school will be expected to implement the necessary policies needed with respect to the district policy.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title:

DID Capital Asset Reporting and Inventories 06.05.12

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch has adopted Capital Asset Reporting and Policies based on the most recent GASB reporting requirements. These policies could possibly be in line with DCSD however there may be minor modifications.

Replacement Plan:

These policies are governed by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Board of Directors and follow the Financial Controls and Policies in place as evidenced in the <u>STEM Financial Controls Policy</u> (Section 2, Asset Protection Policy, pgs. 2-3).

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District. STEM School Highlands Ranch will operate within its own budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers will be evaluated:

STEM School Highlands Ranch will complete the annual audit which aligns to the Douglas County School District and Colorado State Statutes.

Expected Outcome:

As a result of these waivers, the school will be expected to implement the necessary policies needed with respect to the district policy.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title:

DJ District Purchasing 08.20.19

DJ-R Purchasing Procedures 01.23.06

DJA Purchasing Authority 09.04.19

DJC Petty Cash 01.23.06

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch retains the responsibility to award and reject all competitive bids for materials, services, and /or services based on STEM School Highlands Ranch's own purchasing policies.

Replacement Plan:

These policies are governed by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Board of Directors and follow the Financial Controls and Policies in place as evidenced in the <u>STEM Financial Controls Policy</u> (Section 3. Management Policies, pgs. 4-5)

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District. STEM School Highlands Ranch will operate within its own budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers will be evaluated:

STEM School Highlands Ranch will complete the annual audit which aligns to the Douglas County School District and Colorado State Statutes.

Expected Outcome:

As a result of these waivers, the school will be expected to implement the necessary policies needed with respect to the district policy.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title:

DJE Bidding Procedures 09.04.19

DJG-DJGA Vendor Relations, Sales Calls and Demonstrations 01.23.06 DK Payment Procedures 01.18.05

Rationale:

The STEM School Highlands Ranch Governing Board will retain the role of establishing bid/proposal terms and conditions that govern all procurement transactions. Monitoring and accepting any vendor relations will be the sole responsibility of STEM School Highlands Ranch.

Replacement Plan:

These policies are governed by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Board of Directors and follow the Financial Controls and Policies in place as evidenced in the <u>STEM Financial Controls Policy</u> (Section 4, Accounting Policies and Procedures, pg. 5-8)...

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District. STEM School Highlands Ranch will operate within its own budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers will be evaluated:

STEM School Highlands Ranch will complete the annual audit which aligns to the Douglas County School District and Colorado State Statutes.

Expected Outcome:

As a result of these waivers, the school will be expected to implement the necessary policies needed with respect to the district policy.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title:

DKA Payroll Procedures-Schedules 12.13.94

DKC Employee Expense Authorization 08.28.16

DKC-R-1 Employee Expense Reimbursement Mileage Tolls and Parking 08.28.16

DKC-R-2 Employee Expense Reimbursement Travel Without Students 08.28.16

DKC-R-3 Employee Expense Reimbursement Travel With Students 08.28.16

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch does not purchase DCSD Business Services for this process and hereby retains all responsibilities for payments.

Replacement Plan:

These policies are governed by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Board of Directors and follow the Financial Controls and Policies in place as evidenced in the <u>STEM Financial Controls Policy</u> (Section 4, Accounting Policies and Procedures, pg. 5-7).

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District. STEM School Highlands Ranch will operate within its own budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers will be evaluated:

STEM School Highlands Ranch will complete the annual audit which aligns to the Douglas County School District and Colorado State Statutes.

Expected Outcome:

As a result of these waivers, the school will be expected to implement the necessary policies needed with respect to the district policy.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title:

DN School Properties Disposal Procedure 09.03.19

DN-R Property Disposal Procedure Regulation 07.15.14

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch retains responsibility to establish procedures for disposal of the school's real property.

Replacement Plan:

These policies are governed by the STEM School Highlands Ranch Board of Directors and follow the Financial Controls and Policies in place as evidenced in the <u>STEM Financial Controls Policy</u> (Section 2, Asset Protection Policy, pg. 3-4).

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District. STEM School Highlands Ranch will operate within its own budget.

How the Impact of the Waivers will be evaluated:

STEM School Highlands Ranch will complete the annual audit which aligns to the Douglas County School District and Colorado State Statutes.

Expected Outcome:

As a result of these waivers, the school will be expected to implement the necessary policies needed with respect to the district policy.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title EBCE School Closings and Cancellations 09.02.03

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch implements a Virtual Day policy, in lieu of Delayed Start Days called by DCSD. This policy was implemented due to the transportation needs of the community. With a large percentage of staff and families living outside of the immediate school boundaries, a virtual day policy was adopted.

Replacement Plan:

This policy aligns with DCSD policy with regards to the safety of students when traveling in inclement weather. This policy aligns with the mission and vision of the school and ensures stability of student learning and achievement. This policy is communicated on the website and in the Parent/Student Handbook on page 8-9. Parent/Student Handbook

Financial Impact:

STEM School Highlands Ranch anticipates that the requested waives will have no financial impact upon the Douglas County School District or the school.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:

The impact of this waiver will be measured by the performance criteria and assessments that apply to STEM School Highlands Ranch.

Expected Outcome:

The school expects that as a result of this waiver it will be able to implement its curriculum and ensure that students meet the educational standards of the school.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title

IC_ICA School Year_School district Calendar_Instructional Time 8.18.2020

Rationale:

The days allotted for each school year at STEM School Highlands Ranch will exceed the current requirement in state statute. STEM School Highlands Ranch will prescribe the actual details of its own school calendar to best meet the needs of its students. The Douglas County School District will not set these policies and STEM School Highlands Ranch will have a calendar that differs from the rest of the schools within the district.

STEM School Highlands Ranch will prescribe the actual details of teacher-pupil contact hours to best meet the needs of students. The Douglas County School District has granted to the Board of Directors of STEM School Highlands Ranch the authority to determine teacher-pupil contact hours within Colorado required attendance rules for schools.

Replacement Plan:

The final calendar and the school's daily schedule will be designed by STEM School Highlands Ranch and will meet or exceed the expectations in state statute. STEM School Highlands Ranch requests that the waivers be for the duration of its contract with the Douglas County School District.

STEM School Highlands Ranch will prescribe the actual details of teacher-pupil contact hours instead of the Douglas County School District's Board, and hours will meet or exceed current requirements in statute. STEM School Highlands Ranch requests that the waiver be for the duration of its contract with the Douglas County School District.

Financial Impact:

The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Douglas County School District or STEM School Highlands Ranch.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:

The impact of these waivers will be measured by the performance appraisal criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as per this Charter School Agreement.

Expected Outcome:

As a result of these waivers, the school will be able to implement the necessary policies to increase student achievement.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title

IKF Graduation Requirements 10.18.16

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch follows the majority of the Graduation Requirements policy. There are minor areas in which the school exceeds the graduation requirements with regards to the credits specifically related to the school's vision and mission, in particular related to course credit requirements in STEM fields.

Replacement Plan:

STEM School Highlands Ranch Graduation Requirements meet and exceed the district's requirements and expectations. This policy is posted in the Academic Planning guide and in the Parent Student Handbook, Section: Curriculum, Instruction, and Accountability, on page 21.

Parent/Student Handbook

Financial Impact:

STEM School Highlands Ranch anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact upon the Douglas County School District or the school.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:

The impact of this waiver will be measured by the performance criteria and assessments that apply to STEM School Highlands Ranch.

Expected Outcome:

The school expects that as a result of this waiver it will be able to implement its curriculum and ensure that students meet the educational standards of the school.

Non-Automatic Waivers: Policy Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

Policy Citation and Title JICA Student Dress 09.15.20

Rationale:

STEM School Highlands Ranch aligns very closely with the DCSD Student Dress policies. The school has found, based on student culture survey data and feedback, that student voice is imperative in decision making processes. With student and staff input, the new policy was developed.

Replacement Plan:

The modified student dress code policy aligns with the mission and vision of the school, along with the Strategic Plan Goal related to student leadership. This policy is found in the Parent/Student Handbook on page 26.

Parent/Student Handbook

Financial Impact:

STEM School Highlands Ranch anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact upon the Douglas County School District or the school.

How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:

The impact of this waiver will be measured through an analysis of the Student Culture Survey.

Expected Outcome:

The school expects that as a result of this waiver it will be able to implement its focus on building school culture and student voice.

ATTACHMENT 8: WAIVERS OF DISTRICT POLICIES

To the extent additional waivers are granted or waivers are otherwise amended.

ATTACHMENT 9: SCHOOL'S ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

STEM SCHOOL HIGHLANDS RANCH POLICY Enrollment

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define the process and requirements for enrollment into STEM School Highlands Ranch (STEM). STEM is a charter school and school of choice.

II. POLICY

1. Priority for Enrollment

STEM gives priority for enrollment to the following :

- 1. Founding Families *
- 2. Siblings of current STEM students
- 3. Children and grandchildren of staff and board members *
- 4. DCSD Residents
- 5. Prior waitlisted families

* Families will need to email <u>registrar@stemk12.org</u> in order to provide proof they meet these criteria.

Priority in enrollment does not guarantee enrollment if there is no availability at the student's grade level.

Due to enrollment priorities, STEM cannot release information regarding a particular prospective student's position.

Families not accepted during the current school year must reapply, as the list does not carry over from year to year.

2. Admission

Enrollment will follow the District's open enrollment timeline. The District opens enrollment on November 1 of each year. The District offers enrollment on December 1. STEM allows parents to place their names on the list throughout the year, and notifications will begin on December 1 for the following school year.

If the number of students prior to the deadline is less than or equal to the number of student spaces available for any grade, STEM will extend an invitation to enroll every student in that grade.

Should the number of students listed prior to the deadline be higher than the number of available spaces, students are offered space based on the priorities and then by date entered in the enrollment tool.

3. Deadline for Acceptance

Invitations to enroll shall be extended via email through the DCSD EngagED Parent Portal. After the family is contacted and enrollment is offered, the school will require a decision by a parent or legal guardian. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for providing a reasonable way for STEM to reach them regarding enrollment and are also responsible for informing the school of any change to their contact information. While STEM will make every attempt to notify families, the school is not responsible for the inability to contact families should they be unreachable (i.e., traveling, inaccurate information, etc.).

Completion of the registration packet is required to initiate the registration/transfer process. NOTE: For students on an IEP (Individualized Education Plan/ Special Education) or receiving 504 accommodations:

If your student is currently on an Individualized Education Plan or receiving 504 accommodations, please be aware that STEM provides services for mild to moderate-need students. STEM's Learning Services Department will contact you during the enrollment process to ensure that Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) can be provided once you initiate the process by advising the registrar. This may require a meeting with the prior school's staff. No student with an IEP can be enrolled until this review occurs and it is the responsibility of the parent to initiate this review. If the review does not occur prior to enrollment and it is discovered that FAPE cannot be provided, the student will be denied acceptance and returned to a district school where FAPE can be provided. STEM School Highlands Ranch welcomes all students on IEP or 504, where FAPE can be provided.

4. Vacancies

Should a vacancy be created prior to or after the school year has begun, the vacancy will be filled as specified above. A student who fills a vacancy will be considered a currently enrolled student, and that student's enrollment will continue beyond the current academic year. Should a vacancy open up after October 1st, it will be the decision of the Executive Director or designee to fill that vacancy or leave it open until the following school year.

Enrollment Policy

5. Open Enrollment Timelines

Timeline Dates - Unless otherwise specified, any dates identified in this Open Enrollment Timeline shall be applied such that if the date identified falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the enforced date for compliance shall fall on the following business day.

- The first round open enrollment period opens on November 1.
- The first round open enrollment period closes on December 1st at 4:00 p.m. annually unless either day is not a school day, in which case the next regular school day will be the opening or ending day, respectively.
- Once notified of acceptance by the school, the offer of enrollment must be accepted by the parent or guardian by 4:00 p.m. by December 15th annually or the first workday following the 15th.
- Applicants not accepted by the school during the first open enrollment round will stay on the list. If an opening becomes available during the second round application period, applicants will be notified by the EngagED Parent Portal through DCSD.
- Charter must update the District shared "Accepted Offers Spreadsheet" with all students who have accepted their enrollment offers.
- Lines of enrollment for the first round must be made by January 19th for current DCSD students as well as new-to-district students.
- The second round of open enrollment opens on January 22.
- The second round of open enrollment closes on August 1.
- Second-round lines of enrollment for accepted offers must be created as soon as possible after the offer is accepted.

Transfers – Movement after Open Enrollment closes (August 1st)

Students may choose to enroll in a Charter School after Open Enrollment closes on August 1; however, for students already enrolled in the District, the process for administrative transfers in accordance with District Policy JCA/JFB-R shall be followed. The administrative transfer option is only available for the purpose of moving a student from one school to another in those circumstances where the choice enrollment option may not be timely or may be inappropriate or inapplicable, considering the best interest of the student and the school. Administrative transfers are not intended to accommodate students who fail to request a change in assigned schools during the open enrollment period or whose open enrollment request was not accepted. DCSD Principals must communicate about the move as well as fill out the administrative transfer paperwork.

6. STEM School Highlands Ranch Interest Form

During the timeframe when the DCSD Open Enrollment Tool is not accepting names, families can put their name on STEM's Interest Form to receive notifications as to when the DCSD Open Enrollment Tool will open. This list will also allow our registrar to communicate with families on upcoming tours. Completing the STEM Interest Form does not guarantee enrollment for the potential student, nor does it legally bind families to enroll in STEM. Families can find the Interest Form at stemk12.org/enrollment.

Approved by the STEM School Board on <u>03/10/2023</u>. (dd/mm/yyyy)

STEM School Highlands Ranch

By: <u>Michelle Horne (signature on file)</u> (Signature, Board Secretary)

> <u>Michelle Horne</u> (Printed name, Board Secretary)

Adopted: 2019 Revised: January 2023 Revised: August 2023 Revised: October 2023

ATTACHMENT 10: OPEN ENROLLMENT TIMELINES

Open Enrollment Timeline

Charter Schools in DCSD operate on calendars that can vary slightly from the District's calendar. Charter Schools will closely align to the open enrollment timeline as shown, and slight variations to dates are acceptable.

• The first round open enrollment period opens on November 1.

• The first round open enrollment period closes on December 1st at 4:00 p.m. annually unless either day is not a school day, in which case the next regular school day will be the opening or ending day, respectively.

• For the first round open enrollment application period (If not using the District tool), the Charter School will notify the parent of the status of the request (application accepted, denied or placed on the annual prioritized list (waitlist) by December 8th annually or the first workday following the 8th.

 Once notified of acceptance by the school, the offer of enrollment must be accepted by the parent or guardian by 4:00 p.m. by December 15th annually or the first workday following the 15th.

• Applicants not accepted by the school during the first open enrollment round will automatically be placed on the annual prioritized list (Waitlist). If an opening becomes available during the second round application period, applicants will be notified by phone and by electronic means regarding the opening.

• Charter must update the District shared "Accepted Offers Spreadsheet" with all student's names that have accepted their enrollment offers.

• Lines of enrollment for first round must be made by January 19th for current DCSD student as well as new to the district students.

Second round open enrollment opens on January 22.

Second round open enrollment closes August 1.

• Second round lines of enrollment for accepted offers must be created as soon as possible after offer is accepted.

Transfers – Movement after Open Enrollment closes (August 1st)

Students may choose to enroll in a Charter School after Open Enrollment closes on August 1; however, for students already enrolled in the District the process for administrative transfers in accordance with District Policy JCA/JFB-R shall be followed. The administrative transfer option is only available for the purpose of moving a student from one school to another in those circumstances where the choice enrollment option may not be timely or maybe inappropriate or inapplicable, considering the best interest of the student and the school. Administrative transfers are not intended to accommodate students who fail to request a change in assigned schools during the open enrollment period, or whose open enrollment request was not accepted. Principals must communicate about the move as well as fill out the administrative transfer paperwork.

*Unless otherwise specified, any dates identified in this Open Enrollment Timeline shall be applied such that if the date identified falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the enforced date for compliance shall fall on the following business day.

ATTACHMENT 11: FINANCIAL REPORTING TEMPLATES

DCSD Charter School Financial Reporting Template

Utilize the drop down to enter your school name in cell B5 name from CDE, will be displayed in BOE reports in order to populate individual budget tabs

School Name	YEAR TO INCLUD FY 2021-2022 FY 2022-2023 2022 2023 2023	2021-2022 2022-2023 2023-2023 2023-2024 2024-2025 2025-2026	2021-2022 2022-2023 2022-2023 2022-2023 2023-2024
School Name (use drop down)	REPOR ⁻ <u>Quarterly Financials Inputs</u> Prior Year Current Year For the Period Ending September 3 For the Period Ending March 3 For the Period Ending June 3	<u>Budget Approvals Inputs - Proposed and Adoptec</u> Audited Actual Revised Budget Estimated Actua Adopted Budget or Proposed Budge Projected Budget 1 Projected Budget 2	<u>Budget Approvals Inputs - Revised and Final Reviser</u> Audited Actual Adopted Budget Revised Budget or Final Revised Budge Estimated Actua Projected Budget

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October 31, 2022 DUE DATE:

	C FY Budget	Current Year FY 2022-2023 Q1 YTD Actual	2023 % to Budget	Projected Year E Year End Projection	ed Year End F olection 9	Projected Year End FY 2022-2023 r End Projection % to Budget			Prior Year FY 2021-2022	
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April 30, 2023

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USE THIS TAB FOR CURRENT YEAR REVISED BUDGET DUE DECEMBER 15, 2022

USE THIS TAB FOR NEXT YEAR'S PROPOSED BUDGET IN THE SPRING DUE DATE: APRIL 15,2023

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USE THIS TAB FOR CURRENT YEAR FINAL REVISED BUDGET DUE MAY 15, 2023

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USE THIS TAB FOR NEXT YEAR'S ADOPTED BUDGET IN THE SPRING DUE DATE: MAY 30,2023

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