

Expense Reimbursement Policy

2022-2023



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EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

The School's policy is to reimburse its employees for reasonable and necessary expenditures or losses incurred in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties. School employees will receive a stipend to cover expenses as categorized below to be paid over 10 months or begin the monthly rate in relation to employment start date.

TRAVEL: Mileage

CATEGORY 1:

HOMESCHOOL TEACHERS, INSTRUCTIONAL TEAM ADVISORS, ADMIN ASSISTANT

Expected to use their personal vehicles during the course and scope of their employment. As such, the School provides:

- Full-time employees: \$500 stipend each semester to cover costs related to the use of personal vehicles
- Part-time employees: \$250 each semester to cover costs related to the use of personal vehicles
 - The School will pay the part-time employee the hourly rate for time incurred to and from scheduled events and activities

CATEGORY 2:

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT SUPPORT

NURSE

VIRTUAL/OUT OF SERVICE AREA EMPLOYEES

- Not eligible for travel stipend
- With prior approval, the employee may complete the mileage reimbursement process when attending local meetings and events once they are in area of school service

CATEGORY 3:

FAMILY LIAISONS

- Full-time employee: \$500 stipend each semester to cover costs related to the use of personal vehicles

PART-TIME FAMILY LIAISONS

- \$250 each semester to cover costs related to the use of personal vehicles
 - The School will pay the part-time employee the hourly rate for time incurred to and from scheduled events and activities

TRAVEL STIPEND

The stipend is intended to reimburse those employees for vehicle-related expenses, driving related expenses, including, but not limited to wear and tear, fuel and personal auto insurance for travel required in direct consequence of the discharge of their job duties. The School will not be responsible for traffic or parking violations or car repair/maintenance.

If an employee believes the stipend amount is insufficient to cover their employment related travel expenses, the employee must provide the School with receipts and documentation showing that the employee has incurred expenses above their stipend amount within 30 days of incurring the mileage. Employees are responsible for maintaining an accounting of their mileage including locations traveled, reason(s) traveled and documentation of miles on a web-based map such as Google Maps. Employees who believe they will exceed the standard stipend should submit for pre- approval from the Executive Director or designee. The School may periodically request follow-up documentation to verify that the employee is incurring the expense.

The School will pay the per semester stipend in a prorated manner to be paid over 10 months or begin the monthly rate in relation to employment start date. If an employee's employment terminates before the end of any month, the stipend will be prorated to reflect the employee's dates of employment.

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

If the School requires any other employee not receiving a travel stipend to drive their personal vehicles in the course and scope of their employment, the employee will be reimbursed for the reasonable and necessary expense of using their personal vehicle on behalf of the School. Such employees will receive a reimbursement payment from the School for mileage expenses incurred after submitting an expense reimbursement form as set forth below. For those employees that are assigned to a worksite, the employee will receive a reimbursement payment for mileage expenses incurred beyond the employee's normal commute to their assigned worksite.

Employees will be paid for mileage reimbursement at the per mile rate amount designated by the Federal Internal Revenue Service at the time the miles are driven on behalf of the School. Employees are required to accurately submit a report of miles driven on behalf of the School within 30 days of incurring the mileage.

If any employee believes that the mileage reimbursement that he or she receives from the School is insufficient to reimburse the employee for all reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by the employee in using his or her personal vehicle on behalf of the School, the employee must immediately report this expense issue to their Executive Director or designee for review and approval then submit to the Accounting Department. Employees will be required to submit documentation to support any request for additional mileage reimbursement.

HOTELS, MEALS, AND GRATUITY

The Executive Director or designee must pre-approve all out-of-town travel which requires overnight stays.

Hotels

Employees will be reimbursed for pre-approved overnight stays at hotels/motels when the approved event is more than 150 miles from either the employee's residence or the School site, or at the pre-approval of the Executive Director or designee. In the event travel cannot occur within the employees daily working hours, the employee may seek approval from the Executive Director or designee to request a hotel stay. For travel that requires overnight stays, the Charter will pay for the employee's hotel stay. The hotel stay must be approved through the Charter's Request and Approval process. The Executive Director or designee will secure the accommodations unless reimbursement has been approved. In general, accommodations will be \$100 - \$150 per night.

- Staff may stay at the rate of up to two-times the federal per diem rate with the Executive Director or designee's pre-approval
- Lodging in excess of double the per diem rate (excluding room tax and mandatory additional charges) must have the Executive Director or designee's advance approval
- If any employee exceeds the lodging allowance without prior approval, the Charter will only reimburse up to double the federal per diem rate

Meals

An employee can seek meal reimbursement based on the following:

1. Gained prior Executive Director or designee's approval to attend a multi-day conference
 - a. Meal reimbursement is not for single day conferences or meetings
 - b. Meal reimbursement starts on the second day of the conference and is paid daily through the last day of the trip
2. Meal reimbursement cannot be claimed when the conference or airline provided a meal*

Meal Allowance

Meal reimbursements shall not exceed the allowed maximum rate listed in the reimbursement meal rates table listed herein. Meals for which there are no itemized receipts will not be reimbursed; there are no exceptions.

Items needed for Upload: Itemized receipts for meal reimbursements are required.

Alcoholic beverages are not an allowable expense.

Reimbursement Meal Rates Table:

Maximum Meal Criteria for claiming meal expenses is as follows, along with maximum meal reimbursement amounts, including applicable taxes, and tips up to 18% of meal total.	
Breakfast*	\$12
Lunch*	\$16
Dinner*	\$22

***Note:** Full meals included in the airfare, hotel, and conference fees, or otherwise provided may not also be claimed for reimbursement. The same meal may not be claimed more than once on any date (this occurs, for example, when lunch is included in registration but employees choose to dine elsewhere). Continental breakfasts of rolls, coffee, and juice provided by hotels or conferences are not considered full meals. If the employee has special dietary needs due to medical conditions or food allergies, and meal accommodations are not provided by the hotel or conference, reimbursement may be submitted with an explanation.

Gratuity

Employees are allowed to tip up to 18% of the subtotal cost, rounded up to the nearest dollar, when gratuity is customary for an approved expense (such as meals or taxi fares). Any incremental excess is the responsibility of the employee.

In order to be eligible for reimbursement employees must follow the procedures noted below:

1. Receive pre-approval from your Executive Director or designee
2. Please utilize the Reimbursement Request Form
3. Complete the employee information section
4. Mileage reimbursement
 - a. Date, student or activity, mileage
 - i. Only fill out mileage for which you are requesting reimbursement
 - b. Attach your mileage log
 - c. Attach Google or other web-based map(s) with the shortest distance
5. Expense reimbursement
 - a. Date, purchase type, description, cost
 - b. Attach your itemized receipts
 - c. Attach your pre-approval email
6. Confirm your submission
7. Sign your reimbursement
8. The Executive Director or designee will review your submission
 - a. Once approved your reimbursement will move to Accounts Payable to be processed for payment.

- b. You will be reimbursed in the form of a check or direct deposit whichever method you have signed up for. If you receive paper checks your check will be mailed to you by Charter Impact

MONTHLY STIPEND FOR PHONE AND UTILITIES EXPENSES

Employees who are required to use their personal cell phones and utilities to perform work on behalf of the School will be provided a stipend in the amount of \$250 for full-time employees and \$125 for part-time employees for the use of personal cell phones and utilities and an additional amount for taxes associated therewith. School employees will receive a stipend as categorized to be paid over 10 months or begin the monthly rate in relation to employment start date.

All employees will be provided with a school hot spot to be used for internet access to perform their job duties.

The School has established this monthly stipend based on its good faith belief that the stipend will more than fully reimburse employees for any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in using their personal cell phones and utilities to perform work on behalf of the School. If any employee believes that the stipend that he or she receives from the School is insufficient to reimburse the employee for all reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by the employee in using his or her personal cell phone or utilities expenses on behalf of the School, the employee must immediately report this expense issue to the Executive Director or designee for review and approval then submit to the Accounting Department.

Employees will be required to submit documentation to support any request for additional reimbursement in excess of the monthly stipend. Employees that are eligible for this monthly stipend are required to submit a Request for Monthly Stipend form affirming that the employee uses their personal cell phone and utilities to perform work on behalf of the School and that the employee will immediately notify the School if the employee no longer incurs an expense related to the personal use of their cell phone and/or utilities in the discharge of their duties. The School reserves the right to request supporting documentation from employees at any time to support the employees request for the monthly stipend. Failure to provide such documentation as requested may delay or cease further payments of the monthly stipend to the employee.

****Please note that the School may establish varying stipend amounts for personal cell phones, internet expenses and utilities based on multiple factors such as workload, part-time or full-time status of the employee and other relevant factors**

OTHER EXPENSES

With the exception of those certain employees who are required to use their personal vehicles, cell phones, internet access and utilities during the course and scope of their employment for the School, it is the School's policy to provide its employees with all necessary equipment to perform their duties on behalf of the School including laptops. The School does not require employees to

purchase any additional equipment in order to perform work for the School. If any employee believes that additional equipment is reasonable and necessary to perform his or her duties on behalf of the School, the employee must immediately notify the Executive Director or designee.

Office Supplies

The purchase of printer ink, paper, miscellaneous desk supplies (e.g. staplers, paper clips, writing utensils and file folders) and/or stamps/ mailing charges for School-related correspondence will have a \$250 stipend for full-time employees and \$125 for part-time employees. School employees will receive a stipend as categorized below to be paid over 10 months or begin the monthly rate in relation to employment start date.

If employees choose to purchase additional equipment or supplies without written authorization from the School, such expenses would not be reasonable or necessarily incurred in connection with work for the School. Those expenses would be optional expenses that employees voluntarily elect to incur and not reasonably necessary expenditures incurred by employees in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties for the School.

If, however, an employee believes that he or she has been required to incur any unexpected necessary and reasonable expense in order to perform his or her duties on behalf of the School, the employee should immediately report that expense to the Executive Director or designee. Employees will be required to submit documentation to support any request for reimbursement of such expenses.

REPORTING

If any employee believes that he or she has not been fully reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses he or she has been required to incur while working for the School, the employee should immediately inform the Executive Director or designee. All reports of possible inadequate reimbursement will be promptly reviewed, including a review of all of the employee's expense related records and receipts. If, as a result of the review, it is determined that the employee has been inadequately reimbursed for actual and necessary school business expenses, the School will promptly reimburse the employee, in full, for all actual, reasonable, and necessary school business-related expenses incurred. It is every employee's responsibility to keep accurate records and receipts of all school business-related expenses for the purpose of requesting reimbursement.

There will be no retaliation against any employee who reports an expense reimbursement issue in good faith or who honestly assists in reviewing such an issue, even if the review produces insufficient evidence that there has been a violation.