

# **EL CAMINO REAL ALLIANCE**

## **FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK**

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# ECRAA/ECRCHS

## FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### OVERVIEW

The Governing Board (“Board”) of El Camino Real Alliance (“ECRA”), a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, has reviewed and adopted the following Fiscal Policies and Procedures (“FPP”) to ensure the funds of ECRA are appropriately budgeted, accounted for, expended, and maintained.

1. The Board holds ultimate authority over all fiscal matters. The Executive Director and/or Chief Business Officer (“CBO”) of El Camino Real Charter High School (“ECRCHS” or the “Charter School”) shall report to the Board and, in particular, the Board Chair regarding all fiscal matters.
2. The Board oversees the administration of the fiscal policies and procedures and delegates administration of the policies and procedures to the CBO.
3. ECRA may commission a Back-office Services Provider (e.g., ICON School Management). If ECRA does so elect to utilize a Back-office Services Provider, the Back-office Services provider will report to both the administration and the Board. The financial compilations presented to the Board may be compiled by the Back-office Services Provider, and may also include input from ECRA staff.
4. The CBO has responsibility for all business operations.
5. The **Director-Human Resources (“DHR”)** will work with the Executive Director and the CBO and Business Office staff to enforce the FPP.
6. Financial duties and responsibilities must be separated so that no one employee has sole control over cash receipts, disbursements, payrolls, and reconciliation of bank accounts.
7. All documentation related to financial matters must be completed by computer, word processor, typewriter, or ink.
8. The Board will commission an annual financial audit by an independent third-party auditor who will report directly to the Board. The Board will approve the final audit report, and a copy will be provided to the charter-authorizing entity. Any audit exceptions and/or deficiencies will be resolved to the satisfaction of the Board and be in compliance with GAAP and/or related laws and regulations.
9. The Board may appoint someone else to perform the CBO's responsibilities in the case of absence.

**As used in the FPP, the term “Authorizing Personnel” includes: Executive Director, CBO, Assistant Principals, and Board Chair or Vice Chair.**

## **ECRAA/ECRCHS FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **Safeguarding of Financial Assets**

ECRA is committed to safeguarding public funds. ECRA's financials are overseen by the following entities:

1. Charter School Authorizer (i.e. LAUSD's Charter Schools Division) reviews financials annually;
2. Independent Certified Public Accountant conducts annual financial audit;
3. Back-office Services Provider (e.g., ICON School Management), as applicable, ensures segregation of duties and fiscal compliance; and
4. Board of Directors.

In addition, ECRA/ECRCHS does the following:

1. Presents monthly financial updates at regular Board meetings;
2. Seeks Board approval of check registers and all major financial documents (e.g. interim financials, budget, Local Control and Accountability Plan ("LCAP"), etc.);
3. Provides financial information to the staff through presentations;
4. Posts major Board approved financial documents on ECRA's website, including Approved Budget, Interim Reports, Tax Returns and Annual Audit; and
5. Has written policies identifying its investment policies and strategies. The written policies, titled Investment Policy Statement ("IPS"), applies to both the retirement healthcare benefits trust and the general account, and are reviewed and adopted by the Board (including any revisions or amendments thereto). The IPS identifies that all investments with ECRA assets should be reasonably and prudently invested, and also notes the scope and types of permitted investments in which the School may engage as well as guidelines for the composition of the investment portfolio. The IPS for both the lifetime healthcare benefits trust and the School's general account shall be posted on the School's website.

### **Annual Financial Audit**

1. ECRA will select an independent auditor to conduct an independent audit of ECRA's finances. The independent auditor will be selected by the Board on or before the March Board meeting in those years when a new auditor is to be selected. The Board will assign the Finance & Investment Committee no later than the January board meeting for those years when an auditor is to be selected.
2. The CBO and other necessary staff will assist Audit Committee members.

## **ECRAA/ECRCHS**

### **FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

3. ECRA will select a new auditor at least every three (3) years; however, the same auditing firm may be retained as long as a different audit partner within that firm is retained every 5 years.
4. The audit shall include, but will not be limited to:
  - a. An audit of the accuracy of the financial statements;
  - b. An audit of the attendance accounting and revenue accuracy practices; and
  - c. An audit of the internal control practices.

#### **Key Personnel Financial Responsibilities**

##### Approve Contracts

- Executive Director
- CBO
- Board

##### Approve Purchases for Payment – Including Purchase Orders and Reimbursement Requests

- Executive Director
- CBO
- Program Director
- Program Manager

##### Check Signers

- Executive Director
- CBO
- Two Designated Administrative Director

##### Record Transactions

- Accounting staff (non-senior)

##### Reconcile Transactions

- Back-office Services Provider
- Director of Finance & Accounting

#### **Role of Key Financial Staff (Segregation of Duties)**

- Executive Director - Authorizing
- CBO – Authorizing, Reporting and Analysis, Compliance
- **Director-Human Resources (DHR ) –**
- Back-office Services Provider - Recording, Reconciling and Reporting
- Administrative Director – Purchase Approver, Reviewing Budgets
- Director of Finance & Accounting - Authorizing and Reconciling (of cash receipts, bank accounts)
- Program Managers – Purchase Approver, Reviewing

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- Accountants - Recording, Purchasing, and Custody

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# ECRAA/ECRCHS

## FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Financial Instruments

#### Debit Cards

- Use is not permitted.

#### Credit and Charge Cards

- Only one general card account in the name of ECRA is authorized by the Board. There are two cards that are issued in the name of the CBO and the Executive Director. The cards are kept in the possession of the Executive Director and the CBO.
- Must have established Board-approved spending limits (currently, \$100,000 within a monthly statement period)
- “Platinum” or similar luxury status credit cards cannot be taken out under ECRA’s account.
- Vendor-specific credit cards for teachers (limited to Home Depot and Smart and Final) have the following limits within a monthly statement period: \$2,000 per month for Home Depot, and \$2,000 per month for Smart and Final.
- Any additional, vendor-specific credit or charge cards must be approved by the ECRA Board with the same limits as above.

#### Bank Check Signing Authority

- Board-approved personnel, as noted above under Key Personnel Financial Responsibilities; specifically, the Executive Director, CBO, and two designated Administrative Directors.
- Checks may not be written to cash, bearer, or petty cash.
- Under no circumstance will any individual sign a blank check.
- Individual staff members who process vendor payments and/or payroll, write checks, or perform any other tasks associated with cash transactions cannot be a check signer.
- A formal list of those authorized as check signers should be prepared, and the Board will approve all check signers.
- The CBO or Director of Accounting and Finance or designee will ensure that the Charter School’s bank is notified whenever authorized signatories are changed.
- Approved check signors should never sign a check made out to themselves (e.g., check for reimbursement).

#### Check Stock

- Held in student store.



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**Prohibition on Purchase of Alcohol and Marijuana**

- Use of Charter School, state, and federal funds for the purchase of alcohol, or any items related to the consumption of alcohol or purchase of marijuana, or marijuana-related products or paraphernalia is prohibited.

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## **ECRAA/ECRCHS FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **PAYMENT / REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES**

ECRA employees must receive pre-approval for all purchases for goods and/or services. Pre-approvals can be received through the Charter School's Approved Financial Accounting System (e.g. ) to which employees have access.

Any items purchased without pre-approval should be kept in new condition so that item(s) can be returned to the vendor in the event the approving administrator denies the purchase.

All staff members making financial choices on behalf of ECRA must factor in time and quantitative/qualitative factors before each purchase. Below are a few examples:

- Staff members should not spend significant time to save the Charter School a de minimis amount. For example, s/he should not incur reimbursable mileage expenses from driving around to different stores to save the Charter School a few dollars on school supplies.
- Staff should look beyond quantitative factors, such as cost, and evaluate the qualitative factors such as reliability, warranty, reputation, durability, environmental impact, maintenance costs, etc. For example, LED products may be more expensive initially, but they require less maintenance, use less energy and have a lower environmental impact. Also, technology equipment being considered for purchase should be vetted by the IT Department. Some devices or equipment considered may not fit the existing Charter School's platform of Technology.
- Staff should look at total services provided, not just the product price. For example, some vendors will also assist with design and planning. This can save the Charter School additional time and money spent doing such work itself, or from making costly mistakes.
- All purchases must have a legitimate business purpose and must be for the benefit of and use by the Charter School. Purchases for personal use are strictly prohibited.
- Staff must always avoid conflicts of interests. A conflict of interest arises when an employee, officer, agent, or any member of their immediate family, a partner, or an organization that employs or is about to employ any immediate family member, has a financial or other interest in, or would gain a tangible personal benefit from, a firm considered for a contract. Should a potential conflict of interest arise or exist, staff must disclose the conflict, in writing, to the Executive Director and the CBO.

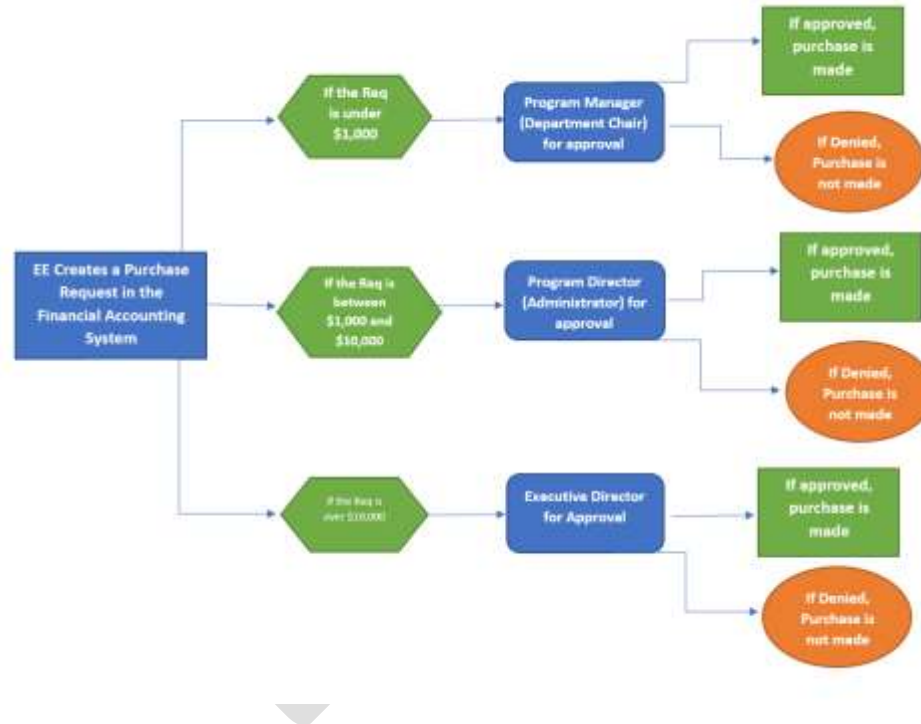
Failure to comply with the policies and procedures as described herein, may result in a delay in reimbursement being paid to the employee or, in some instances, a denial of a reimbursement request in whole or in part.

# ECRAA/ECRCHS FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

## Purchasing Flow Charts

### Regular Purchases

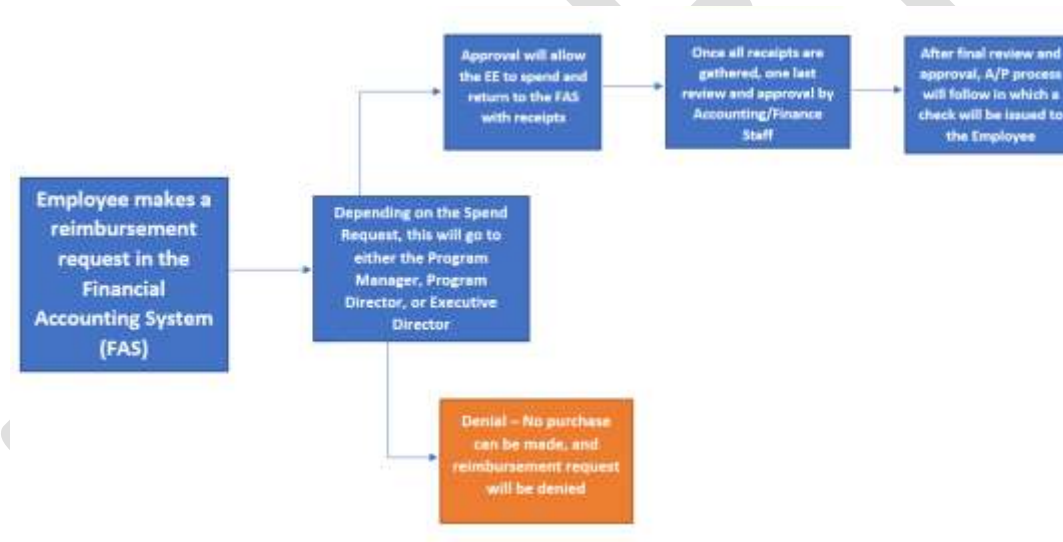
- Purchases done through the Financial Accounting System involve different approvers depending on the spend amount.
  - Under \$1,000, these will go to a Program Manager (Dept. Chairs) for approval.
  - Spend requests between \$1,000 and \$10,000 will go to Program Directors (Administrators).
  - Anything over \$10,000 will go directly to the ED for approval.
  - Requests (Unbudgeted) over \$50,000 will be brought before the Board for approval.



## ECRAA/ECRCHS FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Reimbursement Requests or Expense Requests are subject to approval. All Reimbursement requests must have pre-approval. The maximum for cumulative total reimbursements in a fiscal year is \$5,000.00. Any personal amounts in excess of the stated annual limit require the pre-approval of the Executive Director

- These requests submitted in the Financial Accounting System involve different approvers depending on the spend amount requested.
  - Requests under \$1,000 & \$5,000 will go to Program Directors/Administrative Directors (“AD”).
  - Requests over \$5,000 will go to the ED for final approval.
  - After approval, employee may make the purchase.
  - Employee will go back into the system to request final approval of their expenditures.
  - Final approval is given by CBO after review by accounting staff.



## **ECRAA/ECRCHS FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Purchases w/o Approved Purchase Orders, Reimbursement Requests or Travel Reimbursement Requests.

- Items are subject to review by an administrator. If purchase(s) are rejected, they are the responsibility of the employee.
- Only the Charter School address may be used on the sales order prior to processing payments.

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## **Employee Receipts/Substantiation**

1. All purchases made by an employee must be accompanied by an original, itemized receipt. The individual making the charge or requesting reimbursement shall be held responsible for the amount if a receipt is not provided within 30 days. Additionally, reimbursements to employees for items charged on personal cards should be supported by a copy of the Employee's Credit Card. A copy of the credit card must be kept on file by the Accounting Department (redacted copy showing name and last four digits of card number used). The only exceptions are for parking meters and gratuities given to taxi drivers (within the limit set herein).
2. When receipts are lost, employees must retrieve a copy of the receipt or provide a document with comparable detail. There are a few exceptions for which credit card receipts or cancelled checks may be considered sufficient. Below are a few examples:
  - a. Taxi fares incurred while traveling for ECRCHS;
  - b. Parking fees incurred the day employee attended workshops or other work events.

If a receipt is lost and an acceptable replacement is not provided, the employee has to complete a lost receipt affidavit and have their administrator sign off on the form. When receipts are lost and a lost receipt affidavit is not provided, ECRA will not reimburse employee costs and will require employee payment of credit card or vendor-specific card charges.

3. For all meals, detailed receipts are a requirement (see "Meals" on the following page for more details).
4. The Director of Finance & Accounting /CBO or designee shall be responsible for enforcing this policy.

## **Gratuity**

Employees are allowed to tip up to 18% of the subtotal cost, rounded up to the nearest dollar, when gratuity is customary. Any incremental excess is the responsibility of the employee.

## **Employee Reimbursements and Expense Reports**

This policy is to ensure that individuals who incur valid business expenses are reimbursed in a fair and equitable manner, that business expenses are properly recorded, reconciled, and reimbursed in a consistent manner, and that ECRA complies with all applicable federal, state and local rules and regulations.

Reimbursement expenses should be dedicated for those occasions when other procurement methods (e.g. Purchase Order, Purchase Request) are not a viable option.

Employees may be reimbursed for purchases made with personal funds for goods and/or services in special circumstances where items are needed immediately and/or with short notice and the purchase of such items by staff may be unavoidable.

Every effort should be made to purchase goods and/or services through established ECR purchasing vendors.

An individual employee can be reimbursed for expenses up to a maximum of \$5,000 per school (fiscal) year. If an employee should need to exceed the \$5,000 per school (fiscal) year maximum, prior approval from the Executive Director is required.

1. Employees will be reimbursed for expenditures within fifteen (15) days after the submission of all required documentation.
  - a. Whenever possible, original, itemized receipts must be provided. (See “Employee Receipts/Substantiation” above.)
  - b. Electronic receipts are considered original, itemized receipts.
  - c. In certain cases, supporting documentation such as email confirmations may be accepted as a receipt.
  - d. To be reimbursable, Purchases of tangible products (as opposed to items such as subscriptions) should be delivered to the Charter School’s address, not a personal address.
2. Employees shall submit, for each reimbursement request, a signed copy of an Expense Report substantiating:
  - a. Who the expenditure was for;
  - b. What the expenditure was for;
  - c. Where the expenditure was made;
  - d. Why the expenditure was made; and
  - e. When the expenditure was made.

A copy of the Expense Request Form is attached as Appendix III. A copy of the Purchase Request Form is attached as Appendix IV.

3. The employee must sign expense report to certify the expenditures.
4. Authorizing personnel must sign expense report for reimbursement.
5. The Business Office will email a copy of the Executive Director's expense report to the Board Chair when processed for payment. For expense reports greater than \$300 in single month, the Board Chair and one other Board member, or Board Vice Chair and one other Board member, must approve.

## 6. **Non-reimbursable Expenses**

Some expenses are not considered valid business expenses, yet may be incurred for the convenience of the traveling individual. Because these are not expenses for the Charter School, they are not reimbursable. Examples of non-reimbursable expenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Alcohol
- b. Tobacco and all nicotine-related products
- c. Marijuana
- d. Theft or loss of personal property
- e. Parking or traffic tickets or car towing if illegally parked
- f. Airline travel insurance
- g. Airport lounge clubs
- h. Dry cleaning
- i. Movies or personal entertainment
- j. Books, magazines or newspapers (unless specific to education or the employee's job)
- k. Doctor bills, prescriptions, or other medical services
- l. Health club membership, even if for one day or short-term use
- m. Babysitter or pet care fees
- n. Gift cards

### **Reimbursements – Digital Payments**

The use of digital payments, such as 'Apple Pay' or Venmo (or similar) are not a preferred method of payment and should be used only when other forms of payment such as check, ACH transfer, or ECRCHS credit card are unavailable.

When an employee seeks reimbursement for an allowable reimbursement expense paid with their personal 'Apple Pay' or Venmo (or similar), the requestor must include a copy of their bank/card statement showing the amount paid. The proof of payment must be attached to the reimbursement request.

Purchases made via digital payment are subject to the same criteria and requirements as all other purchases.

1. Employee shall submit, prior to the purchase being made, for each digital payment transaction, a signed copy of the appropriate purchasing form substantiating:
  - a. Who the expenditure is for;
  - b. What the expenditure is for;
  - c. Where the expenditure is made;
  - d. Why the expenditure is made; and
  - e. When the expenditure is made.



## **Personal Use of School Items**

Personal use only applies to non-de minimis use consumption. For example, using an ECRA computer for personal use can be considered de minimis unless it creates noticeable wear and tear.

1. Employees will avoid the personal use of ECRA owned items without prior approval from a supervisor.
2. Employees will reimburse the Charter School for all ECRA-owned items that are consumed. For example, if the Charter School incurs additional expense as a result of personal telephone calls, employees must reimburse the Charter School for these calls.

## **Meals**

1. School-related meals (ie. for Professional Development) occur on a regular basis. If the meal is not pre-approved, the employee runs the risk of bearing the full cost of the meal if it is ultimately denied. For meals to be charged to ECRA or reimbursable to an employee, the ECRA employee must provide the following information:
  - a. Purpose of the meeting or agenda;
  - b. Itemized and detailed receipt(s);
  - c. Number of individuals in the party; and
  - d. Names of all attendees or a sign-in sheet.
  - e. Meal order 48 hours in advance for payment to be processed by ECRA directly to the vendor
2. On professional development, non-school days, ECRA may purchase meals for staff for meetings lasting three or more hours.
3. The Charter School may cater in food and snacks for ECRA Board meetings, community meetings, staff meetings, etc., but they require pre-approval by the Executive Director, CBO or Assistant Principal through the Financial Accounting System.

## **Mileage**

Employees will be reimbursed for mileage when the event is school-related and requires employees to travel outside of their normal commute. Mileage will be reimbursed at the IRS-approved rate for the distance traveled.

Reimbursable travel starting from or ending at a residence cannot include the normal commute miles to/from work. Below are some examples:

1. Home to/from school is not reimbursable.
2. Home to/from school event/meeting is partially reimbursable.

- a. If the mileage to/from home to school-related event/meeting exceeds the regular commute to/from school, then employee can claim the incremental difference.
- b. School to/from school event/meeting is 100% reimbursable.
- c. Home to/from non-school event/meeting is not reimbursable. For example, driving around to purchase non-essential supplies, driving around to purchase essential supplies on a non-school day, or commuting to a non-school sponsored staff meeting.

## **Travel**

The following travel policy is designed to provide guidelines and best practices when making travel arrangements, advances, and reimbursements.

1. Travel must receive the following approvals:
  - a. Employees requesting in-state travel must receive approval from the **designated authorizing personnel (Administrative Director)** with a summary of the purpose of travel, educational or professional benefit, number of employees attending and estimated cost.
  - b. Employees requesting out-of-state travel must also present the ECRA Board Travel Committee, which consists of three (3) ECRA Board members, with a summary of the purpose of travel, educational or professional benefit, number of employees attending, and estimated cost.
2. All expenses must be pre-approved prior to travel for an event or meeting through the Financial accounting system software system or an approved travel form. The approver cannot be the traveler. All supported documentation follows the specific rules in the Fiscal Policies and Procedures.
3. Unless charter school administrators consider something an emergency, it is encouraged that travel arrangements should be made at least 15 days in advance to obtain better pricing.
4. ECRA uses published GSA (General Services Administration rates as a guideline for per diem rates
5. Chargeable and Reimbursable Expenditures:
  - a. Only pre-approved coach class, economy, “Wanna Get Away,” or promotional discounted airfare ticketing will be paid by ECRA for documented school-related travel. It is incumbent on all ECRA employees, when arranging school related air travel, to seek the most reasonable and logical airfare accommodation available at the time of booking, and to provide contemporaneous documentation to substantiate the same.

b. First class, business class, economy plus, and other similar fare classes will not be paid for or reimbursed by ECRA.

c. Upgrade or non-emergency changes in flights are the exclusive responsibility of the ECRA employee. For non-medical/emergency changes or cancellations of a flight, the out-of-pocket cost is the responsibility of the employee.

d. All employee-initiated changes to airfare ticketing that are made on an ECRA credit or charge card must be reimbursed by the employee within five (5) business days of the conclusion of travel. Personal charges are not permitted on ECRA credit or charge cards.

e. Air travel requiring special accommodations due to a personal medical issue will require a signed note from the employee's treating physician attesting to the medical necessity of an upgraded airfare accommodation, which must be submitted prior to travel. ECRA strongly respects the medical privacy of its employees. Therefore, the note from the treating physician does not need to disclose the specific medical ailment or injury of the employee. The medical note from the treating physician only needs to state the medical necessity for an accommodation and if the travel accommodation will need to be temporary or permanent.

f. ECRA's policy is a reflection of the FCMAT Best Practices Manual as it applies to ECRA.

g. The Board shall annually review this policy to ensure consistency with state and federal reimbursement standards.

h. Hotels/motels are allowable when the event is more than 50 miles from either the employee's residence or the school site and the requesting employee has received approval from ECRA administration prior to booking the hotel. Specific rules include:

i. Reservations will be made by ECRA business office staff, where the hotel room selected must be the least expensive available room offered within the hotel.

ii. Hotels should be chosen for the following reasons:

1) Total cost relative to the other nearby hotels near the venue. Total cost includes parking fees, wireless fees, free breakfast, and other relevant fees. These costs need to be considered because the total cost of a hotel stay with a less expensive room rate may end up being higher than the total cost of a hotel stay with a more expensive room rate.

- 2) Qualitative costs should be considered, as these may impact the total travel costs and employee wellbeing. For example, access to public transportation, safety, and walkability to event location. However, these considerations should be balanced with prudence and reason.
- iii. Hotel rates exceeding an average of \$250/night (when not ordered by the Business Office), not including taxes and fees, must be accompanied with an explanation as to why the specific hotel was chosen. If the reason is denied by the authorizing personnel, and the employee still chooses the room rate, then employee will be responsible for the incremental cost over \$250/night plus applicable taxes and fees.
- iv. Employees must provide an itemized receipt from the hotel that details all charges and dates, and clearly indicates for whom the lodging was provided.
- v. The ECRA Board of Directors shall review this policy annually to ensure consistency.
- vi. Meals are reimbursed up to the published GSA rate for the event location, based on the receipt documentation provided. Employees must seek the applicable GSA rate from the CBO or designee. The applicable GSA rates can be found at <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates>.
- i. Other customary and reasonable travel-related expenses, such as Internet, cab fares, rental car (with prior approval from Authorizing Personnel), and mileage for using an employee's own car, gasoline are reimbursable.
- j. The Board shall review and update these rates annually in accordance with the IRS and GSA schedules for Los Angeles County.
6. Below are approved travel days:
  - a. The day before the event if it starts before 11am.
  - b. The day after the event if it ends after 12pm.
  - c. An additional non-event travel day may be permitted due to flight scheduling.
7. After the trip, the employee must enter all of the appropriate information on an expense report and submit it to the Authorizing Personnel for approval.
8. Documents should include any itemized receipts for parking, tolls, car rentals, taxis, food and other expenditures related to the travel for which the employee obtained prior approval

9. Excessive and unreasonable costs, such as valet parking, in-room telephone, and food from the honor bar in hotel rooms, shall not be reimbursed. Payment for internet service will only be reimbursed if preapproved by an administrator, and then only if deemed necessary for work.

### **Governing Board Expenses**

1. The individual incurring authorized expenses while carrying out the duties of the Charter School will complete and sign an expense report.
2. The completed expense report will be submitted to the Business Office for review and initial approval. Once approved by the Business Office, the completed expense report will follow the same workflow as other Purchase Orders. The approved expense report will then be submitted to the Business Office for payment.

### **Tuition Costs for Non-Teaching Staff**

The tuition reimbursement program aims to encourage staff to gain new workplace skills.

1. Classes must be pre-approved.
2. Employee must be employed a minimum of 1 year to be eligible for this benefit.
3. Tuition will be subsidized for staff who do not receive additional compensation tied to units when s/he takes approved courses in education, business, or technology.
  - a. \$700/class all courses must be Pre-approved by the HR Department with a \$1,400 cap for any one academic period and a \$2,800 cap per calendar year. Employees must submit an expense report with supporting documentation (e.g. tuition bill).
4. All classes must be taken for a grade or pass/fail. A grade must be provided at the end of the course.
  - a. A failing grade, or the failure to report a grade, will prevent the employee from taking another subsidized class for 36 months and requires pre-approval from the Executive Director for any future tuition subsidized requests.

### **Classes/Conferences/Workshops/Seminars (“Course”) for All Staff**

All staff are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to improve their craft. If the Charter School is subsidizing any of the cost, the employee cannot use the attained credit for salary advancement other than for a degree differential (e.g. master's degree).

1. Course must be pre-approved by an administrator.
2. Employee must complete an Expense Report and provide all receipts.

3. Employee will not be compensated for his/her time if employee made the request to attend the class/conference/workshop/seminar.

### **Tuition Costs for BTSA**

ECRA provides Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (“BTSA”) through Ventura County Department of Education. For those employees who would like to complete their BTSA elsewhere, ECRA will reimburse up to \$4,000. Employee will be required to do the following:

1. Employee must notify an administrator that Teacher Inductions courses are being completed elsewhere.
2. Upon completion of Teacher Induction coursework, employee must go through the reimbursement process (i.e. expense report).
  - a. Substantiation must include the copy of tuition paid since ECRA will only reimburse up to \$4,000/employee.

### **Professional Dues and Costs**

ECRA encourages all employees to maintain membership in professional organizations. If the dues and costs are associated with the employee’s job responsibilities, the employee may seek reimbursement from an administrator through the Expense Report process. This reimbursement is limited to the membership or dues cost only.

### **Student Awards**

For ECRA school sponsored activities, the Charter School is authorized to spend up to \$300/student/activity/year for individuals and teams that win city, state and/or national athletic or academic competition(s).

1. A school sponsored activity is any activity that a school employee receives compensation to oversee.
2. The recommendation process will be based on input from the relevant staff and Assistant Principal(s). The Executive Director will make the final decision.
3. For teams, the \$300/student/activity/year limit can be used for (e.g. trophies, rings, etc.), ceremonies w/up to two guests per student, etc.

ECRA issues Scholarships for various types of academic achievement. Scholarship winners will complete a scholarship award form indicating which College/University the scholarship check gets issued and mailed to. See example in Appendix I

### **Policy for Use of Credit Cards**

1. Credit cards are held by Board-approved personnel only. Only one general card account in the name of ECRA is authorized by the Board. There are two cards that are issued in the name of the CBO and the Executive Director. These credit cards will be kept in the custody of the CBO and Executive Director.

2. The Executive Director's and CBO's credit or card privileges may be revoked by the Board.
3. Purchases made using a credit card are subject to the same criteria and requirements as all other purchases.
4. Prior to issuance of a credit card to an employee, the employee shall review and sign the "Credit Card Responsible Use Form." (Appendix II.)
5. All cardholders should report the loss or theft of the school credit card immediately to the credit card company and the CBO, even if the loss or theft occurs on a weekend or holiday. If a credit card is stolen, the cardholder should file a police report, and a copy of the report should be maintained for insurance purposes.
6. The credit card and vendor-specific charge cards must be board approved before being issued to an employee. Below is a list of outstanding credit and store charge cards, by departments:
  - a. Home Depot for Woodshop and Drama
  - b. Smart and Final for Family and Consumer Studies
  - c. **CalCard (VISA)**
7. The Board shall review a list of all credit card Charter School-authorized users and associated expenditures monthly.
8. Cardholders should be made personally liable for all inappropriate charges and personally responsible for settling any dispute over any purchase from a vendor.
9. Any charter school credit card holder may have their card revoked for violation of the preapproval process if it is determined there was enough time to request and receive approval for a purchase order using normal purchasing procedures.
10. Board-approved spending limits are currently, \$250,000 within a monthly statement period, \$1,000 for Home Depot, and \$2,000 for Smart and Final). The Charter School-authorized user shall be responsible for verifying that limits are not exceeded.
11. ECRA uses CalCard VISA as its credit card vendor. Credit card charges in excess of \$50,000 require approval of the expense by two Board members. Such approval is required as part of the supporting documentation prior to payment processing.
12. The types of transactions to be charged on the credit card include: advance purchase or arrangement of approved employee travel and accommodations, school supplies, instructional materials, pupil transportation, technology, assistive technology, furniture, athletic equipment, school food, dues, subscriptions, and other items related to Charter

School operations. Authorized expenses that do not fall under this Credit Card Use Policy shall be submitted and paid through the check disbursement process.

13. Personal use of the school's credit card is prohibited. Credit cards shall not be used for personal expenses, gift cards, equipment, communication devices, institutional memberships, or computer software or hardware. Cardholders shall not make personal use of a credit or debit card, assign to someone else the use of a credit or debit card, or pay for another employee's or person's expenses with the credit card.

State laws prevent the unauthorized loaning and/or misappropriation of public funds. Accidental personal use of ECRA's credit card must be brought to the immediate attention of the employee's direct administrative supervisor and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, reimbursement for accidental charges shall be paid in full within 30 days of the purchase. Reimbursement of the personal expense in this manner is required, but shall not prevent ECRA from taking further action against the employee. Interest charges will accrue at the then-applicable IRS-established rate when reimbursement is not made in 30 days from the personal charge.

14. Employee is responsible for maintaining all receipts. If a receipt is missing, then the employee must request copies of the receipt from the credit card company at his/her expense. See "Employee Receipts/Substantiation" for exceptions to the receipts requirement.

15. If the Business Office identifies any inadvertent personal charges or unauthorized uses of the card, the card statement and all backup documentation will be forwarded to the Executive Director or CBO, for review. The Executive Director or CBO, with the cardholder any charges of concern, and the cardholder will be required to reimburse the school immediately for any inadvertent personal charges or unauthorized charges. The Executive Director CBO, and/or DHR will determine whether to revoke the cardholder's credit privileges and whether any disciplinary actions will be taken.

16. Employee shall submit, prior to the purchase being charged on the credit card, for each credit card transaction, a signed copy of the "Credit Card Expenditure Form" substantiating:

- a. Who the expenditure was for;
- b. What the expenditure was for;
- c. Where the expenditure was made;
- d. Why the expenditure was made; and
- e. When the expenditure was made.



## ACCOUNTING

### Key Accounting Thresholds

1. Checks over \$10,000 require two approvers/signatures.
  - a. Note, credit card transactions over \$10,000 do not require two signers since paying the monthly statement will require two check approvers/signatures.
2. Non-budgeted contracts that exceed (or are likely to exceed) \$50,000 during a calendar year or which last beyond an academic year require Board approval.

### Purchasing in the Financial Accounting System (FAS)

1. School will use an FAS system to store all financial transactional data.
2. Employees will make purchase requisitions in the FAS. Purchase Requisitions can be created using the following information provided by the vendor:
  - An invoice or estimate prepared by the vendor, but which has not yet been processed for sale by the vendor.
  - Sales quotation provided by the vendor for use by the employee to assist in decision making and subsequent creation of a purchase requisition in the FAS system.
3. The Business Office will review the purchase requisition to determine whether the Charter School has adequate resources (i.e. cash) and is within budget.
4. If the expenditure is in the approved budget, or the Charter School has adequate resources to make the purchase, the Business Office will forward the purchase requisition to the authorized supervisors (e.g. department head and authorizing administrator). The authorized supervisors must:
  - Determine if the expenditure is allowable under the appropriate revenue source.
  - Determine if the expenditure is appropriate and consistent with the Charter School's mission, approved charter petition, school policies and procedures, and any related laws or applicable regulations.
  - Determine if the price is competitive and prudent. All purchases over \$100,000 must be Board approved and must include documentation of a good faith effort to secure the lowest possible expected cost<sup>1</sup> for comparable goods or services.

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<sup>1</sup> Expected cost considers the product's price, quality, life, future maintenance costs, salvage value, environmental impact, school's mission, source and materials.

If the purchase does not represent the lowest cost option, a business purpose must be provided.

5. When the supplier/vendor submits the final invoice to the ECRA Business Office, or when an employee submits an expense report, the Charter School will make the payment by requesting a check or credit card.

6. Since goods and services are sometimes received after payment, the employee making the purchase or shipping and receiving staff must certify that the product has been received, or that service has been provided, before closing the purchase in the Approved FAS software.

If a vendor is a sole proprietor or a partnership, a valid W-9 form (or foreign equivalent) must be submitted prior to payment. Employees requesting a vendor or vendors, must submit a vendor information form.

7. The name of the vendor/business must reflect the same name and address as will appear on invoices submitted. Please include DBA ('doing business as'), if applicable.

All vendors must submit their Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), commonly known as Employer Identification Number (EIN) / Federal Tax ID, Social Security Number (SSN), or foreign equivalent for those vendors who are conducting business as individuals.

8. The Board approved credit card holders may authorize an individual to use the school credit card to make an authorized purchase on behalf of the Charter School, consistent with guidance provided by the FPP.

a. The Charter School Credit Cards are in the custody of the CBO and Executive Director. Any authorized person who uses this card must return it within three (3) hours of use, unless authorized otherwise by the card holder.

b. The other school vendor-specific charge cards will be kept under supervision of the board approved card holders

c. If receipts are not available or are "missing", the individual making the charge will be held responsible for payment.

d. Credit and vendor-specific charge cards will bear the names of both El Camino Real Alliance and the board approved card holder(s).

### **Petty Cash**

ECRCHS will maintain a petty cash account for small and emergency purchases, generally costing \$100 or less. When presented with a request for petty cash, the petty cash custodian should verify whether the item to be purchased is available in the organization's stock of supplies. If it is, the petty cash reimbursement is unnecessary; if it is not, the custodian can initiate a petty cash disbursement by doing the following:

1. The Business Office will manage the petty cash fund from the student store.
2. The petty cash fund will be capped at \$1,000 at the school site, but it will typically hold \$500. This does not include cash held for school events.
3. All petty cash will be kept in the Charter School's safe. Only select Business Office personnel will have access to the petty cash box.
4. All disbursements will require a completed and signed petty cash request form, as well as a register receipt for all purchases.
5. The Business Office will ensure that the petty cash slip is properly completed and that a proper receipt is attached.
6. At all times the petty cash box will contain receipts and cash totaling \$500. A register receipt must support the petty cash slip. The individual using the petty cash to make a purchase is responsible for submitting the receipt for the petty cash slip to the Business Office within 48 hours of withdrawing the petty cash.
7. When expenditures total \$300 (when cash balance is reduced to \$200), the Business Office will total the disbursements, complete a petty cash reimbursement form, and obtain the approval of the Assistant Principal. This should be done on at least a quarterly basis. The petty cash slips and supporting receipts will be attached to the reimbursement request form and forwarded to the Business Office.
8. Petty cash fund reimbursement checks will be made payable to ECRA.
9. Any irregularities in the petty cash fund will be immediately reported in writing to the CBO.
10. Loans will not be made from the petty cash fund.
11. The CBO or designee may conduct surprise counts of the petty cash fund.

### **Cash Boxes**

Currently the school has five (5) portable cash boxes which are controlled by the Business Office and used to collect money at fundraising activities, ticket sales and other events or activities.

Individuals who collect cash for fundraisers and activities for which a cash box is issued collect the cash and recorded the total on a cash count form. Two individuals will count the cash together, and both will sign and date the cash count form and remit the funds to the Business Office.

Every effort is made to turn in the cash the same day as fundraiser or activity. Any funds collected but not turned in to the Business Office for the final counting and deposit to the bank should never be taken home or left in any unprotected environment. When the principal or the Business Office receives the cash box funds, the funds will be counted again by a Business Office staff member and another witness. Each will sign the cash count form as verification of their confirmation. The cash and the verified cash count form will be placed in and secured in a locked, fireproof safe until the cash is deposited.

No funds will be left in the cash box.

## **Alternative Payment Methods – Third-Party Processors**

Third-Party Processor – A third-party processor is a company that can accept payments over the internet on behalf of an individual or another merchant (i.e., PayPal).

The use of third-party processors such as PayPal (or similar) is not a preferred method of payment and should be used only when a merchant will not accept a check, ACH transfer, or ECRA credit card. Purchases made via a third-party processor are subject to the same criteria and requirements as all other purchases. Employee shall submit, prior to the purchase being made, for each third-party purchase made, a signed copy of the appropriate purchasing form substantiating:

- a. Who the expenditure is for;
- b. What the expenditure is for;
- c. Where the expenditure is made;
- d. Why the expenditure is made; and
- e. When the expenditure is made.

The use of third-party processors is not intended to avoid or bypass appropriate purchasing or payment procedures.

Payments made to service providers via a third-party processor are subject to the same criteria and requirements as all other contracts. A third-party processor may not be used for payments to an individual for services.

Personal third-party processor accounts should not be used to transact ECRA business.

When using a third-party processor, employees will make purchase requisitions in the FAS. Purchase Requisitions can be created using the following information provided by the vendor:

- a. An invoice or estimate prepared by the vendor, but which has not yet been processed for sale by the vendor.
- b. Sales quotation provided by the vendor for use by the employee to assist in decision making and subsequent creation of a purchase requisition in the FAS system.

Third-party processors often do not include detailed information about the item(s) purchased. In the event this occurs, a copy of the web page that identifies the item(s) purchased and the web receipt from the third-party processor must be included in the FAS record.

Third-party processor payments will be made by the Business Office after all required documents are submitted and approvals obtained. The Business Office will use a dedicated ECRA account, such as PayPal, to make purchases.

Any email address linked to a third-party processing account must be a valid ECRA email address.

## Contracts

1. The following may sign school-related contracts within the approved budget:
  - Authorizing Personnel

The Board must also approve the following contracts:

- Non-Public Contracts - \$50,000 or more for construction, equipment, materials, supplies, non-professional services and repairs.
  - Public Contracts (i.e. public bonds):
    - **Must obtain at minimum 3 quotes/bids from vendors**
    - **Annual Bid limit under Public Contract Code § 20111(a) for 2023 is \$109,300 or more for equipment, materials, supplies, services and repairs.**
    - Bid limit under Public Contract Code § 20111(b) of \$15,000 or more for construction contracts.
2. Consideration will be made of in-house capabilities before contracting for outside services. Below are considerations:
    - a. Whether the services needed is for a limited time period.
    - b. Whether the contract service provider has expertise not otherwise available to the Charter School.
    - c. Whether the current staff has capacity to do the work.
    - d. Whether the contract service provider's core competency would lead to long-term savings.
    - e. Whether the utilization of the contract service provider would cost less than a comparable employee with benefits.
  3. The Business Office will keep and maintain a contract file evidencing the competitive bids obtained (if any) and the justification of need for any contracts over \$100,000.

ECR will maintain a copy of all signed contracts, regardless of the amount or duration.

Written contracts clearly defining the 'Scope of Work' (SOW) to be performed will be maintained for all contract service providers (i.e. consultants, independent contractors, subcontractors).

A SOW must be submitted by the consultant, independent contractor, or subcontractor and reviewed by the Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer (COO), DHR, and the CBO prior to the commencement of services.

The elements of a SOW can vary with the objective, complexity, size, and nature of the work to be performed. A SOW should be drafted in clear, simple, and concise statements. There should never be a question as to what work is to be completed, or what the contractor is obligated to do.

To the fullest extent possible, a SOW should include the following:

- (a) A general statement of the scope or extent of the work to be performed.
- (b) The period of performance of the work.
- (c) The site location of the work to be performed.
- (d) Reference documents, procedures, or specifications governing the work to be performed.
- (e) The specific work requirements:
  - (i) A detailed statement of the purpose, objective or goals to be undertaken by the vendor.
  - (ii) The job classification or approximate skill level of the personnel to be made available by the vendor.
  - (iii) An identification of all significant data deliverables and material to be developed by the vendor and delivered to the school.
  - (iv) An identification of all significant data or materials to be delivered by the to the school to the contractor.
  - (v) An estimated time schedule for the provisioning of these services by the vendor.
  - (vi) Completion and Acceptance criteria for the work to be performed.
  - (vii) Management or administrative requirements of the work.
  - (viii) Compliance or Progress Reporting requirements.
  - (ix) Completion or Close-out requirements.

Requirements should be clearly stated to easily determine compliance to the contract. All requirements should be described in sufficient detail to assure clarity.

#### Deliverables / Data / Proprietary Rights

It is important to include where applicable data or proprietary rights will be stored. For example: “Contractor in performance of its duties described within the scope of services agreed upon between the school or office and the contractor, acknowledges that the school holds all exclusive and proprietary rights to the deliverables produced under the referenced agreement (contract or purchase order). i.e., photographs taken as part of the scope of work; programs, software, lines of code written for a specific development project; intellectual properties developed as a part of a school paid/funded contract or project; documents written as a deliverable under an agreed upon project; etc.” “Contractor acknowledges that the school has exclusive and unlimited rights to such deliverables, which the contractor shall not have any rights to use, reuse, sell, resell, re-engineer, reverse engineer, provide to others, or maintains copies for work or archival purposes. Upon completion of the contract and within thirty (30) days from acceptance of final deliverables by the school, contractor shall provide written certification that it has purged and destroyed all copies of the deliverables (hard and electronic copies) from their possession, including subcontractors and those affiliated with the performance of duties under the agreement.”

Contract service providers must show proof of being licensed and bonded, if applicable, and of having adequate liability insurance and worker’s compensation insurance currently in effect. The CBO or designee may also require that contract service providers list ECRA as an additional insured.

4. If the contract service provider is a sole proprietor or a partnership (including limited partnerships or limited liability partnerships), the Business Office must obtain or receive a W-9 (or foreign equivalent) from the contract service provider prior to submitting any requests for payment.
5. The Executive Director or CBO will approve proposed contracts and modifications in writing.
6. Contract service providers will be paid in accordance with approved contracts as work is performed.
7. The CBO and Executive Director will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the contracts are fulfilled.
8. Potential conflicts of interest will be disclosed upfront, and the Executive Director, DHR , CBO, Assistant Principal(s) and/or Member(s) of the Board with the conflict will not participate in any manner in the preliminary discussions, negotiations, compromises, reasoning, planning and solicitation for applications for the contracts. If an ECRA Board member is financially interested in a contract, the entire Board is prohibited from voting on the contract. Financially interested employees shall disclose the conflict in writing and are prohibited from participating in, influencing, or attempting to influence the making of the contract.
9. ECRA may not recognize “After the Fact” contracts which occur when a contractor is authorized to commence services or ship products prior to a valid, fully executed contract or Purchase Order having been submitted and approved prior to commencement of the work or products being purchased.
10. Contractors who provide services or goods without a fully executed contract or Purchase Order may not be paid.
11. Splitting contracts to avoid a stated accounting threshold is strictly prohibited. According to the California Public Contract Code, “It shall be unlawful to split or separate into smaller work orders or projects any work, project, service, or purchase for the purpose of evading the provisions of this article requiring contracting after competitive bidding.”
12. An employee cannot issue multiple contract requests (or low-dollar Purchase Orders) for smaller sections of the total requirement to avoid going thru the competitive process, or to avoid obtaining the required approvals.

### **Donations and Fundraising**

ECRCHS may receive donations of cash, supplies or equipment. Donations will be deposited in a separate Bank Account and amounts > \$1,000 will be reported to the Board. Donations are for the

exclusive use of the school, and may not be used to influence any person or decision made at the school.

A donor can choose to state a specific purpose for which the funds (or other) are being donated. If a donation is given for a specifically stated purpose, the donated funds may be used only for that purpose. When supplies or equipment are purchased using donated funds, the supplies or equipment become the property of the charter school. All equipment and supplies purchased by a donor for the school must be shipped to the charter school's address. The donor's address may not be used for purchases made for the charter school using donated funds.

Donations or fundraising secured by the Parent Groups (ECR Royal Families) will be tracked separately and reported on monthly. These funds will be deposited in a separate Trust account within the ASB Bank Account and observe the same receipt/disbursement procedures as the ECRCHS process.

### **Supplies**

All supplies purchased by the school should be tracked sufficiently to help prevent theft, spoilage, over- or under-stocking, and obsolescence. For example, obsolescence can occur when an organization purchases toner cartridges but replaces the laser printers before the cartridges are used and cannot use the cartridges in the new laser printers.

Supplies include educational and office supplies and cleaning and maintenance supplies. Educational supplies may include textbooks and laptops checked out to students. Supplies should be safeguarded in a secure area and inventoried. The cost value of the supplies should be adjusted in the accounting records at the end of each fiscal year.

### **Professional Development**

Professional development can improve employees' performance in their present positions and help them obtain skills, knowledge, and abilities that may improve their opportunities for advancement within the organization. Professional development should be preapproved by the administration and by the Executive Director and the Business Office to ensure adequate funding exists.

Professional development opportunities include seminars, educational courses and degree programs that will help an employee perform their essential job functions and increase the employee's contribution to the charter school. Other professional development expenses that can be reimbursed under this policy are membership fees to professional organizations; registration fees for meetings, conferences, workshops and seminars; and fees and subscriptions for scholarly journals, books, and computer-based resources.

Employees must submit documentation of the completion of any professional development within 10 days after receiving the documentation. Failure to do so may result in the employee being required to reimburse the school for the costs of the training or coursework.



## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

### Bank Check Authorization

1. All original, itemized invoices will immediately be forwarded to the Business Office for scanning and then sent to the Authorizing Personnel for approval.
2. The authorizing personnel will carefully review each invoice, attach all supporting documentation, and verify that the specified services and/or goods were received. When receiving tangible goods from a vendor, the person designated to receive deliveries should trace the merchandise to the packing list and note any items that were not included in the shipment. The Business Office will adjust the invoice for any missing items noted on the packing list before processing for payment. In the case goods are received after payment, or documentation showing receipt is missing, the Business Office will verify with the employee that goods have been received.
3. Once approved by the Authorizing Personnel, the Business Office will trace by use of the FAS in most cases, all documentation from the invoice to either the original purchase requisition or budget item. Then s/he will prepare the Supplier Invoice for approval/validation by the Authorizing Personnel for payment.
4. Payment of all invoices should, whenever possible, be made in a timely manner to avoid the imposition of late fees or other penalties by the vendor.

### Bank Checks

1. The Board will approve, in advance, the list of authorized signers on the Charter School's account. The Executive Director, and any other employee/board member authorized by the Board, may sign bank checks within established limitations.
2. The Board will be authorized to open and close bank accounts.
3. The student store personnel will be responsible for all blank checks and will keep them under lock and key.
4. When there is a need to generate a bank check, the Authorized Personnel will send appropriate approved documentation to the Business Office.
5. Once approved by the Authorizing Personnel, the Business Office processes the check for signatures.
  - a. Two authorized check signers will co-sign checks in excess of \$10,000 for all items.
  - b. All checks less than \$10,000 require the signature of only one authorized check signer.
  - c. Checks may not be written to cash, bearer, or petty cash. Under no circumstance will any individual sign a blank check.

6. The Business Office will record the check transaction(s) into the approved FAS software () system.
7. Business Office personnel will distribute the checks and vouchers as follows:
  - a. Original – mailed or delivered to payee;
  - b. Duplicate or voucher – attached to the invoice and filed by vendor name by the Business Office;
  - c. Cancelled Checks – Report is submitted to the staff/back-office Services Provider performing the bank reconciliation
  - d. Voided checks will have VOID Stamped on the Check.

### **Bank Reconciliation**

1. Bank statements will be received directly or printed directly from online banking by the Business Office and forwarded to the Personnel assigned (either the Director of Finance/Accounting or Back-office Services Provider)
2. The Personnel Assigned will examine all paid checks for date, name, cancellation, and endorsement. Any discrepancies regarding the paid checks or any checks over 90 days will be researched and if applicable deleted from the accounting system.
3. The Personnel Assigned will prepare the bank reconciliation, verifying the bank statements and facilitating any necessary reconciliation.
4. The Personnel Assigned will compare the reconciled bank balance to the cash in the bank account and to the general ledger, immediately reporting any material discrepancies to the Financial Leader at Back-office Services Provider assigned to the Charter School and the CBO.
5. Completed Bank reconciliation will then be sent to CBO for approval and follow up, if needed.

### **Timely Payment of Credit and Store Charge Card Statements**

1. Timely payment of statements is required in order to avoid the imposition of late fees or other penalties by the card issuer. The employee responsible for providing any necessary documentation for payment (receipts, etc.) is required to pay any applicable late fees and/or interest.
2. Accounting personnel will access the school's account on the card issuer's website and register for electronic statements using an ECRCHS email address coordinated in the Business Office. If only one email address may be the recipient of the monthly statement, that employee will set up an email forwarding rule to automatically copy another key employee on the statement.

3. On the day the statement is received, the assigned employee will note the due date and begin matching available documentation for the included charges. All documentation will be generated from the ERP system and employee receipts.
4. Accounting personnel will work diligently to obtain all necessary documentation supporting charges prior to paying each statement by its due date.
5. If unsubstantiated charges remain on the statement when it is paid, accounting personnel will keep and maintain a log of these charges. The CBO and Executive Director will review the list and follow the procedure under “Employee Receipts/Substantiation.”

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## ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Documentation will be maintained for accounts receivable and forwarded to the Personnel assigned (either the Director of Finance/Accounting or Back-office Services Provider)

Accounts receivable will be recorded by the Personnel assigned in the general ledger and collected on a timely basis.

### Cash Receipts (Cash and Checks)

1. For each fundraising or other event in which cash or checks will be collected, a coordinator will be designated, who will be responsible for collecting and holding all cash and checks for the purpose of the fundraising activity.
  - a. The coordinator will complete a cash deposit form to account for the amount of cash and checks turned into the business office and indicate what trust (if applicable) account to deposit the funds to.
  - b. The Business Office will record the transaction in the approved FAS software at the time the transaction is made, with a copy of the receipt provided to the donor.
    - a. The cash, checks, receipt book, and deposit summary must be given to the ECRA Business Office, who will immediately put the funds in a secure, locked location.
    - b. The Business Office and either the Event Coordinator, volunteer, or Assistant Principal will count the deposit and verify the amount of the funds in writing.
2. Cash/checks dropped off at the Charter School office will be placed directly into the student store safe by the person dropping off the cash/checks.
  - a. All funds are deposited into the safe in a sealed envelope, along with any notes, forms, or other descriptions of how the funds are to be used.
  - b. Verification of the cash/check amounts collected and held in the safe must always be done under dual custody, one of which will always be a member of the Business Office, and sign off on the amounts received.
  - c. The safe will be emptied at least two times per week when school is in session, corresponding to days when deposits are made. When school is not in session, the safe will be emptied within 48 hours when cash and checks exceed \$5K.
3. Mail (including anything official such as governmental notices, invoices and checks) received at the Charter School must be opened and converted into an electronic document

- a. For any cash or checks received in the mail, the funds will be deposited into the Student Store. The personnel there will follow the guidelines used for cash receipts.
4. All checks will be immediately endorsed with the Charter School deposit stamp, containing the following information: "For Deposit Only; El Camino Real Alliance; Bank Name; Bank Account Number."
5. A deposit slip will be completed by the Business Office for approval to deposit. The deposit slip will be duplicated and documentation for all receipts (copy of check, letter, etc.) will be attached to the duplicate deposit slip.
6. The deposit receipt will be attached to the deposit documentation.

### **Returned Checks and Improper Checks**

ECRCHS will notify its /assigned personnel so that the general ledger account to which it was applied adjusted. The school will not cash personal checks.

1. A returned-check processing fee will be charged for checks returned due to non-sufficient funds (NSF). Unless otherwise pre-approved by Authorizing Personnel, payment of the NSF check and processing fee must be made by money order or certified check.
2. In the event that a second NSF check is received by any individual, the Charter School will no longer accept checks from that individual. Payment of the NSF check, the processing fee and any subsequent payment(s) by that individual must be made by money order or certified check.
3. In the case of NSF checks written by parents of students, failure to pay may result in the withholding of report cards/transcripts at the end of the semester and/or school year until payment is received, unless other mutually agreeable arrangements are approved by the Executive Director and/or the Board.
4. If unsuccessful in collecting funds owed, the Charter School may initiate appropriate collection and/or legal action at the discretion of the Executive Director and/or Board.

## **PAYROLL**

### **Personnel Information**

1. The Human Resources & Payroll Department personnel will maintain all employee information in ECRA's Payroll system Paycom.
2. An employee's hiring is not effective until the candidate has:
  - a. Completed the employment application
  - b. Passed a TB Test
  - c. Passed the LIVESCAN background check
  - d. Submitted a form W-4
  - e. Completed an I-9.
3. An employee's hiring date is the first day the employee works, not when s/he has been offered the position.
4. The Human Resource Staff will maintain a position control list and notify the Executive Director, CBO, and **DHR** of any variances to the position control throughout the year.

### **Stipends**

1. These individuals are ECRA volunteers who earn a small stipend for assisting with school programs (e.g. Athletics).
2. These individuals receive stipends through the Charter School's payroll system. The stipends are either paid out in a lump sum or in even amounts by pay periods for the scheduled period of service.

### **Electronic Timesheets**

1. All employees will be responsible for clocking in and out, including (as appropriate) clocking in and out for meal breaks, using the School-provided electronic timekeeping system. All employees will also complete all forms (such as the Absence Form) identifying all missed work periods, including for vacation or sick leave; such forms must be signed by the employee and the appropriate supervisor.
2. All forms will be submitted to the Payroll Staff by the payroll period deadline designated by the Back-office Services Provider.
3. Incomplete forms will be returned to the signatory supervisor and late forms may delay payroll into the next period. No employee will be paid until a correctly completed timesheet is submitted.

4. If an employee is unexpectedly absent and therefore prevented from working the last day of the pay period or turning in any absence forms (such as when an employee misses work due to illness), the employee is responsible for notifying the signatory supervisor or for making other arrangements for any forms to be submitted. However, the employee must still complete and submit all necessary forms upon return.

### **Overtime**

1. All employees must seek pre-approval of unscheduled time (e.g., overtime) from their authorized supervisor in the Charter School's payroll system (i.e., Paycom).

2. Overtime only applies to non-exempt employees and is defined as hours worked in excess of eight hours a day and/or forty (40) hours within a five-day period of time. Any hours worked in excess of an employee's regular work schedule must be pre-approved by the supervisor, unless it is prompted by an emergency. If a supervisor identifies a recurring need for overtime in any given position, the supervisor should immediately consult with the Executive Director or CBO for further guidance.

### **Payroll Processing**

1. Hourly employees must electronically approve their time records to verify appropriate hours worked, resolve absences and compensations, and monitor number of hours worked versus budgeted. No overtime hours should be listed without proper authorization or explanations as to why they occurred. The signatory supervisor will submit a summary report of time and attendance records. The Business Office and Payroll Service provider will verify all records for accuracy.

2. Salaried employees must sign in and out using the time clock system to verify working days for accuracy. A person from the Business Office will provide the designated school employee with any payroll-related information such as sick leave, vacation pay, and/or any other unpaid time.

3. The Business Office and Payroll Service provider will process all authorizations for approved stipends and the hourly or daily rate.

4. Business Office will prepare the payroll worksheet for review and approval by the CBO/ Director of Finance before final submission into the payroll system. These payroll hours are exported by designated payroll staff, in the form of a report out of the Payroll System used to track hours.

5. The payroll checks (if applicable) will be printed by the Charter School. The Business Office will document each printed check and review the payroll checks prior to distribution.

6. The Payroll Staff and the Business Office will ensure that payroll is made in a timely manner, in accordance with appropriate Labor Code provisions.

## **Payroll Taxes and Filings**

1. The Payroll Department will prepare payroll check summaries, tax and withholding summaries, and other payroll tracking summaries.
2. Business Office will prepare the state and federal quarterly and annual payroll tax forms, review the forms with the CBO or Executive Director, and submit the forms to the respective agencies.

## **Record Keeping**

Designated Payroll Staff will maintain records in the Time and Attendance Software of all employees' use of sick leave, vacation pay, and any other unpaid time and collect signed and approved paperwork for back-up documentation.

- a. Payroll Staff will immediately notify the authorized supervisor if an employee exceeds the accrued sick leave or vacation pay, or has any other unpaid absences.
- b. Records will be reconciled when requested by the employee. Every employee must maintain personal contemporaneous records.



## FINANCE/RESERVES/INSURANCE/LIABILITIES/ASSETS

### Financial Reporting

1. In consultation with the CBO and Finance Committee, Director of Finance & Accounting will prepare the annual financial budget for approval by the Board.
2. Director of Finance & Accounting will submit a monthly balance sheet and monthly revenue and expense summaries to the CBO, including a review of the discretionary accounts and any line items that are substantially over or under budget. The report will be reviewed at the scheduled board meeting and action will be taken, if appropriate.
3. Director of Finance & Accounting/Accountant will provide the CBO and/or the Board with additional financial reports, as needed.

### Financial Institutions

1. All funds will be maintained at high quality financial institution(s).
2. Physical evidence will be maintained on-site for all financial institution transactions.

### Loans

1. Any and all loans from third parties must be approved by the Executive Director, CBO, and the Board prior to execution of any loan documents or any other documentation which bind or obligate ECRA. In the case of a long-term loan, approval may also be required from the charter-granting agency in accordance with the terms of the charter petition and/or other lenders in accordance with the loan documents.
2. Once approved, a promissory note will be prepared and signed by the Executive Director before funds are borrowed.
3. Employee loans, including salary advances, are not allowed.

### Retention of Records

1. Financial records will be maintained indefinitely in original or electronic format.
2. Financial records will be shredded once they are converted into electronic format.
3. Appropriate back-up copies of electronic and paper financial and attendance accounting data will be regularly prepared and stored in a secure on-site location.

### Cash Balance Reserve

1. The following minimum cash balance reserve must be maintained:

- a. Economic Uncertainties - At least 5% of the total unrestricted General Funds.
  - b. LAUSD Insurance Deductible - \$1,000,000.
  - c. Retiree Benefits: ECRA is setting aside funds to meet its projected unfunded liability.
2. Director of Finance & Accounting/Accountant will provide the CBO with balance sheets on a monthly basis. It is the responsibility of the CBO and the Board to understand the Charter School's cash situation. It is the responsibility of the Authorizing Personnel to prioritize payments as needed. The CBO will have responsibility for all operations and activities related to financial management.

### **Insurance**

1. The CBO and DHR to ensure that appropriate insurance is maintained at all times with high quality insurance providers.
2. The Business Staff and the DHR will maintain the files of insurance policies, certificates of insurance, insurance policies and procedures, and related claim forms.
3. The DHR and CBO will carefully review insurance policies on an annual basis, prior to renewal. A request for proposal must be done at least every five years.
4. Insurance will include general liability, worker's compensation, student accident, professional liability, and directors' and officers' coverage. Supplementary coverage will cover the after-hours and weekend activities. Coverage will be in line with the limits listed in the Charter School's approved charter petition.

### **Asset Inventory**

1. An asset is defined as all items, purchased or donated, with a value of \$5,000 or more and with a useful life of more than one year.
2. The Business Office will file all receipts for purchased asset.
3. Reconciling Personnel will maintain an inventory or log of all assets. The log will include the original purchase price and date, a brief description, serial numbers, and other information appropriate for documenting assets.
4. The Charter School will take a physical inventory of all District and ECRA assets, separately, within 90 days of the end of each fiscal year, indicating the condition and location of the asset.
5. The Administrative Directors(s) will immediately be notified of all cases of theft, loss, damage or destruction of assets.

6. The Administrative Directors will submit to Reconciling Personnel written notification of plans for disposing of assets with a clear and complete description of the asset and the date of disposal.

### **Parking Lot Liability**

1. Parking lot related incidences are not covered under any insurance policy unless there is a witness. The Charter School assumes no liability for damage to cars:
  - a. Parked in the parking lot during school hours;
  - b. Parked in the parking lot before and after school hours.
  
2. Otherwise, liability is as follows:
  - a. If a student willfully causes damage (i.e., not in an accidental manner), the student's parent or guardian is responsible.
  - b. If a parent or other visitor causes damage, that individual is responsible for the damage.
  - c. If an employee causes damage, the employee is responsible for the damage.
  - d. If an unknown person causes damage and there is no witness, the affected individual would determine if they have applicable coverage through his/her individual insurance policies.

**APPENDIX I – STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT REQUEST**

DRAFT

**APPENDIX II – CREDIT CARD RESPONSIBLE USE FORM**

DRAFT

**ECRA SCHOOL's CREDIT CARD RESPONSIBLE USE FORM**

Usage Term \_\_\_\_\_ (academic year)  
For Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ (last four numbers only)  
Employee Information: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, you agree that you have read, reviewed and will abide by the terms of the Credit Card Responsibility Use Form. User agrees to the following:

- Employee must receive pre-approval before using the card for a specific purpose.
- Employee may not make any personal charges.
- Employee is responsible for maintaining all receipts. Along with the receipts, an appropriate description of each purchase must be provided.
- Employee is responsible for any late fees and/or interest the credit card company charges for failing to provide document within 10 days of the credit card statement's closing date.
- Employee must report any fraudulent, lost or stolen card immediately to the credit card company and ECRA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Signature Employee Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director's Signature Executive Director's Name

**APPENDIX III – EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FORM**

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**APPENDIX IV – PURCHASE REQUEST FORM**

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