



## **CHARTER AGREEMENT Bluff City High School**

This Charter Agreement (this "Agreement") is entered into this, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021, by and between the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Authorizer") and Bluff City High School, (hereinafter referred to as "the Charter School"). The Authorizer and Charter School are collectively referred to as the "Parties" to this Agreement. The Charter Agreement (the "Original Agreement") entered into between the Charter School and the Tennessee State Board of Education on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2017 is attached hereto as Exhibit 4.

For purposes of this Agreement, "Charter School" refers the Governing Body of the school. The terms "Charter School," "Sponsor," and "Governing Body" are used interchangeably herein; however, references herein to "Charter School" shall not include other schools operated by the Sponsor or Governing Body.

Whereas the 111<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assembly enacted T.C.A. § 49-13-142, holding that all charter agreements where the State Board of Education is the authorizer shall be transferred to the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission for the remainder of the unexpired term of the charter agreement;

Whereas all parties desire to terminate the Original Agreement and Charter Agreement – Amendment 1 and, in its place, enter into this Charter Agreement;

Whereas the Tennessee State Board of Education acknowledges that all rights and responsibilities previously held by the Tennessee State Board of Education now statutorily passes to the Public Charter School Commission. The Tennessee State Board of Education shall have no continuing obligation for services rendered as of July 1, 2021;

This Agreement consists of the following documents:

- This document and any exhibits hereto or documents incorporated herein by reference
- Approved Charter School's Application (Exhibit 1)
- Current Approved Performance Frameworks – Academic, Organizational, and Financial (Exhibit 2)
- Waivers (Exhibit 3)
- State Board of Education Approved Charter Agreement (Exhibit 4)
- State Board of Education Approved Charter Agreement – Amendment 1 (Exhibit 5)

In consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

## 1. General Terms

**1.1. Applicable Law.** This Agreement and the Charter School's operations shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Tennessee and applicable federal laws. Though the Charter School may, pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-105, seek waivers from the Authorizer or the commissioner of education from Tennessee laws or rules of the that inhibit the Charter School's mission, the Parties understand that currently, waivers may not be provided from the types of laws and rules specifically listed in T.C.A. § 49-13-105, from any provisions of Title 49, Chapter 13 (the Tennessee Public Charter Schools Act, hereinafter referred to as the "Act") or those included in the Act by reference, or from other laws specifically applicable to charter schools (such as those related to benefits or retirement of charter school employees contained in Title 8, Chapter 27, Part 3).

To the extent there is a conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the Charter School's Application, the terms of this Agreement shall govern.

By signing this Agreement, the Authorizer approves any waivers requested in the Charter School's Application. Those requests and any others subsequently requested by the Charter School are attached as **Exhibit 3**.

**1.2. Effective Date.** This Agreement shall be effective immediately following signature by the Charter School and the Authorizer. This Agreement shall expire on June 30 of the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) year after the date of opening of the Charter School for instruction, unless earlier terminated or renewed pursuant to the terms of this Agreement or state law.

**1.3. Charter School Performance.** The operation of the Charter School shall be subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the Act. Decisions by the Authorizer regarding renewal or revocation of this Agreement shall be based upon applicable laws, rules, and policies this Agreement and/or the academic, organizational, and financial Performance Frameworks (the "Performance Frameworks") incorporated into this Agreement as **Exhibit 2**, as well as Commission Policy 4.600 Charter School Intervention.

The Authorizer shall have broad oversight authority over the Charter School and may take all reasonable steps necessary to oversee compliance with this Agreement and applicable laws, rules, and policies. This oversight authority includes, but is not limited to, the right to visit, examine, and inspect the Charter School and its records during the pre-opening year, during the annual monitoring visit, and when there is a material complaint and notice including a statement of the complaint is given to the Charter School. The Authorizer, in consultation with the Charter School, may interview Charter School employees, Board of Directors members, students, and families as necessary to resolve complaints and grievances. With respect to complaints and grievances, all of the foregoing is subject to Section 8.2.

The Parties agree that the most critical performance measures contained in the Performance Frameworks are the academic measures, which may include student achievement, student growth measures (including annual measurable objectives), readiness

for successive school levels (middle, high, or post-secondary) and employment, as well as mission-specific academic goals defined in the Performance Frameworks.

For the purposes of accountability, renewal, and/or revocation evaluation, the Performance Frameworks supersede all assessment measures, educational goals and objectives, financial operations metrics, and organizational performance metrics set forth in the Charter School's Application and not explicitly incorporated into the Performance Frameworks. The specific terms, form and requirements of the Performance Frameworks are maintained and disseminated by the Authorizer and shall be binding on the Charter School.

The Authorizer shall—at least annually—monitor and report on the Charter School's progress in relation to the indicators, measures, metrics, and targets set out in the Performance Frameworks, as well as compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, all when required by the Performance Frameworks and such laws and regulations. The Authorizer will conduct scheduled annual site visits, which will be used to inform the annual report on the Charter School's progress.

The Authorizer shall conduct an interim review at the end of the fifth year after the effective date of the Agreement, pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-121.

Changes to the Performance Frameworks to align with changes to applicable state or federal accountability requirements shall apply to the Charter School. In the event of such changes, the Authorizer will use best efforts to apply expectations for school performance in a manner consistent with those set forth in the Performance Frameworks as initially established in the most recent charter agreement.

Changes to the Performance Frameworks that are not required by state or federal law or accountability requirements will not become binding upon the Charter School without the Charter School's consent, except at the time of charter renewal or amendment. The data form utilized between the Charter School and the State Board of Education will be carried forth under this Agreement.

**1.4. Location.** The Charter School location is to be determined and will be in the southeast region of Memphis, Tennessee. If the Charter School proposes to change its location, such change shall not require an amendment to this Agreement unless the location change is materially different from the location of the Charter School as discussed in the Charter School's Application. Non-material changes in location shall require at least 30 days prior notice to the Authorizer. Any change in location that is determined by the Authorizer to be materially different from the Charter School's Application shall require an amendment to this Agreement as set forth in Section 10. If the Charter School is located at a site owned or controlled by the local education agency (LEA) in which the Charter School is located or a site owned or controlled by the local government where the Charter School is located, the use of such site shall be subject to and governed by a Facilities Agreement between the parties.

**1.5. Employment Status.** All teachers and other staff of the Charter School shall be employed by the Charter School, and not the Authorizer.

**1.6 Intervention Policy.** The parties agree that any and all references to the Charter School Intervention Policy in the Original Agreement and Amendment #1 shall be to the current approved Charter School Intervention Policy 4.600. Upon the effective date of this Charter Agreement, the parties agree that all references to the Charter School Intervention Policy shall be to the approved Commission Intervention Policy 4.600.

**1.7 Performance Framework.** The parties agree that the current approved Performance Framework – Academic, Organizational, and financial, attached hereto as Exhibit 2 supersedes and replaces Exhibit 2 of the Original Agreement and Amendment #1.

**2. Charter School Organizational Responsibilities**

**2.1. Student Enrollment and Retention.** The Charter School shall enroll students according to T.C.A. § 49-13-113. The Charter School shall not discriminate with respect to admissions on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, English language proficiency, sex, disability, or the need for special education and related services as set forth in the Charter School's Application and the Act.

The Charter School may enroll students up to a total maximum enrollment of 616. Increases in total enrollment numbers greater than 616 must be reported to the Authorizer and evaluated to determine if they are material changes to this Agreement. Reductions in enrollment greater than 15% must be reported to the Authorizer and evaluated to determine if they are material changes to this Agreement. Reductions in enrollment in successive years or changes that affect the life of the Charter School are considered material and shall require an amendment to this Agreement. Any change in enrollment that is considered to be material to this Agreement shall not be permitted unless a formal amendment to this Agreement is secured in advance according to the provisions outlined in T.C.A. § 49-13-110(b) and this Agreement.

If the number of applications for the Charter School exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building, enrollment shall occur according to the preferences in T.C.A. 49-13-113(b)(4). If enrollment within a group of preference set out in subdivision (b)(4) exceeds the planned capacity of the Charter School, enrollment within that group shall be determined on the basis of a lottery that complies with statute. The Charter School may not “counsel out” or discourage students from attending the Charter School for any reason, including but not limited to failure to comply with letters of commitment or similar proposed contracts between students and parents and the Charter School.

The grade level enrollment of students in the Charter School shall be governed by the below Enrollment Chart.

**Enrollment Chart**

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Year Approved to Enroll</b>
9	2017-2018



9-10	2018-2019
9-11	2019-2020
9-12	2020-2021
9-12	2021-2022

**2.2. Academic Program.** The Charter School shall operate the academic program in accordance with this Agreement, the Charter School's Application, and applicable state and federal law, including providing at least the same equivalent time of instruction as other public schools and complying with assessment and accountability laws and rules (T.C.A. § 49-13-105). If the Charter School is performing below standards, the Authorizer may review the academic program. The Charter School will notify the Authorizer of any changes to pedagogical approach that are a significant change from the Charter School's Application, and the Authorizer will evaluate to determine if they are material changes to this Agreement. Any changes to the school structure shall be considered material to this Agreement and shall not be permitted unless a formal amendment to this Agreement is secured in advance according to the provisions outlined in T.C.A. § 49-13-110(b) and this Agreement.

**2.2.1. Assessments.** The Charter School shall administer all state-mandated assessments, which currently include but are not limited to TCAP or its successor assessment, End of Course assessments, writing assessments, ACT, Explore and English language learner (ELL) assessments for the required grades and testing windows. The Charter School shall comply with all Department of Education-required assessment administration, security, and reporting requirements. The Charter School may use additional assessments of its own choosing.

**2.3. Special Education.** Special education services, related services, and accommodations for students who are eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or any applicable provisions of state law, shall be provided in accordance with applicable state and federal law, this Agreement and Authorizer policy. The Authorizer is the LEA for purposes of ensuring compliance with IDEA, Section 504, and all other federal and state laws and regulations concerning accommodation of and education of students with disabilities.

**2.3.1. Responsibility of the Charter School.** The Charter School assumes responsibility for the provision of services, development and implementation of individualized education programs (IEPs), 504 plans, evaluation and re-evaluation, and all other obligations under IDEA and/or Section 504 for students identified as eligible for special education services and/or disability accommodations. The Charter School assumes responsibility for the administration of child find for the purpose of identification of any student as eligible for special education services and/or disability accommodations. The Charter School shall have a qualified special education coordinator who will be responsible for monitoring individual case

management of all special education students and students with disabilities and for arranging the provision of services required by their IEP and/or 504 plan. The Charter School shall maintain a file documenting the Charter School's compliance with IDEA and Section 504. No student shall be denied admission nor counseled out of the Charter School due to the nature, extent, or severity of his/her disability or due to the student's request for, or actual need for, special education services or accommodations pursuant to IDEA, Section 504, or the ADA.

The Charter School shall also implement the requirements of Response to Instruction and Intervention ("RTI<sup>2</sup>"), as set forth by the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE).

The Charter School shall report to the Authorizer any and all alleged infractions, complaints, and other non-compliance issues relating to IDEA Due Process for special education and Office of Civil Rights complaints for disability accommodations within two business days of the Charter School's notification of such occurrences.

The Charter School's indemnity of the Authorizer relating to special education and disability accommodations is provided in Section 12.c.

**2.3.2. Costs for Special Education.** The Charter School is financially responsible for child find including student identification, evaluation and assessment expenses. All costs associated with providing educational services to students with disabilities are the responsibility of the Charter School. The Charter School shall bear the financial responsibility for evaluations and reevaluations and the provision of all services consistent with student IEPs and 504 plans.

The Authorizer will pass federal funding to the Charter School based on the per pupil allocation received from the TDOE. Funding is available on a reimbursement basis in accordance with the procedures established by the Authorizer.

**2.4. English Learners.** The Charter School shall address the needs of English Learner (EL) students pursuant to applicable federal and state laws and regulations (including Title III of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI)). The Charter School agrees to maintain and consistently implement a policy to identify students in need of EL services, to provide services in an equitable manner to ensure meaningful access to the school's educational program (including the provision of appropriate accommodations), and to facilitate obtaining English proficiency and exit from EL services according to individual student capacity. In addition, the Charter School shall ensure that Limited English Proficiency (LEP) parents and guardians have meaningful access to school-related information.

**2.5. Student Discipline/Due Process.** The Charter School is responsible for administering its discipline policy in a manner that ensures students' due process rights are satisfied, including the provision of appropriate informal or formal hearings. The Charter School's policies and practices shall comply with all policies adopted by the Authorizer with regard to discipline including suspensions, expulsions, and remands to alternative school.

**2.6. Student Information Reporting.** To ensure compliance with federal and state law regarding student records, the Charter School shall report to the Authorizer student information enrollment projections for the coming year no later than March 15. The Authorizer will also verify the following through the TDOE on at least a quarterly basis:

- Daily attendance and other student data (as required by law to be reported by the Charter School to the State using the Student Management System adopted by the Authorizer),
- Student enrollment for determining average daily membership (as required by law to be reported by the Charter School to the State using the Student Management System by the Authorizer),
- Student withdrawals, out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions.

Any errors in data reported to the State by the Charter School shall be the sole responsibility of the Charter School to identify and correct.

### **3. Staffing**

**3.1. Teachers.** The Charter School shall ensure that teachers are licensed pursuant to state statutes, Authorizer policies and rules, and meet applicable federal qualifications including special education certified and ESL certified.

**3.2. Background Checks.** All current employees of the Charter School who have or who will have contact with children at the Charter School within the scope of the individuals' employment, employees of contractors or sub-contractors or volunteers of the Charter School who have contact with children within the scope of the individuals' employment, shall complete criminal background checks as required by state law.

### **4. Facilities**

The Charter School shall ensure the Charter School's grounds and facilities comply with applicable health and safety laws, including the ADA, state fire marshal codes, and state and local zoning and land use codes.

### **5. Food Service**

If the Charter School offers food services on its own or through a third-party contract, the Charter School may apply directly to, and if approved, operate school nutrition programs with reimbursement from the United States Department of Agriculture, under supervision of the TDOE.

### **6. Transportation**

The Charter School will provide transportation as set forth in the Charter School's Application. If the Charter School has elected to provide transportation for its students, the Authorizer shall provide to the Charter School the funds that would otherwise have been spent to provide transportation as provided in T.C.A. § 49-13-114. In order to receive these funds, the Charter School must comply with state laws and Authorizer rules and policies regarding student transportation. Transporting students in buses that have not been approved for operation by the department of safety may be grounds for non-renewal or revocation of this agreement. A change to the Charter School's plan to provide or not provide transportation for its students is considered material and requires an amendment, but a modification in a plan to provide transportation is not.

## **7. Insurance**

The Charter School shall maintain the following insurance:

- a. General Liability/Automobile Liability Policy: must be equal to or greater than \$5,000,000. This insurance shall be primary insurance. Any insurance or self-insurance programs covering the State of Tennessee, its officials, employees, and volunteers shall be in excess of this insurance and shall not contribute to it. The first one million dollars must be with a company licensed to do business in the state of Tennessee. The remaining \$4,000,000 can be covered under an excess liability policy (also known as an "umbrella" policy). The policy must name the State of Tennessee as an additional insured. The policy must cover contractual liability. Automobile coverage shall cover vehicles owned, hired, and non-owned.
- b. Professional Liability Policies: Directors and Officers Policy must be equal to or greater than \$5,000,000. Teachers Professional Liability Policy must be equal to or greater than \$1,000,000.
- c. Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Policy: The amount of coverage required for Workers Compensation is determined by statute. Charter School must comply with state statutes. Employers Liability must be a minimum of \$100,000.
- d. Property and Boiler Insurance Policy: If the Charter School purchases the property that will be used by the Charter School, it shall purchase "all risks" property and boiler insurance. Insurance shall be for the full replacement cost of the property and contents with no coinsurance penalty provision.
- e. Sexual Abuse: Must have \$1,000,000 required coverage
- f. State of Tennessee shall be named as an additional insured on the charter school insurance policy.

Certificates of insurance, in a form satisfactory to the Authorizer, evidencing coverage shall be provided to the Authorizer prior to commencement of performance of this Charter Agreement. Throughout the term of this Charter Agreement, Charter School shall provide updated certificates of insurance upon expiration of the current certificates.

## 8. Governance

**8.1. General Requirements.** The Charter School shall notify the Authorizer of any change to its status as a nonprofit federal tax-exempt status under IRC § 501(c)(3).

The Charter School shall include parent participation in governance through membership on the board of directors or establishment of a school advisory council pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-109.

The Charter School shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Tennessee Open Meetings Act, including with regard to the scheduling of Board of Directors meetings, meeting agendas, public notice of meetings, and records of those meetings. At the start of each school year the Charter School shall provide to the Authorizer a schedule of Board of Directors meetings for that school year.

As required by T.C.A. § 49-13-111(g), the Board of Directors shall be subject to the conflict of interest provisions contained in T.C.A § 12-4-101 and 102.

**8.2. Complaints.** The Board of Directors shall be the first avenue for response in case of any complaints or grievances filed against the Charter School or its employees and volunteers. The Board of Directors will ensure that the Charter School establishes policies and procedures for receiving and addressing complaints or grievances directed toward the Charter School or its employees and will make those policies available to students, parents/guardians, employees, and any other persons who request it. If grievances persist following the actions of the Board of Directors, complaints regarding alleged violations of law or the Charter Agreement may be investigated by the Authorizer. Grievances that are not resolved by the Charter School or Board of Directors, or a pattern of serious grievances, may be considered in any application for renewal of this Agreement or any action to revoke the charter.

The Charter School shall notify the Authorizer immediately if at any time the Charter School receives notice or is informed that it is a party to a lawsuit.

**8.3. Reporting of Corporate Status.** The Charter School shall report any change to the Charter School's corporate legal status or any change in its standing with the Tennessee Secretary of State to the Authorizer within five (5) days of change. Any change to the Charter School's corporate legal status as a not-for profit organization shall constitute grounds for immediate revocation unless, during the term of this Agreement, the Act is amended to allow Charter Schools to be operated by organizations other than not-for-profit organizations.

## 9. Finance

**9.1. State and Local Funds.** The Authorizer shall allocate one hundred percent (100%) of state and local Basic Education Program (BEP) funds to the Charter School on a per pupil expenditure as provided in T.C.A. § 49-13-112 and as calculated by the formula provided by the TDOE. The Authorizer shall allocate funds to the Charter School after each of the ten

(10) attendance-reporting intervals. The Authorizer shall allocate and distribute one-tenth of state and local funds to the Charter School by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month in August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, and June. Each state and local payment from October through April and the final payment in June is contingent on the Charter School's reporting of the Charter School's Average Daily Membership (ADM) in the TDOE's Education Information System (EIS). Each payment starting in October will be reconciled to the reported ADM for the period before being released. The final (tenth) payment will not be released until the year's ADMs have been reconciled.

If the Charter School is adding a new grade in accordance with the Charter School's Application and this Agreement, the Charter School shall be funded based on anticipated enrollment in this Agreement, as submitted to the Authorizer for initial budgeting purposes no later than March 15 of each year. Initial payments will be based on this anticipated enrollment, which must be agreed upon by the Authorizer and the Charter School and reflected in the Charter School's Board of Directors-approved budget for the upcoming fiscal year by June 1 of each year. Upon completion of the grade expansion period, the Charter School's state and local funds will be allocated based on the prior year's ADM in the TDOE's EIS system, and consistent with T.C.A. § 49-3-351.

## **9.2. Federal Funds**

- a. Eligibility: Each year, the Authorizer shall provide to the Charter School the school's proportionate share of applicable federal ESSA funding (e.g. Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, or Title V) and other federal grants received by the Authorizer for which the Charter School is eligible. Schools are eligible for such funds upon approval of their plans for such funds either by the Authorizer or the TDOE.
- b. Fund Collection: The Authorizer shall receive for any charter school it authorizes all appropriate allocations of federal funds that other LEAs receive under federal law or regulations, including, but not limited to, Title I, IDEA, and ESSA funds. All funding allocations and disbursements shall be made in accordance with procedures developed by TDOE. Funding for charter schools authorized by the Authorizer shall be in accordance with T.C.A. §§ 49-13-112 and 49-13-118. The Authorizer shall reduce the allocation to charter schools by a percentage allowable under federal rules and regulations for administrative, indirect, or any other category of cost or charges.
- c. Fund Distribution & Reporting: Funds shall be distributed on a documented expenditure reimbursement basis with the required documentation. The Charter School shall submit grant reimbursement reports to the Authorizer in accordance with procedures established by the Authorizer. The Authorizer shall distribute to the Charter School federal reimbursement funds within 60 days of receipt of approved expenditure reimbursement requests.
- d. Use of Funds. The Charter School shall comply with all regulations tied to such federal funds including 2 CFR 200 - UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS, ESSA, IDEA, and any other applicable federal or state laws.

**9.3. Fee for Services Agreement.** Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-142(f), the Charter School may enter into a separate fee for services agreement, for the provision of services (including but not limited to school or student support services such as food services and transportation) to be provided to the Charter School by the LEA in which the Charter School is located. The Charter School may also enter into a separate fee for services agreement with the Authorizer for the provision of services. Fees for services provided to the Charter School by the Authorizer shall be deducted from the BEP payments provided to the Charter School. Failure of the Charter School to enter such an agreement shall not be grounds for revocation or non-renewal of this Agreement.

The Charter School shall notify the Authorizer of any fee for services agreement(s) entered into with the LEA in which the Charter School is located or with any other vendor or outside contractor and shall provide a copy to the Authorizer of any agreement(s) entered into.

**9.4. Tuition.** The Charter School shall not charge tuition.

**9.5. Charter School Debt.** The Charter School is solely responsible for all debt it incurs, and the Authorizer shall not be contractually bound on the Charter School's account to any third party. The Authorizer shall not be liable for the Charter School's unpaid debts if the Charter School does not have sufficient funds to pay all of its debts in the event that it ceases operations.

The Charter School shall notify the Authorizer immediately of a default on any obligation owed to the Authorizer, which shall include debts for which payments are past due by sixty (60) days or more. If debts are incurred in the provision of employee benefits pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-119, the Authorizer may withhold the amount owed from the monthly payment until such debts are satisfied. Any other debts owed to the Authorizer must be satisfied prior to release of the last annual payment.

**9.6. Financial Management.** The Charter School shall control and be responsible for financial management and performance of the Charter School including budgeting and expenditures. Before receiving BEP funds through the Authorizer, the Charter School must demonstrate (if not already demonstrated in the Charter School's Application) the existence of appropriate governance and managerial procedures and financial controls including:

- Accounting methods complying with T.C.A. § 49-13-111(m);
- A checking account;
- Adequate payroll procedures;
- An organizational chart;
- Procedures for the creation and review of monthly and quarterly financial reports, including identification of the individual responsible for preparing such financial reports in the following fiscal year;
- Internal control procedures for cash receipts, disbursements, and purchases; and

- Maintenance of asset inventory lists and financial procedures for federal grants in accordance with applicable federal law.

The Authorizer reserves the right to require, consistent with the Act, the submission of financial reports as indicated in Authorizer policies.

The Charter School shall comply with T.C.A. §§ 49-13-111, 120 and 124 regarding completion and submission of annual budgets, financial reports, and audits to the Authorizer and the State. The Charter School shall undergo an independent financial audit conducted in accordance with T.C.A. §§ 49-13-111(m) and 49-13-127. The audit shall be furnished to the Authorizer, the Commissioner of Education, and the Comptroller of the Treasury by December 31 of each year. If such audit is not received by the Authorizer on or before December 31 of each year, it shall be considered a material breach of this Agreement, which the Charter School shall have 15 days, or such other time as the Parties may agree, to cure. The audit should express an unqualified opinion on the financial statements. A qualified audit opinion will result in an automatic review and explanation from the Charter School. In addition, any material weaknesses in controls should be disclosed during the audit. A material weakness will result in a potential review and explanation from the Charter School. The Charter School shall also prepare and provide to the Authorizer a copy of its final annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year no later than June 1 of each year. In addition, the Charter School shall submit quarterly financial statements to the Authorizer and any other financial and/or operational reports pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-111.

**9.7. Financial Records.** All financial records of the Charter School pertaining to the management and operation of the School are subject to inspection and production as required for fulfillment of the Authorizer's fiduciary responsibilities.

**9.8. Authorizer Fee.** Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-128(e), the Charter School agrees to the payment of an annual authorizer fee of up to 3% of the charter school's per pupil state and local funding. By May 1 of each year, the Authorizer shall set the percentage of the authorizer fee. The Authorizer shall use the authorizer fee to fulfill obligations consistent with the authority of the Authorizer set forth in Title 49, Chapter 13.

## **10. Amendments**

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-110, petitions to amend this Agreement, initiated by the Charter School, shall follow the timelines established in State Board Rule 0520-14-01-.06 for approval or denial by the Authorizer. An amendment shall not become effective, and the Charter School shall not take action or implement the change requested in the amendment, until the amendment is approved in writing by the Authorizer.

Not all changes to the Charter School's operation constitute material changes to this Agreement that require an amendment. However, the following changes (as well as any other changes mentioned in other sections of this Agreement as being material and requiring an amendment) are considered material and require an amendment:

- Material changes in the Charter School's mission;
- Changes in the Charter School's calendar that reduce the calendar at all in the first year of operation or by more than ten (10) days in subsequent years, in the absence of timely notification of parents or below the requirement to provide at least the same equivalent time of instruction as required in regular public schools in T.C.A. § 49-13-105.

Educational program matters not specifically identified in this Agreement or the Charter School's Application shall remain within the Charter School's authority and discretion.

The following changes do not require an amendment, but the Charter School must notify the Authorizer of any of the following within thirty (30) days:

- Changes to the budget submitted in the attached Charter School's Application, subject to the requirements of state and federal law;
- Changes in the mailing address, phone or fax number, or web address of the Charter School;
- Changes in the members and duties of the Board of Directors including name and contact information;
- Changes in the school leader or, if applicable, the chief executive of the charter management organization including names and contact information; and
- Changes in any leadership in the Charter School or individuals serving as main contacts with the Authorizer, including names and contact information.

The following changes do not require an amendment, however, the Charter School shall notify the Authorizer of any of the following at least thirty (30) days prior to the change:

- Changes in school location to a location permitted by Section 1.5.

Any material change initiated by the Authorizer, requiring an amendment to this Agreement, must be agreed to in writing by both parties. An amendment initiated by the authorizer shall be effective at the agreed upon date in the amendment or upon approval in writing by the Authorizer.

## **11. Renewal, Revocation, Closure, and Dissolution**

**11.1. Renewal.** Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-121, the Charter School may apply for renewal of this Charter Agreement by application submitted no later than April 1 of the year prior to the year in which this Agreement expires and in accordance with Authorizer renewal policies. This Agreement may be renewed without modification, except for the incorporation

by attachment of the approved renewal application. The Parties may also amend this Agreement as part of the renewal process.

The Authorizer may elect not to renew this Charter Agreement pursuant to the Authorizer policies, T.C.A. § 49-13-121, for any of the applicable reasons in T.C.A. § 49-13-122, including a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in this Agreement. Any proposed amendments to this Agreement that are rejected by one of the Parties shall constitute denial of the renewal application. Denial of the renewal application by the Authorizer shall be final and not subject to appeal.

**11.2. Revocation.** During the term of this Agreement, the Authorizer may, but is not required to, provide notice to the Charter School of non-compliance with applicable laws, rules, or this Agreement. The Authorizer may also, but is not required to, give the Charter School an opportunity to cure the non-compliance prior to instituting revocation proceedings pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 49-13-121 and 122 and Authorizer policies.

At any time during the term of this Agreement, the Authorizer may revoke this Agreement for any reason set forth in T.C.A. § 49-13-122, Authorizer rules or policies, and/or a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in this Agreement.

If the Authorizer determines that any grounds for revocation exist, it may revoke this Charter Agreement according to the procedures set forth in T.C.A. § 49-13-122 and Authorizer policies.

**11.3. Closure and Dissolution.** In the event that the Charter School is required to cease operation for any reason, including but not limited to closure, non-renewal, revocation, or voluntary surrender of the charter, the Charter School shall cooperate with the Authorizer to ensure orderly closure of the Charter School including, but not limited to:

- Timely notification of parents and teachers of the closure decision;
- Securing student records and transferring them to the LEA in which the Charter School is located;
- Assisting in placing students in appropriate schools;
- Managing all financial records consistent with the Authorizer's school closure requirements and policies; and
- Disposal of school assets in accordance with the Act and this Agreement.

The Charter School shall also comply with any closure policies or protocols established by the Authorizer.

Dissolution of the Charter School following revocation, expiration of this Agreement, dissolution or cessation of operations, or non-renewal shall comply with T.C.A. §§ 49-13-110(c) and 49-13-122. The Charter School shall be responsible for winding down operations, including payment of any and all debts, obligations, or liabilities incurred at any time by the Charter School. Under no circumstances shall the Authorizer be responsible for such obligations. Charter School personnel and the Board of Directors shall cooperate fully with

any activity related to school closure or phase out. If assets of the Charter School were funded with funds from the Authorizer, other than funds described in Sections 9.1 and 9.2, and such assets remain after paying the Charter School's debts and obligations and not requiring return or transfer to donors or grantors, such assets will become the property of the Authorizer.

## **12. Indemnification and Hold Harmless**

The Authorizer and Charter School each shall give immediate written notice to the other of the assertion of any claim or the commencement of any litigation for which indemnification is sought and shall cooperate with each other in the defense of the claim or litigation.

To the extent claims are not covered by insurance or barred by governmental or other immunities, the School and Authorizer each agree to indemnify, defend and hold the other, its Board, agents, and employees harmless from liability, claims, and demands on account of personal injury, sickness, disease, death, property loss or damage, or any other losses of any kind whatsoever to the extent such liability arises from any activities proximately caused by the indemnitor, its directors, officers, agents, employees, volunteers or assigns. The indemnities stated herein shall not be deemed a relinquishment or waiver of any kind of applicable limitations of liability provided to either party by law, whether as a public body or otherwise. Where a claim is ultimately found to be barred by immunity or other limitation, the indemnitor remains obligated to defend and hold the indemnitee (and the others named above) harmless from such a suit or claim. The obligation of indemnification includes all attorney fees, costs and expenses incurred by the indemnitee in defense of any suits, actions, grievances, charges and/or proceedings.

## **13. Contract Construction**

**13.1. Waiver.** The failure of either of the Parties to this Agreement to insist on strict performance of any term or condition of this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of that term or condition, even if the Party accepting or acquiescing in the nonconforming performance knows of the nature of the performance and fails to object to it.

**13.2. Non-assignability.** No right or interest in this Agreement shall be assigned by anyone on behalf of the Charter School, and delegation of any contractual duty of the Charter School shall not be made without prior written approval of the Authorizer. A violation of this provision shall be grounds for immediate termination of this Agreement and revocation of the Charter.

Should the Charter School propose to enter into a contract with another non-profit entity to manage the School, the Charter School agrees to submit all information requested by the Authorizer regarding the management arrangement, including a copy of the proposed contract and a description of the management company, with identification of its principals



and their backgrounds. The Charter School shall not enter a management contract without written approval from the Authorizer.

**13.3. Agreement.** The Parties intend this Agreement, including all attachments and exhibits hereto, to represent a final and complete expression of their agreement, which shall be considered the Agreement. All prior representations, understandings, and discussions are merged herein, and no course of prior dealings between the Parties shall supplement or explain any terms used in this document. The Parties recognize that amendments to this Agreement may be executed from time to time hereafter.

**13.4. Survival of Representations and Warranties.** All representations and warranties hereunder shall be deemed to be material and relied upon by the Parties with or to whom the same were made, notwithstanding any investigation or inspection made by or on behalf of such Party or Parties. The representations and warranties covered in this Agreement will survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

**13.5. Severability.** The provisions of this Agreement are severable. Any term or condition deemed illegal or invalid shall not affect any other term or condition, and the remainder of the Agreement shall remain in effect unless otherwise terminated by one or both of the Parties.

**13.6. Authority.** The individual officers, agents, and employees of the Parties hereto who execute this Agreement do hereby individually represent and warrant that they have full power and lawful authority to execute this Agreement.

**13.7. Notice.** Any notice required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing, sent via electronic or other means, and shall be effective immediately upon personal delivery, subject to verification of service or acknowledgment of receipt, or three (3) days after mailing when sent by certified mail, postage prepaid. Such noticed shall be sent to:

If to the Authorizer:

Mailed to:

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

Attn: General Counsel

500 James Robertson Parkway

5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Nashville, TN 37243

and emailed to:

[Ashley.Thomas2@tn.gov](mailto:Ashley.Thomas2@tn.gov)



THE STATE OF TENNESSEE BY AND THROUGH THE CHARTER SCHOOL:  
TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
COMMISSION:

By: Tess Stovall

Printed Name: Tess Stovall

Title: Executive Director

Date: 4/15/21

By: Tom Griscom

Printed Name: Tom Griscom

Title: Chair, Tennessee Public Charter School  
Commission

Date of Commission Approval: 4/9/21

By: Pamela Egwuekwe

Printed Name: Pamela Egwuekwe

Title: Board Chair

Date: May 4, 2021

Sworn to and subscribed to before me, a Notary  
Public, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, by  
\_\_\_\_\_, the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Charter School and  
duly authorized to execute this instrument on  
Charter School's behalf.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Please see attached  
CA Notary Certificate





If to the Charter School:

Mailed to:

Megan Quaile

Executive Director, Green Dot Public Schools Tennessee

4950 Fairley Road

Memphis, TN 38109

and emailed to:

mquaile@greendot.org

Either party may change its address for notices under this Agreement by notice to the other party.



## **EXHIBITS**

**Exhibit 1-** Approved Charter Application (“Charter School’s Application”)

**Exhibit 2-** Current Approved Performance Frameworks

**Exhibit 3-** Waivers

**Exhibit 4-** State Board Approved Charter Agreement

**Exhibit 5-** State Board Approved Charter Agreement – Amendment 1