

## AMENDED COMMUNITY SCHOOL CONTRACT

This Amended Community School Contract (“Contract”) is entered into by and between the Ohio Council of Community Schools (hereinafter “**Sponsor**”); and the Board of Directors and governing authority of the Great River Connections Academy (hereinafter “**Governing Authority**”), an entity established in accordance with Chapter 1702 of the Ohio Revised Code and is made effective upon the execution hereof. The parties intend for this Contract to fully supersede and replace any previous version of this Contract, including any amendments thereto, prior to execution.

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code permits the formation and operation of community schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Council of Community Schools is an authorized **Sponsor** under Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio law allows the **Governing Authority** and the **Sponsor** to enter into a renewal contract to allow for the continued operation of a community school; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Governing Authority** seeks to continue to operate a community school.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the **Governing Authority** and the **Sponsor** enter into this Contract, pursuant to the following terms and conditions.

- A. **Continuation of Community School.** The **Governing Authority** and the **Sponsor** agree that the **Governing Authority** may continue to operate the community school (hereinafter referred to as the “**School**”) as permitted by and subject to applicable federal laws, the laws of the state of Ohio, and the terms of this Contract. The **Governing Authority** shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions of this Contract, unless the Contract specifically places a duty upon the **Sponsor**.
- B. **Community School Obligations.** The **Governing Authority**, for itself and on behalf of the **School**, covenants and agrees as follows:
1. As required by Section 3314.03(A)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code, the **School**, having been established as either a nonprofit corporation (if established under Chapter 1702 of the Ohio Revised Code prior to April 8, 2003), or a public benefit corporation (if established after April 8, 2003), shall be operated and maintain its status as a nonprofit corporation in good standing.
  2. The **School’s** Certificate of Incorporation, Articles of Incorporation, Appointment of Statutory Agent, Code of Regulations, Taxpayer Employer ID No., Ohio certificate of non-profit status, and IRS Letter of Determination of the **School’s** federal tax-exempt status (or, until the Letter of Determination is issued, copy of the submitted IRS Form 1023) are attached at **ATTACHMENT 1** to this Contract. If any of these documents are modified or created subsequent to this Contract being

executed, the **School** must submit these documents to the **Sponsor** in a timely manner, not to exceed 30 days after receipt or execution.

3. Except as otherwise permitted by this Contract or the **Sponsor**, any future contracts entered into with third parties shall provide for a right to cancel, terminate, or non-renew effective upon the expiration date of this Contract or in 10 years, whichever date is earlier.
4. In accordance with the Ohio Revised Code, as a community school pursuant to Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code, the **School** shall comply with Sections 9.90, 9.91, 109.65, 121.22, 149.43, 2151.357, 2151.421, 2313.19, 3301.0710, 3301.0711, 3301.0712, 3301.0715, 3301.0729, 3301.948, 3302.037, 3313.472, 3313.50, 3313.539, 3313.5310, 3313.608, 3313.609, 3313.6012, 3313.6013, 3313.6014, 3313.6015, 3313.6020, 3313.6024, 3313.6025, 3313.6026, 3313.643, 3313.648, 3313.6411, 3313.66, 3313.661, 3313.662, 3313.666, 3313.667, 3313.668, 3313.669, 3313.6610, 3313.67, 3313.671, 3313.672, 3313.673, 3313.69, 3313.71, 3313.716, 3313.718, 3313.719, 3313.7112, 3313.721, 3313.80, 3313.814, 3313.816, 3313.817, 3313.818, 3313.86, 3313.89, 3313.96, 3319.073, 3319.077, 3319.078, 3319.238, 3319.318, 3319.321, 3319.39, 3319.391, 3319.393, 3319.41, 3319.46, 3320.01, 3320.02, 3320.03, 3321.01, 3321.041, 3321.13, 3321.14, 3321.141, 3321.17, 3321.18, 3321.19, 3323.251, 3327.10, 4111.17, 4113.52, 5502.262, and 5705.391 and Chapters 117., 1347., 2744., 3365., 3742., 4112., 4123., 4141., and 4167. of the Ohio Revised Code, as if it were a school district and will comply with Section 3301.0714 of the Ohio Revised Code in the manner specified in Section 3314.17 of the Ohio Revised Code. Additionally, if applicable, the **School** will comply with Sections 3301.50 to 3301.59 of the Ohio Revised Code and the minimum standards for preschool programs prescribed in rules adopted by the state board under Section 3301.53 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The **School** will comply with Sections 3313.6021 and 3313.6023 of the Ohio Revised Code as if it were a school district unless it is an internet- or computer-based community school, or a community school in which a majority of the enrolled students are children with disabilities as described in division (A)(4)(b) of Section 3314.35 of the Ohio Revised Code. The **School** will comply with Section 3321.191 of the Ohio Revised Code, unless it is an internet- or computer-based community school that is subject to Section 3314.261 of the Ohio Revised Code.

As outlined in Section 3323.012 of the Ohio Revised Code, the **School** is considered a school district for purposes of Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code. The **School** is also considered a school district for all purposes provided for in Section 3314.082 of the Ohio Revised Code. The **Governing Authority** and **School** shall also comply with Chapter 102 and Section 2921.42 of the Ohio Revised Code and must have a conflicts of interest policy. The **Governing Authority** and **School** will comply with Sections 3302.04 and 3302.041 of the Ohio Revised Code, except that any action required to be taken by a school district pursuant to those Sections shall be taken by the **Sponsor** in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code. However, the **Sponsor** shall not be required to take any action

described in Division (F) of Section 3302.04 of the Ohio Revised Code. The **School** shall comply with federal and state laws regarding the education of students with disabilities.

To comply with requirements in this Section, members of the **Governing Authority**, the designated fiscal officer, the Chief Administrative Officer, other administrative employees of the **School**, and all individuals performing supervisory or administrative services for the **School** under a contract with the operator shall complete training on an annual basis on the public records and open meetings laws.

The **School**, unless it is an internet- or computer-based community school, will comply with Section 3313.801 of the Ohio Revised Code, as if it were a school district.

5. The **School** and **Governing Authority** shall not carry out any act or perform any function that is not in compliance with the Ohio Community School Law located in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3314 or other applicable laws in the Ohio Revised Code, the United States Constitution, the Ohio Constitution, or Federal law.
6. **ATTACHMENT 2** contains the deed or lease agreement and an outline of the **School** facilities including: a detailed description of each facility used for instructional purposes, specifying the location of the **School**, the physical and/or mailing address, and approximate number of square feet utilized by the **School**; the annual costs associated with leasing each facility that are paid by or on behalf of the **School**; if applicable, the annual mortgage principal and interest payments that are paid by the **School**; and the name of the lender or landlord, identified as such, and the lender's or landlord's relationship to the operator, if any. The facilities used by the **School** will not be changed or altered in a way that would materially impact the available square footage without the prior written consent of the **Sponsor**, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, delayed, or conditioned. To the extent that square footage is moved or replaced with alternative classroom settings, the **Sponsor** must consent to any such changes.

If the **School** changes or expands its location, and such location has been or will be leased, no lease shall be signed by the **Governing Authority** unless in accordance with the financial plan included with **ATTACHMENT 7**, which may be revised to include the specifics of the costs for the new location. The **Sponsor** shall have the right to inspect the site before a lease is signed. If the location has been or will be purchased by the **Governing Authority**, the contract of sale and related documents shall not be signed unless in accordance with the financial plan included with **ATTACHMENT 7**, which may be revised to include the specifics of the costs for the new location. Approval of the financial plan or site shall not be unreasonably withheld and/or delayed. After leasing or purchase, a copy of the fully executed lease or conveyance documents, subsequent amendments, modifications, or renewals thereof, and all related documents shall be provided to the **Sponsor** within 10 business days and included in **ATTACHMENT 2**, along with updated facilities

information as specified above and in Section 3314.03(A)(9) of the Ohio Revised Code.

Any facility used for or by the **School** shall meet all applicable standards established by state or federal law for community school buildings, including, but not limited to, all requirements imposed by the Americans with Disabilities Act unless legally exempted.

The **Governing Authority** recognizes the rights of public health and safety officials to inspect the facilities of the **School** and to order the facilities closed if those facilities are not in compliance with health and safety laws and regulations.

The Ohio Department of Education has the authority as the community school oversight body to suspend the operation of the **School** under Section 3314.072 of the Ohio Revised Code if the Ohio Department of Education has evidence of conditions or violations of law at the **School** that pose an imminent danger to the health and safety of the **School's** students and employees working in the **School** and the **Sponsor** refuses to take such action.

7. The **School** shall be authorized to provide learning opportunities for grades K-12 for at least 25 students for a minimum of 920 hours per school year or in accordance with any applicable changes of law.
8. The **School** was not a non-public chartered or non-chartered school in existence on January 1, 1997. This representation is material, and if in error, the **Sponsor** may terminate this Contract. For purposes of this Section, if the **School** is new but the faculty and students in 1997 were almost all located at the same non-public chartered or non-chartered school in existence on January 1, 1997, the **School** will be considered to be a non-public chartered or non-chartered school.
9. The **School** shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and it will not be operated by a sectarian school or religious institution.
10. A list of the current members of the **Governing Authority**, including all contact information required by law, is included as **ATTACHMENT 3**. A description of the process by which the **Governing Authority** of the **School** shall be selected in the future shall also be included, unless that process is outlined in the Code of Regulations included with **ATTACHMENT 1**. The **Governing Authority** shall consist of not less than 5 members and a majority of the members must be comprised of individuals who live or work in the state of Ohio. In accordance with Section 3314.035 of the Ohio Revised Code, the **Governing Authority** shall ensure the name of each member is posted on the **School's** website. For new members, the **School's** website shall be updated within 30 days of appointment.

No person shall serve on the **Governing Authority** under any of the circumstances prohibited by Section 3314.02(E) of the Ohio Revised Code, including, but not

limited to, serving on the governing authority of more than 5 community schools at the same time, unless as allowed by Section 3314.02(E)(3) of the Ohio Revised Code. Additionally, in accordance with Section 3314.02(E)(7), each then current member of the **Governing Authority** shall make the required annual disclosures by October 31 of each year or within 60 days of appointment to the **Governing Authority**.

Meetings of the **Governing Authority** must occur at least 8 times per year in the state of Ohio. Unless the **Governing Authority** has approved a different rule in compliance with the requirements in Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, proper notice of any regularly scheduled meeting and all special meetings shall be published on the **School's** website and any other location that the **School** determines would be useful to provide notice of its public meeting. Written notification of any regularly scheduled meeting shall be provided to the **Sponsor** at least 7 days in advance and notice to the **Sponsor** shall be provided immediately upon the scheduling of any special or emergency meeting. Appropriate documents related to any public meeting under Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code shall be provided to the **Sponsor** at the same time they are provided to **Governing Authority** members.

At all times, 1 representative of the **Sponsor** or its designee shall be granted all rights and privileges associated with being a non-voting member of the **Governing Authority**, but shall not be considered a member of the **Governing Authority** under any provision of Ohio law or this Contract. This representative or designee has the authority to attend all executive sessions, unless explicitly excused by the **Governing Authority** so that the **Sponsor** may be discussed or to avoid unintentional waiver of attorney-client privilege. Any **Sponsor** representative or designee present during executive session of the **Governing Authority** must maintain appropriate confidentiality. This confidentiality requirement does not preclude the individual from sharing information with other employees or agents of the **Sponsor**, as long as the employees or agents likewise maintain the appropriate confidentiality of information discussed in such executive sessions.

All members of the **Governing Authority** must be approved by the **Sponsor** prior to appointment as an official member counted for quorum and voting purposes, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed. Any individual under final consideration for appointment to the **Governing Authority** shall have an Ohio and federal background check conducted in the manner described in Section 3319.39 of the Ohio Revised Code and as may be required by law every 5 years after the initial background check is performed. The results of these background checks shall be provided first to the **Governing Authority** or its legal counsel and then to the **Sponsor**. Any consent needed to forward the results of the background checks by prospective **Governing Authority** members shall be obtained by the **Governing Authority**. The names, mailing addresses, electronic mail addresses, telephone numbers, and biographical information reflecting experience, education, and/or professional information of current and prospective

members of the **Governing Authority** shall also be provided to the **Sponsor**. To the extent that the **Sponsor** needs assistance from the **Governing Authority** confirming the lack of findings of recovery, assistance from the **Governing Authority** will not be unreasonably withheld.

Within 1 year of appointment to the **Governing Authority**, all members without community school governing authority experience must attend at least 8 hours of training. Any training offered by the **Sponsor** shall be free of charge. The annual training required in Section 3314.037 of the Ohio Revised Code shall count toward the required hours of training noted above. Unless the **Sponsor** conducts this training, the **Governing Authority** shall be permitted to obtain training from an outside provider with approval given by the **Sponsor**, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

The **Governing Authority** may provide by resolution for the compensation of each of its members in accordance with Ohio law. The **Governing Authority** shall submit such a resolution to the **Sponsor** promptly upon its approval.

Additionally, any attorney, accountant, or entity specializing in audits, contracted by the **Governing Authority** shall be independent from the operator as contracted by the **Governing Authority**.

11. The **School's** Chief Administrative Officer will be the **School's** leader and chief administrator. This individual is responsible for the daily operations at the **School** and will be listed in any state reporting system as the Superintendent, or other similar title. Within 5 business days, the **School** or the **School's** designee shall notify the **Sponsor**, in writing, of any change in the identity of the **School's** Chief Administrative Officer and shall include any documentation required by law.
12. The **School** shall begin operation for the academic year no later than September 30 (unless it is a drop-out prevention and recovery program) by teaching the minimum number of students required by law or this Contract.
13. The **School's** Educational Plan, including its mission, academic goals, characteristics of students the **School** is hoping to attract (including ages and grades), instructional program and methods, focus of the curriculum, educational philosophy of the **School**, and a description of the learning opportunities that will be offered to students (including both classroom and non-classroom based learning opportunities, if present) that complies with the criteria for student participation in Section 3314.08(H)(2) of the Ohio Revised Code are attached as **ATTACHMENT 4**. If applicable, **ATTACHMENT 4** shall also include a notation if the **Governing Authority** is seeking designation as a STEM school equivalent under Section 3326.032 of the Ohio Revised Code, and, if the **School** is operating using the blended learning model as defined in Section 3301.079 of the Ohio Revised Code, the required information as outlined in Section 3314.03(A)(29) of the Ohio Revised Code. The **Governing Authority** shall give the **Sponsor** advanced written notice of its desire to update **ATTACHMENT 4**; however, changes shall not be

implemented without prior written approval of the **Sponsor**, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Additionally, if the **School** is serving any of grades K-8, multiple grade levels shall not be served concurrently in the same classroom without prior written approval of the **Sponsor**, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

As part of the **School's** Educational Plan, the **School's** teachers shall conduct site visits with their students in person throughout the school year. The plan for conducting site visits with students is found in **ATTACHMENT 4**.

The **School** shall use a filtering device or install filtering software that protects against internet access to materials that are obscene or harmful to juveniles on each computer provided to students for instructional use by the **School**. The **School** shall provide such device or software at no cost to any student who works primarily from the student's residence on a computer obtained from a source other than the **School**.

In the event the **School** is at risk of state-issued sanctions, including, but not limited to, permanent closure based upon poor academic performance, the **Sponsor** may take prompt action to require additional information and requirements be incorporated into **ATTACHMENT 4**. In such an instance, the **School** and **Governing Authority** agree to comply with reasonable requests, including, but not limited to, an in-depth evaluation of the **School's** curriculum and instructional methods by qualified curriculum and instructional professionals, quarterly reviews of the School Improvement Plan, and any other items deemed necessary by the **Sponsor**.

14. The Performance and Accountability Plan is included as **ATTACHMENT 5** and identifies the minimum performance standards and/or performance requirements to be satisfied by the **Governing Authority** and the **School** in the Core Performance Areas of legal compliance, organization and operational performance, financial performance, and student and academic performance, including all applicable report card measures set forth in Sections 3302.03 or 3314.017 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Within 60 days of being notified by the **Sponsor**, the **Governing Authority** shall submit a Performance Improvement Plan, as outlined in the Performance and Accountability Plan, for any individual indicator, goal, or data point where the **Governing Authority** or **School** did not meet the standards.

The Performance and Accountability Plan will be a significant factor in any **Sponsor** action in accordance with Section F. of this Contract, including, but not limited to, requiring a Performance Improvement Plan, being placed on probation, or issuing an intent to suspend operations. Additionally, an egregious underperformance or a consistent inability to meet the standards of indicators, goals, or data points in any of the Core Performance Areas will also factor into any action taken by the **Sponsor**. The **Sponsor** reserves the right to make changes to the Performance and Accountability Plan as necessary. The **Governing Authority**

recognizes that these changes may be required and the **Sponsor** agrees to reasonably negotiate any changes with the **Governing Authority**, prior to implementation.

The **School** shall timely administer all statewide achievement assessments required by law, and the results of the assessments will be a factor used to determine progress toward meeting the student and academic performance requirements included in the Performance and Accountability Plan.

15. Within 4 months after the end of each school year, the **Governing Authority** must submit a report of its activities and progress in meeting the goals and standards set forth in this Contract and its financial status to the **Sponsor** and the parents of all students enrolled in the **School**.
16. The **Governing Authority** or its designee shall report annually to the **Sponsor** and the State Board of Education on the day set by the State Board of Education all of the reporting requirements set by Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code, including, but not limited to, those found in Section 3314.08(B) of the Ohio Revised Code.
17. The **Governing Authority** or its designee shall report in writing every month to the **Sponsor** with statistics and other items required by the **Sponsor**, including financials, enrollment, staff and teacher turnover, expulsions, suspensions, and shall respond promptly to the **Sponsor's** inquiries regarding such information or other matters the **Sponsor** reasonably deems important. The **Sponsor** shall be allowed to observe the **School** in operation at site visits and shall have open access for such visits. The **Sponsor** will use its reasonable discretion when determining when to conduct such visits, and, while visiting the **School**, the **Sponsor** shall use best efforts to avoid undue disruption of the learning environment. Upon the written request of **Sponsor**, the **Governing Authority** shall also report in writing all of the following data: total assets, current assets, total liabilities, current liabilities, total number of people on payroll, gross revenue, occupancy cost, payroll/instruction cost, state revenue, operator fee cost, grant revenue, and total number of students.

The **Governing Authority**, **School**, and **Sponsor** agree and state that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and 34 CFR Part 99, the **Sponsor** is an authorized representative of a state educational authority and that the **School** is permitted to disclose to the **Sponsor** personally identifiable information from an education record of a student without parental consent (or student consent where applicable). Uses of the information may include conducting audits, compliance evaluations, and other reviews as necessary for the **Sponsor** to carry out its statutory duties. Accordingly, the **School** agrees to grant to **Sponsor's** employees access as defined hereinafter to "education records" as defined by FERPA and all documents, records, reports, databases, and other information made available to or maintained by the **School** or its agent(s) (including, if applicable, the operator) that is reportable to the Ohio Department of Education or its agencies, to the Ohio Auditor of State, or to any



outside vendor. Such information shall include, but is not limited to, the School Options Enrollment System, and the Education Management Information System, or any successor systems. "Full and complete access" shall include the ability to inspect and copy paper and electronic documents at the **School** and the **School** or its agent(s) (including, if applicable, the operator) shall provide usernames and passwords where applicable to enable the **Sponsor** to have remote self-service access in read-only format, if available.

The **Governing Authority** hereby appoints the **Sponsor** as a representative pursuant to Section 3319.39(D) of the Ohio Revised Code, for purposes of receiving and reviewing the results of criminal records checks performed pursuant to Section 3319.39(A)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code for employees working at the **School** and authorizes its agent(s) (including, if applicable, the operator) to communicate this information directly to the **Sponsor**.

The **Sponsor** agrees to comply with FERPA and the regulations promulgated thereunder and warrants that it uses reasonable methods to limit **Sponsor** employee access to only those education records and that as required by law the **Sponsor** will destroy the educational records when no longer needed for the purposes outlined in this Contract, or otherwise needed under state or federal law or any applicable court order.

The **Sponsor** agrees that it is responsible for any and all reasonable costs or damages that result from the **Sponsor's** failure to comply with FERPA, or the **Sponsor's** failure to comply with other state and federal laws regarding the privacy of education records and the results of criminal records checks. **Sponsor** shall also be responsible for any liability or adverse consequence(s) resulting from an accidental or other deletion, release, or alteration of information or data systems of the **School** or Ohio Department of Education as a result of such access.

18. The admission procedures of the **School** are set forth in **ATTACHMENT 6** and shall comply with Section(s) 3314.06, and, if applicable, 3314.061 of the Ohio Revised Code, including the following requirements:
  - (a) Specify that the **School** will not discriminate in its admission of students to the **School** on the basis of gender, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, intellectual ability, athletic ability, or measurement of achievement or aptitude; and,
  - (b) Be open to any individual entitled to attend school in the state of Ohio pursuant to Section 3313.64 or Section 3313.65 of the Ohio Revised Code, except that admission to the **School** may be limited to (i) students who have obtained a specific grade level or are within a specific age group; (ii) students who meet a definition of "at-risk" that the parties to this Contract agree upon, and/or; (iii) residents of a specific geographic area within the district as defined in this Contract.

The **Governing Authority** and **School** shall allow the enrollment of students who reside in any district in the state of Ohio, unless the admissions procedures set forth in **ATTACHMENT 6** establishes a different and lawful enrollment policy.

The **School** will not restrict its marketing or recruiting efforts to any particular racial or ethnic group, but will attempt to achieve the racial and ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves. The **School's** methods for achieving this balance are described in **ATTACHMENT 6**.

Notwithstanding the admissions procedures of this Contract, in the event that the racial composition of the enrollment of the **School** violates a federal desegregation order, the **School** shall take all corrective measures to comply with the desegregation order.

If the number of applicants exceeds the capacity of the **School's** programs, classes, grade levels, or facilities, then students shall be admitted by lot from all eligible applicants, except preference shall be given to students attending the **School** the previous year and to students who reside in the district in which the **School** is located. Preference may also be given to eligible siblings of students attending the **School** the previous year and children of full-time staff members employed by the **School**, provided the total number of children of staff members receiving this preference is less than five percent of the **School's** total enrollment.

19. Tuition in any form shall not be charged for the enrollment of any student, except for the enrollment of any student who is not a resident of Ohio in accordance with Section 3314.08(F) of the Ohio Revised Code. The **School** shall not require contributions either from any student eligible to enroll or enrolled in the **School** or from any parent or guardian of a student who is enrolled or intending to enroll in the **School**. Nothing in this Section shall prevent the **School** from charging reasonable class, book, or similar fee(s), or engaging in voluntary fund-raising activities.
20. The **School** shall follow all reasonable dismissal procedures, according to Section 3314.03(A)(6)(a) of the Ohio Revised Code.
21. The **Governing Authority** shall adopt a school attendance policy that includes procedures for verifying attendance, as required by law, and for automatically withdrawing a student from the **School** if the student, without legitimate excuse, fails to participate in 72 consecutive hours of the learning opportunities offered to the student. Attendance and participation policies will be available for public inspection. Attendance and participation records shall be made available to the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Auditor of State, and the **Sponsor**, to the extent permitted by FERPA and Section 3319.321 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The **Governing Authority** shall adopt an enrollment and attendance policy or

policies that requires a student's parent to notify the **School** when there is a change in the location of the parent's or student's primary residence. Such policy or policies shall also require the verification of student residence and address information for students enrolling in or attending the **School**.

22. The **Governing Authority** shall adopt a policy regarding suspension, expulsion, emergency removal, and permanent exclusion of a student that specifies, among other things, the types of misconduct for which a student may be suspended, expelled, or removed, and the due process related to any action taken under this Section. The policy and practices shall comply with the requirements of Sections 3313.66, 3313.661, and 3313.662 of the Ohio Revised Code. Those policies and practices shall not unlawfully infringe upon the rights of students with disabilities as provided by state and federal law.
23. Unless operations are suspended in accordance with Section 3314.072 of the Ohio Revised Code, the **School** must remain open for students to attend until the end of the school year in which it is determined that the **School** must close. The programs provided to students in the final year of the **School** must continue without interruption or reduction to the fullest extent possible, unless program changes are approved in writing by the **Sponsor**. The **Sponsor** may, but is not obligated to, assume operation of the **School** as provided for in Section 3314.073 of the Ohio Revised Code. Provided prior written notice is delivered to all members of the **Governing Authority**, the **Sponsor** may also replace the **Governing Authority** if the **Governing Authority** abandons or materially breaches its duties under this Contract or at law in a manner that could cause immediate and irreparable harm to the **School** and/or its students.
24. At least 1 full-time classroom teacher or 2 part-time classroom teachers each working more than 12 hours per week must be employed to work in the **School**. The full-time classroom teachers and part-time classroom teachers working more than 12 hours per week shall be licensed in accordance with Sections 3319.22 to 3319.31 of the Ohio Revised Code. Pursuant to Section 3319.301 of the Ohio Revised Code, non-licensed persons, who are otherwise qualified, may teach up to 12 hours per week. Non-licensed persons, who are otherwise qualified, teaching in a STEM school or an industry-recognized credential program offered at a dropout recovery community school may teach classes for not more 40 hours per week in the **School**. The student to full-time equivalent classroom teacher ratio shall be no more than 75:1 without prior written approval of the **Sponsor**, which will not be unreasonably withheld. The **School** may employ non-teaching employees.

If the **School** is the recipient of moneys from a grant awarded under the federal race to the top program, Division (A), Title XIV, Sections 14005 and 14006 of the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009," Pub. L. No. 111-5, 123 Stat. 115, the **School** will pay teachers based upon performance in accordance with Section 3317.141 and will comply with Section 3319.111 of the Ohio Revised Code as if it were a school district.

25. Although the **Governing Authority** may employ teachers and non-teaching employees necessary to carry out its mission and fulfill this Contract, no contract of employment shall extend beyond the expiration of this Contract or termination according to the procedures set forth in the Ohio Revised Code.
26. The **Governing Authority** shall specify any arrangements for providing health and other benefits to employees. To the extent required by law, the benefits provided by the **School** must include and are subject to Chapters 3307 and 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code (“STRS” and “SERS”), as applicable.
27. The **School’s** financial records shall be maintained in the same manner as are financial records of school districts, pursuant to rules of the Ohio Auditor of State.

The **School** shall submit to the **Sponsor** no later than November 15th of each year a draft of the statutorily-required reports to be generated and submitted to the Ohio Auditor of State no later than 150 days following the close of the fiscal year. In the event this statutory requirement is lifted, the **School** shall be required to comply with relevant statutory provisions.

The **School** shall meet the requirements of the duly authorized laws, rules, and procedures for program and financial audits established by the Ohio Auditor of State and the Ohio Department of Education. The audits shall be conducted in accordance with Section 117.10 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The **Sponsor** may order a financial audit of the **School** if, in the sole discretion of the **Sponsor**, the **Sponsor** has reason to believe that the **School** has:

- (a) Engaged in, been a victim of, or is in any way otherwise connected to irregularities or improprieties involving the **School’s** finances;
- (b) Improperly maintained its financial records; and/or,
- (c) Insufficient financial controls in place.

If an audit is ordered under this Section, the **Governing Authority** or **School** shall pay the costs. In the event this audit does not materially support findings regarding any of the reasons for which the **Sponsor** may order such audit as described in (a) through (c) above, the **Sponsor** shall reimburse the **Governing Authority** or **School** for direct costs associated with a third-party auditor within a reasonable time period.

Any breach of this provision will be considered a material breach. The **Sponsor** may exercise all rights afforded to it under statutory or common law to enforce this provision. To the extent that the **Sponsor** incurs damages based upon the **School’s** breach of this provision, the **School** agrees to compensate the **Sponsor** for all reasonable costs and damages resulting directly from the **School’s** breach of this

provision.

28. The fiscal year for the **School** shall begin July 1 and end June 30 of the following year.
29. A financial plan detailing a projected **School** budget for each fiscal year of this Contract is included with **ATTACHMENT 7**. Each year of this Contract, on or before June 30, a revised financial plan shall be submitted by the **Governing Authority** to the **Sponsor**. The **Governing Authority** and **School** agree that if a deficit is projected, the parties will take appropriate measures to budget for a positive cash flow. All projected and actual revenue sources must be included in the plan and projected expenses must include the total estimated per pupil expenditure amount for each such year. In accordance with Section 3314.042 of the Ohio Revised Code, the **Governing Authority** agrees to comply with Section 3301.07(B)(2) of the Ohio Revised Code in terms of financial reporting.

An appropriately licensed and bonded, fiscal officer shall be designated by the **Governing Authority**. Except as provided by Section 3314.011(D) of the Ohio Revised Code, the fiscal officer shall be employed by or engaged under a contract with the **Governing Authority** of the **School**. The **School's** designated fiscal officer shall maintain the internal financial controls, as approved by the **Governing Authority**, and carry a bond for this individual **School** in an amount no less than \$25,000.00. All revenue received by the **School** pursuant to state or federal law, or pursuant to a grant shall be placed in the custody of the fiscal officer. The fiscal officer's bond, proper contact information, license, and the approved internal financial controls shall be included in **ATTACHMENT 7**. If the fiscal officer changes, the **Governing Authority** shall immediately notify the **Sponsor** in writing and provide updated fiscal officer documentation within 10 business days, such as confirmation of the bond and other requirements of this Contract as they relate to the **School's** fiscal officer.

If applicable, as a pre-condition to the initiation of operations of the **School**, the **Governing Authority** or any operator as outlined in **ATTACHMENT 9**, shall post a bond in the amount of \$50,000.00 with the auditor of state, or otherwise secure a cash deposit or written guarantee as allowed under Section 3314.50 of the Ohio Revised Code. The bond or cash deposit shall be used, in the event the **School** closes, to pay the auditor of state any moneys owed or that become owed by the **School** for the costs of audits conducted by the auditor of state or a public accountant under Chapter 117. of the Ohio Revised Code. The ongoing provision of a bond, cash deposit, or written guarantee, as specified under Section 3314.50 of the Ohio Revised Code, is a legal precondition to the initiation, maintenance, and continuation of operations of the **School**.

If the Ohio Auditor of State or other independent auditor concludes the **School's** financial records are unauditable, for any fiscal year in which the individual listed in **ATTACHMENT 7** was the fiscal officer of the **School**, the **School** shall take

immediate action to suspend the fiscal officer and retain the services of another fiscal officer in good standing.

If the **Governing Authority** enters into an agreement with an operator to manage daily operations at the **School**, the **Governing Authority** agrees to procure from the operator, sufficient data, at the **Sponsor's** discretion, to allow the **Sponsor** to review the **Governing Authority** and **School's** financial information relative to revenue, expenses, and all other financial information allowed by law.

30. Pursuant to Section 3314.08(G) of the Ohio Revised Code, the **School** may borrow money to pay any necessary and actual expenses of the **School** in anticipation of receipt of any portion of the payments to be received by the **School** pursuant to Section 3317.022 of the Ohio Revised Code. The **School** may issue notes to evidence such a borrowing to mature as necessary. The proceeds from the notes shall be used only for the purposes for which the anticipated receipts may be lawfully expended by the **School**. The **School** may borrow money for a term not to exceed 15 years for the purpose of acquiring facilities. Any monies loaned to the **School** by the operator, including facilities loans or cash flow assistance, must be accounted for, documented, and bear interest at a fair market rate.
31. The **Governing Authority** shall purchase, or ensure that, insurance coverage providing for the general liability of the **School** is maintained at all times. The **Governing Authority** shall ensure that this liability insurance policy provides coverage for itself; the **School** and its employees; and shall include the **Sponsor**, its Board, officers, employees, and contractors of the **Sponsor** as additional insureds thereunder. The policy or certificate indicating coverage shall be provided to the **Sponsor** upon execution of this Contract. This policy shall provide coverage in amounts not less than \$1 million per occurrence and \$5 million in the aggregate or \$1 million per occurrence, \$2 million in the aggregate, and at least a \$5 million umbrella covering all claims otherwise payable under the policy. The **Governing Authority** shall provide documentation regarding any change in or renewal of this policy to the **Sponsor** as soon as reasonably practicable following the renewal of the policy and shall require the insurer to notify the **Sponsor** in writing promptly upon receiving notification from the insurer of any material adverse change to, or cancellation of, such coverage. To the extent obtained under this Contract, the **School** must provide copies of all commercial general liability, real or personal property, directors and officers liability insurance, proof of workers' compensation payments, and unemployment compensation payments, and notice of lapse of any such coverage to **Sponsor** within 5 business days of written request by the **Sponsor**.
32. The **Governing Authority** and **School** shall indemnify and hold harmless the **Sponsor** and its Board, and their respective members, employees, agents, and officers, from any claims, demands, actions, suits, causes of action, obligations, losses, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, judgments, orders and liabilities of whatever kind or nature, in law, equity or otherwise, arising from any of the following, which include, but are not limited to:

- (a) A failure of the **Governing Authority** and/or **School** or any of its officers, trustees, directors, employees, successors, agents, or contractors to perform any duty, responsibility, or obligation imposed by law or by this Contract; and/or
- (b) An action or omission by the **Governing Authority** and/or **School** or any of its officers, trustees, directors, employees, successors, agents, or contractors that result in injury, death, or loss to person or property, breach of contract, or violation of statutory law or common law (state and federal).

The entering into of this Contract and the oversight of the **Sponsor** of the **School** and the **Governing Authority** pursuant to this Contract, shall in no way implicate the **Sponsor** or render it liable or responsible for the acts or omissions of the **Governing Authority** or the **School**.

The parties agree that the **Governing Authority** and **School** will not be required to indemnify the **Sponsor** and its Board to the extent that the relevant actions were attributable to specific acts or omissions by the **Sponsor** and/or its Board. In addition, in the event that the **Governing Authority** and **School** engage in litigation that is adverse with the **Sponsor** and/or its Board, or vice versa, no indemnification applies.

To comply with Ohio law, this indemnification provision is limited to \$5 million. The **Governing Authority** and **School** hereby agree that it will name the **Sponsor** as an additional insured under its required insurance policies up to and including the required amount of indemnification.

- 33. Where required by this Contract, the **Governing Authority** and **School** shall comply with all reasonable requests of the **Sponsor**. Unless otherwise directed in writing for a longer period of time, any reasonable request of the **Sponsor** shall be fulfilled in writing within 10 business days.
- 34. If the **School** includes a high school, the **School** shall comply with Sections 3313.61, 3313.611, 3313.614, 3313.617, 3313.618, and 3313.6114 of the Ohio Revised Code, except with regard to students who entered ninth grade for the first time before July 1, 2010, the requirement in Sections 3313.61 and 3313.611 of the Ohio Revised Code that a person must successfully complete the curriculum in any high school prior to receiving a high school diploma may be met by completing the curriculum adopted by the **Governing Authority**. Beginning with students who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2010, the requirement in Section 3313.61 and 3313.611 of the Ohio Revised Code that a person must successfully complete the curriculum of a high school prior to receiving a high school diploma shall be met by completing the Ohio core curriculum prescribed in division (C) of Section 3313.603 of the Ohio Revised Code, unless the person qualifies under division (D) or (F) of that Section. The **School** shall comply with

the plan for awarding high school credit based on demonstration of subject area competency, and beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, with the updated plan that permits students enrolled in seventh and eighth grade to meet curriculum requirements based on subject area competency adopted by the State Board of Education under divisions (J)(1) and (2) of Section 3313.603 of the Ohio Revised Code. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, the **School** shall comply with the framework for granting units of high school credit to students who demonstrate subject area competency through work-based learning experiences, internships, or cooperative education developed by the department under division (J)(3) of Section 3313.603 of the Ohio Revised Code.

35. In addition to provisions provided in the Ohio Revised Code, any individual, responsible for the care, custody or control of a student, under final consideration for appointment or employment with the **Governing Authority** or **School** shall have an Ohio and federal background check conducted in the manner described in Section 3319.39 of the Ohio Revised Code and as may be required by law every 5 years after the initial background check is performed. The results of all employee background checks will be provided to the **Sponsor** within 3 business days of receipt and/or appointment and subsequently upon request.
36. Pursuant to Section 3314.03(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, a comprehensive plan for the **School** must be submitted to the **Sponsor**. The requirements for the comprehensive plan are fulfilled through various attachments to this Contract. The **School's** comprehensive plan shall specify the following:
  - (a) The process by which the **Governing Authority** of the **School** will be selected in the future (portion of ATTACHMENT 1 – Code of Regulations);
  - (b) The management and administration of the **School** (portion of ATTACHMENT 7 – Financial Plan and ATTACHMENT 8 – Management Agreement);
  - (c) If the community school is a currently existing public school or educational service center building, alternative arrangements for current public school students who choose not to attend the converted school and for teachers who choose not to teach in the school or building after conversion (If applicable, these arrangements will be developed and added);
  - (d) The instructional program and educational philosophy of the **School** (ATTACHMENT 4 – Education Plan);
  - (e) Internal financial controls (portion of ATTACHMENT 7 – Internal Financial Controls); and,
  - (f) Any other information or documentation as determined by the **Sponsor** or as deemed necessary by the **Governing Authority** to comply with the requirements of the comprehensive plan.



C. **Sponsor Obligations.** The **Sponsor** shall work with the **Governing Authority** to perform a high-stakes review before considering any renewal of this Contract pursuant to Section F., or, in the **Sponsor's** sole discretion, as appropriate based on the academic and/or financial performance, and at least once every five years. Additionally, the **Sponsor** shall provide monitoring, oversight, and technical assistance to the **Governing Authority** and **School** including, but not limited, to:

1. Monitoring the **School's** compliance with applicable law, and the terms of this Contract;
2. Monitoring and evaluating the academic and fiscal performance and the organization and operation of the **School** on at least an annual basis;
3. Reporting annually the results of its evaluation to the Ohio Department of Education and parents of students enrolled in the **School**;
4. Submitting the necessary, **Sponsor**-required reports to the Ohio Department of Education, or other appropriate entities;
5. Providing technical assistance to assist the **School** in complying with applicable laws and this Contract;
6. Intervening and taking action as the **Sponsor** deems necessary in the **School's** operation to correct problems with overall performance, including, but not limited to, exercising its right to place the **School** on probation, suspend operations of the **School**, and/or terminate this Contract according to Sections 3314.073, 3314.072 or 3314.07, respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code;
7. Preparing and assisting with contingency plans in the event the **School** experiences financial difficulties or closes before the end of the school year;
8. Timely performance of any other duties related to the **School** that may be relegated to the **Sponsor** through state or federal law; and,
9. Pursuant to Section G. of this Contract and in compliance with Ohio law, the **Sponsor** will oversee the **Governing Authority** and **School's** actions in the closure of a community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code.

D. **Fee Structure.** The parties covenant and agree as follows:

1. As permitted by Section 3314.03(C) of the Ohio Revised Code, in consideration for time, organization, monitoring, oversight, technical assistance, fees, and costs of the **Sponsor** pursuant to this Contract, the **Governing Authority** shall pay to the **Sponsor** the amount of 3.0% of the total amount of payments for operating expenses that the **School** receives from the state each year. Such payments shall be

paid based on invoices from the **Sponsor**. The invoices shall be payable within 10 days of receipt of the invoice and the **School's** receipt of the associated state funds. Calculations for the invoicing shall be taken from the Ohio Department of Education-issued report identifying the amount of state funds paid to the **School** for the invoice period.

Additionally, for each year of this Contract, the **Sponsor** shall provide the **Governing Authority** with a performance grant based upon its rating in the "Student and Academic Performance" section of the Performance and Accountability Plan. This performance grant may total up to 33%, but will not exceed \$150,000, of sponsorship fees paid by the **Governing Authority**, after any official adjustment made in accordance with an FTE review or otherwise. The performance grant shall be paid as follows:

- (a) 10% if the rating in the "Student and Academic Performance" is "Meets Standards";
- (b) 20% if the rating in the "Student and Academic Performance" is "Exceeds Standards";
- (c) 33% if, on the **School's** Local Report Card, the "School Grade" is a "B" or better.

The performance grant is permitted to be used by the **Governing Authority** to enhance and enrich the **School** consistent with its mission statement. At no time will the total paid to the **Governing Authority** under this performance grant be greater than 33% of sponsorship fees paid by the **Governing Authority** as outlined above, or \$150,000, whichever is less.

Payment of the performance grant shall be made within 30 days of the later of the following: 1) any official adjustment made in accordance with an FTE review or otherwise, and 2) the official posting of the **School's** Local Report Card (or successor vehicle) on the Ohio Department of Education's website, or any other means that the Ohio Department of Education chooses to make such results public.

In the event the **School's** academic performance causes the **School** to close by operation of law, the **Governing Authority** and **Sponsor** agree that any fee reduction based on academic performance for the **School's** final year of operation is void.

The **Governing Authority** and/or **School's** financial obligations regarding any fees due to the **Sponsor** under this Contract prior to termination shall survive termination, non-renewal, and expiration of this Contract. The fees due shall be limited in coverage to the term of this Contract or the duration of the Contract whichever is shorter, provided, that the **Sponsor** shall be entitled to its fees related to amounts received by the **School** or **Governing Authority** which are related to periods prior to termination, non-renewal, or expiration of this Contract whether

such amounts are actually received during or after the term of this Contract. Similarly, the **Sponsor** shall repay any fees it receives from the **School** or **Governing Authority**, as appropriate, related to amounts adjusted by the Ohio Department of Education that are related to periods prior to termination, non-renewal, or expiration of this Contract whether such adjustment is made during or after the term of this Contract. Such repayment shall be within a timeframe mutually agreed to or such time as may be required by the Ohio Department of Education or the Ohio Auditor of State.

- E. **Contract Authorization.** Prior to signing this Contract, each party must authorize, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, the execution of this Contract and vest one or more individuals with the authority to execute this Contract for and on behalf of the party with full authority to bind that party. Upon its execution, the **Governing Authority** and **Sponsor** shall provide a resolution, or other verification, indicating authorization to execute this Contract.
- F. **Renewal; Termination; Closure.** Upon the expiration of this Contract and approval of the **Governing Authority**, the **Sponsor** may elect to renew this Contract in accordance with Section 3314.03(E) of the Ohio Revised Code for a term determined by the **Sponsor**, but not expiring earlier than the end of any school year. The **Sponsor** may elect not to renew the Contract upon, or terminate prior to, its expiration pursuant to Section 3314.07 of the Ohio Revised Code; suspend operations of the **School** pursuant to Section 3314.072 of the Ohio Revised Code, which may or may not void this Contract under Section 3314.072(E) of the Ohio Revised Code; and/or, place the **School** on probation or assume operation of the **School** in accordance with Section 3314.073 of the Ohio Revised Code for any reason defined in Section 3314.07(B)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code or any of the following:
1. Failure to meet student performance requirements stated in this Contract and the Performance and Accountability Plan (**ATTACHMENT 5**);
  2. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;
  3. Violation of any provision of this Contract or applicable local, state, or federal law; or,
  4. Other good cause.

The **Sponsor** and **Governing Authority** recognize the authority of the Ohio Department of Education to act in accordance with Sections 3314.072 and 3314.015(C) of the Ohio Revised Code.

In reaching a decision on any **Sponsor** action as outlined in this Section, the **Sponsor** will consider all of the student performance requirements stated in this Contract and the Performance and Accountability Plan (**ATTACHMENT 5**), an egregious underperformance or a consistent inability to meet the standards of indicators, goals, or

data points in any of the Core Performance Areas, as well as applying any other objective, reasonable criteria in accordance with the **Sponsor's** policies in its reasonable discretion, and state and/or federal law.

Not later than January 15 in the year in which the **Sponsor** intends to terminate or non-renew this Contract, the **Sponsor** shall notify the **Governing Authority** of the proposed action in writing. The notice shall include the reasons for the proposed action in detail. The **Governing Authority** may, within 14 days of receiving the notice, request in writing an informal hearing before the **Sponsor**, unless this time period is modified upon the agreement of both the **Governing Authority** and the **Sponsor**. No other appeals will be granted to the **Governing Authority** other than those provided for in Ohio law.

If the **Governing Authority** does not intend to renew this Contract with the **Sponsor**, the **Governing Authority** shall notify the **Sponsor** at least 180 days prior to the expiration date of this Contract in writing, or otherwise in compliance with Ohio law. In the event the **Governing Authority** provides notice to the **Sponsor** in accordance with this Section and Ohio law, the **Governing Authority** agrees to diligently pursue any necessary approval for changing sponsors and to apply for sponsorship with one or more eligible sponsors. The **Governing Authority** shall promptly respond to reasonable requests from the **Sponsor** regarding the status of such approval and the search for a different sponsor. By March 15 of the year this Contract expires, the **Governing Authority** shall provide the **Sponsor** with documentation showing that the **Governing Authority** has executed a charter contract with a different sponsor for a term beginning July 1 of that year, or, if it has not yet executed a charter contract, documentation which is sufficient to support the conclusion that a charter contract will be signed prior to July 1. For good cause and in the sole discretion of the **Sponsor**, the March 15 deadline can be extended until April 15. Good cause will exist under circumstances supporting that the **Governing Authority** will likely obtain a new sponsor and in the absence of undue hardship on students. In the event the **Governing Authority** does not provide such documentation, the **Governing Authority** agrees to begin planning for closure and cease operations on June 30 if it does not have a signed sponsor contract before July 1, and work with the **Sponsor** to ensure an orderly and timely school closure, including, but not limited to, prompt notification of parents and students.

G. **Closing the Community School.** Regardless of the reason the **School** is closing, once it is determined the **School** will cease operations as a community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code, the following requirements and procedures apply regarding the **Governing Authority** and the **School** (unless operations continue as a public school of an existing school district):

1. If the **School** is non-renewed or terminated under Sections 3314.07(B)(1)(a) or (b) of the Ohio Revised Code or permanently closed under 3314.35, the **School** shall permanently close at the end of the school year or applicable and lawful date. In the event the **School** permanently closes or the **Governing Authority** secures a new sponsor and for the time following expiration of this Contract, the **Sponsor**, **Governing Authority**, and **School** agree to continue to follow all reporting

requirements and relinquish all necessary documents until all of their responsibilities under this Contract are completed.

2. Upon termination of this Contract, by law or by these Contract provisions, or upon dissolution of the Ohio non-profit corporation which operates the **School**, all equipment, supplies, real property, books, furniture or other assets of the **School**, including, property acquired by the operator in the manner described in Section 3314.0210 of the Ohio Revised Code, shall be distributed in accordance with Sections 3314.015(E) and 3314.074 of the Ohio Revised Code, and the **Governing Authority's** Articles of Incorporation, and Code of Regulations.
3. Upon prior written request of the **Sponsor**, the **Governing Authority**, **School**, and/or their agents will immediately provide the **Sponsor** any and all documentation and records, including, but not limited to, financial records deemed necessary within reason by the **Sponsor** to facilitate the **School's** closure. This transmittal of documentation and records to the **Sponsor** excludes all students' educational records, which should be forwarded to the individual student's school district of residence or where the student has enrolled.
4. In accordance with Section 3314.44 of the Ohio Revised Code, the **School's** leader, as Chief Administrative Officer of the **School**, shall take all reasonable steps necessary to collect and assemble the students' educational records in an orderly manner and transmit the records to the student's school district of residence within 7 business days of the **School's** closing. The fiscal officer shall deliver all financial and enrollment records to the **Sponsor** within 30 days of the **School's** closure. The **School** agrees that the fiscal services agreement will state that the fiscal officer is primarily responsible for all finance-related portions of the closing procedures if the **School** closes. Additionally, the **Governing Authority** agrees that the fiscal officer is primarily responsible for closing procedures related to the finances of the **School** and, upon the written request of the **Sponsor**, the **Governing Authority** agrees to remain in place and will use its best efforts to retain the services of a fiscal officer to complete a final audit, if the current fiscal officer is no longer available.
5. The **School** also hereby agrees that it will cooperate fully with **Sponsor** to complete the appropriate procedures and paperwork as outlined by the **Sponsor**, the Ohio Department of Education, or in statute in the event the **School** is closed. Any refusal by the **School** to cooperate fully with **Sponsor** will be considered a material breach of this Contract.
6. In the event that this Contract is voided by operation of Section 3314.016(C) of the Ohio Revised Code or similar provision based upon sponsor rating, the parties agree that neither may seek damages as a result of the voiding of this Contract by operation of such a provision.

H. **Dispute Resolution.** Other than a dispute falling under Section F. of this Contract, for all other disputes regarding either any term of this Contract or any community school issue,

the parties shall use the following non-binding dispute resolution procedure: The parties shall make initial attempts to resolve any dispute through an agent designated by the **Sponsor** and an agent designated by the **Governing Authority**. If those parties cannot resolve the dispute, the dispute will be submitted to mediation. The parties will take efforts to agree mutually on a mediator with relevant background and experience with community schools. In the event the parties cannot agree to a mediator within 21 days of the request for mediation, the party requesting dispute resolution will request a list of 7 mediators, with experience in charter schools and/or education from the Ohio State Bar Association but not a party who has ever represented the **Sponsor** or the **Governing Authority** or who is conflicted out due to business conflict reasons. Each party, beginning with the party requesting mediation, will strike one name from the list, until one name remains, which shall be the mediator.

The mediator shall conduct proceedings as he or she deems appropriate to resolve the dispute. The parties maintain sole discretion on resolution. Pending mediation, all other obligations of the parties hereto will continue as stipulated herein, and all monies not directly involved in such dispute or difference will be paid when due. The fees and expenses of the mediator shall be divided equally between the parties. All other costs or fees incurred by each party will be borne by the respective party.

This Contract shall be construed in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of Ohio. The parties agree that any legal action sought by either party in state court shall be brought in Franklin County, Ohio. Any legal action sought by either party in federal court shall be brought in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, in Columbus, Ohio. Furthermore, the parties agree to waive all questions of personal jurisdiction or venue so as to give full effect to this provision.

- I. **Term.** This Contract shall be for a term commencing on **July 1, 2018** and expiring on **June 30, 2023**.
- J. **Management by Third Parties.** The **Governing Authority** may enter into a contract with an operator to assist with its obligations under this Contract or for any other lawful reason that does not conflict with the terms of this Contract. If the **Governing Authority** contracts with an operator, the **Governing Authority** shall immediately notify the **Sponsor**. The fully-executed management agreement between the **Governing Authority** and operator must be provided to the **Sponsor** and is attached as **ATTACHMENT 8**. Any new or renewed management agreement shall comply with the provisions set forth in this Contract and Section 3314.032 of the Ohio Revised Code. Further, the **Governing Authority** shall ensure full compliance with additional requirements placed on its relationship with an operator, including, but not limited to, Sections 3314.02(E), 3314.0210, 3314.024, and 3314.036 of the Ohio Revised Code. Any changes to the management agreement shall be provided to the **Sponsor** within 10 business days, after which the **Sponsor** may notify the **Governing Authority** if it believes that any provisions do not comply with this Contract and the applicable law. The **Governing Authority** must hold all rights to the name or a license to use the name of the **School**.

- K. **Organizational Structure.** The organizational structure and management / administration, employee, **Governing Authority** relationships must be accurately reflected in an organizational chart and attached as **ATTACHMENT 9**. Written summaries which describe working relationships of each entity if not in the contract itself must also be included. Any material modifications to the chart, relationships, descriptions, and/or positions must be submitted in written form to the **Sponsor** within 10 business days.
- L. **Headings and Attachments.** Headings are for the convenience of the parties only. Headings have no substantive meaning. All **ATTACHMENTS 1-9** of this Contract are attached hereto and incorporated by reference into this Contract.
- M. **Assignments and Modifications.** Subject to Section J. above, this Contract and its terms shall not be assigned or delegated without the written approval of the other party which shall not be unreasonably withheld. No modifications to this Contract shall be valid and binding unless signed by both the **Sponsor** and the **Governing Authority** and attached to this Contract. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, modifications to and substitutions of any attachment hereto may be done in accordance with applicable laws and the regulations of each party.
- N. **Notification Procedures.** Any notice to one party by the other shall be satisfied upon receipt, and delivered by personal delivery or by certified mail, return receipt requested, as well as electronic mail service. As for delivery via electronic mail, burden of proving receipt, if necessary, lies with the sending party.

Notice to the **Governing Authority** shall be sent to the Chair or President at the most current address with copies to the address in **ATTACHMENT 2** and to legal counsel as identified in **ATTACHMENT 3**. Additions, changes and/or modifications to the Notification Procedures for the **Governing Authority** may only be made at the express written request of the **Governing Authority** Chair or President.

Notice to the **Sponsor** shall be sent to the **Sponsor's** Executive Director with a copy to the **Sponsor's** Legal Counsel. At the inception of this Contract, notice shall be sent to the following persons and addresses:

**Sponsor:**

Lenny Schafer, M.Ed.  
Ohio Council of Community Schools  
3131 Executive Parkway, Suite 306  
Toledo, OH 43606  
lenny@ohioschools.org

**With a copy to:**

Matthew Aumann  
Isaac Wiles Burkholder & Teetor, LLC  
Two Miranova Place, Suite 700  
Columbus, OH 43215  
maumann@isaacwiles.com

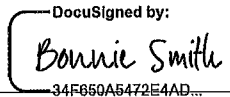
Additions, changes and/or modifications to the Notification Procedures for the **Sponsor** will be made in writing to the **Governing Authority** pursuant to the notification procedures outlined herein.

- O. **Severability.** If any term, provision or clause of this Contract is unlawful or unenforceable, the parties agree that the remaining provisions and terms of the Contract shall continue to be in full force and effect and the unlawful or unenforceable term, provision, or clause shall be removed and replaced in a manner that most nearly conforms to the removed portion and original intent of the parties, in a written modification.
- P. **Counterparts.** This Contract may be executed in one or more counterparts including signing a facsimile or scanned electronic version. Each counterpart shall be deemed an original and all counterparts together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**OHIO COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

By:  25 May 2022  
Pamela Haynam, Chairman Date

**GREAT RIVER CONNECTIONS ACADEMY**

By:  5/18/2022  
Bonnie Smith, Chairman Date