



AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION

EL DORADO CHARTER SELPA

This Agreement for Participation (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between the El Dorado Charter SELPA (“SELPA”), the El Dorado County Office of Education (“EDCOE”), and Howard Gardner Community School (“LEA”), a California public charter school, collectively referred to as the “Parties.”

RECITALS

WHEREAS, each special educational local plan area is required to administer local plans submitted pursuant to Education Code section 56205 et seq., administer the allocation of funds pursuant to Education Code section 56836 et seq., and ensure that it has in effect policies, procedures, and programs that are consistent with state laws, regulations, and policies governing certain aspects of special education;

WHEREAS, a charter school that is deemed a local educational agency for purposes of special education is required to participate in an approved local plan pursuant to Education Code section 56195.1(f);

WHEREAS, LEA is a charter school that is deemed a local educational agency for purposes of special education pursuant to Education Code section 47641 and is responsible for complying with all provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) and implementing regulations as they relate to local educational agencies;

WHEREAS, the SELPA as authorized by the California State Board of Education serves as the special educational local plan area for California charter schools deemed local educational agencies pursuant to Education Code section 47641 that have successfully completed the SELPA membership process and have signed this Agreement for Participation (“Agreement”);

WHEREAS, EDCOE is designated in the local plan as the “responsible local agency” for the SELPA, which means the administrative entity, the duties of which shall include, but are not limited to, receiving and distributing state and federal special education funds pursuant to the allocation plan, providing administrative support, and coordinating implementation of the plan;

WHEREAS, the actions and decisions of the parties are guided by the values of:

1. Commitment – maintaining high standards for performance in student achievement, operations, governance and finance;
2. Integrity – adherence to moral and ethical principles in all aspects of the work;
3. Fairness – impartial and just treatment of all stakeholders;
4. Partnership – collaborative decision making and accountability;
5. Knowledge – understanding of charter school law and practice; and
6. Transparency- access to the information, decisions, and actions of the organization;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this agreement is to set forth the various responsibilities of LEA, EDCOE, and SELPA to ensure that all charter pupils with exceptional needs within the SELPA receive appropriate special education programs.



NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED between the parties hereto as follows:

1. SHARED COMMITMENTS

- 1.1. Resource Allocation. Parties shall demonstrate commitment to the promises set forth in this Agreement by allocating appropriate resources.
- 1.2. Standard of Conduct. Parties, at all times, shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to act in the best interests of all other SELPA members. The LEA shall not engage in any activity or enterprise which would tend to injure or expose the SELPA or any of its members to any significant risk of harm or injury of any kind.
- 1.3. Compliance. All parties to this agreement shall identify and comply with applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures and generally accepted standards. Each party will address any identified compliance gaps in a responsible and timely fashion.
- 1.4. Continual Improvement. Parties are expected to continually improve by setting performance objectives, executing plans and taking necessary corrective actions for deficiencies identified by any and all internal and/or external assessments.
- 1.5. Accuracy of Business Records. Parties shall ensure that any and all financial books and records conform to generally accepted accounting principles and state reporting requirements. Records must be accurate in all material respects. Records must be legible, transparent, and reflect actual transactions and payments and be open to inspection by the other party upon a reasonable request.
- 1.6. Accuracy of Student Records. Parties shall ensure that any and all student records conform to prescribed formats. Records must be legible, transparent, reflect actual transactions and payments, and be accurate in all material respects. Records must be open to inspection and review by other parties with legitimate educational interest upon a request.
- 1.7. Documentation. Parties shall maintain documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with this Agreement and compliance with applicable state and federal statutes and regulations.
- 1.8. Local and Allocation Plans. Parties agree to the provisions of the Local and Allocation Plans as updated and approved by the CEO Council.
- 1.9. Provision of Free and Appropriate Public Education. The LEA is solely responsible for the provision of special education programs and services to eligible students enrolled in the LEA. The Parties understand and agree that the SELPA or EDCOE shall have no responsibility for the operation of any direct educational program or service of any kind, that the SELPA has no duty or authority to provide FAPE to individual students, and that the SELPA has no duty or authority to make decisions regarding the educational programming of students enrolled in the LEA.



2. **LEA/ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 2.1 **Programs and Services.** The LEA is solely and exclusively responsible for the following mandated activities in order to operate its special education programs and services for students enrolled in the LEA. As such, the LEA shall:
- 2.1.1. Select, employ, compensate, and determine the duties of, or establish appropriate contracts for the provision of, special education teachers, instructional aides, and other personnel as required to conduct the program specified in the Local Plan, and in compliance with state and federal mandates.
 - 2.1.2. Conduct and/or contract those programs operated by the LEA in conformance with the Local Plan and the state and federal mandates.
 - 2.1.3. Organize and administer the activities of the IEP teams, including the selection of the LEA staff and who will serve as members of the IEP team in conformance with Education Code Section 56341 and in compliance with the Local Plan.
 - 2.1.4. Develop and implement program objectives and the evaluation of the program's effectiveness.
 - 2.1.5. Communicate with the parents and/or legal guardians of students in conformance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of the Local Plan.
 - 2.1.6. Provide for the documentation and reporting of assessment procedures used for the placement of individuals and the security thereof.
 - 2.1.7. Provide for the continuous review of placements and the assessment procedures employed to ensure their effectiveness and applicability, and ensure the continued implementation and compliance with eligibility criteria.
 - 2.1.8. Provide for the integration of students with disabilities into the general education school programs and provide for evaluating the results of such integration according to specifications of the Local Plan.
 - 2.1.9. Conduct the review of individual placements requested by the parents and/or legal guardians of the student in accordance with the Local Plan.
 - 2.1.10. Prepare and submit all required reports, including reports on student enrollment, program expenditures, and program evaluation.
- 2.2. **Fiscal Responsibilities.** Receive and expend special education funding in accordance with the Charter SELPA Allocation Plan. Organizational Partners affirm that any financial claim made by the SELPA against an LEA that is part of the Organizational Partner's network of LEAs will be honored by the Organization Partner.
- 2.3. **Restricted Funds.** As a condition of membership and participation in the SELPA, LEA warrants and represents that at no time during the term of this Agreement



and LEA's membership and participation in the SELPA shall the LEA, directly or indirectly, provide special education funding for the benefit of a for-profit entity. Unless altered by law, all funding provided through the Charter SELPA shall be treated as a restricted funding source to be expended only for special education or special education services. Nothing contained herein shall be interpreted as prohibiting any LEA from expending funds to contract with a state-certified nonpublic agency/school for the benefit of children served, in accordance with the approved master contract and individual services agreements as provided for in federal and state law.

- 2.4. Audit Report. Annually provide the SELPA with the LEA's annual, independent financial audit report, on or before December 20th each year, unless an extension has been granted by the State Controller's Office, in which case an extension will be granted to the charter as well. LEA further agrees to provide SELPA copies of any and all State Controller's Office communications regarding audit report corrective actions and a corrected audit report, if applicable. Should an LEA be the subject of an investigation by any federal, state, or local agency, including but not limited to the Fiscal Crisis Management and Assistance Team ("FCMAT") arising out of or related to allegations of fiscal mismanagement, failure to meet generally accepted accounting principles, or any violation of a provision of law, the LEA shall immediately notify SELPA and provide the SELPA with a copy of any written correspondence related thereto.
- 2.5. Membership Responsibilities. Adhere to governance structure within SELPA Local Plan and Policies, including designating appropriate representatives to serve on required councils and committees; ensure appropriate LEA representatives attend and participate in SELPA governance meetings as set forth in the Local Plan, Policies and Procedures.
- 2.6. Management Decisions. Consistent with this Agreement, LEA shall have full and exclusive authority and responsibility for classifying employment positions within their LEA. The managerial prerogatives of any participating LEA member shall not be infringed upon by any other participating LEA member except upon mutual consent of an affected LEA member(s), or unless as otherwise set forth. LEA shall not undertake to independently act on behalf of the SELPA or any of its members without express written authorization of the SELPA.
- 2.7. Participation. Ensure appropriate LEA representatives attend and participate in SELPA governance meetings and committees as set forth in the Local Plan, Policies and Procedures.
- 2.8. Reporting Requirements. Submit all required federal, state and SELPA reports and data requests in the prescribed format and at the specified due date. Upon written request by the SELPA, LEA shall provide any requested information, documents, writings, or information of any sort without delay, except as otherwise prohibited by law.
- 2.9. Indemnification and Hold Harmless. To the fullest extent allowed by law, LEA agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the SELPA and its individual other



members, EDCOE, the El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools, and each of their respective directors, officers, agents, employees, and volunteers (the Indemnified Parties), from any claim or demand, damages, losses or expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorney fees) that arise in any manner from an actual or alleged failure by LEA to fulfill one or more of the LEA member's obligations except to the extent that such suit arises from the SELPA, EDCOE, or the El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools' negligence.

3. SELPA DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Services. In order to accomplish the goals set forth in the Local Plan, SELPA shall provide the following services and activities for the LEA:
- 3.1.1. Receive, compile, and submit required enrollment reports and compute all special education apportionments; receive data from LEA to compile and submit budgets for the programs and monitor the fiscal aspects of the program conducted, and receive the special education apportionments as authorized by applicable law.
 - 3.1.2. Maintain SELPA policies and procedures for referring and placing individuals with exceptional needs who are enrolled in the LEA, including the methods and procedures for communication with the parents and/or guardians of the students according to SELPA Local Plan, Policies and Procedures.
 - 3.1.3. Coordinate the organization and maintenance of the Special Education Community Advisory Committee ("CAC") to coordinate the implementation of the Local Plan and provide for the attendance of designated members of the SELPA's staff at all regularly scheduled CAC meetings as required by law.
 - 3.1.4. Coordinate community resources with those provided by LEA and SELPA, including providing such contractual agreements as may be required.
 - 3.1.5. Coordinate state Special Education Accountability Processes.
 - 3.1.6. Provide alternative dispute resolution supports and services.
 - 3.1.7. Develop interagency referral and placement procedures.
 - 3.1.8. Provide regular personnel development training sessions for LEA staff responsible for administering or delivering special education programs and services.
 - 3.1.9. Provide the method and forms to enable the LEA to report to the SELPA on student enrollment and program expenditures. Establish and maintain a pupil information system.
 - 3.1.10. Provide reasonable and appropriate technical assistance and information to the LEA upon request from LEA administration, including but not limited to:
 1. Evidenced Based Practices;
 2. Program Development and Improvement;



3. Individual cases;
4. State complaints;
5. Requests for due process mediation and hearing; and
6. Appropriate programs and services for specific pupils.

3.1.11. Perform other services reasonable and necessary to the administration and coordination of the Local Plan.

- 3.2. Governance. Organize and maintain the governance structure of the Local Plan, including various committees and councils to monitor the operations of the SELPA and make recommendations for necessary revisions, including, but not limited to, the Local Plan, Allocation Plan and Policies.
- 3.3. Data Reporting. Establish and maintain methods, timelines and forms to submit required federal, state and SELPA reports.
- 3.4. Public Meetings. Schedule public meetings for purposes of governance activities and adopting the Annual Service Plan and Budget Plan.
- 3.5. Fiscal Responsibilities. Receive, distribute, and oversee the expenditure of special education funds in accordance with federal and state regulations and the SELPA Allocation Plan.
- 3.6. Indemnification and Hold Harmless. The SELPA shall be held harmless and indemnify EDCOE and the El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools for any costs of any kind or nature arising out of or related to this agreement other than as specifically contemplated herein, except to the extent that such cost arises from EDCOE and the El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools' negligence.

4. EDCOE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1. The Parties understand that EDCOE is designated in the Local Plan as the "responsible local agency" for the SELPA. EDCOE shall receive and distribute state and federal special education funds pursuant to the Allocation Plan, provide administrative support, and coordinate implementation of the Local Plan in accordance with state and federal law.
- 4.2. EDCOE shall not be responsible for any LEA or SELPA obligations or duties of any kind or nature except as explicitly set forth in this agreement.

5. TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN SELPA

- 5.1. LEA may terminate this Agreement and participation in the SELPA in its sole discretion at the end of the fiscal year next occurring after having provided prior written notice to the SELPA, as follows:
 - 5.1.1. Prior initial written notice of intended termination to the SELPA at least twelve (12) months and one (1) day in advance of date of termination; and
 - 5.1.2. Final written notice of termination to the SELPA no more than six (6) months after the LEA's initial notice of intended termination.
- 5.2. The SELPA may initiate and complete termination of this Agreement and LEA's participation in the SELPA in its sole discretion in accordance with the process and



standards in SELPA Policies. The SELPA will provide prior written notice to the LEA at least twelve (12) months as follows:

- 5.2.1. Prior initial written notice of intended termination to the LEA at least twelve (12) months and one (1) day in advance of date of termination, and
 - 5.2.2. Final written notice of termination to the LEA no more than six (6) months after the SELPA's initial notice of intended termination.
- 5.3. Specifically the timeline and process above does not preclude the SELPA from initiating and completing the termination process in less than 12 months or by June 30 of the year immediately preceding the summary termination, if the member demonstrates:
- 5.3.1. Egregious disregard of state and federal requirements to provide services to students; and/or
 - 5.3.2. Demonstrated systemic and material issues that would cause the SELPA to make a finding of "going concern" based on leadership, programmatic and/or fiscal solvency that would cause SELPA to reasonably believe the SELPA may be harmed by the continued membership of the LEA.

The standards and timeline as determined by the SELPA shall, at a minimum, provide the LEA a reasonable opportunity for prior written notice and an opportunity to be heard by the Membership Appeals Committee.

6. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Should a dispute arise relating to the responsibility for service provision, governance activities, the distribution of funding, if a party believes that an action taken by the CEO Council will create an undue hardship, or that the action taken exceeds the authority granted to the CEO Council within the Local Plan and/or state or federal statute, the aggrieved party may request a review of the action with the appropriate governing body or CDE as appropriate.

7. MUTUAL REPRESENTATIONS

- 7.1. Authority and Capacity. The Parties have the authority and capacity to enter into this agreement.
- 7.2. Full Disclosure. All information heretofore furnished by the Parties for purposes of or in connection with this Agreement or any transaction contemplated hereby or thereby is true and accurate in all material respects on the date as of which such information is stated.
- 7.3. No Conflicts. Neither party is under any restriction or obligation that may affect the performance of its obligations under this agreement.
- 7.4. Enforceability. This Agreement constitutes a legal, valid, and binding obligation, enforceable against the Parties according to its terms.

