

JOINT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

THIS JOINT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ("Agreement" or "MOA") is made and entered into by and between the South Carolina Public Charter School District ("SCPCSD") and The Charter Institute at Erskine (the "Institute"), as of the effective date of August 19, 2020 (the "Effective Date"). SCPCSD and Institute may be referred to collectively as the "Parties."

WHEREAS, SCPCSD and the Institute are Sponsors of charter schools in the State of South Carolina and in accordance with the South Carolina Charter Schools Act of 1996 as amended and located at S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-10 *et seq.* (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, SCPCSD has appointed a new Superintendent, and the Parties are committed to collaboration and cooperation in the best spirit, so that the Parties and their charter schools may continue to have a profound, innovative, and positive impact on the children of South Carolinians

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties, intending to be legally bound, hereby commit as follows:

- (1) The Institute and the SCPCSD will always endeavor to stand shoulder-to-shoulder and present a unified front to the Legislature and other stakeholders to advocate on behalf of charter schools in South Carolina.
- (2) The Institute and the SCPCSD will commit to working directly with each other to resolve any operational differences between the organizations so that they may both speak with unity of voice in public.
- (3) The Institute and the SCPCSD will always maintain professional communication standards and will reach out directly to the other district's Superintendent if there are ever rumors, hurt feelings or any other issue that could potentially undermine the health of the collective relationship.
- (4) The Institute and the SCPCSD will never initiate or participate in negative public relations that serve to tarnish the image of the other district or any of its schools.

- (5) The Institute and the SCPCSD will inform the SCDE that as the LEA, the Parties will serve as the first point of contact for their schools unless the school(s) are the direct sub-recipients of a state or federal grant.
- (6) The Institute and the SCPCSD will work collectively to develop a unified funding request for the General Assembly and Governor each year.
- (7) The Institute and the SCPCSD will work collectively to develop a unified set of legislative goals that both districts will actively support.
- (8) The Institute and the SCPCSD will never utilize the legislative process or engage state agencies in an effort to undermine the other district.
- (9) The Parties recognize that the goals set in Paragraphs 1 through 8 cannot be accomplished while both authorizers are engaged in the school transfer process between authorizers. There are times when transfers of schools between the two authorizers may be appropriate and beneficial for everyone. However, with the headwinds of COVID, the inherent challenges of new leadership, the uncertainty around future funding, and the need for a renewed and healthy working relationship between both districts, the Parties believe it will be beneficial and agree to temporarily suspend any transfers between the two state-wide authorizers for a period of three (3) years. The Parties agree that transfer requests may be considered beginning on September 1, 2023 for transfers that would be effective as of July 1, 2024. The suspension of transfers does not apply to renewals.
- (10) This agreement expires on September 1, 2023 unless agreed otherwise in writing signed by the Parties.

THEREFORE, intending to be legally bound hereby, the Parties hereby execute the foregoing

Memorandum of Agreement on the latest date indicated in the signature blocks below.

Charter Institute at Erskine

By: *Dr. Robert Gustafson*

Dr. Robert Gustafson

Title: Board Chair

Date: 8-19-20

By: *Cameron Runyan*

Cameron Runyan

Title: Superintendent

Date: 8-19-2020

South Carolina Public Charter School District

By: *John A. Payne*

John Payne

Title: Board Chair

Date: 8-13-2020

By: *Chris Neeley*

Chris Neeley

Title: Superintendent

Date: 8-13-2020