

## **EXCELSIOR VILLAGE ACADEMIES, INC. BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **NAME**

##### **1.01 Name**

The name of this corporation shall be Excelsior Village Academies, Inc. The business of the corporation may be conducted as Excelsior Village Academies, Inc. or Excelsior Village Academies.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **PURPOSES AND POWERS**

##### **2.01 Purpose**

Excelsior Village Academies, Inc. is a non-profit corporation and shall be operated exclusively for educational purposes including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations, under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Excelsior Village Academies is a non-profit, K-8 school focused on student growth and academic achievement through a Classical Educational approach to education. Our mission at Excelsior Village Academies is to provide quality K-8 school choice by offering a rigorous academic program in a community-centered learning environment. Students will develop the skills needed to thrive in college and careers.

In a rapidly shifting global economy, EVA prepares our students through rigorous academics and a fundamental focus on social emotional development to ensure they can think critically, possess a strong sense of self, and engage in the world as informed responsible citizens. We believe all children deserve an excellent education despite their socio-economic background, race and/or zip code.

##### **2.02 Powers**

The corporation shall have the power, directly or indirectly, alone or in conjunction or in cooperation with others, to do any and all lawful acts which may be necessary or convenient to affect the charitable purposes, for which the corporation is organized, and to aid or assist other organizations or persons whose activities further accomplish, foster, or attain such purposes. The

powers of the corporation may include, but not be limited to, the acceptance of contributions from the public and private sectors, whether financial or in-kind contributions.

### 2.03 Nonprofit Status and Exempt Activities Limitation.

(a) Nonprofit Legal Status. Excelsior Village Academies is a Georgia non-profit public benefit corporation, recognized as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

(b) Exempt Activities Limitation. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, no Director, officer, employee, member, or representative of this corporation shall take any action or carry on any activity by or on behalf of the corporation not permitted to be taken or carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as it now exists or may be amended, or by any organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of such Code and Regulations as it now exists or may be amended. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit or be distributable to any Director, officer, member, or other private person, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws.

(c) Distribution Upon Dissolution. If, for any reason, the organization should dissolve, upon dissolution of the organization assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### 3.01 No Membership Classes

The corporation shall have no members who have any right to vote or title or interest in or to the corporation, its properties and franchises.

#### 3.02 Non-Voting Affiliates

The Board of Directors may approve classes of non-voting affiliates with rights, privileges, and obligations established by the Board. Affiliates may be individuals, businesses, and other organizations that seek to support the mission of the corporation. The Board, a designated committee of the Board, or any duly-elected officer in accordance with Board policy, shall have authority to admit any individual or organization as an affiliate, to recognize representatives of affiliates, and to make determinations as to affiliates' rights, privileges, and obligations. At no time shall affiliate information be shared with or sold to other organizations or groups without

the affiliate's consent. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, affiliates may be given endorsement, recognition and media coverage at fundraising activities, clinics, other events or at the corporation website. Affiliates have no voting rights, and are not members of the corporation.

### 3.03 Dues

Any dues for affiliates shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### 4.01 Number of Directors

Excelsior Village Academies shall have a Board of Directors consisting of at least 5 and no more than 11 Directors. Within these limits, the Board may increase or decrease the number of Directors serving on the Board, including for the purpose of staggering the terms of Directors.

#### 4.02 Powers

All corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board and the affairs of Excelsior Village Academies shall be managed under the direction of the Board, except as otherwise provided by law.

#### 4.03 Terms

- (a) All Directors shall be elected to serve a one to two year term; however, the term may be extended until a successor has been elected.
- (b) Director terms shall be staggered so that approximately half the number of Directors will end their terms in any given year.
- (c) Directors may serve terms in succession. Directors may not serve more than three (2) year terms or six (1) year term in office.
- (d) The term of office shall be considered to begin July 1 and end June 30 of the first year in office, unless the term is extended until such time as a successor has been elected.

#### 4.04 Qualifications and Election of Directors

To be eligible to serve as a Director on the Board of Directors, the individual must be 18 years of age and an affiliate within affiliate classifications created by the Board of Directors. Directors may be elected at any Board meeting by the majority vote of the existing Board of Directors.

The election of Directors to replace those who have fulfilled their term of office shall take place in May of each year, with the new member starting their term the following month of June.

#### 4.05 Vacancies

The Board of Directors may fill vacancies due to the expiration of a Director's term of office, resignation, death, or removal of a Director or may appoint new Directors to fill a previously unfilled Board position, subject to the maximum number of Directors under these Bylaws.

(a) Unexpected Vacancies. Vacancies in the Board of Directors due to resignation, death, or removal shall be filled by the Board for the balance of the term of the Director being replaced.

#### 4.06 Removal of Directors

A Director may be removed by majority vote of the Board of Directors then in office, if:

(a) the Director is absent and unexcused from two or more meetings of the Board of Directors in a twelve-month period. The Board Chair is empowered to excuse Directors from attendance for a reason deemed adequate by the Board Chair. The Chair shall not have the power to excuse him/herself from the Board meeting attendance, and in that case, the Board Vice Chair shall excuse the Chair. Or:

(b) for cause or no cause, if before any meeting of the Board at which a vote on removal will be made the Director in question is given electronic or written notification of the Board's intention to discuss her/his case and is given the opportunity to be heard at a meeting of the Board.

#### 4.07 Board of Directors Meetings

(a) Regular Meetings. The Board of Directors shall have a minimum of eleven (11) regular meetings each calendar year at times and places fixed by the Board. These meetings will be held on a monthly basis, scheduled on a regularly scheduled meeting cadence. Board meetings shall be held upon at least four (4) days notice by first-class mail, electronic mail, or facsimile transmission or forty-eight (48) hours notice delivered personally or by telephone. If sent by mail, facsimile transmission, or electronic mail, the notice shall be deemed to be delivered upon its deposit in the mail or transmission system. Notice of meetings shall specify the place, day, and hour of meeting. The purpose of the meeting need not be specified.

(b) Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, or any two (2) other Directors of the Board of Directors. A special meeting must be preceded by at least 2-days notice to each Director of the date, time, and place, but not the purpose, of the meeting. The Board must vote upon the need of having a Special Meeting, agreeing upon its purpose and its need to be a meeting outside of the regularly scheduled meeting.

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Chair or by a majority of the Board filing a written request for such a meeting with the Chair and stating the objective, date, and hour therefore, due notice having been given each Director five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting. Notice to the public of special meetings shall be given in accordance with Section 8-44-103 of the Georgia Open Meeting Act.

(c) Waiver of Notice. Any Director may waive notice of any meeting, in accordance with Georgia statutes.

#### 4.08 Manner of Acting.

(a) Quorum. A majority of the Directors in office immediately before a meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at that meeting of the Board. No business shall be considered by the Board at any meeting at which a quorum is not present.

(b) Majority Vote. Except as otherwise required by law or by the Articles of Incorporation, the act of the majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board.

(c) Hung Board Decisions. On the occasion that Directors of the Board are unable to make a decision based on a tied number of votes, the Chair, the Vice Chair or Treasurer in the order of presence shall have the power to swing the vote based on his/her discretion.

(d) Participation. Except as required otherwise by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws, Directors may participate in a regular or special meeting through the use of any means of communication by which all Directors participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting, including in person, internet video meeting or by telephonic conference call.

#### 4.09 Compensation for Board Service

Directors shall receive no compensation for carrying out their duties as Directors. The Board may adopt policies providing for reasonable reimbursement of Directors for expenses incurred in conjunction with carrying out Board responsibilities, such as travel expenses to attend Board meetings.

Directors shall serve Excelsior Village Academies with the highest degree of undivided duty, loyalty, and care and shall undertake no enterprise to profit personally from their position with Excelsior Village Academies.

#### 4.10 Compensation for Professional Services by Directors

Directors shall not be compensated for their service in any way including professional services provided to the school.

## ARTICLE V

### COMMITTEES

#### 5.01 Committees

The Board of Directors may, by the resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors then in office, designate one or more committees, each consisting of at least one Director, to serve at the pleasure of the Board. Any committee, to the extent provided in the resolution of the Board, shall have all the authority of the Board, except that no committee, regardless of Board resolution, may:

- (a) take any final action on matters which also requires Board members' approval or approval of a majority of all members;
- (b) fill vacancies on the Board of Directors or in any committee which has the authority of the Board;
- (c) amend or repeal Bylaws or adopt new Bylaws;
- (d) amend or repeal any resolution of the Board of Directors which by its express terms is not so amendable or repealable;
- (e) appoint any other committees of the Board of Directors or the members of these committees;
- (f) expend corporate funds to support a nominee for Director; or
- (g) approve any transaction;
  - (i) to which the corporation is a party and one or more Directors have a material financial interest; or
  - (ii) between the corporation and one or more of its Directors or between the corporation or any person in which one or more of its Directors have a material financial interest.

#### 5.2 Meetings and Action of Committees

Meetings and action of the committees shall be governed by, and held and taken in accordance with, the provisions of Article IV of these Bylaws concerning meetings of the Directors, with such changes in the context of those Bylaws as are necessary to substitute the committee and its members for the Board of Directors and its members, except that the time for regular meetings of committees may be determined either by resolution of the Board of Directors or by resolution of

the committee. Special meetings of the committee may also be called by resolution of the Board of Directors. Notice of special meetings of committees shall also be given to any and all alternate members, who shall have the right to attend all meetings of the committee. Minutes shall be kept of each meeting of any committee and shall be filed with the corporate records. The Board of Directors may adopt rules for the governing of the committee not inconsistent with the provision of these Bylaws.

### 5.3 Informal Action By The Board of Directors

Notice of all regular and special meetings of the Board, an agenda of all items to be discussed at such meetings, and agenda support materials shall be circulated to all Directors prior to the meeting. Any Director may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of a Director at any meeting also shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a Director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully meeting. A member of the board may be deemed to be present for purposes of achieving a quorum and may cast a vote if he/she grants a signed, written proxy to another board member who is present at the meeting. The proxy must direct a vote to be cast with respect to a particular proposal that is described with reasonable specificity in the proxy. No other proxies are allowed. For purposes of this section, an e-mail transmission from an e-mail address on record constitutes a valid writing of a proxy. The intent of this provision is to allow the Board of Directors to use email to authorize a proxy vote, but not the ability to vote upon the actions via email.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **OFFICERS**

#### 6.01 Board Officers

The officers of the corporation shall be a Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, all of whom shall be chosen by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Board of Directors. Each Board officer shall have the authority and shall perform the duties set forth in these Bylaws or by resolution of the Board or by direction of an officer authorized by the Board to prescribe the duties and authority of other officers. The Board may also appoint additional Vice Chairs and such other officers as it deems expedient for the proper conduct of the business of the corporation, each of whom shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as the Board of Directors may determine. One person may hold two or more Board offices, but no Board officer may act in more than one capacity where action of two or more officers is required.

#### 6.02 Term of Office

Each Director shall serve a one to two-year term of office and may not serve more than three (2) consecutive terms or six (1) year terms of office. Unless unanimously elected by the Board at the end of his/her three (2) year terms, six (1) year term or to fill a vacancy in an officer position, each Board officer's term of office shall begin upon the adjournment of the Board meeting at which elected and shall end upon the adjournment of the Board meeting during which a successor is elected.

#### 6.03 Removal and Resignation

The Board of Directors may remove an officer at any time, with or without cause. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the corporation without prejudice to the rights, if any, of the corporation under any contract to which the officer is a party. Any resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of the notice or at any later time specified in the notice, unless otherwise specified in the notice. The acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

#### 6.04 Board Chair

The Board Chair shall be the Board Chair of the corporation. The Board Chair shall lead the Board of Directors in performing its duties and responsibilities, including, if present, presiding at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall perform all other duties incident to the office or properly required by the Board of Directors.

#### 6.05 Vice Chair

In the absence or disability of the Board Chair, the ranking Vice Chair or Vice Chair designated by the Board of Directors shall perform the duties of the Board Chair. When so acting, the Vice Chair shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the Board Chair. The Vice Chair shall have such other powers and perform such other duties prescribed for them by the Board of Directors or the Board Chair. The Vice Chair shall normally accede to the office of Board Chair upon the completion of the Board Chair's term of office, if they so choose.

#### 6.06 Secretary

The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept a book of minutes of all meetings and actions of Directors and committees of Directors. The minutes of each meeting shall state the time and place that it was held and such other information as shall be necessary to determine the actions taken and whether the meeting was held in accordance with the law and these Bylaws. The Secretary shall cause notice to be given of all meetings of Directors and committees as required by the Bylaws. The Secretary shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or the Board Chair. The Secretary may appoint, with approval of the Board, a Director to assist in performance of all or part of the duties of the Secretary.



#### 6.07 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be the lead Director for oversight of the financial condition and affairs of the corporation. The Treasurer shall oversee and keep the Board informed of the financial condition of the corporation and of audit or financial review results. In conjunction with other Directors or officers, the Treasurer shall oversee budget preparation and shall ensure that appropriate financial reports, including an account of major transactions and the financial condition of the corporation, are made available to the Board of Directors on a timely basis or as may be required by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall perform all duties properly required by the Board of Directors or the Board Chair. The Treasurer may appoint, with approval of the Board, a qualified fiscal agent or member of the staff to assist in performance of all or part of the duties of the Treasurer.

#### 6.08 Non-Director Officers

The Board of Directors may designate additional officer positions of the corporation and may appoint and assign duties to other non-Director officers of the corporation.

### **ARTICLE VII**

#### **CONTRACTS, CHECKS, LOANS, INDEMNIFICATION AND RELATED MATTERS**

##### 7.01 Contracts and other Writings

Except as otherwise provided by resolution of the Board or Board policy, all contracts, deeds, leases, mortgages, grants, and other agreements of the corporation shall be executed on its behalf by the Board Chair and/or the Treasurer to whom the corporation has delegated authority to execute such documents in accordance with policies approved by the Board. The required signature of which Board Member(s) will be delineated by the financial expenditure policy outlined by the Board.

##### 7.02 Checks, Drafts

All checks, drafts, or other orders for payment of money, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents, of the corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board.

##### 7.03 Deposits

All funds of the corporation not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depository as the Board or a designated committee of the Board may select.

#### 7.04 Loans

No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the corporation and no evidence of indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by resolution of the Board. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

#### 7.05 Indemnification

The corporation shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or who is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative by reason of the fact that he or she is/was serving at the request of the corporation as a member of the Governing Board. Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit, or proceeding may be paid by the school in advanced by of final disposition of such action, suit, or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Board member, officer, employee, or agent to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determine that he or she is not entitled to be indemnify by the corporation. There will be NO such indemnification in the case where said person/s acted negligently and/or without the consent and/or approval of the Governing Board.

### **ARTICLE VIII**

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### 8.01 Books and Records

The corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of all meetings of its Board of Directors, a record of all actions taken by Board of Directors without a meeting, and a record of all actions taken by committees of the Board. In addition, the corporation shall keep a copy of the corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws as amended to date.

##### 8.02 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be from July 1 to June 30 of each year.

##### 8.03 Conflict of Interest

The Board shall adopt and periodically review a Conflict of Interest Policy to protect the corporation's interest when it is contemplating any transaction or arrangement which may benefit any Director, officer, employee, affiliate, or member of a committee with Board-delegated powers.

##### 8.04 Nondiscrimination Policy

The officers, Directors, committee members, employees, and persons served by this corporation shall be selected entirely on a nondiscriminatory basis with respect to age, sex, race, religion, national origin, and sexual orientation. It is the policy of Excelsior Village Academies not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, ancestry, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, veteran's status, political service or affiliation, color, religion, or national origin.

#### 8.05 Bylaw Amendment

These Bylaws may be amended, altered, repealed, or restated by a vote of the majority of the Board of Directors then in office at a meeting of the Board, provided, however,

- (a) that no amendment shall be made to these Bylaws which would cause the corporation to cease to qualify as an exempt corporation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code; and,
- (b) that an amendment does not affect the voting rights of Directors. An amendment that does affect the voting rights of Directors further requires ratification by a majority vote of a quorum of Directors at a Board meeting.
- (c) that all amendments be consistent with the Articles of Incorporation.

## ARTICLE IX

### COUNTERTERRORISM AND DUE DILIGENCE POLICY

In furtherance of its exemption by contributions to other organizations, domestic or foreign, Excelsior Village Academies shall stipulate how the funds will be used and shall require the recipient to provide the corporation with detailed records and financial proof of how the funds were utilized.

Although adherence and compliance with the U.S. Department of the Treasury's publication entitled the "Voluntary Best Practice for U.S.-Based Charities," is not mandatory, Excelsior Village Academies willfully and voluntarily recognizes and puts to practice these guidelines and suggestions to reduce, develop, re-evaluate and strengthen a risk-based approach to guard against the threat of diversion of charitable funds or exploitation of charitable activity by terrorist organizations and their support networks.

Excelsior Village Academies shall also comply and put into practice the federal guidelines, suggestion, laws and limitation set forth by pre-existing U.S. legal requirements related to combating terrorist financing, which include, but are not limited to, various sanctions programs administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in regard to its foreign activities.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY**

#### **10.01 Purpose**

The purpose of this Document Retention Policy is to establish standards for document integrity, retention, and destruction, and to promote the proper treatment of Excelsior Village Academies's records.

#### **10.02 Policy**

Section 1. General Guidelines. Excelsior Village Academies must keep records for at least 8 years. The cost of maintaining records is an expense which can grow unreasonably if good housekeeping is not performed. A mass of records also makes it more difficult to find pertinent records. Where possible, the non-profit shall adopt a digital, non-paper filing and retention system.

From time to time, Excelsior Village Academies may establish retention or destruction policies or schedules for specific categories of records in order to ensure legal compliance, and also to accomplish other objectives, such as preserving intellectual property and cost management. Several categories of documents that warrant special consideration are identified below. While minimum retention periods are established, the retention of the documents identified below and of documents not included in the identified categories should be determined primarily by the application of the general guidelines affecting document retention, as well as the exception for litigation relevant documents and any other pertinent factors.

Section 2. Exception for Litigation Relevant Documents. Excelsior Village Academies expects all officers, Directors, and employees to comply fully with any published records retention or destruction policies and schedules, provided that all officers, Directors, and employees should note the following general exception to any stated destruction schedule: If you believe, or the Excelsior Village Academies informs you, that corporate records are relevant to litigation, or potential litigation (i.e. a dispute that could result in litigation), then you must preserve those records until it is determined that the records are no longer needed. That exception supersedes any previously or subsequently established destruction schedule for those records.

#### **Section 3. Minimum Retention Periods for Specific Categories**

(a) Corporate Documents. Corporate records include the corporation's Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and IRS Form 1023 and Application for Exemption. Corporate records should be retained permanently. IRS regulations require that the Form 1023 be available for public inspection upon request.

(b) Tax Records. Tax records include, but may not be limited to, documents concerning payroll, expenses, proof of contributions made by donors, accounting procedures, and other documents concerning the corporation's revenues. Tax records should be retained for at least seven (7) years from the date of filing the applicable return.

(c) Employment Records/Personnel Records. State and federal statutes require the corporation to keep certain recruitment, employment and personnel information. The corporation should also keep personnel files that reflect performance reviews and any complaints brought against the corporation or individual employees under applicable state and federal statutes. The corporation should also keep in the employee's personnel file all final memoranda and correspondence reflecting performance reviews and actions taken by or against personnel. Employment applications should be retained for three (3) years. Retirement and pension records should be kept permanently. Other employment and personnel records should be retained for seven years.

(d) Board and Board Committee Materials. Meeting minutes should be retained in perpetuity in the corporation's minute book. A clean copy of all other Board and Board Committee materials should be kept for no less than three (3) years by the corporation.

(e) Press Releases/Public Filings. The corporation should retain permanent copies of all press releases and publicly filed documents under the theory that the corporation should have its own copy to test the accuracy of any document a member of the public can theoretically produce against the corporation.

(f) Legal Files. Legal counsel should be consulted to determine the retention period of particular documents, but legal documents should generally be maintained for a period of ten (10) years.

(g) Marketing and Sales Documents. The corporation should keep final copies of marketing and sales documents for the same period of time it keeps other corporate files, generally three (3) years. An exception to the three-year policy may be sales invoices, contracts, leases, licenses, and other legal documentation. These documents should be kept for at least three (3) years beyond the life of the agreement.

(h) Development/Intellectual Property and Trade Secrets. Development documents are often subject to intellectual property protection in their final form (e.g., patents, trademarks, service marks, and copyrights). The documents detailing the development process are often also of value to the corporation and are protected as a trade secret where the corporation:

- (i) derives independent economic value from the secrecy of the information; and
- (ii) has taken affirmative steps to keep the information confidential.

The corporation should keep all documents designated as containing trade secret information for at least the life of the trade secret.

- (i) Contracts. Final, execution copies of all contracts entered into by the corporation should be retained. The corporation should retain copies of the final contracts for at least three (3) years beyond the life of the agreement, and longer in the case of publicly filed contracts.
- (j) Correspondence. Unless correspondence falls under another category listed elsewhere in this policy, correspondence should generally be saved for two (2) years.
- (k) Banking and Accounting. Accounts payable ledgers and schedules should be kept for seven (7) years. Bank reconciliations, bank statements, deposit slips and checks (unless for important payments and purchases) should be kept for three (3) years. Any inventories of products, materials, and supplies and any invoices should be kept for seven (7) years.
- (l) Insurance. Expired insurance policies, insurance records, accident reports, claims, etc. should be kept permanently.
- (m) Audit Records. External audit reports should be kept permanently. Internal audit reports should be kept for three (3) years.

Section 4. Electronic Mail. E-mail that needs to be saved should be either:

- (i) printed in hard copy and kept in the appropriate file; or
  - (ii) downloaded to a computer file and kept electronically or on disk as a separate file.
- The retention period depends upon the subject matter of the e-mail, as covered elsewhere in this policy.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Transparency and Accountability**

#### **Disclosure of Financial Information With The General Public**

##### **11.01 Purpose**

By making full and accurate information about its mission, activities, finances, and governance publicly available, Excelsior Village Academies practices and encourages transparency and accountability to the general public. This Policy will:

- (a) indicate which documents and materials produced by the corporation are presumptively open to staff and/or the public,
- (b) indicate which documents and materials produced by the corporation are presumptively closed to staff and/or the public, and

(c) specify the procedures whereby the open/closed status of documents and materials can be altered.

The details of this Policy are as follow:

11.02 Financial and IRS documents (form 1023 and the form 990). Excelsior Village Academies shall provide its Internal Revenue forms 990, 990-T, 1023 and 5227, Bylaws, Conflict of Interest Policy, and financial statements to the general public for inspection free of charge.

#### 11.03 Means and Conditions of Disclosure

Excelsior Village Academies shall make “Widely Available” the aforementioned documents on its internet website [www.milesaheadcharter.org](http://www.milesaheadcharter.org) to be viewed and inspected by the general public.

(a) The documents shall be posted in a format that allows an individual using the Internet to access, download, view and print them in a manner that exactly reproduces the image of the original document filed with the IRS (except information exempt from public disclosure requirements, such as contributor lists).

(b) The website shall clearly inform readers that the document is available and provide instructions for downloading it.

(c) Excelsior Village Academies shall not charge a fee for downloading the information. Documents shall not be posted in a format that would require special computer hardware or software (other than software readily available to the public free of charge).

(d) Excelsior Village Academies shall inform anyone requesting the information where this information can be found, including the web address. This information must be provided immediately for in-person requests and within seven (7) days for mailed requests.

#### 11.04 IRS Annual Information Returns (Form 990)

Excelsior Village Academies shall submit the Form 990 to its Board of Directors prior to the filing of the Form 990. While neither the approval of the Form 990 or a review of the 990 is required under federal law, the corporation’s Form 990 shall be submitted to each member of the Board of Directors’ via hard copy or email at least ten (10) days before the Form 990 is filed with the IRS.

#### 11.05 Board

(a) All Board deliberations shall be open to the public except where the Board passes a motion to make any specific portion confidential.

(b) All Board minutes shall be open to the public once accepted by the Board, except where the Board passes a motion to make any specific portion confidential.

(c) All papers and materials considered by the Board shall be open to the public following the meeting at which they are considered, except where the Board passes a motion to make any specific paper or material confidential.

#### 11.06 Staff Records

(a) All staff records shall be available for consultation by the staff member concerned or by their legal representatives.

(b) No staff records shall be made available to any person outside the corporation except the authorized governmental agencies.

(c) Within the corporation, staff records shall be made available only to those persons with managerial or personnel responsibilities for that staff member, except that

(d) Staff records shall be made available to the Board when requested.

#### 11.07 Donor Records

(a) All donor records shall be available for consultation by the members and donors concerned or by their legal representatives.

(b) No donor records shall be made available to any other person outside the corporation except the authorized governmental agencies.

(c) Within the corporation, donor records shall be made available only to those persons with managerial or personnel responsibilities for dealing with those donors, except that donor records shall be made available to the Board when requested.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **CODES OF ETHICS AND WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY**

#### 12.01 Purpose

Excelsior Village Academies requires and encourages Directors, officers and employees to observe and practice high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. The employees and representatives of the corporation must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling their responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It is the intent of Excelsior Village Academies to adhere to all laws and regulations that apply to the corporation and the underlying purpose of this policy is to support the



corporation's goal of legal compliance. The support of all corporate staff is necessary to achieving compliance with various laws and regulations.

## 12.02 Reporting Violations

If any Director, officer, staff or employee reasonably believes that some policy, practice, or activity of Excelsior Village Academies is in violation of law, a written complaint must be filed by that person with the Vice Chair or the Board Chair.

## 12.03 Acting in Good Faith

Anyone filing a complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation of a law or regulation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false shall be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

## 12.04 Retaliation

A person filing the aforesaid complaint is protected from retaliation only if she/he brings the alleged unlawful activity, policy, or practice to the attention of Excelsior Village Academies and provides Excelsior Village Academies with a reasonable opportunity to investigate and correct the alleged unlawful activity. The protection described below is only available to individuals that comply with this requirement.

Excelsior Village Academies shall not retaliate against any Director, officer, staff or employee who in good faith, has made a protest or raised a complaint against some practice of Excelsior Village Academies or of another individual or entity with whom Excelsior Village Academies has a business relationship, on the basis of a reasonable belief that the practice is in violation of law, or a clear mandate of public policy.

Excelsior Village Academies shall not retaliate against any Director, officer, staff or employee who discloses or threatens to disclose to a supervisor or a public body, any activity, policy, or practice of Excelsior Village Academies that the individual reasonably believes is in violation of a law, or a rule, or regulation mandated pursuant to law or is in violation of a clear mandate of public policy concerning the health, safety, welfare, or protection of the environment.

## 12.05 Confidentiality

Violations or suspected violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant or may be submitted anonymously. Reports of violations or suspected violations shall be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

## 12.06 Handling of Reported Violations

The Board Chair or Vice Chair shall notify the sender and acknowledge receipt of the reported violation or suspected violation within five business days. All reports shall be promptly investigated by the Board and its appointed committee and appropriate corrective action shall be taken if warranted by the investigation.

This policy shall be made available to all Directors, officers, staff or employees and they shall have the opportunity to ask questions about the policy.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **AMENDMENT OF Articles of Incorporation**

#### **13.01 Amendment**

Any amendment to the Articles of Incorporation may be adopted by approval of the majority of the Board of Directors.

### **CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION OF BYLAWS**

I do hereby certify that the above stated Bylaws of Excelsior Village Academies were approved by the Excelsior Village Academies 's Board of Directors on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and constitute a complete copy of the Bylaws of the corporation.

Secretary Reginald Hutchins

Date: 1/18/2023