

CHARTER FOR NORTHWEST GEORGIA COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY

This Charter for Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy ("Charter") is entered into by and between the Whitfield County College and Career Academy, Inc., d/b/a Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy ("Petitioner"), the Whitfield County Schools Boards of Education ("Local Board") and the State Board of Education ("State Board") (collectively referred to as "the parties").

WHEREAS, the Petitioner submitted a petition to the Local Board proposing to establish a conversion charter school pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2060 *et seq.*, the Charter Schools Act of 1998 ("Charter Schools Act"), and the Local Board approved the petition;

WHEREAS, the State Board finds that the petition complies with the provisions of the Charter Schools Act, and the rules, regulations, policies and procedures promulgated in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2063 and further finds that the petition is in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2064.1, the State Board grants this Charter to permit Petitioner to operate Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy ("the Charter School") in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Charter.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, mutual agreements, and covenants contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The terms below will be interpreted in accordance with the following definitions, unless and until federal or state law, or the state accountability system, is amended otherwise:
 - a. **Adequate Yearly Progress:** Adequate Yearly Progress is a measurement based on a series of performance goals that every school, LEA, and state must achieve within specified timeframes in order to meet the 100% proficiency goal established by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).
 - b. **Annual Measureable Objectives:** In defining Adequate Yearly Progress, each state sets the minimum levels of improvement, based on student performance on state standardized tests, that school districts and schools must achieve within time frames specified in law in order to meet the 100% proficiency goal under No Child Left Behind. These levels of improvement are known as Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs), and they ensure that all student groups, schools, school districts, and the State as a whole reach the 100% proficiency goal by 2013-2014.

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- c. End of Course Test (EOCT): The EOCT program was created to improve student achievement through effective instruction and assessment of the standards in the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) specific to the eight EOCT core high school courses. The EOCT program also helps to ensure that all Georgia students have access to a rigorous curriculum that meets high performance standards. The purpose of the EOCT is to provide diagnostic data that can be used to enhance the effectiveness of the schools' instructional programs.
- d. Enhanced Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT): The Georgia High School Graduation Tests for English/language arts and mathematics were enhanced to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requiring more rigorous examinations. For accountability purposes, Enhanced GHSGT results from first time test takers in the eleventh grade for English/language arts and mathematics are used in making AYP determinations at school, LEA, and state levels.
- e. Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT): The Georgia High School writing test given is a written exam given to students in the 11th grade in order to assess students' ability to respond to an impromptu writing assignment. The two hour test administration includes 100 minutes of writing time. Students must pass this test in order to be eligible to graduate from high school.
- f. Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT): The Georgia High School Graduation Tests are state-mandated curriculum-based assessments administered in grade eleven for graduation purposes. The tests are administered several times a year so that students have up to five opportunities to take each of the tests within their eleventh and twelfth grade years.
- g. Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE): The Georgia Department of Education is the state agency charged with the fiscal and administrative management of certain aspects of K – 12 public education, including the implementation of federal and state mandates. Such management is subject to supervision and oversight by the State Board of Education.
- h. Local Educational Agency (LEA): A Local Educational Agency is a local system pursuant to local board of education control and management.

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- i. **No Child Left Behind of 2001 (NCLB):** No Child Left Behind is a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 – the principal law affecting education from kindergarten through high school. NCLB is designed to improve student achievement and close achievement gaps. States are required to develop challenging academic standards, to educate all students to 100 percent proficiency by 2014, and to create and implement a single, statewide accountability system.
 - j. **State Board of Education (SBOE):** The State Board of Education is the constitutional authority which defines education policy for public K – 12 education agencies in Georgia.
 - k. **Subgroup:** A Subgroup under No Child Left Behind is defined as one of the following subsets of students: race/ethnicity (American Indian/Alaskan native, Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, Multiracial, and White); disability; limited English proficiency (LEP); and socioeconomic status. To constitute a Subgroup in Georgia for a school's Adequate Yearly Progress determination, the Subgroup must have at least 40 students or constitute 10% of the assessed student population, whichever is greater, but not to exceed a total number of 75 students. The assessed student population is the total number of children whose test results are used to determine Adequate Yearly Progress.
2. **Charter Term.** The State Board grants this Charter to Petitioner to operate the Charter School for a five-year term beginning on July 1, 2012 and expiring on June 30, 2017.
 3. **Grade Range.** The Charter School shall serve grades 7-12 for students from Whitfield County Schools and grades 9-12 for students from Murray County Schools for the duration of the Charter term. The Charter School shall serve approximately 1200 students by year five of the charter term.
 4. **Career Academy Features.** The Charter School may function as an extension of each students' Home High School or Home Middle School, and the Charter School shall not have an Adequate Yearly Progress ("AYP") designation. AYP shall be reported through the student's Home High School or Home Middle School ("Home School").
 5. **Mission Statement.** The mission of the Charter School is to develop a 21st century workforce through world-class Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education ("CTAE").

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6. Essential or Innovative Features. The Charter School will work in affiliation with local businesses and industry leaders to create an innovative curriculum which prepares graduates for entry into the local workforce.
7. Maximum Flexibility Allowed By Law. In exchange for the Charter School's agreement to meet or exceed the performance-based goals and measurable objectives set forth in Section 9 below, the State Board shall grant the maximum flexibility allowed by law to the Charter School. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2065(a), the Charter School shall be entitled to the maximum flexibility allowed by law from the provisions of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and from any state or local rule, regulation, policy, or procedure established by a local board of education, the State Board of Education (State Board), or the Georgia Department of Education (Department). Notwithstanding this maximum flexibility, the Charter School shall comply with the terms of this Charter, the Charter Schools Act, including the provisions set forth in Section 15 below, and any rules, regulations, policies, or procedures established by the State Board consistent with the Charter Schools Act.
8. Accreditation. If the Charter School serves grades 8-12, the Charter School shall seek accreditation from an approved accrediting agency pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-3-519(6.1)(A) within the first three years of the initial charter term and retain accredited status thereafter. If applicable, a Charter School may use system accreditation to satisfy this requirement.
9. Performance-based Goals and Measurable Objectives. In exchange for the flexibility granted in Section 7 above, the Charter School agrees to meet or exceed the following performance-based goals and measurable objectives that are designed to result in improvement of student achievement:
 - a. Academic Goals. The State Board shall hold the Charter School accountable for the full performance of each of the academic goals listed below. The requirements of each goal are independent of and do not supersede the requirements of any other goal.
 - i. Goal 1: Students at the Charter School will demonstrate high academic achievement.
 1. Measure 1: During each applicable year of its charter term, the Charter School's EOCT pass rate for the EOCT's administered at the Charter School, will meet or exceed Whitfield County School District's ("WCS") average.
 - ii. Goal 2: Students at the Charter School will demonstrate career readiness.

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1. Measure 1: The Charter School will increase the number CTAE course offerings in the middle school levels from 2.5 to 5 by the end of year 2 of the charter term.
2. Measure 2: The Charter School will increase the number of students in grades 7 and 8 involved in CTAE courses by 25% starting in year two and increasing each year thereafter by 15%.
3. Measure 3: The Charter School will initiate career assessment surveys taken by students in grade 8 by utilizing the ACT Middle School assessment, beginning with 25% completion in year one and continuing until 100% achievement by the end of year 4 of the charter term.
4. Measure 4: The Charter School will create and implement pathway identification forms to be completed by students in grades 7 & 8, beginning with 25% completion in year two and achieving 100% completion by the end of year three of the charter term.
5. Measure 5: The Charter School will increase the number of pathway completers by 15% beginning in year two and every year thereafter for all participating school districts.
6. Measure 6: The Charter School will increase the number of students involved in work place experiences by 15%, beginning in year two and every year thereafter. Work place experiences include, but are not limited to: Work based learning, internships, job shadowing and week-long internship exposures.
7. Measure 7: The Charter School will increase the number of students involved in dual enrollment opportunities by 20% each year.
8. Measure 8: The Charter School will increase the number of students earning the "Work Ready" Certificate, beginning with 25% in year one

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and continuing until 85% of graduating seniors have achieved certification.

9. Measure 9: The Charter School will increase the number of students successfully completing End of Pathway Assessments from 5% in year two to 25% by the end of year 5 of the charter term.
 10. Measure 10: The Charter School will increase the number of students graduating with Industry Certification from 5% in year two to 25% by the end of year five of the charter term.
- b. Organizational Goals. The fulfillment of the following organizational goals will be reported annually by the Charter School in addition to their Annual Report.
- i. Goal 1: The Charter School will ensure all high school CTAE courses are aligned with forecasted employment and economic data.
 1. Measure 1: The Charter School will create a database of relevant national, regional and local economic data and job trends by the end of year one. Data sources will include, but will not be limited to, the Department of Labor, industry surveys, technical school research, university research, and local Chambers of Commerce.
 2. Measure 2: The Charter school will restructure all current CTAE course offerings to align with the economic database by the end of year three of the charter term.
 3. Measure 3: The Charter School will align CTAE standards with the relevant EOCT and GHSWT content descriptions by the end of year one.
 - ii. Goal 2: The Charter School will provide teachers with exposure and experiences to local business and industry.
 1. Measure 1: The Charter School will implement a “job immersion” model for all CTAE teachers, providing them with opportunities to

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learn about local business and industry by spending time with a “local expert” in their related field.

2. Measure 2: The Charter School will implement a “job exposure” model for all academic teachers by providing them with opportunities to learn about local business and industry.

iii. Goal 3: The Charter School will be economically sustainable.

1. Measure 1: Each year, the Charter Schools will operate in a fiscally sound manner.
2. Measure 2: The Governing Board will review the annual operating budget and financial accounts monthly.
3. Measure 3: Yearly balance sheets will demonstrate that the Charter School maintains adequate cash reserves.
4. Measure 4: The Charter School will meet all Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) as demonstrated by external, annual audit reports.
5. Measure 5: Each year, the Charter School will operate in a fiscally sound manner as measured by an external audit.

9. Assessment and Accountability. Notwithstanding Sections 7 and 8 above, the Charter School is subject to all accountability and assessment requirements set forth within Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and any corresponding State Board Rules, including but not limited to the accountability provisions of O.C.G.A. §§ 20-14-30 through 41. The Charter School is further subject to all federal accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

10. Annual Report. The Charter School shall submit an annual report by October 1 of each year to the Georgia Department of Education that complies with all requirements set forth in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2067.1(c), including but not limited to an indication of the Charter School’s progress towards the goals and objectives stated in Section 9 above and all state-mandated assessment and accountability scores from the previous year. The Charter School shall make

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available to the community copies of an annual report which shall indicate student performance for the previous year.

11. Open Enrollment and Admissions. The Charter School shall comply with the open enrollment and admissions provisions set forth in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066. Enrollment shall be open to any student in accordance with the following criteria:
 - a. Attendance Zone. The attendance zone of the Charter School shall be open to students who reside in the Whitfield County Schools or Murray County Schools attendance zones.
 - b. Application. To be eligible for enrollment at the Charter School, students residing in the attendance zone must submit a timely application to the Charter School in accordance with the deadline set by the Charter School. The Charter School may not use admissions criteria or applications that would not otherwise be used at a traditional public school, including requests for letters of recommendation, essays, resumes, or information regarding a student's school or community activities, grades, test scores, attendance record, or disciplinary history. The Charter School may use applications for the purpose of verifying the student's residence within the school's attendance zone and grade level. The Charter School may gather other relevant information from students after enrollment is determined.
 - c. Random Lottery. If the number of timely applicants received by the Charter School exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building, the Charter School shall ensure that such applicants have an equal chance of being admitted through a random selection process in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066(a)(1)(A). The Charter School shall not conduct more than one lottery, per grade, per admissions cycle.
 - d. Statutory Enrollment Priorities. The Charter School shall not use any statutory enrollment priorities in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066(a)(1)(A).
12. Withdrawal without Penalty. The Charter School shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066(d) for withdrawing students. The Charter School agrees that a student may withdraw without penalty from the Charter School at any time and enroll in another public school in the local school system in which such student resides.

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13. State and Federally Mandated Educational Services.

- a. Students with Disabilities. The Charter School shall comply with all federal special education laws and regulations, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- b. English Language Learners. The Charter School shall comply with all applicable federal laws and regulations relating to the provision of educational services to English Language Learners.
- c. Supplemental Education. The Charter School shall provide supplemental education services in required cases pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 160-4-5-.03 and No Child Left Behind.
- d. Remediation. The Charter School shall provide remediation in required cases pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 160-4-5-.01 and No Child Left Behind.

14. Governance Structure.

- a. Governing Board. The Charter School shall utilize an autonomous governing body in the form of a Governing Board, which shall operate in accordance with its bylaws and which shall be responsible for complying with and carrying out the provisions of this Charter, including compliance with all applicable law. The Governing Board shall exercise substantive control over such areas as personnel decisions, financial decisions, curriculum and instruction, resource allocation, establishing and monitoring the achievement of school improvement goals, and school operations, which are listed by way of example and not by limitation.
- b. Function. It shall be the function of the Governing Board to uphold the Charter School's mission and vision, to set policy for the Charter School, to work collaboratively with school officials to ensure the Charter School complies with the performance goals enumerated in Section 8 above, to ensure effective organizational planning, and to ensure financial stability of the Charter School.
- c. Public Meetings. The Governing Board is subject to and shall comply with the Open and Public Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 *et seq.* The Governing Board shall conduct regular meetings consistent with principles of transparency and avoidance of actual or apparent conflicts of interest in the governance of the Charter School.

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- d. Public Records. The Governing Board is subject to and shall comply with the Georgia Open Records Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq.* The Governing Board shall maintain its adopted policies, budgets, meeting agendas, and minutes, and shall make such documents available for public inspection.
 - e. Conflicts of Interest. The Governing Board shall establish a formal policy to prevent and disclose conflicts of interest. Members of the Governing Board and all individuals employed at the Charter School shall abide by such conflicts of interest policy. Upon request, the Charter School shall provide conflict of interest forms to the local district or Department demonstrating that governing board members are in compliance with the conflicts of interest policy.
 - f. Public Status. Petitioner assures that the Charter School shall be a public, nonsectarian, nonreligious, nonprofit school organized and operated under the laws of the State of Georgia. Petitioner further assures that the Charter School shall not be home based.
 - g. Director Compensation. Petitioner shall not compensate members of the Charter School's governing board in excess of reasonable expenses incurred in connection with actual attendance at board meetings or with performance of duties associated therewith.
 - h. Contractual Interference. No party to this Charter may interfere with the legal right(s) and/or obligation(s) of another party to execute the provisions of this Charter.
15. Fiscal Control.
- a. Financial Reporting Requirements. The Charter School shall follow the financial requirements of the Charter Schools Section of the Department's Financial Management for Georgia Local Units of Administration Manual. The Charter School shall submit all information required by the State Accounting Office for inclusion in the State of Georgia Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
 - b. Annual Audit. The Charter School shall have an annual financial audit conducted by an independent certified public accountant licensed in the State of Georgia. The Charter School will submit their annual financial audit to the State of Georgia by October 1st each year.

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- c. Chief Financial Officer. The Charter School shall designate a Chief Financial Officer, who shall possess the following minimum qualifications:
 - i. A baccalaureate or higher degree in business, accounting, or finance from an accredited college or university and a minimum of four (4) years experience in a field related to business or finance; or
 - ii. Documented experience of ten (10) or more years in the field of business and financial management.
- d. Federal Monitoring Requirements. The Charter School shall comply with all federal monitoring requirements related to the receipt of federal funds.
- e. Charter School Program Eligibility. In the event the Charter School seeks grant funds under the Federal Charter School Program, the Charter School must satisfy all federal eligibility requirements as a prerequisite to applying for and receiving such funds.
- f. Insurance. Prior to opening, the Charter School shall secure adequate insurance coverage and the Charter School shall maintain such coverage throughout the Charter term in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia. The Charter School shall obtain and attach hereto a Certificate of Insurance which shall name the Local Board of Education and the State Board of Education as additional insureds.
- g. Surplus Funds. Any surplus funds remaining at the close of each fiscal year will be used to enhance the Charter School's academic program. Under no circumstances shall any surplus be distributed to the Charter School's employee(s), board member(s), educational service provider or educational management organization. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the Charter School from setting aside surplus funds in a reserve account or budgeting and awarding performance bonuses as part of their annual operating expenses.
- h. Responsibility for Debts. The Charter School is solely responsible for all debts incurred by the Charter School and its governing body. Except as agreed hereto, the Local Board and the State Board shall not be contractually bound to the Charter School or to any third party with whom the Charter School has a contract or from whom the Charter School has purchased goods or services.

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16. Compliance with Other Laws, Rules, and Regulations. The Charter School shall operate in accordance with the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws that may not be waived pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2065, including the following, which are listed by way of example and not by way of limitation.
- a. Civil Rights, Insurance, Health, Safety, and Conflicting Interests. The Charter School shall operate in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local rules, regulations, court orders and statutes relating to civil rights; insurance; the protection of the physical health and safety of students, employees, and visitors; conflicting interest transactions and the prevention of unlawful conduct.
 - b. Asbestos Remediation. The Charter School shall comply with the terms of any applicable asbestos remediation plan.
 - c. Unlawful Conduct. The Charter School shall be subject to all laws relating to unlawful conduct in or near a public school.
 - d. Student Conduct and Discipline. The Charter School shall maintain and implement a written policy regarding student discipline, which policy shall be consistent with due process.
 - e. State Board Rules. The Charter School shall operate in accordance with all State Board Rules promulgated in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-240 during the term herein that are not subject to any waiver granted in Section 6 above.
 - f. Prohibition on Discrimination. The Charter School shall not discriminate against students on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, marital status, academic ability, the need for special educational services, or any other characteristic protected by local, state, or federal law.
 - g. Reporting Requirements. The Charter School shall be subject to all reporting requirements of O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-160, 20-2-161(e), 20-2-320, and 20-2-740.
 - h. Tuition. The Charter School shall not charge tuition or fees to its students except as may be authorized for local boards pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-133.

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- i. Brief Period of Quiet Reflection. The Charter School shall comply with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1050, which requires a brief period of quiet reflection.
 - j. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The Charter School is subject to all provisions of the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g. In the event the Charter School closes, it shall transmit all official student records in the manner prescribed by the State Board.
 - k. QBE Formula Earnings. The Charter School acknowledges that criteria used to calculate Quality Basic Education (QBE) funding may not be waived.
17. Education Service Providers or Education/Charter Management Organizations.
- a. If the Charter School does not contract with an Education Service Provider or an Education/Charter Management Organization at the time of execution of this charter and then elects to contract with an Education Service Provider or an Education/Charter Management Organization, such decision will require a charter amendment prior to execution of an agreement with an Education Service Provider or an Education/Charter Management Organization.
 - b. If the Charter School contracts with an Education Service Provider or an Education/Charter Management Organization at the time of execution of this charter, the Charter School shall provide reasonable notice to the Local Board and the State Board before agreeing to any material changes or amendments to any contract with an Education Service Provider or an Education/Charter Management Organization. Reasonable notice shall mean the Charter School gives the Local Board and State Board at least thirty (30) days advanced notice and shall furnish the parties with a copy of the proposed changes and/or amendments.
18. Compliance with the Rules, Practices, Policies, and Procedures of the Department. The Charter School shall operate in accordance with the rules, practices, policies, and procedures established by the Department under the authority granted by O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2063 *et seq.*
19. Employment Matters. Individuals employed at the Charter School shall not be considered employees of the State Board or the Department.

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- a. Background Checks. The Charter School shall adopt background check procedures and shall ensure that all prospective staff members undergo a fingerprinting and background check prior to beginning work at the Charter School.
 - b. Teachers' Retirement System. Until clarifying legislation is enacted, all qualified teachers at the Charter School shall be members of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia ("TRS") and subject to its requirements. The Charter School is responsible for making arrangements with TRS and making monthly contributions for its teachers in accordance with state requirements.
20. Record Inspection. Subject to state and federal laws, the State Board, the Department and their agents, and the State Auditor's office shall have the right to examine and copy all records, reports, documents, and files relating to any activity, program, or student of the Charter School.
21. Facilities.
- a. Approval of Site and/or Facility. The Charter School shall obtain proper approval for all sites and/or facilities prior to committing to any certificate of lease or ownership and prior to student occupation. The Charter School shall contact the Georgia Department of Education's Facilities Services Division regarding the following:
 - i. Site Approval. No less than nine (9) months prior to proposed occupation, the Charter School shall contact the Facilities Services Division and obtain site approval. Once site approval has been granted, the Charter School will be issued a site code. The Charter School shall not commit to any certificate of lease or ownership, commence any construction, nor allow student occupation prior to site approval.
 - ii. Architectural Review. The Charter School shall submit and have approved by the Facilities Services Division all architectural plans for any facility that will house the Charter School during the charter term. The Charter School shall not commit to any certificate of lease or ownership, commence any construction, nor allow student occupation prior to architectural review.
 - iii. School Code Approval. After securing both site approval and architectural review approval a school code shall be obtained. A locally-approved Charter School shall contact their school system's facilities department and make a

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request for a school code. A State-Chartered Special School shall contact the Department of Education Charter Schools Division and make a request for a school code. The Charter School shall properly obtain a school code prior to occupancy of the site and/or facility.

- b. Prior to opening the Charter School and prior to students occupying any proposed facility, the Charter School shall obtain and submit the following documents to the Department:
 - i. Documentation of Ownership or Lease Agreement. The Charter School shall obtain documentation of ownership or the lease agreement for the facility that will house the Charter School.
 - ii. Certificate of Occupancy. The Charter School shall obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for the facility in which the Charter School shall be located.
 - iii. Emergency Safety Plan. The Charter School shall prepare a safety plan in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1185, which plan shall be submitted to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.
22. Transportation. To the extent the Charter School offers a transportation program for its students, the Charter School shall ensure that the program complies with all applicable laws governing transportation of students.
23. Food Services. To the extent the Charter School offers a food service program, the Charter School shall ensure that the program complies with all applicable laws governing food service for students.
24. Termination of Charter.
 - a. Termination Procedures. The parties acknowledge and agree that this Charter may be terminated following the procedures set forth in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2068 and the accompanying State Board Rule.
 - b. Requests for Termination. The termination of this Charter may be requested by a majority of the parents or guardians of the students enrolled in the Charter School, a majority of the faculty and instructional staff employed at the Charter School, the Local Board of Education or the State Board following the procedures identified in Section 24(a).

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- c. Termination Grounds. In accordance with Sections 24(a) and (b), the Charter School may be terminated based on any of the following grounds:
- i. Breach of Charter. In the event the Charter School fails to comply with any material provision set forth in this Charter, they shall be notified by certified mail and be given thirty (30) days from receipt of notice to cure the breach. The nature and outcome of the breach shall be recorded in a memo and placed in the Charter School's file;
 - ii. The Charter School's failure to comply with any recommendation or direction of the State Board with respect to O.C.G.A. § 20-14-41;
 - iii. The Charter School's failure to adhere to any material term of this Charter, including but not limited to the performance goals set forth in Section 8 above;
 - iv. The Charter School's failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;
 - v. The Charter School's violation of applicable federal, state, or local laws, or court orders;
 - vi. The existence of competent substantial evidence that the continued operation of the Charter School would be contrary to the best interests of the students or the community;
 - vii. The Charter School's failure to comply with any provision of the Charter Schools Act; or
 - viii. The existence of conditions that place the health, safety, or welfare of students or staff of the Charter School in danger.
- d. Distribution of Funds and Assets. In the event the Charter School ceases operation for any reason, the Charter School and its Governing Board will be responsible for concluding the business and affairs of the Charter School and will cooperate with the Local Board and State Board to the extent necessary to provide an orderly return of the students to their local school. Any public surplus remaining at the time the Charter School ceases operation shall be remitted to the Local Board and/or State Board, whichever is appropriate, within 30 days of ceasing operations. Any furniture

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and equipment purchased with public funds shall be delivered to the Local Board and/or State Board, whichever is appropriate, within 30 days of ceasing operations. Neither the Local Board nor the State Board shall be responsible for the Charter School's unpaid debts in the event the Charter School does not have sufficient funds to pay all of its debts at the time it ceases operation.

25. Pre-Opening Suspension. In the event the Charter School fails to comply with any material provision set forth in this Charter that requires compliance prior to the opening of the Charter School, the opening may be suspended until a time after all requirements have been fulfilled by the Charter School as determined by the local district and Department. Suspension shall not result in an extension of the Charter term set forth above in Section 2.
26. Renewal, Non-Renewal, and Probationary Term.
 - a. Renewal. The Charter may be renewed by agreement of the parties following the procedures set forth in the Charter Schools Act and accompanying State Board Rule.
 - b. Non-Renewal. Any grounds for termination stated in Section 24(c) above also may be grounds for non-renewal. In addition, the State Board or Local Board may elect not to renew the Charter if the petition for renewal does not comply with the Charter Schools Act and the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures promulgated in accordance with the Charter Schools Act or if the State Board or Local Board deems that the Charter School has not sufficiently increased student achievement or is no longer in the public interest.
 - c. Probationary Term. In the event the State Board or Local Board determines that the Charter School has failed to comply with any provision of this Charter, the State Board and Local Board may elect to grant a renewal for a probationary term, within which term the Charter School must come into compliance satisfactory to the State Board and Local Board.
27. Temporary Extension. At the discretion of the local district and the Department, a Charter may be extended for a grace period not exceeding sixty (60) days.
28. Amendments to the Charter. Any material term of this Charter, to be determined by the local district and the Department, may be amended in writing upon the approval of the Local Board, the State Board and a majority of the Governing Board of the Charter School. Any proposed amendment shall be made in accordance with State Board Rule 160-4-9-.04 *et seq.*

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29. Administrative Clarifications. Any clarification to a non-material term of this Charter, to be determined by the School District and Department, shall be submitted in writing to the local district and the Department for review. Any non-material term of this Charter may be clarified upon written approval of the School District and the Department.
30. Indemnification.
- a. The Petitioner and the Charter School agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Local Board, the School District, the Department and the State Board, their officials, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, and assigns (all of whom hereinafter may collectively be referred to as "Indemnitees"), from any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, legal or administrative proceedings, losses, liabilities, costs, interest, and damages of every kind and description, including any attorneys' fees and/or litigation and investigative expenses, for bodily injury, personal injury, (including but not limited to the Charter School's employees), patent, copyright, or infringement on any intellectual property rights, or loss or destruction of property (including loss of use, damage or destruction of Indemnitee owned property) to the extent that any such claim or suit was caused by, arose out of, or contributed to, in whole or in part, by reason of any act, omission, professional error, fault, mistake, or negligence whether active, passive or imputed, of the Charter School or Petitioner, their employees, agents, representatives, or subcontractors, their employees, agents, or representatives in connection with or incidental to their performance of this Charter regardless of whether such liability, claim, damage, loss, cost or expense is caused in part by an Indemnitee.
 - b. The Charter School and Petitioner shall be excused from their indemnification obligations above: (a) If the claims, demands, suits, actions, proceedings, losses, liabilities arise solely and exclusively out of the negligence of the Indemnitee seeking indemnification; or (b) If the Indemnitee fails to (i) provide written notice of the third party claim or suit within a reasonable time, (ii) cooperate with reasonable requests of the Charter School or Petitioner related to the indemnification; or (iii) assist the Charter School or Petitioner with the defense of such claim or suit.
 - c. The Charter School's and Petitioners obligations to indemnify any Indemnitee shall survive the completion, expiration, or termination of this Agreement for any reason.

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31. Non-Agency. The parties expressly acknowledge and agree that the Charter School is not acting as the agent of the Local Board, the State Board, or the Department except as required by law or this Charter. The Charter School acknowledges that it is without authority to, and will not, extend the faith and credit of the Local Board, the State Board, or the Department to any third party.
32. Delegation. The parties acknowledge and agree that the functions and powers of each party may be exercised only by each party and may not be delegated to a third party without written agreement by the parties.
33. Application of Amended Law. This Charter is subject to applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations and shall be deemed amended to reflect applicable changes to those laws upon the effective date of any such change.
34. Non-Waiver. No waiver of any breach of this Charter shall be held as waiver of any other or subsequent breach.
35. Severability. If any provision of this Charter is determined to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remainder of the Charter shall remain in full force and effect.
36. Contradicting or Conflicting Provisions. If any provision of the Charter is determined to contradict or conflict with any other provision of the Charter, the contradiction or conflict shall be resolved in favor of the broad flexibility guaranteed pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2065 *et seq.*
37. Governing Law and Venue. This Charter shall be governed by, subject to, and construed under the laws of the State of Georgia. This Charter shall be interpreted in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2060 *et seq.* and §§ 20-2-2080 *et seq.*, as amended within the term of this Charter. Any action brought by one party to this Charter against another party shall be brought in the Superior Court of Fulton County.
38. Entire Agreement. This Charter sets forth the entire agreement between the Petitioner, the Local Board and the State Board with respect to the subject matter of this Charter. All prior contracts, representations, statements, negotiations, understandings, and undertakings between the Petitioner, the Local Board and the State Board are superseded by this Charter. The Charter shall not preclude the Charter School from entering into or maintaining any agreement with the Local Board provided no such agreement supersedes, overrides or conflicts with any provision of this Charter. The petition submitted to the Local Board and the State Board serves only as the formal application for the Charter School and does not

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constitute a contract between the Local Board, the State Board and the Petitioner. This Charter supersedes and overrides any provisions contained in the petition that conflict with this Charter.

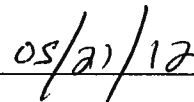
Chairperson,

(Date)

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

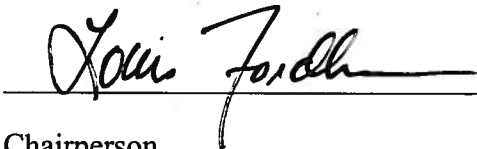


Authorized Representative,

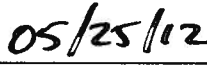


(Date)

WHITFIELD COUNTY CAREER ACADEMY, INC., d/b/a/ NORTHWEST GEORGIA COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY



Chairperson,



(Date)

WHITFIELD COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION