

## CHARTER AGREEMENT

This Charter Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025 by and between the State Charter School Board, ("SCSB") and Venture Academy (referred to as "Applicant").

### RECITALS

WHEREAS, SCSB is an authorizer of Charter Schools under Utah Code Ann. § 53G-5-205(1);

WHEREAS, Applicant has applied to SCSB to be allowed to operate the Charter School proposed in its application ("Charter School");

WHEREAS, SCSB has approved Applicant's application; and

WHEREAS, SCSB and Applicant desire to comply with Utah Code Ann. § 53G-5-304(3) by entering into this Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein and other valuable considerations, the parties agree as follows:

### **SECTION 1. Establishment of Charter School.**

(a) Applicant shall have the right to operate the Charter School according to the terms of this Agreement. This Agreement includes the terms set forth in Schedule A, which is attached hereto and made part of this Agreement. Any conflicts between Schedule A and this Agreement will be resolved in favor of Schedule A.

(b) The name of the Charter School is set forth in Schedule A.

(c) The location of the Charter School is set forth in Schedule A.

(d) As required by Utah Code Ann. § 53G-5404(7), the Charter School shall be organized and managed under Title 16, Chapter 6a, Utah Revised Nonprofit Corporation Act.

### **SECTION 2. SCSB Oversight.**

(a) The Charter School shall fully support SCSB's oversight responsibilities by timely responding to all requests made by SCSB, including inquiries, requests for reports, audits, formal and informal investigations, formal and informal visits, and inspections of books and records of the Charter School.

(b) SCSB shall do its best to avoid administrative costs associated with duplicate requests.

### **SECTION 3. Operation of Charter School.**

- (a) The mission statement and purpose of the Charter School are set forth in Schedule A.
- (b) The Charter School's opening date is set forth in Schedule A.
- (c) The grade levels the Charter School will serve are set forth in Schedule A.
- (d) The maximum number of students the Charter School may serve shall be set forth in Schedule A. This number is subject to Utah Code Ann. § 53G-6-504.
- (e) The Charter School's key elements are set forth in Schedule A.
- (f) The Charter School's enrollment preferences are set forth in Schedule A.
- (g) The Charter School has minimum governance, financial, and academic performance standards and unique performance measures that are required by statute and rule. Per SCSB policy, these performance standards and measures are referenced in the Charter School Accountability Framework as performance indicators. The Charter School Accountability Framework will be used to evaluate the operation of the Charter School.

### **SECTION 4. Governance of Charter School.**

The Charter School shall be governed by a governing board that is subject to the following:

- (a) The governing board shall have the authority, as established in its articles and bylaws, to decide all matters relating to the operation of the Charter School and shall have the final responsibility for the academic, operational, and financial performance of the Charter School, with the understanding that the governing board may delegate decision-making authority for policy and operational decisions to officers, employees, and agents of the Charter School so long as the ultimate responsibility for and oversight of any such delegated authority remains with the governing board.
- (b) The governing board shall ensure that the Charter School's policies and programs comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement and with all governing federal and state laws, regulations, and rules that the Charter School is subject to.
- (c) The structure of the governing board is set forth in Schedule A.
- (d) The governing board shall adopt rules of order and procedure for its meetings as required by Utah Code Ann. § 53-5-413.
- (e) SCSB may, at its discretion, and under mutual agreement provide administrative services to, or perform other school functions for the Charter School, and charge fees for the provision of those services or functions.

(f) The governing board shall meet all reporting requirements described in Utah Code Ann. § 53G-5-404.

(g) Any notice or communication that the SCSB is required to give or may give to the Applicant or the Charter School under this Agreement shall be effective after being delivered or communicated to the chair of the governing board.

(h) The governing board shall submit any reports required by state and federal law, this Agreement, and as requested by SCSB in a timely manner.

(i) The Charter School is required to be aware of and comply with any updates to the minimum governance standards made in statute, rule or SCSB policy.

#### **SECTION 5: School Autonomy.**

SCSB shall honor and preserve the core autonomies that are crucial to the Charter School's success by doing the following:

(a) SCSB shall assist the Charter School in understanding and carrying out the Charter School's obligations under this Agreement.

(b) SCSB shall review its compliance requirements, policies, and procedures and evaluate the potential to increase school autonomy based on flexibility in the law, streamlining requirements, demonstrated school performance, or other considerations.

#### **SECTION 6. Transparency.**

The governing board shall ensure that the Charter School is transparent by doing the following:

(a) The governing board shall comply with Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act.

(b) The Charter School shall maintain a website with the content requirements found in UT Admin. Code R277-551-5, posted at least 180 days prior to the opening day of school.

(c) The Charter School's website shall also contain the following:

(i) links to school data and accountability reports maintained on other websites (e.g., student assessment, audited financial statement, etc.);

(ii) links to the governing board meeting dates, agendas, minutes, and recordings.

#### **SECTION 7. Compliance with Laws, Regulations, and Rules.**

Applicant acknowledges that, under Utah Code Ann. § 53G-5-401(1)(a), the Charter School is considered a public school within the state's public education system and is subject to and must abide by

all federal and state laws, regulations, rules, and policies otherwise affecting Charter Schools as public schools.

#### **SECTION 8. Charter School's Financial Matters.**

(a). The Charter School's fiscal year shall begin on July 1 of each calendar year of the term of this Agreement and shall end on June 30 of the subsequent calendar year.

(b) The Charter School is required to be aware of and comply with any updates to the minimum financial standards made in statute, rule or SCSB policy.

#### **SECTION 9. Insurance.**

(a) The Charter School shall obtain and maintain adequate liability and other appropriate insurance through the Utah Division of Risk Management or other suitable insurance carrier with a general policyholder rating of not less than A and a financial rating of AAA as rated in the most current available "Best Guide" Insurance Report. The insurance shall include:

- (i) general liability;
- (ii) errors and omissions;
- (iii) directors and officers liability;
- (iii) workers' compensation;
- (iv) comprehensive/collision consistent with cash values of vehicles if applicable;
- (v) liability insurance specific to the Charter School's governing board's financial officer or treasurer or business administrator consistent with coverage designated in board rule; and
- (vi) tail coverage or closeout insurance covering at least one year after closure of the Charter School.

(b) The general liability, errors and omissions, and directors and officers liability coverage shall extend through the completion of the closure of the Charter School under Utah Code Ann. § 53G-5-504.

(c) The Charter School may obtain liability insurance coverage in addition to or in excess of the requirements stated in this section.

(d) SCSB shall be named as an additional insured under all general liability insurance policies required by this section, except where there is common coverage provided by Risk Management.

(e) Written proof and copies of required insurance policies shall be provided to SCSB at least 90 days prior to the initial opening of the Charter School. The Charter Schools' governing board shall provide SCSB with certificates of insurance annually within thirty days of the insurance purchase or renewal.

#### **SECTION 10. Review of Charter School's Performance.**

(a) The Charter School is required to be aware of and comply with any updates to the minimum academic performance standards and unique performance measures made in statute, rule or SCSB policy.

(b) SCSB shall review and evaluate the Charter School's performance as required by statute and rule. To facilitate this, the following shall do the following:

- (i) In keeping with the purpose of Title 53G, Chapter 5, Charter Schools, SCSB may produce for public distribution an annual report that provides clear, accurate, performance data for the Charter School according to the Charter School Accountability Framework set forth by the SCSB, as well as reporting overall portfolio performance.
- (ii) SCSB shall gather all data that are needed to determine the achievement of performance standards as referenced in the Charter School Accountability Framework. The Charter School shall assist in gathering, maintaining, and submitting all data that are needed to determine the achievement of unique performance measures as referenced in the Charter School Accountability Framework.
- (iii) SCSB will meet with the Charter School to discuss performance over time, referenced as a comprehensive review.

(c) If SCSB identifies deficiencies in its review or other investigation of the Charter School, the SCSB shall take steps it deems necessary to remediate the Charter School's deficiencies in accordance with SCSB's written policy regarding remediation of deficiencies and UT Admin. Code R277-553-3.

#### **SECTION 11. Termination of Agreement.**

Subject to the requirements of Utah Code Ann. § 53G-5-503, SCSB may terminate this Agreement for any of the following reasons:

- (a) The Charter School's failure to meet the requirements stated in this Agreement;
- (b) The Charter School's failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;
- (c) The Charter School's designation as a low-performing school under Title 53E, Chapter 5, Part 3, School Turnaround and Leadership Development; and failure to improve the Charter School's

grade under the conditions described in Title 53E, Chapter 5, Part 6, School Turnaround and Leadership Development;

(d) The Charter School's violation of requirements under Title 53G, Chapter 5, Charter Schools or another law; or

(e) other good cause.

#### **SECTION 12. Closure of the Charter School.**

If the Charter School is closed for any reason, including the termination of this Agreement in accordance with Utah Code Ann. § 53G-5-503 or the Charter School's conversion to a private school, the Applicant and the Charter School shall comply with the provisions of Utah Code Ann. § 53G-5-504. The Charter School may not dispose of its assets in violation of state board rules, SCSB's policies, Section 53G-5-504, or other related provisions of Title 53G, Chapter 5, Charter Schools.

#### **SECTION 13. Limitation of Liability for Debts or Financial Obligations of the Charter School.**

(a) Except as provided in Part 6, Charter School Credit Enhancement Program, neither SCSB nor the state, including an agency of the state, shall be liable for the debts or financial obligations of the Charter School or a person who operates the Charter School.

(b) As provided under Utah Code Ann. § 53G-5-505(2), the governing board, the nonprofit corporation under which the Charter School is organized and managed, and the Charter School are solely liable for any damages resulting from a legal challenge involving the operation of the Charter School.

#### **SECTION 14. Waiver of State Board Rules.**

The Utah State Board of Education has waived for the Charter School the rules that are set forth in Schedule A.

#### **SECTION 15. Modification.**

(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b) of this section, this Agreement may not be modified except by mutual agreement between SCSB and the Charter School's governing board. Any such amendment must be made in writing and signed by the appropriate representatives of SCSB and the governing board.

(b) The Charter School's governing board may modify this Agreement without the mutual agreement described in Subsection (a) of this section to:

- (i) include an enrollment preference as described in Utah Code Ann. § 53G-6-502(4)(h); or

- (ii) only as described in Utah Code Ann. § 53G-7-221(5), include or remove an innovation plan.

#### **SECTION 16. Indemnification.**

Applicant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless SCSB, the Utah State Board of Education, the school district, and the State of Utah, their officers, agents, employees, successors and assigns from all claims, damages, losses and expenses, including attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from any action of the Charter School caused by any intentional or negligent act or omission of the Charter School, its officers, agents, employees, and agents.

#### **SECTION 17. Assignment.**

The assignment of this Agreement or a significant part of the Charter School's assets, or any part of its operations, to another entity, related or not, is deemed an amendment and is effective only if the amendment is done according to SCSB's policy.

#### **SECTION 18. Miscellaneous.**

(a) In the performance of this Agreement, the Applicant and the Charter School shall each act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees or agents of SCSB or the State of Utah.

(b) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes the Applicant's application and any other prior and contemporaneous agreements and understandings between the parties, whether oral or written.

(c) This Agreement and any amendments to it are subject to applicable state and federal laws and shall be deemed amended to reflect applicable changes to those laws.


(d) This Agreement shall be governed by the laws, rules, and regulations of the State of Utah. Any action or proceeding arising from this Agreement shall be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Utah. The venue shall be in Salt Lake City, in the Third Judicial District Court for Salt Lake County.

(e) Photocopies or electronic copies of this Agreement shall have the same force and effect as the original.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the date first above written.

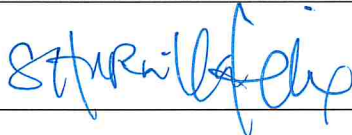
**SCSB:**

STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Name:	Signature:
Dr. W. Bryan Bowles, Board Chair	

**APPLICANT:**

APPLICANT

Name:	Signature:
Sharmilla Felix, Board President	

MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL'S GOVERNING BOARD

Name:	Signature:
Sharmilla Felix, Board President	
Kevin Wasden, Board Member	
Christel Grange-Hicks, Board Member	
Andrea Riches, Board Member	
Michelle Terry, Vice President	
Sara Hurd, Board Member	
Karl Haase, Board Member	



## SCHEDULE A

<b>Name of Charter School:</b>	Venture Academy
<b>Location of Charter School:</b>	Marriott-Slaterville within Weber School District, which is material to its authorization.
<b>Charter School's Mission Statement:</b>	The mission of Venture is to <i>inspire</i> the rising generation to reach the heights of their potential, <i>ignite</i> their curiosity to venture into challenging new learning experiences, and through service, <i>empower</i> them to be leaders who are committed to family and community--THEN, they can <i>achieve</i> their dreams and shape their world!
<b>Charter School's Purpose:</b>	<p>The purpose of Venture is to provide local families with a school of choice that emphasizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a <b>set of core values</b>, oriented around character, that are woven throughout the curriculum and programs;</li> <li>● <b>ongoing training</b> and resources to teachers to develop innovative, deep learning experiences with strong curriculum, instruction and assessment practices;</li> <li>● a robust and <b>well-rounded concept of student achievement</b>; and</li> <li>● the ongoing development and refinement of a <b>just-rightly sized learning community</b> with smaller class sizes and overall size of schools (K8 and High School) that is large enough to provide a rich array of learning experiences while also being small enough to allow each student to be well known, respected, and nurtured by all the educators in the school community.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Elements of the Charter School:</b>	<p>Our vision and values are operationalized in what we call our Five Dimensions of Student Achievement. We believe in a well-rounded view of student achievement, thus the following five dimensions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mastery of basic knowledge and skill</b> in key disciplines (Math, Science, English, etc.)</li> <li>2. The ability to use effective <b>inquiry and reasoning skills</b>,</li> <li>3. The <b>application</b> of what they are learning to the <b>service</b> of others,</li> <li>4. The completion of <b>high quality products &amp; performances</b>, and</li> <li>5. The development of good <b>habits of work and character</b>.</li> </ol> <p>Following are key programs and practices aimed at supporting student achievement in these 5 dimensions.</p>

**Good teaching is the key to success.** Good teaching is defined as a dialogic interplay between student and teacher composed of rigorous and relevant curriculum, instruction, and verified student learning, all of which takes place in a milieu of respectful relationships.

**Learning Expeditions.** A major portion of our curriculum is integrated into long-term, deep study of topics. We call these long-term studies “learning expeditions.” We use the term “expedition” metaphorically to mean, not a small study, but a significant learning experience where challenges are met, problems are solved, and goals are reached. These learning experiences may take anywhere from several weeks to several months. Both rigor and relevance are key concepts in developing the experiences. Various case studies, experiments, projects, and learning workshops are used to gather knowledge about the topic and generate lines of investigation. Relevant tools from the various disciplines are used to study the topic and help students achieve a deep understanding. Throughout the learning expedition, teachers structure time and opportunity for high-quality work that is the result of multiple, refining revisions to products and performances.

**Fieldwork and Local Experts.** Participation in fieldwork is an important way in which Venture students improve their understanding and skills in relation to the topics they are studying and the questions they are pursuing. After having gained significant understanding of a topic from in-class learning, investigations outside the classroom in “the field” can provide an important way for them to seek answers to their questions, conduct experiments, gather data, and confirm, or challenge, their present understandings. Certain aspects of a topic cannot be fully understood without the perspectives gained through this important fieldwork. Venture also seeks out expertise within the community to provide valuable insight as well as feedback on student work. Often these experts are invited to the school; sometimes students travel to their places of employment; and sometimes these experts assist in, or guide, fieldwork activities.

**Crew.** Crew is an essential structure at Venture’s K8 and High School. Each student is assigned to a Crew. The term “crew” is used to communicate that “we are crew, not passengers.” Crew fills the following important roles:

1. Crew is a homebase--like a school family--where students and their crew teacher develop a strong connection and working relationship. Crew “families” are our catalyst to the development of character, community, and culture.
2. Crew is a consistent set of routines (opening circle, greeting, reading, discussion, reflection, initiatives, etc.)

	<p>that provide opportunities to know each other well, share issues, and discuss important topics, including citizenship in the school community.</p> <p>3. Crew is a supportive environment where personal success can be monitored, discussed, developed, and practiced (Student-led parent conference prep, learning portfolio development reflecting the 5 dimensions of student achievement, and passage presentation development and practice are taught, developed, and practiced in our Crew curriculum).</p> <p><b>Portfolios and Passages.</b> Students develop portfolios of their work that are organized to show progress on the five dimensions of student achievement while also highlighting student work that demonstrates Venture's values.</p> <p>Portfolios help students gather work from which to prepare for what we call Passage Presentations that are completed at the end of 5th, 8th, and 12th grades. The purpose of "Passage" is for a student to demonstrate and celebrate what they have learned, how they have grown, and generally make the case that they are ready to move on to the next level. Students present their work and progress to a distinguished panel that is variously composed of teachers, administrators, community members, and parents.</p>
<b>Opening date of Charter School:</b>	August 18, 2008
<b>Grade Levels Served:</b>	K-12
<b>Maximum Enrollment:</b> <i>*If the Charter School has satellite Charter Schools, the maximum number of students that will be collectively served by the Charter School is reflected as the Maximum Enrollment number.</i>	850 students
<b>The Charter School's enrollment preferences shall be as follows:</b>	<p>Enrollment preference will be given in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Founding member children</li> <li>● Siblings of currently attending Venture students</li> <li>● Children of full-time staff members of Venture Academy</li> <li>● Children of a board member</li> <li>● A sibling of a previously enrolled student who attended for at least four consecutive years.</li> <li>● Children of military service members that are re-enrolling at Venture after military relocation</li> <li>● Children of part-time staff members of Venture Academy if continuously employed after completing one school year of employment</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incoming 9th graders who graduated from Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning</li> <li>• Incoming 7th to 9th graders who graduated from Voyage Academy (Voyage ends in 6th grade)</li> <li>• Incoming 9th graders who graduated from Greenwood Charter School</li> </ul>
The structure of the governing board shall be as follows:	<b>Number of members:</b> The specific number of trustees is determined by the Board of Trustees, but in no event shall be less than three (3) and no more than nine (9), with an expectation of seven (7) as the desired usual.
	<b>How members are appointed:</b> Trustees shall be elected or reelected by a majority of the existing Board of Trustees.
	<b>Term of office:</b> Three years
The Utah State Board of Education has waived the following administrative rules for the Charter School:	None