

# **New Heights Charter School Fiscal Policies & Procedures**

Approved by the Board of Directors, January 2017 and Amended on November 9, 2022

**Approved by the Board of Directors, February 2025**

# New Heights Charter School Fiscal Policies & Procedures

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## Introduction

The Governing Board of New Heights Charter School has reviewed and adopted the following policies and procedures to ensure the most effective use of the funds of New Heights Charter School to support its mission and to ensure that the funds are budgeted, accounted for, expended and maintained appropriately.

New Heights Charter School has contracted with ExED for various business services including budgeting, financial reporting, and forecasting; accounting and bookkeeping; cash management; CALPADS reporting; and payroll processing and retirement reporting.

## Accounting Procedures

This section covers basic accounting procedures for the organization. The accounting procedures used by the organization shall conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) to ensure accuracy of information and compliance with external standards.

### Basis of Accounting

**Policy:** The organization uses the accrual-basis of accounting at year-end, meaning that revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred regardless of when the receipt or payment of cash takes place.

#### Procedures:

- Throughout the fiscal year, revenue is recorded in the month in which it is received and expenses are recorded in the month in which they occur.
- At the close of the fiscal year, all revenue earned in the fiscal year, but not received is accrued. All expenses that have been incurred but not paid are also accrued. This ensures that that the year-end financial statements reflect all revenue earned and all expenses incurred during the fiscal year.
- Year-end books, inclusive of adjusting journal entries, are closed by December 15, the date by which the audit report must be submitted to the state controller and respective reporting agencies.

### Bank Reconciliations

**Policy:** Bank reconciliation and approval will occur on a monthly basis.

#### Procedures:

- The ExED Accounting Associate or Senior Accounting Associate (AA/SAA) assigned to the organization will print the bank statements directly from the online banking system. If online banking is unavailable, the organization will make copies of the original statement available to ExED.
- The ExED AA/SAA will prepare the bank reconciliation using ExED's bank reconciliation workbook.

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- The Accounting Manager or Vice President, School Finance assigned to the organization will review and approve the bank reconciliation workbook by completing the approval tab of the bank reconciliation workbook.

### Record Keeping

**Policy:** Financial records will be retained for a minimum of seven years or as outlined in the 990 policy.

**Procedures:**

- ExED will retain financial records, including transaction ledgers, canceled/duplicate checks, attendance and entitlement records, payroll record, and any other necessary fiscal documentation at its site until the prior year audit has been completed.
- ExED will deliver financial records to the organization for storage for the remaining years of the seven year retention period.
- At the discretion of the Governing Board or Executive Director, certain documentation may be maintained for a longer period of time.
- Financial records will be shredded at the end of their retention period.
- Backup copies of electronic and/or paper documentation should be stored in a secure location.

### Internal Controls

The organization employs several safeguards to ensure that financial transactions are properly authorized, appropriated, executed and recorded.

All documentation related to financial matters will be completed by computer, typewriter, or ink. Completion by pencil is not permitted. The organization employs various electronic systems and processes to complete the work associated with its fiscal operations (e.g., SpendBridge, Paycom/Nvoicepay). The electronic systems the organization chooses to use may change over time and new electronic systems may be introduced. The organization will configure the electronic systems to ensure they align to the organization's internal controls

### Lines of Authority

**Governing Board**

- Approves the fiscal policies and procedures and delegates administration of the policies and procedures to the Executive Director.
- Ensures that the fiscal policies and procedures are current, meaning that they have been reviewed and updated annually.
- Approves the opening and closing of bank accounts and the list of authorized signers and the organization address on record.
- Approves all third-party loans.
- Approves the opening of business credit cards.
- Reviews and approves the annual budget.

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- Reviews annual and monthly financial statements, including the monthly check register and the ExED-prepared financial dashboard and budget-to-actual variance analysis.
- Reviews the Executive Director's performance annually, completes full review biennially, and establishes the salary.
- Reviews and approves all contracts over (\$10,000).
- Commissions the annual financial audit by an independent third party auditor approved by the State of California.
- Approves the annual financial audit by December 15.
- Appoints someone else to perform the duties of the Executive Director in the case of absence.

### Executive Director

- Is responsible for all operations and activities related to financial management.
- Develops the annual budget with ExED.
- Reviews and approves all contracts under (\$10,000).
- Oversees the adherence to all internal controls.
- Appoints someone else to perform his/her duties in case of absence.

### Segregation of Duties

**Policy:** The organization's financial duties shall be distributed among multiple people to help ensure protection from fraud and error. The distribution of duties aims for maximum protection of the organization's assets while also considering efficiency of operations.

#### Procedures:

- Procedures for each section of this document will identify the position responsible for carrying out each function so that no single person or entity has sole control over cash receipts, disbursements, payrolls, and reconciliation of bank accounts.
- All administrative employees are required to take annual vacations of at least five (5) consecutive days. During the mandatory vacation, responsibilities shall shift to another employee who has been cross-trained in those responsibilities.

## Financial Planning & Reporting

### Budgeting Process

**Policy:** In consultation with the Executive Director, ExED will prepare the annual budget for approval by the Governing Board. The budget is to be approved by the Governing Board prior to the start of each fiscal year.

#### Procedures:

- The Executive Director will ensure that the annual budget is an accurate reflection of programmatic and infrastructure goals for the coming year.

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- ExED will ensure that the budget is developed using the organization's standard revenue recognition and cost allocation procedures.
- ExED, in consultation with the Governing Board, will set a target net income goal to meet strategic goals and/or comply with existing loan covenants.
- ExED will present a draft budget to the Governing Board prior to the end of the fiscal year.
- The Governing Board will review and approve the budget no later than its last meeting prior to the start of the fiscal year.
- ExED will prepare financial statements displaying budget vs. actual results for presentation to the Governing Board at each board meeting.

### Internal Financial Reports

**Policy:** The organization reviews regular financial reports on a monthly basis.

**Procedures:**

- ExED is responsible for producing the following year-to-date reports within 45 days of the end of each month (in August through June): Income Statement including budget to actual variances, Balance Sheet, Financial Analysis, and Cash Flow Projection.
- ExED will also present a check register at each board meeting.
- The Executive Director will review financial reports each month.
- ExED will present the financial reports to the Governing Board at each meeting.

### Audit

**Policy:** The Governing Board will contract annually with a qualified independent certified public accounting firm to conduct an audit of the organization's financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and, if applicable, the *U.S Office of Management and Budget's Circular A-133*. The selected audit firm must be familiar with these standards, related State of California and Charter School regulations, and the *Standards and Procedures for Audits of California K-12 Local Education Agencies Audit Guide* (which can be found at <http://eaap.ca.gov/audit-guide/current-audit-guide-booklet/>), in order to properly conduct the audit engagement.

After six consecutive fiscal years, the organization will contract with a new audit firm or require a change/rotation in audit partners in the seventh year, unless a waiver is obtained from the Educational Audit Appeals Panel. (Education Code 41020).

**Procedures:**

- The Governing Board may appoint an Audit Committee of one or more persons each year as necessary
- The Audit Committee may include persons who are not members of the board, but may not include any members of the staff of the corporation, including the president or CEO or the treasurer or CFO. In addition, any person with expenditure authorization or recording responsibilities within the organization may not serve on the committee.

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- The Governing Board or Audit Committee will be responsible for contracting with an audit firm by March 1 of each year, unless the existing contract is a multi-year contract.
- The Governing Board or Audit Committee will be responsible for reviewing the results of the annual audit and developing a corrective action plan to address all relevant weaknesses noted by the auditor.
- The Governing Board will review and approve the audit no later than December 15.
- The audit firm will be responsible for submitting the audit to all reporting agencies no later than December 15.

## Tax Compliance

### Exempt Organization Returns

**Policy:** The audit firm contracted by the Governing Board to conduct the annual financial audit will prepare the annual Federal Form 990 and the California Form 199. The tax forms are to be filed no later than May 15 of each year.

#### Procedures:

- ExED will work with the tax preparer to complete the organization's tax returns.
- The Executive Director will review the tax returns before submitting to the Governing Board for final approval prior to May 15.
- The Form 990 will be available to the public via GuideStar, an information service specializing in reporting on U.S. nonprofit companies.

### Quarterly/Annual Payroll Reports

**Policy:** ExED will prepare the state and federal quarterly and annual payroll tax forms and will submit the forms to the respective agencies within established deadlines.

#### Procedures:

- ExED will prepare employee W2s by January 31 each year.
- ExED will file quarterly payroll tax reports (941 and DE9) by the filing deadline.

## Revenue & Accounts Receivable

### Cash Receipts

**Policy:** Cash receipts (including check or cash payments received via mail or in person and deposits received via Electronic Fund Transfer) shall be recorded completely and accurately to prevent the misappropriation of assets.

#### Procedures:

- For each fundraising or other event in which cash or checks will be collected, the Executive Director will designate a staff member to be responsible for managing the process to collect and hold all cash and checks related to the event.

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- The designee will record each transaction in a receipt book or document each item sold at the time the transaction is made in a log or similar.
- The designee shall give the cash, checks, deposit summary, and any related supporting documentation to the Operations Director immediately.
- The Operations Director and the designee will recount and reconcile the amount received with the supplied supporting documentation and each will sign for approval. The Operations Director will immediately put the funds in a secure, locked location.
- Cash/checks dropped off in the classroom will be held by the teacher. Each morning, the teacher will collect all forms, payments, etc. that have been brought in by students that day and place them in a large envelope. Before the end of the work day, the teacher will bring the envelope from his/her classroom to the office where the cash/checks will be counted by the teacher and the Operations Director.
- Mail (including anything official such as governmental notices, invoices and checks) received at the school must be opened by office staff members and stamped with a "received" stamp. If possible, the person opening the mail should not also be responsible for making bank deposits.
- Once a week, the Operations Director will log cash or checks received into the Cash Receipts Book. Copies of Cash Receipt records should be sent to ExED for posting into the general ledger.
- When utilizing merchant or online web contribution services, appropriate segregation of duties shall be in place to ensure that no single person is able to perform incompatible functions (custody, recording, approving).

### Deposits

**Policy:** The Executive Director or designee is responsible for making bank deposits. Deposits totaling less than \$2,000 will be made weekly. Deposits totaling more than \$2,000 will be deposited within 72 hours.

#### **Procedures:**

- The Operations Director will restrictively endorse each check received (e.g. For Deposit Only New Heights Charter School).
- The Operations Director will prepare a deposit packet itemizing the amount, source, and purpose of each check or cash payment received. The deposit packet will include a copy of each check and a bank deposit slip.
- The Executive Director will review and approve the deposit packet.
- The Executive Director or designee will make the deposit and attach the deposit receipt to the deposit packet.
- The Operations Director will forward the deposit packet to ExED.
- ExED will reconcile the cash receipts to the deposit slip and the bank statement as part of the monthly close process.

## Expense & Accounts Payable

### Payroll

**Policy:** Employees are paid on a semi-monthly basis (15<sup>th</sup> and end of month). Under the supervision of the Executive Director, ExED will be responsible for processing payroll through a third-party provider.

#### Time Sheet Preparation & Approval

**Policy:** All non-exempt employees are required to record time worked, holidays, and leave taken for payroll, benefits tracking, and cost allocation purposes.

#### Procedures:

- Non-exempt employees will be responsible for completing a timesheet, recording hours worked and vacation, sick or holiday time if applicable.
- Each non-exempt employee will approve his/her timesheet via his/her signature or submission through the payroll system.
- Each supervisor will review and approve his/her employees' timesheets by signing each timesheet or approving each timesheet in the payroll system.
- Supervisors will return, either physically or via the payroll system, incomplete timesheets to the employee for revision.
- If an employee is unexpectedly absent and therefore prevented from working on the last day of the pay period or turning in his/her timesheet, the employee is responsible for notifying the signatory supervisor or for making other arrangements to submit the timesheet. The employee must still complete and submit the timesheet upon return.
- Salaried employees are responsible for requesting leave, and supervisors are responsible for tracking leave taken by salaried employees.

#### Payroll Additions, Deletions, and Changes

**Policy:** The Executive Director is authorized to approve all payroll changes within the scope of his/her budget authority.

#### Procedures:

- The Executive Director or designee will submit, either physically or electronically via payroll system, new hire or employee change paperwork to ExED prior to the payroll deadline for the first pay period in which the change or addition is to go into effect.

#### Payroll Preparation & Approval

**Policy:** ExED will prepare payroll in accordance with the organization's payroll calendar.

#### Procedures:

- Five days prior to each check date, the Executive Director or designee will review electronic time cards within the payroll system to ensure that they are complete and approved for that pay period.

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- The ExED Accounting Analyst, Associate, or Senior Associate assigned to the organization will prepare payroll upon notification from the Executive Director that payroll for that pay period is approved.
- Once processed, the payroll processor ExED Accounting Manager (AM) or Vice President (VP), School Finance will review the Payroll Review Report for accuracy and completeness and will review the Employee Change Report to verify the appropriateness of all changes..
- The ExED Accounting Manager or Vice President, School Finance will submit payroll to the 3<sup>rd</sup> party payroll provider for check (if applicable) and direct deposit processing.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> party payroll provider will deliver the payroll package to the organization address on file one day prior to the check date (if applicable).
- The Executive Director or designee will be responsible for opening the payroll package, reviewing reports for accuracy, and notifying ExED of any missing check (if applicable).
- The Executive Director or designee will distribute pay stubs to employees on the check date (if applicable).

### Pay Upon Termination

**Policy:** Employees who are discharged shall be paid all wages due at the time of termination. (Labor Code § 201) Employees who quit without giving prior notice shall be paid wages within 72 hours (inclusive of weekends and holidays). If the employee gives at least 72 hours' notice, the wages must be paid on the last day worked. (Labor Code § 202)

#### Procedures:

- The Executive Director or designee will inform ExED of any voluntary or involuntary termination immediately and will provide an accounting of the hours/days worked since the last payroll and any accrued Paid Time Off (PTO) to be paid.
- ExED will calculate the final check based on the hours/days worked and the employee's pay rate.
- ExED or the Executive Director will prepare the final check based on the final check calculation. ExED will provide ExED-generated checks to the school in accordance with the timelines required by law. The organization is responsible for obtaining the employee's signature on the final check acknowledgement.
- An employee who quits without 72 hours' notice may request that his or her final wage payment be mailed to a designated address. The date of mailing will be considered the date of payment. (Labor Code § 202)
- The final check may not be provided via direct deposit unless agreed to by the employee and the organization.
- The organization must provide ExED with a list of non-returning staff two weeks prior to the last day of instruction to ensure that final checks are distributed in accordance with labor law.

### Purchases & Procurement

**Policy:** All purchases must be authorized by the Executive Director. Any single expenditure in excess of \$5,000 for the purchase of a single item should have bids from three (3) suppliers if possible. Any food contract that exceeds \$150,000 (the small purchase threshold set by the US Department of Agriculture) shall follow a competitive bid process.

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Goods or services purchased with federal funds must follow federal procurement guidelines as outlined in Education Department General Administration Regulations (EDGAR), Part 80—Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, Sub-part C (Post Award Requirements), Section 80.36 (Procurement) located at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.html>.

The Governing Board must approve any contract over \$10,000.

### **Procedures:**

- All purchases over \$100 require a purchase requisition, while service related expenditures require service contracts.
- The Executive Director will approve the purchase requisition after determining:
  - If the expenditure is budgeted.
  - If funds are available for the expenditure.
  - If the expenditure is allowable under the appropriate revenue source.
  - If the expenditure is appropriate and consistent with the vision, approved charter, school policies and procedures and any related laws or applicable regulations.
  - If the price is competitive and prudent and proper bidding procedures have been followed.
- The Governing Board will review expenditures during each board meeting through the review of a check register that will list all checks written since the Governing Board's last meeting and will include the check #, check date, payee, and check amount.

### **Contracts**

- The Executive Director will consider in-house capabilities to accomplish services before contracting for them.
- The Operations Director will keep and maintain a contract file evidencing the competitive bids obtained (if any were required).
- The Operations Director will confirm that the contractor is not listed in the US government's Suspended or Disbarred list via a search of the System for Award Management ([www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)). The Operations Director will keep a record of all searches.
- The Director of Operations Director will ensure that a written contract clearly defining work to be performed is on file for all contract service providers (i.e. consultants, independent contractors, subcontractors).
- Contract service providers must show proof of being licensed and bonded, if applicable, and of having adequate liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance currently in effect. The Executive Director may also require that contract service providers list the school as an additional insured.
- The Executive Director will approve proposed contracts and modifications in writing.
- Contract service providers will be paid in accordance with approved contracts as work is performed.
- The Executive Director will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the contracts are fulfilled.
- Potential conflicts of interest will be disclosed upfront, and the Executive Director and/or Member(s) of the Governing Board with the conflict will excuse themselves from discussions and from voting on the contract.

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- The Director of Operations will ensure that a current written contract for all contract service providers is kept on file in one centralized location organized by year.
- All contract updated or amendments will approved by the Board of Director and then filed/attached to the original contract agreement.

### Credit Cards

**Policy:** Organization credit cards shall only be issued with the formal approval of the Governing Board and may only be used for organization-related expenditures.

#### Procedures:

- Purchase requisition and other documentation requirements apply to credit card purchases.
- The bank and/or consumer credit card (Amazon, Home Depot, Staples, etc.) will be kept under the supervision of the card holder.
- An itemized receipt should be turned in for all purchases.
- If receipts are not available, missing or contain an inappropriate expense, the individual making the charge will be held responsible for payment.
- In the case of a missing receipt, a missing receipt form shall be submitted and approved by the Executive Director. Should the Executive Director be required to complete a “missing receipt” form, authorization must be granted by a member of the Governing Board.
- Credit cards will bear the names of both the organization and the cardholder as authorized by the Governing Board.
- No personal charges are permitted.
- All reward points or discounts are property of the school. Use of such points or discounts is at the discretion of the Executive Director and should be used for the benefit of the organization.
- Upon termination, the employee shall immediately return the credit card and all receipts to the Executive Director.

### Debit Cards

**Policy:** Organization debit cards are not permitted.

#### Procedures:

If a debit card is automatically issued by the bank, the Executive Director will:

- Contact the bank to deactivate debit card service from the account.
- Destroy the physical debit card.

### Independent Contractors

**Policy:** The organization will comply with all applicable federal and state laws relative to the use of independent contractors.

#### Procedures:

- The Executive Director has the authority to establish a contract with an independent contractor and is responsible for verifying that the person is appropriately classified as an independent contractor and not as an employee and for obtaining a Form W-9.
- School employees may not serve as independent contractor.

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- Contract service providers must show proof of being licensed and bonded, if applicable, and of having adequate liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance currently in effect. The Executive Director may also require that contract service providers list the school as an additional insured.
- All services performed by independent contractors will be processed as accounts payable.
- At the close of the calendar year, ExED will issue a Form 1099 to all independent contractors in accordance with IRS regulations

### Invoice Approval & Processing

**Policy:** The Executive Director must approve all invoices. The following procedures will be performed either manually or electronically.

#### Procedures:

- The Operations Director or designee will open and review invoices and bills and will notify the Executive Director of any unexpected or unauthorized expense.
- When receiving tangible goods from a vendor, the Operations Director or designee will trace the merchandise to the packing list and note any items that were not in the shipment.
- The Operations Director or designee will code invoices to the correct budget line.
- Invoices are then routed to the Executive Director for payment approval.
- If the vendor is a sole proprietor or a partnership (including LP, and LLP) providing a service, the Operations Director will obtain a W-9 from the vendor prior to submitting any requests for payments to ExED.
- ExED will review the invoice for sufficient supporting documentation, verify the coding, and process payment.

### Cash Disbursements

**Policy:** Vendor payments will be issued upon receipt of appropriate documentation (e.g. vendor invoice, purchase order, packing slip, etc.).

**Procedures:** ExED employs two methods for issuing vendor payments:

#### Bank Check

- Once an invoice is approved by the Executive Director for payment, the ExED Accounting Analyst will prepare an in-sequence check and will submit the check to the ExED AM or VP. If payment is via ACH, the ExED Accounting Analyst will prepare the ACH for approval by the ExED AM or VP.
- If payment is made by check, the ExED AM or VP will review the supporting documentation for completeness and the check for accuracy and will sign the check with the Executive Director's facsimile signature stamp, which is maintained in a secured location when not in use.
- ExED will distribute the check as follows:
  - Original – mailed or delivered to payee
  - Duplicate or voucher – attached to the invoice and filed by vendor name by an ExED accountant.
- Should a check need to be voided, "VOID" will be written in ink on the signature line of the check.

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- Bank Checks will be considered stale dated in alignment with the timeline for Nvoicepay/Corpay, which is currently 180 days. The organization will provide ExED with direction regarding re-issuing payments for each stale dated item in a timely manner and will complete any steps required to void the bank check, such as a Stop Payment order with the bank.

### Nvoicepay (outsourced payment provider)

- Once an invoice is approved by Executive Director for payment, the ExED Accounting Analyst will submit the invoice to Nvoicepay for payment. The ExED AM or VP will review the payments submitted to Nvoicepay and will approve or reject each vendor payment.
- After ExED has approved a vendor payment, Nvoicepay will electronically withdraw funds from the organization's bank account and transfer the funds to a Nvoicepay trust account. Each vendor payment will be a separate bank withdrawal and a separate line on the bank statement. Nvoicepay will then issue payments to the organization's vendor. The payments are disbursed from Nvoicepay's trust account via one of three payment methods: Check, ACH, or payment card. The payments will include a Reference ID that ExED will record as the transaction number in ExED's accounting system. The Reference ID will not be in sequence as it is based on Nvoicepay's numbering system.
- Nvoicepay will save an electronic check copy for any paper checks issued and Nvoicepay will save vendor remittances for any ACH or payment card payments issued.
- Nvoicepay will stale date payments after 180 days. When this situation happens, Nvoicepay will void the payment and credit the funds back to the organization's bank account. ExED may also direct Nvoicepay to reissue a payment prior to the 180-day deadline. In this case, Nvoicepay will void the original payment and issue a new payment. The new payment will be recorded as a payment modification and will be linked to the original payment in Nvoicepay. The new payment will have a new Reference ID for tracking purposes, however, the new Reference ID will not be updated in ExED's accounting system where the original Reference ID is recorded as the new transaction is only impacting Nvoicepay's account.

## Returned Checks

**Policy:** A returned-check processing fee will be charged for checks returned as non-sufficient funds (NSF).

### **Procedures:**

- Unless otherwise pre-approved by the Executive Director, payment of the NSF check and processing fee must be made by money order or certified check.
- In the event that a second NSF check is received for any individual, in addition to the processing fee, the individual will lose check-writing privileges. Payment of the NSF check, the processing fee and any subsequent payment(s) by that individual must be made by money order or certified check.
- If unsuccessful in collecting funds owed, the school may initiate appropriate collection and/or legal action at the discretion of the Executive Director and/or Governing Board.

## Wire Transfers

**Policy:** Wire transfers initiated by the client or ExED will be executed upon receipt of appropriate documentation (e.g. vendor invoice, purchase order, packing slip, etc.). Any wire transfer over \$75,000 must also receive approval from a member of the Board.

### Procedures for ExED executed wire transfers:

- ExED will initiate and execute wire transfers with supporting documentation for the following:
  - Routine wires initiated and executed by ExED:
    - Semi-monthly Payroll
    - LACOE Retirement contributions
- All other ExED executed wire transfers will adhere to the following procedures:
  - Executive Director or Director of Operations will review all supporting documentation and approve. The school will then send all documentation to ExED
  - ExED will execute the wire transfer

### Procedures for client initiated and executed wire transfers:

- Someone other than the Executive Director (wire approver) shall prepare all supporting documentation for the wire transfer
- Executive Director will review all supporting documentation and approve in writing
- School will send all documentation to ExED

## Petty Cash

**Policy:** The Operations Director will keep a petty cash box not to exceed \$200. Petty cash will be kept in a lockbox that is stored in a secure location. Access to the cash box should be limited to authorized personnel. Petty cash shall only be used for reasonable and allowable school purposes (not advances, personal uses, reimbursements, etc.).

### Procedures:

- The Operations Director will manage the petty cash fund.
- The Operations Director will maintain a log of all disbursements made from the petty cash fund and will use a petty cash slip for all disbursements. The petty cash slip must be signed by the Operations Director and the petty cash recipient.
- Within 48 hours of the petty cash withdrawal, the petty cash recipient will submit an original receipt to the Operations Director who will attach the receipt to the petty cash slip and store in the petty cash box.
- At all times the petty cash box must contain receipts, petty cash slips, and cash totaling \$200.
- When the petty cash balance is low the Operations Director will prepare a petty cash reimbursement form, totaling all the petty cash disbursements and attaching the original petty cash slips and receipts to the form. The Executive Director will review and approve the petty cash reimbursement form and supporting documentation.
- The Operations Director will forward the petty cash reimbursement form and original supporting documentation to ExED.
- The ExED Accounting Analyst will record the petty cash disbursements in the general ledger and issue a check made payable to the Operations Director in the amount of the total petty cash disbursement.

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- It is the Operations Director's responsibility to cash the check and to keep track of funds in the box. Reconciliation must occur when funds are replenished, and/or at a minimum, annually.
- ExED will conduct surprise counts of the petty cash fund.
- Loans will not be made from the petty cash fund.

### Employee and Volunteer Expense Reimbursements

**Policy:** The organization will reimburse pre-authorized school-related expenses that are accompanied by an original receipt or other appropriate documentation. Only the Executive Director may incur school-related expenses without pre-approval.

#### Procedures:

- An employee or school volunteer seeking to make a school-related purchase must obtain pre-approval from the Executive Director.
- Employees will submit signed expense reports, as necessary, to the Executive Director for approval. It is encouraged for staff to submit each quarter: August, November, March and June. Original receipts or other appropriate documentation (e.g. e-mail receipt) must be attached to the expense report.
- Executive Director expense reports must be approved by a member of the board.
- The Operations Director or designee will submit the approved expense report and supporting documentation to ExED.
- ExED will issue a reimbursement check within five business days of receipt of appropriate and complete documentation.
- Employees will submit expense reports within the fiscal year in which the expenses were incurred.
- The organization reserves the right to refuse reimbursement for any inappropriate expenses made.

### Travel Expenses

**Policy:** The Executive Director must pre-approve all school related travel. Mileage will be reimbursed at the organization-approved mileage rate, not to exceed the current IRS reimbursement rate. Operations Coordinator/Designee will update the latest mileage rate on reimbursement recap sheets per IRS guidelines at the beginning of the calendar year.

#### Procedures:

- For the purposes of mileage reimbursement, where a trip is commenced or terminated at the employee's home, the distance traveled shall be reduced by the employee's home-to-office commute distance.
- Employees will be reimbursed for overnight stays at hotels/motels when pre-approved by Executive Director and the event is more than 50 miles from either the employee's residence or the school site.
- Employees will be reimbursed up to the established per diem rate found at (<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/100120> - US Government Rates) for any breakfast, lunch, dinner, lodging or incidental expense that is not included as part of the related event. Employees will be responsible for any excess expenses beyond the established per diem rate except for in cases where per diem rate for lodging is not offered.
- Transportation expenses such as airfare will be purchased at the lowest rate available.

## NEW HEIGHTS CHARTER SCHOOL FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Approved by the Board of Directors, February 2025

Employees should utilize bus/shuttle service whenever possible. When traveling in groups, taxis may be more economical. Employees should choose between long-term parking or a taxi based on whichever is the more economical for the organization.

- After the trip, the employee must enter all of the appropriate information on an expense report, attach original receipts, and submit it to the Executive Director for approval and then on to ExED for processing.

### Governing Board Expenses

- The individual incurring authorized expenses while carrying out the duties of the school will complete and sign an expense report and attach original receipts.
- The Executive Director and/or another board member will approve and sign the expense report, and submit it to ExED for payment.

## Asset Management

### Cash Management and Investments

**Policy:** All funds will be maintained in high quality financial institution or invested with the following objectives in order of priority; preservation and safety of principal, liquidity, and yield.

#### Procedures:

- The Executive Director will obtain Governing Board approval before opening or closing a bank account.
- Governing Board will adopt an investment policy before funds are to be invested.

### Capital Equipment

**Policy:** The organization capitalizes any item, purchased or donated, with a value of \$1,000 or more and with a useful life of more than one year.

#### Procedures:

- ExED will maintain a ledger of all capitalized items. The ledger will include the original purchase price and date and a brief description of the asset.
- The organization will take a physical inventory of all assets within 90 days of the end of each fiscal year, indicating the condition and location of the asset.
- The Executive Director will be notified of all cases of theft, loss, damage or destruction of assets.
- The Operations Director will submit to ExED written notification of plans for disposing of assets with a clear and complete description of the asset and the date of the disposal.

### Loans

**Policy:** The Governing Board will approve all loans from third parties. In the case of a long-term loan, approval may also be required from the chartering authority in accordance with the terms of the charter and/or other lenders in accordance with the loan documents.

- Employee loans, including salary advances, are not allowed.

#### Procedures:

- The Executive Director and/or Governing Board designee shall review and sign the promissory note before funds are borrowed.
- Loan agreements should specify all applicable terms, including the purpose of the loan, the interest rate, and the repayment schedule.

## NEW HEIGHTS CHARTER SCHOOL FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Approved by the Board of Directors, February 2025

- Loan covenants and reporting requirements are to be acknowledged by the board at the time of adoption.

### Insurance

**Policy:** The organization will maintain insurance with a high quality insurance agency at all times for:

- General Liability
- Property
- Workers' Compensation
- Professional Liability
- Directors' and Officers' Coverage

Umbrella and student accident policies are considered prudent add-ons.

#### Procedures:

- The Executive Director will carefully review insurance policies with the Broker on an annual basis prior to renewal to determine compliance with Charter authorizer and any applicable loan covenant requirements.
- The Operations Director will forward to ExED all insurance policies and related documents (e.g. certificates of insurance, claim forms, etc.).

### Parking Lot Liability

**Policy:** The organization assumes no liability for damage to cars unless a student is observed by an adult accidentally causing damage to a vehicle while engaged in a school activity.

#### Procedures:

- If a student willfully causes damage the student's parent or guardian is responsible.
- If a parent or other visitor causes damage, that individual is responsible.
- If an employee causes damage, the employee is responsible.
- If an unknown person causes damage and there is no witness, the affected individual would determine if he/she has applicable coverage through his/her individual insurance policies.

### Operating Reserves

**Policy:** The organization will ensure adequate cash balances to meet annual cash flow needs. The target minimum operating reserve fund is recommended to be equal to 3 months of average operating costs. The amount of Operating Reserves will be calculated each year after approval of the annual budget and included in monthly financial reports.

#### Procedures:

- ExED will monitor the organization's reserve level and will report the reserve level to the Executive Director and the Governing Board on a monthly basis.
- It is the responsibility of the Executive Director and the Governing Board to understand the organization's cash situation and it is the responsibility of the Executive Director to prioritize payments as necessary to manage cash flow.
- The Governing Board may restrict a portion of the operating reserve fund for strategic goals.
- The Governing Board may develop an additional Operating Reserve Policy to specify use of the Operating Reserves.