

# **LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

## **FISCAL AND OPERATING POLICIES**

## **100 INTERNAL CONTROL POLICIES**

### *101 Introduction*

Internal control policies provide the Charter School with the foundation to properly safeguard its assets, implement management's internal policies, provide compliance with state and federal laws and regulations and produce timely and accurate financial information. Additionally, as a publicly supported entity, the Charter School has additional responsibilities to ensure the public's confidence and the integrity of the School's activities.

## **102 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS**

The Charter School will follow all the relevant laws and regulations that govern the Charter School. Additionally, any Federal Government laws and regulations that relate to grant funding will be adopted as the grant funding is received. The following are specific policies of the Charter School:

### **A. Political Contributions**

No funds or assets of the Charter School may be contributed to any political party or organization or to any individual who either holds public office or is a candidate for public office. The direct or indirect use of any funds or other assets of the Charter School for political contributions in any form, whether in cash or other property, services, or the use of facilities, is strictly prohibited. The Charter School also cannot be involved with any committee or other organization that raises funds for political purposes.

Following are examples of prohibited activities

1. Contributions by an employee that are reimbursed through expense accounts or in other ways.
2. Purchase by the organization of tickets for political fundraising events.
3. Contributions in kind, such as lending employees to political parties or using the School assets in political campaigns.

B. Record Keeping

To provide an accurate and auditable record of all financial transactions, the School's books, records, and accounts are maintained in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to Charter Schools.

Further, the School specifically requires that:

1. No funds or accounts may be established or maintained for purposes that are not fully and accurately described within the books and records of the Charter School.
2. Receipts and disbursements must be fully and accurately described in the books and records.
3. No false entries may be made on the books or records nor any false or misleading reports issued.
4. Payments may be made only to the contracting party and only for the actual services rendered or products delivered. No false or fictitious invoices may be paid.

**200 Organizational Conflict Of Interest Or Self-Dealing (Related Parties)**

The School will not be operated for the benefit of an affiliated or unaffiliated organization or an individual in his or her own private capacity or individuals related to the Charter School or members of its management, unless the private benefit is considered merely incidental. This private benefit preclusion will extend to:

- A. Sale or exchange, or leasing, of property between the agency and an affiliated or unaffiliated organization or a private or related individual.
- B. Lending of money or other extension of credit between an agency and an affiliated or unaffiliated organization or a private or related individual.
- C. Furnishing of goods, services or facilities between the agency and an affiliated or unaffiliated organization or a private or related individual.
- D. Payment of compensation, unless authorized by the Board of Trustees or its governing body, by the School to an affiliated or unaffiliated organization or a private or related individual.
- E. Transfer to, use by, or for the benefit of a private or related individual of the income or assets of the School.

201 *Organizational Conflict Of Interest Or Self-Dealing (Related Parties) - continued*

Thus, the Charter School will be guided by the principle of arms-length standards with all affiliated or unaffiliated organizations or with a private or related individual(s).

Related party transactions shall include transactions between a school and members of the board, management, contracted management organization, employees, related individuals and affiliated companies. Related individuals within the scope of this definition include spouses, parents, children, spouses of children, grandchildren, siblings, father in law, mother in law, sister in law and brother in law of a board member or school employee.

202 *Board Of Trustees Authorities*

The Board of Trustees shall have the sole authority to approve and will incorporate into its own minutes such matters as (i) change of the School's name, with LAUSD pre-approval (ii) adoption of the annual operating and capital budgets, (iii) selection or termination of key employees (iv) key employees salary and salary changes, (v) incurrence of debt, mortgages or other encumbrances and their covenants and restrictions, within the terms of the charter (vi) investment policies, (vii) depository and investment banks, (viii) purchase or sale of property (ix) opening up or closing checking or savings accounts, and (x) selection of the Charter School's certified public accountants and (xi) other activities associated with the operations of the Charter School.

The Board of Trustees will meet monthly to ensure that its fiduciary duty is maintained. The Board will review the following: prior meeting minutes, business items, educational items, and subcommittee reports.

203 *Signature Authorities*

To properly segregate duties within the Charter School, the President of the Board and the Charter Executive Director are the only individuals with signatory authority and are responsible for authorizing all cash transactions. Individual checks greater than \$5,000 will require dual signatures prior to check issuance.

204 *Government Access to Records*

The Business Manager or contracted business back office services provider will provide access to the organization's records to the LAUSD CFO or his designee and provide supporting records, as requested, in a timely manner.

205 *Security of Financial Data*

- A. The system's accounting data must be backed up daily by the business back office services provider to ensure the recoverability of financial information in case of hardware failure. The back up will be stored in a fire safe area and properly secured.
- C. All other financial data, petty cash box, unused checks and unclaimed checks will be secured by the Business Manager or the business back office services provider from unauthorized access.

206 *Security of School Documents*

Originals of the following corporate documents are maintained and their presence is verified on a periodic basis:

- A. Charter and all related amendments
- B. Minutes of the Board of Trustees and subcommittees
- C. Banking agreements
- D. Leases
- E. Insurance policies
- F. Vendor invoices
- G. Grant and contract agreements
- H. Fixed asset inventory list

2079 *Use of School Assets*

- A. No employee may use any of the School property, equipment, material or supplies for personal use without the prior approval of the Business Manager or Executive Director.

208 *Use Of School Credit Cards*

- A. Charter School credit cards should only be issued with the formal approval of the Board of Trustee and with proper justification. The cost/benefit to the Charter School should be fully reviewed to ensure that no other method is appropriate. If credit cards are issued they should be assigned to certain Charter School employees and should be used only for school-related expenditures. All charges must be supported by invoices or travel reports to be eligible for payment by the Charter School.
- B. Monthly credit card statements are reconciled to invoices and travel reports and are approved by the Executive Director, unless not deemed independent than the approval would be by the Board of Trustees.

## **300 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

### *301 Basis Of Accounting*

The Charter School will maintain their accounting records and related financial reports on the accrual basis of accounting.

### *302 Accounting Policies*

The accounting policies and financial reporting adopted are consistent with the special purpose governmental unit requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), including Statement of Governmental Accounting Standards No. 34 – *Basic Financial Statements – and Management’s Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments*. GASB is the recognized standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

### *303 Basis of Presentation*

The accounts of the Charter School are organized on a basis of the School Account Code Structure or SACS. The operations of the fund are accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts, which comprise its assets, liabilities, net assets, revenues and expenditures. The Charter School uses the following fund:

*Main Fund\_\_* - This fund of the Charter School is used to account for all financial resources associated with the operation of the school. In addition, all activities relating to Student Activities should be separately identified and recorded within this fund.

### *304 Revenues*

Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues recognized when earned.

### *305 Expenditures*

Under the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized when services are incurred or goods are received.

306 *Incurred Costs*

For the purpose of invoicing funding sources for allowable costs under cost reimbursement contracts, the term "costs incurred" is defined as follows:

- A. Costs related to items or services incurred directly for the contract and received at the time of the request for reimbursement and is not specifically disallowed by the funding source.

307 *Cash Management*

- A. The School maintains cash accounts at the following banks:
  - 1. Operating – Chase
- B. A schedule of aged accounts and grants receivable is prepared monthly and reviewed by the Executive Director for collection. Appropriate collection procedures are initiated, if necessary.

308 *Grants Receivable Aging Criteria*

Accounts receivable outstanding are aged on a thirty, sixty, ninety, and over-ninety day basis.

309 *Grant/Contract Invoicing*

- A. All invoices are submitted to the funding sources by dates specified in the grant or contract agreement.
- B. The invoicing format is that specified by the funding source.

310 *Budgets*

- A. The Charter School prepares an annual operating budget of revenues and expenses, a cash flow projection, and a capital budget. These budgets and projection are reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees, at the annual meeting and modified, as necessary.
- B. Financial statements displaying budget vs. actual results are prepared by the back office services provider and reviewed by the Executive Director and presented to the Board of Trustees at each monthly board meeting.

311 *Insurance And Bonding*

- A. The School maintains minimum levels of coverage, as deemed appropriate by the Board of Trustees, for the follow policies:
  - 1. General liability
  - 2. Business & personal property (including auto/bus)
  - 3. Computer equipment
  - 4. Workers' compensation
  - 5. Personal injury liability
- B. The School requires proof of adequate insurance coverage from all prospective contractors, as deemed applicable by the Board of Trustees.

312 *Record Retention And Disposal*

- A. Records are maintained for the following indicated minimum periods:
  - 1. Books, records, documents and other supporting evidence including paid, cancelled or voided checks, accounts payable records, vendors' invoices, payroll sheets and registers of salaries and wages, tax withholding statements, employees' timesheets and other public documents are retained for seven years after the original entry date.
- B. All records not supporting government grants or otherwise covered by rules of the Internal Revenue Service are retained for three years from the end of the fiscal year in which the records were originally prepared.

312 *Record Retention And Disposal - continued*

- E. All financial records are maintained in chronological order, organized by fiscal year.
- F. In connection with the disposal of any records, a memorandum of record disposal is prepared by the Business Manager listing the record or the class of records disposed of. The Board of Trustees certifies this memorandum of records disposal.

313 *Financial Reporting*

The back office services provider maintains supporting records in sufficient detail to prepare the School's financial reports, including:

- A. Annually:
  - 1. Financial statements for audit
  - 2. Annual budget
- B. Monthly:
  - 1. Trial balance



2. Internally generated budget vs. actual financial statements
3. Billing invoices to funding sources
4. Updating the cash flow projection

C. Periodically:

1. IRS Forms 941 and payroll tax returns and comparable state taxing authority returns
2. Other reports upon request

314 *Audit*

The Board of Trustees arranges annually for a qualified certified public accounting firm to conduct an audit of the Charter School's financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and the *Governmental Accounting Standards Board*.

The audit reports will be submitted to the granting agency, (starting 2002) California Department of Education, (starting 2003) County Superintendent of Schools, and State Controller's Office by December 15 of each year. (Education Code 47605(m))

315 *Audit/Finance Committee*

The Board of Trustees appoints an audit/finance subcommittee. This subcommittee will nominate the independent auditor and review the scope and results of the audit. The audit/finance subcommittee also receives notice of any consequential irregularities and management letter comments that the auditor noted during the engagement. Additionally, the subcommittee will develop a corrective action plan to address all relevant weaknesses noted by the auditor. The audit/finance subcommittee will also review all financial information of the Charter School and provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

**400 POLICIES RELATED TO ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY**

401 *ASSETS*

402 *Bank Accounts*

- A. Bank accounts for the indicated purpose and limitation(s) have been authorized by the Board of Trustees of the School at the indicated Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)-insured banks :

*Name of Bank*

403 *Petty Cash Payments*

- A. Petty cash payments are made from a fund not to exceed \$150, and should be for cash advances, local expense reimbursement and small-dollar vendor purchases, provided proper documentation is furnished with each request. No individual payment shall be greater than \$75.

- B. The petty cash account is balanced on a monthly basis by the petty cash custodian. The replenishment check is made out to “(Custodian’s name) - *Petty Cash Custodian*” on an as needed basis.

404 *LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY*

405 *Accounts Payable*

Only valid accounts payable transactions based on documented vendor invoices, receiving report or other approved documentation are recorded as accounts payable.

406 *Accounts Payable Payment Policy*

Vendors and suppliers are paid as their payment terms require, taking advantage of any discounts offered. If cash flow problems exist, payments are made on a greatest dependency/greatest need basis.

407 *Accrued Liabilities*

Salaries, wages earned, and payroll taxes, together with professional fees, rent, and insurance costs incurred, but unpaid, are reflected as a liability when entitlement to payment occurs.

408 *Liability For Compensated Absences*

- A. Compensated absences arise from employees' absences from employment due to vacation leave. When the Charter School expects to pay an employee for such compensated absences, a liability for the estimated probable future payments is accrued if all of the following conditions are met:
  - 1. The employee's right to receive compensation for the future absences is attributable to services already performed by the employee.
  - 2. The employee's right to receive the compensation for the future absences is vested or accumulates.
  - 3. It is probable that the compensation will be paid.
  - 4. The amount of compensation is reasonably estimable.
- B. Compensated absences not required to be paid upon employee termination is only recorded when paid.

409 *Debt*

- A. When applicable, short-term debt consists of financing expected to be paid within one year of the date of the annual audited financial statements. Long-term debt consists of financing that is not expected to be repaid within one year and is recorded in the Enterprise Fund.
- B. Loan agreements approved by the Board of Trustees should be in writing and should specify all applicable terms, including the purpose of the loan, the interest rate, and the repayment schedule.

## **500 REVENUE**

### *501 Revenue Recognition*

The School records revenue on the accrual basis of accounting, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles applicable to special purpose governmental units.

## **600 FACILITIES**

### *601 Disposal Of Property And Equipment*

- A. No item of property or equipment shall be removed from the premises without prior approval from the Business Manager.
- B. The School has adopted standard disposition procedures for Charter School staff to follow, which include a *Asset Disposal Form*, which identifies the asset, the reason for disposition, and signature of the requester. The form also allows for an identification of the asset's book value, condition of the asset, and supervisory approval or denial.
- C. When property is retired, the appropriate asset in the fixed asset subsidiary will be adjusted and properly reflected in the Enterprise Fund.

## **700 PROCUREMENT POLICIES**

*701* The School adheres to the following objectives:

- 1. Procurements will be completely impartial based strictly on the merits of supplier and contractor proposals and applicable related considerations such as delivery, quantity, etc.
  - 2. Make all purchases in the best interests of the School and its funding sources.
  - 3. Obtain quality supplies/services needed for delivery at the time and place required.
  - 4. Buy from responsible sources of supply.
  - 5. Obtain maximum value for all expenditures.
  - 6. Deal fairly and impartially with all vendors.
  - 7. Maintain dependable sources of supply.
  - 8. Be above suspicion of unethical behavior at all times; avoid any conflict of interest, related parties or even the appearance of a conflict of interest in the Charter School supplier relationships.
- A. The Charter School will execute a *Purchase Order* for all purchases and it shall be approved by the Executive Director for purchases less than \$5,000 and by the Board of Trustees if greater than \$5,000.

- B. All lease agreements will be evidenced by a lease or sublease agreement approved by the Board of Trustees and signed by the Executive Director. The agreement will identify all the terms and conditions of the lease.

## **800 TRAVEL POLICIES**

### *801 Employee Mileage Reimbursement*

- A. All employees are reimbursed at the standard mileage rate per mile as determined by the Internal Revenue Service for use of their own vehicle for business related travel. In addition, parking fees and tolls paid are reimbursable if supported by invoices.
- B. All employees requesting such mileage reimbursement are required to furnish a *Travel Report* containing the destination of each trip, its purpose and the miles driven, parking fees and tolls, within one month after the travel date, supported by invoices, if applicable.

## **900 CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS**

### *901 Consultant Utilization*

The utilization of all consultants and contract personnel are sufficiently evidenced by:

- A. Details of all agreements (e.g., work requirements, rate of compensation, and nature and amount of other expenses, if any) with the individuals or organizations providing the services and details of actual services performed.
- B. Invoices or billings submitted by consultants, including sufficient detail as to the time expended and nature of the actual services performed.
- C. The use of a management contract for educational and administrative services will clearly identify the contractor's performance requirements, including students' academic achievement, contractor's compensation and the Charter School's rights to educational curricula and intellectual property developed.

### *902 Independent Contractors*

The use of consultants is closely monitored so as not to vary from the rules of the Internal Revenue Code. In particular, consultants will:

- A. Not be controlled as to what services will be performed and how these services will be performed. Consultants will not have set hours of work.
- B. Adhere to a precise contract scope of services, recomputed or at least adjusted annually. This consultant agreement will specify the obligation of the consultant to pay his or her own self-employment taxes, if applicable.
- C. Not receive any fringe benefits as such, although their fee may include provision for fringe benefits.
- D. Not be assigned a permanent workstation.
- E. Make their services available or work for a number of firms or persons at the same time.
- F. Will use his or her own stationery or time sheet in billing for services.

## **PART II**

### **1000 - GENERAL ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES**

In this section, procedures are described for the overall accounting system design, General Ledger activity and General Ledger closeout for the Charter School.

#### **GENERAL LEDGER ACTIVITY**

##### *Control Objective*

To ensure that all General Ledger entries are current, accurate and complete.

##### *Major Controls*

**A. Timeliness of Entries**

All entries are made soon after the underlying accounting event to ensure the financial records and reporting is current.

**B. Support Documentation**

All entries are supported by adequate documentation that clearly shows the justification and authorization for the transaction.

**C. Audit Trail**

A complete audit trail is maintained by the use of reference codes from source documentation through the books of original entry and General Ledger, to periodic reporting statements.

##### *Procedures*

1. Financial data on source documentation is verified against original documents (e.g., invoice, purchase order, etc.) by the Business Manager before entering into the accounting system.
2. Each entry in the accounting system is reviewed and approved by the Business Manager.
3. Provision is made for using recurring General Journal entries for certain transactions, such as recording the monthly portion of prepaid insurance.
4. Non-recurring entries, such as for correcting entries, recording accruals and recording non-cash transactions, are prepared as circumstances warrant and on a monthly basis.
5. All entries in the books of original entry (e.g., cash receipts journal and checkbook) are made soon after the accounting event from authorized forms, and are prepared and reviewed by qualified accounting personnel.
6. All General Journal entries are supported by General Journal Vouchers that have supporting documentation attached, and are approved by the Executive Director.

**GENERAL LEDGER CLOSE-OUT**

*Control Objective*

To ensure the accuracy of financial records and reports.

*Major Controls*

**A. Trial Balance**

Monthly, a trial balance is prepared to ensure the accuracy of the General Ledger account balances.

**B. Reconciliation of General Ledger Control Accounts with Subsidiary Ledgers**

Reconciliations are prepared on a monthly basis.

*Procedures*

- 1. At the end of each month, a trial balance of all General Ledger accounts is prepared by the back office business services provider to the Executive Director.
- 1. Reconciliation between the General Ledger control accounts and the subsidiary ledgers are completed by the back office business services provider.
- 2. At fiscal year end and after the annual audit, all income and expense accounts are closed out, and the general ledger balances are agreed to the audited financial statements.

**1100 - CASH MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**

In this section, procedures are described for cash receipts, cash disbursements, and petty cash funds and prepaid items.

**CASH RECEIPTS**

*Control Objective*

To record cash receipts completely and accurately and to prevent the diversion of cash assets.

*Major Controls*

**A. Cash Flow Projection**

The Charter School annually prepares and updates monthly a cash flow projection for operations and capital cash needs to monitor and ensure adequate cash flow.

**B. Cash Receipts Policies**

The School has internal control systems in place to monitor cash receipts, and ensure that deposits are made in a timely manner. The School also uses electronic fund transfers to accelerate deposits.

**C. Internal Accounting Controls**

- (i) Opening of mail assigned to an employee with responsibilities independent of access to files or documents pertaining to accounts receivable or cash accounts.
- (ii) Listed receipts and credits compared to accounts receivable and bank deposits.
- (iii) General Ledger control accounts reconciled with Accounts Receivable Subsidiary Ledger

### *Procedures*

#### *A. General*

1. Mail is opened by the Receptionist who sorts the checks and forwards them to the Executive Director or the appropriate recipient.
2. All checks are restrictively endorsed immediately by the Executive Director.
3. The back office business services provider prepares journal entries and deposit slips.
4. A copy of each check to be deposited is made and attached to copy of the deposit slip and filed to provide support for all deposits.
5. The back office business services provider reviews and signs off on journal entries.
6. The back office business services provider inputs journal entries.
7. Either the back office business services provider or the Executive Director makes deposits on a daily or no later than on a weekly basis. If deposits are made other than daily, the deposit should be maintained in a secure area with limited access.
8. Reconciliation of cash receipts to deposit slips and bank statements are performed by the Executive Director and the back office business services provider on a monthly basis.

## **CASH DISBURSEMENTS**

### *Control Objective*

To disburse cash for authorized purposes and record cash disbursements completely and accurately.

### *Major Controls*

#### **A. Cash Disbursement Policies**

Check preparation and signatures are delayed until the due date, consistent with available discounts if available.

#### **B. Internal Accounting Controls**

- (i) Pre-numbered checks and special check protective paper.
- (ii) Match disbursement records against accounts payable/open invoice files.
- (iii) Bank statements reconciled to cash accounts and any outstanding checks verified by either the back office business services provider, if applicable.
- (iv) Supporting documentation canceled to prevent resubmission for payment.
- (v) Detailed comparison of actual vs. budget disbursements on a periodic basis.
- (vi) Separation of duties to the extent possible for an organization the size of the School.

### *Procedures*

1. When the transaction is complete and payment is due, a pre-numbered check is prepared by the back office business services provider who attaches all supporting documentation: (e.g. vendor invoice, purchase order, purchase requisition, etc.) and submits the package to the Executive Director for approval.
2. All invoices submitted for signature will include approvals for payment, expense account charged, check number and date of payment.
3. The Executive Director approves checks checks, after examining the supporting documentation.
4. After having been approved and/or signed, the checks are mailed directly to the payee by receptionist.
5. All supporting documents are canceled (i.e. stamped *PAID*) by the signatory and filed by back office business services provider.
6. On a periodic basis, cash disbursement records are matched against accounts payable/open invoice files for any discrepancies.
7. Bank statements are reconciled soon after receipt by either the back offices business services provider and reviewed by the Executive Director.



## **PETTY CASH FUNDS**

### *Control Objective*

To control the use of petty cash funds for valid transactions.

### *Major Controls*

#### **A. Internal Accounting Controls**

- (i) Reconcile petty cash funds by employees with responsibilities independent of cash receipts, disbursements or custody.

### *Procedures*

1. The Charter School will maintain an imprest petty cash system of \$150, which will be maintained and secured by the Executive Director or their designee.
2. The Executive Director or their designee maintains a log of all disbursements made from the petty cash fund and uses a *Petty Cash Voucher* for all petty cash disbursements. No disbursements will be for greater than \$75.
3. When the fund needs to be replenished, a check request is prepared by the Executive Director or their designee, attaching the log of disbursements and the supporting vouchers. See cash disbursement procedure above for payment.
4. Any differences between the check request to bring the fund up to the petty cash amount and total disbursements made are reviewed and a justification is prepared.
5. Funds disbursements are entered into the General Ledger by expense category when the fund is replenished.

## **1200 - PAYROLL PROCEDURES**

Payroll procedures are organized under six categories: personnel requirements, personnel data, timekeeping, preparation of payroll, payroll payment, and payroll withholdings.

### **PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS**

#### *Control Objective*

To ensure that the School hires only those employees, full or part-time, it absolutely needs and exerts tight control over hiring new employees.

#### *Major Controls*

##### **Payroll Policies**

## Procedures

### **New Employees**

1. Requests for new employees are initiated by the Executive Director and compared with the approved annual personnel budget.
2. New employees complete an *Application for Employment*.
3. New employees complete all necessary paperwork for payroll.
4. Employee is fingerprinted. Fingerprint clearance must be received by the school before any employee may start work.

### **Vacation and Sick Pay**

1. Employees accrue vacation time based on personnel policy of the Charter School.
2. Employee is required to provide at least two weeks advanced notice to supervisors for a vacation request.
3. Regular part-time employees will earn vacation time on a pro-rated bases based on personnel policy of the Charter School.
4. Employees' earned vacation balances are adjusted monthly to reflect vacation time earned and taken and reviewed by the Executive Director.
1. Sick leave taken is monitored against each employee's available sick time on an electronic spreadsheet and reviewed by the Executive Director.
2. Before vacation time is paid, a *Vacation Authorization Request* is to be prepared by the employee, which is reviewed and approved by the Executive Director.
3. The back office business services provider monitors vacation and sick time by maintaining a log for each individual.
4. A General Journal entry is prepared at year-end to record the accrued vacation liability.
5. Unused vacation time is based on personnel policy of the Charter School.

## **PERSONNEL DATA**

### **TIMEKEEPING**

#### *Control Objective*

To ensure that payment for salaries and wages is made in accordance with documented time records.

#### *Major Controls*

##### **A. Timekeeping Policies**

Employees are instructed on the proper charging of time to assure the accuracy of recorded time to cost objectives.

**B. Time Sheet**

Labor hours are accurately recorded and any corrections to timekeeping records, including the appropriate authorizations and approvals, are documented.

**C. Internal Accounting Controls**

- (i) Reconciliation of hours charged on time sheets to attendance records.

*Procedures*

**Time Sheet Preparation**

1. Hourly and salary employees prepare time sheets on a bi-weekly basis.
2. In preparing time sheets, employees:
  - (i) Enter hours in ink and sign the completed timekeeping record
  - (ii) Make all corrections in ink by crossing out the error and initialing the change.
  - (ii) Submit the completed time sheet to the Administrative Assistant or Receptionist.

**Approval and Collection of Time Sheets**

1. Each employee's time sheet is forwarded to the Administrative Assistant or Receptionist on a bi-weekly basis, which ensures all the timesheets are submitted in a timely manner. The Administrative Assistant or Receptionist forwards the timesheets to the Executive Director who reviews and approves them.
2. Authorized timesheets are collected by the Administrative Assistant or Receptionist and forwarded to the back office business services provider for processing.

**Reconciliation of Payroll to Time Sheets**

1. Hours shown on time sheets are reconciled to the hours recorded on the Payroll Register by the Executive Director or their designee for each time sheet period.

**PREPARATION OF PAYROLL**

*Control Objective*

To ensure that payment of salaries and wages is accurately calculated.

*Major Controls*

**A. Internal Accounting Controls**

- (i) Time records are periodically reconciled with payroll records.

*Procedures*

1. The Administrative Assistant or Receptionist forwards approved time sheets to the back office business services provider.

2. The total time recorded on time sheets and the number of employees is calculated by the back office business services provider.
3. Recorded hours from the bi-weekly time sheets are accumulated by the back office business services provider and communicated to the Payroll Service via modem or input into the in-house payroll software.
4. The payroll documents received from the in-house payroll software (e.g., calculations, payrolls and payroll summaries) are compared with time sheets, pay rates, payroll deductions, compensated absences etc. by the back office business services provider.
5. The back office business services provider verifies gross pay and payroll deductions.
6. The total hours and number of employees are compared with the totals in the Payroll Register by the back office business services provider.
7. The Payroll Register is reviewed and approved by the Executive Director.

## **PAYROLL PAYMENT**

### *Control Objective*

To ensure payment for salaries and wages by check, direct deposit, cash or other means is made only to employees entitled to receive payment.

## **PAYROLL WITHHOLDINGS**

### *Control Objective*

To ensure that payment withholdings are correctly reflected and paid to the appropriate third parties.

### *Major Controls*

#### **A. Reconciliation of Payment and Payroll Withholdings**

Payroll withholdings are recorded in the appropriate General Ledger control accounts and reconciled with payments made to third parties.

#### **B. Internal Accounting Controls**

The in-house payroll software calculates payroll withholdings, which are reviewed and verified by the back office business services provider.

### *Procedures*

1. The in-house payroll software calculates payroll withholdings for each employee. These are summarized by pay period and recorded in General Ledger.
2. Payments for payroll withholdings are reconciled with the amounts recorded in the General Ledger control accounts by the back office business services provider.
3. The back office business services provider reviews the accuracy and timeliness of payments made to third parties for payroll withholdings.

4. Original withholding and benefit election forms, maintained in the employee file, are prepared by employee and reviewed and approved on a periodic basis by the back office business services provider.

### **1300 DEPRECIATION**

#### *Procedures*

1. The School capitalizes all fixed assets when acquired, and records the historical cost of these items in the Enterprise Fund. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, as they relate to special purpose business-type activity, government units, under GASB 34 depreciation expense must be recorded in the statement of revenue, expenditures and changes in net assets. The Charter School will use the straight line method of depreciation over the assets useful life as determined as follow:

Computers	3 years
Office Equipment	5 years
Vehicles	5 years
Office Furniture	7 years
Leasehold Improvements	Life of lease or 5 years which ever is greater
Building Improvements	20 years
Building	30 years

### **1400 EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

#### *Control Objective*

To ensure the School pays for only authorized business expenses.

#### *Major Controls*

##### **A. Travel Policies**

The School has adopted policies on travel reimbursement.

##### **B. Employee Expense Reimbursement Documentation**

Employees are required to obtain and furnish documentation for individual expenses of \$25 or over (provided they are not on a per diem basis) and company credit card purchases.

**C. Internal Accounting Controls**

- (i) Justification for travel approved by Executive Director
- (ii) Documentation for incurred employee expenses
- (iii) Documentation for company credit card purchase.

**Expense Advance or Reimbursement**

Expense Reimbursement:

1. Soon after traveling, but not exceeding 30 days, an employee who seeks reimbursement for authorized expenses completes a *Travel Report* detailing the expenses incurred, attaching originals of supporting documentation.
2. All credit card purchases are supported by invoices in order to be reimbursed.
2. The employee's *Travel Report* and credit card purchases invoices are reviewed and approved by the Business Manager.

**1500 - MANAGEMENT REPORTING PROCEDURES**

In this section, procedures are covered for supporting the annual budget, financial reporting and tax compliance.

***ANNUAL BUDGET***

*Control Objective*

To effectively support the preparation of the annual budget and its periodic review.

*Major Controls*

**A. Budget Process**

The Executive Director works with the back office business services provider and prepares the annual operating and capital budgets and cash flow projection, with input from the school's community. The budgets and projection are submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

**B. Internal Accounting Controls**

Accuracy and completeness of the budget and projections

*Procedures*

1. In preparation of the annual operating and capital budget and cash flow projection, the back office business services provider prepares a preliminary budgets and projection for review by the Executive Director in consultation with the school staff.

2. To support budgets and projection estimates, the back office business services provider prepares current year-to-date financial data with projections of year-end totals.
3. The back office business services provider and the Executive Director review the budgets and projection submitted for completeness and reasonableness.
4. The Board of Trustees approves and adopts the final budgets and projection.
5. The adopted budgets totals are entered in the General Ledger by the back office business services provider for the new fiscal year, in order to prepare budget to actual reports.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTING**

### *Control Objective*

To ensure the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of financial reporting to support decision-making.

### Major Controls

#### **A. Schedule**

Monthly managerial reports are prepared based on a schedule.

#### **B. Review and Approval**

Financial reports are reviewed for accuracy and completeness.

#### **C. Audit**

The annual financial statements of the School are audited by a certified public accounting firm.

### *Procedures*

1. The back office business services provider prepares monthly budget vs. actual financial reports and cash flow projection for the Board of Trustees meetings.
2. The Charter School submits to an audit of its financial statements by a qualified certified public accounting firm, in accordance with *Governmental Auditing Standards*
3. The School shall automatically submit all financial reports required under Education Code Section 47604.33 and 47605(m).

## **PAYROLL TAX COMPLIANCE**

### *Control Objective*

To accurately prepare and file required tax documents on a timely basis.

*Procedures*

1. The School maintains a schedule of required filing due dates for:
  - (i) *IRS Form W-2* - Wage and Tax Statement.
  - (ii) *IRS Form W-3* - Transmittal of Income and Tax Statements.
  - (iii) *IRS Form 940* - Employer's Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return.
  - (iv) *IRS Form 941* - Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return for Federal Income Tax Withheld from Wages and FICA Taxes.
  - (v) *IRS Form 1099 MISC* (also *1099-DIV*, *1099-INT*, *1099-OID*) - U.S. Annual Information Return for Recipients of Miscellaneous Income.
  - (i) Quarterly and annual state(s) unemployment tax return(s).
  
2. Before submission, all payroll tax documents and the supporting schedules are reviewed and approved by the back office business services provider for accuracy and completeness.