

## Merit Preparatory Academy

### Exhibit "A"

*No portions of Exhibit "A" may be changed unless amended pursuant to Charter Agreement Section 5.3*

1. Name: The name of the Charter School shall be Merit Preparatory Academy.
2. Applicant: A Charter Agreement is granted to Merit Preparatory Academy, which applied on March 27, 2007.
3. Location: The charter school shall be established in Springville, Utah, located within the Nebo School District, which is material to its authorization.
4. Mission statement: The Charter School mission statement, as set forth in the application is:  
"Merit College Preparatory Academy will prepare all students to achieve their highest potential as citizens in society by developing the knowledge and skills required to excel in higher education and by developing the knowledge and skills required for community leadership and social commitment."

**The mission adopted for operational purposes is: Merit Preparatory Academy provides an outstanding educational experience designed to instill excellence, build a love of learning and service, and create principled leaders who will engage in real world challenges and opportunities.**

5. Purpose(s) of the charter school: The Charter School purposes consistent with U.C.A. §53G 5-104 include:
  - a. To employ innovative learning strategies including Explicit Learning Techniques, Project Based Learning principles, and other Evidence Based Instructional Strategies.
6. Key elements of the charter school: The key elements of the Charter School, as set forth in the application, are programs and processes that make this school unique. They will be included in the State Charter School Board annual review as assurances and included in the School Accountability Framework Comprehensive reviews.

#### Merit Academy:

- a. Believes in service and its positive impact on both the provider and the receiver.
  - i. Holds an annual schoolwide legacy event to promote meaningful service in the community and in the world.
  - ii. Expects a bi-annual service log from each student, to be submitted to the

students' mentor during an accountability meeting, detailing their volunteer efforts during the previous six months.

- b. Offers a one-of-a-kind mentoring program to the student body, focused on leadership, character development, learning techniques, and life skills acquisition.
  - 1. Seventh graders "find their place" through belonging.
  - 2. Eighth graders "chart their course" by creating a vision.
  - 3. Ninth graders "build their potential" by increasing their intelligence.
  - 4. Tenth graders "grow through sacrifice" as they participate in Merit Academy's ASK program (ASK (Ameritus Service Knights) is a Merit class required for graduation. Although it is typically taken in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, it may be completed, or repeated, in any year).
  - 5. Eleventh graders "know they can" as they dig in with determination.
  - 6. Twelfth graders "change the world" through their leadership skills acquired at Merit.
  
- c. Instructs students through Explicit Learning Techniques, coupled with Project Based Learning, and other Evidenced Based Instructional strategies. Explicit Learning often begins with demonstration and lecture, proceeds to group experimentation and application, and continues with individual comprehension and display. Project Based Learning is a dynamic classroom approach wherein students acquire deeper knowledge through active exploration of real-world challenges and problems. Solutions are sought through sustained inquiry, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and communication. Project Based Learning includes authenticity and a certain degree of student choice and voice. Students refine their projects through reflection, critique, and revision. The experience culminates in a high quality publicly presented product or performance.
- d. Maintains a large enough student population to offer all programmatic elements listed in the approved charter application.
- e. Does not offer distance or online education, as it is defined by the Utah State Board of Education.

7. Opening School Year: 2008-2009

8. Student Population: The grade levels served and the maximum authorized enrollment is:

- a. Grades Served: 7 up to grade 12
- b. Maximum Authorized Enrollment: 600

9. Enrollment preferences permitted by board policy and UCA §53G-6-502: a. a child or

- grandchild of an individual who has actively participated, past or present, in the development of the charter school;
- b. a child or grandchild of a member of the charter school governing board;
- c. a sibling of an individual who was previously or is presently enrolled in the charter school;
- d. a child of an employee of the charter school.

10. Structure of governing board:

- a. Number of board members: a minimum of 5
- b. Appointment of board members: Appointed by current board members
- c. Board members' terms of office: 3 years
- d. Meetings: Regularly, not less than every other month, with a minimum of 8 meetings each year.

11. Administrative rules waived: None

12. Additional school specific standards used to assess School Achievement in the Charter School Accountability Framework:

Goal:

Merit Preparatory Academy will perform at or above the median of the (6) closest comparable schools.

For Merit, the definition of closest comparable schools will be:

A public junior high, high school, and charter school within our northern catchment area, representative of our student body. A public junior high, high school, and charter school within our southern catchment area, also representative of our student body.

Notes:

For the 2019/2020 school year, the defined schools are:

1. Springville Junior High School
2. Springville High School
3. American Leadership Academy
4. Dixon Middle School
5. Provo High School
6. Freedom Preparatory Academy

13. State Accountability: As defined by statute and implemented by the Utah State Board of Education by rule or Federal plan.

14. Student Engagement, Financial, and Governance Measures: Defined by the SCSB, as

required by rule and statute. School will be held to the approved Charter School Accountability Framework (subject to update and revision).