

| <b>MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR &amp; ECONOMIC GROWTH<br/>BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES</b> |                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date Received                                                                               | <b>(FOR BUREAU USE ONLY)</b>                                                                                                                   |
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Document will be returned to the name and address you enter above.  
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**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**  
**For use by Domestic Nonprofit Corporations**  
(Please read information and instructions on the last page)

Pursuant to the provisions of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1982, as amended (the "Act"), being MCL 450.2101 et seq. and Part 6A of the Revised School Code (the "Code"), as amended, being Sections 380.501 to 380.507 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the undersigned corporation executes the following Articles:

**ARTICLE I**

The name of the corporation is: \_\_\_\_\_

The authorizing body for the corporation is: Grand Valley State University ("GVSU") Board of Trustees, ("Board of Trustees"), 1 Campus Drive, Allendale, Michigan 49401.

## ARTICLE II

The purposes for which the corporation is organized are:

1. Specifically, the corporation is organized for the purposes of operating as a public school academy in the State of Michigan pursuant to Part 6A of the Code, being Sections 380.501 to 380.507 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.
2. The corporation, including all activities incident to its purposes, shall at all times be conducted so as to be a governmental entity pursuant to Section 115 of the United States Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") or any successor law. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activity not permitted to be carried on by a governmental instrumentality exempt from federal income tax under Section 115 of the IRC or by a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Michigan and subject to a Contract authorized under the Code.

## ARTICLE III

1. The corporation is organized upon a Nonstock basis.
2. a. If organized on a nonstock basis, the description and value of its real property assets are: (if none, insert "none")  

Real Property: none
- b. The description and value of its personal property assets are: (if none, insert "none")  

Personal Property: none
- c. The corporation is to be financed under the following general plan:
  - a. State school aid payments received pursuant to the State School Aid Act of 1979 or any successor law.
  - b. Federal funds.
  - c. Donations
  - d. Fees and charges permitted to be charged by public school academies.
  - e. Other funds lawfully received.
- d. The corporation is organized on a Directorship basis.

**ARTICLE IV**

1. The name of the resident agent at the registered office:  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The address of the registered office is:  
\_\_\_\_\_, Michigan \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address) (City) (ZIP Code)
3. The mailing address of the registered office, if different than above:  
\_\_\_\_\_, Michigan \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address) (City) (ZIP Code)

**ARTICLE V**

The name(s) and address(es) of the incorporator(s) is (are) as follows:

| Name  | Residence or Business Address |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| _____ | _____                         |
| _____ | _____                         |
| _____ | _____                         |

**ARTICLE VI**

The corporation is a governmental entity.

**ARTICLE VII**

Before execution of a contract to charter a public school academy between the Academy Board and the Board of Trustees, the method of selection, length of term, and the number of members of the Academy Board shall be approved by a resolution of the Board of Trustees as required by the Code.

The members of the Academy Board shall be selected by the following method:

1. **Method of Selection and Appointment of Academy Board Members:**
  - a. **Initial Academy Board Member Nominations and Appointments:** As part of the public school academy application, the public school academy applicant shall propose to the Director of the University Charter Schools Office (“Director”), the names of proposed individuals to serve on the initial board of directors of the

proposed public school academy. When the Director recommends an initial contract for approval to the Board of Trustees, he/she shall include recommendations for initial Academy Board members. These recommendations may, but are not required to, include individuals proposed by the public school academy applicant. To be considered for appointment, the nominees must have completed the required board member candidate application materials, including at least (i) the Academy Board Member Questionnaire prescribed by the University Charter Schools Office; and (ii) the Criminal Background Check Report prescribed by the University Charter Schools Office.

b. **Subsequent Academy Board Member Nominations and Appointments:**

Except as provided in paragraph (2) below, the Academy Board may nominate individuals for subsequent Academy Board of Director positions. As part of the appointment process, the Academy Board may submit to the Director: (i) the name of the nominee; (ii) the board member candidate application materials identified in paragraph (a) above; and (iii) a copy of the Academy Board nominating resolution. The Director may or may not recommend the proposed nominee submitted by the Academy Board. If the Director does not recommend a nominee submitted by the Academy Board, the Director shall select a nominee and forward that recommendation to the Board of Trustees for appointment. The Board of Trustees shall have the sole and exclusive right to appoint members to the Academy Board.

c. **Exigent Appointments:** When the Director determines an “exigent condition” exists which requires him/her to make an appointment to a public school academy’s board of directors, the Director, with University President approval, may immediately appoint a person to serve as a public school academy board member for the time specified, but not longer than the next meeting held by the Board of Trustees when a regular appointment may be made by the Board of Trustees. The Director shall make the appointment in writing and notify the public school academy’s board of directors of the appointment. Exigent conditions include, but are not limited to when an Academy Board seat is vacant, when a Academy Board cannot reach a quorum, when the Board of Trustees determines that an Academy Board member’s service is no longer required, when an Academy Board member is removed, when an Academy Board fails to fill a vacancy, or other reasons which would prohibit the Academy Board from taking action without such an appointment.

2. **Qualifications of Academy Board Members:** To be qualified to serve on the Academy Board, a person shall: (a) be a citizen of the United States; (b) reside in the State of Michigan; (c) submit all materials requested by the GVSU Charter Schools Office including, but not limited to, a GVSU Academy Board Member Questionnaire and a release for criminal history background check; (d) not be an employee of the Academy; (e) not be a director, officer, or employee of a company or other entity that contracts with the Academy; and (f) not be an employee or representative of GVSU or be a member of the Board of Trustees.

3. **Oath /Acceptance of Office / Voting Rights:** Following appointment by the Board of Trustees, Academy Board Appointees may begin their legal duties, including the right to vote, after they have signed an Acceptance of Public Office form and taken the Oath or Affirmation of Public Office administered by a member of the Academy Board, other public official or notary public.

4. **Length of Term; Removal:** An appointed Academy Board member is an “at will” board member who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees for a term of office not to exceed three (3) years. Regardless of the length of term, terms shall end on June 30 of the final year of service, unless shorter due to other provisions of this resolution. A person appointed to serve as an Academy Board member may be reappointed to serve additional terms. When an Academy Board member is appointed to complete the term of service of another Academy Board member, their service ends at the end of the previous Academy Board member’s term.

If the Board of Trustees determines that an Academy Board member’s service in office is no longer required, then the Board of Trustees may remove an Academy board member with or without cause and shall specify the date when the Academy Board member’s service ends. An Academy Board member may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Academy’s Board for cause.

5. **Resignations:** A member of the Academy Board may resign from office by submitting a written resignation or by notifying the Director. The resignation is effective upon receipt by the Director, unless a later date is specified in the resignation. A written notice of resignation is not required. If no such written notification is provided, then the Director shall confirm a resignation in writing. The resignation shall be effective upon the date the Director sends confirmation to the resigning Academy Board member.

6. **Vacancy:** An Academy Board position shall be considered vacant when an Academy Board member:

- a. Resigns
- b. Dies
- c. Is removed from Office
- d. Is convicted of a felony
- e. Ceases to be qualified
- f. Is incapacitated

7. **Filling a Vacancy:** The Academy Board may nominate and the Director shall recommend or temporarily appoint persons to fill a vacancy as outlined in the “Subsequent Appointments” and “Exigent Appointments” procedures in this resolution.

8. **Number of Academy Board Member Positions:** The number of member positions of the Academy Board of Directors shall be five (5), seven (7) or nine (9), as determined from time to time by the Academy Board.

9. **Quorum:** In order to legally transact business, the Academy Board shall have a quorum physically present at a duly called meeting of the Academy Board. A “quorum” shall be defined as follows:

| # of Academy Board positions | # required for Quorum |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Five (5)                     | Three (3)             |
| Seven (7)                    | Four (4)              |
| Nine (9)                     | Five (5)              |

A board member who is absent from a meeting of the board due to military duty may participate in the meeting virtually, and that member’s virtual presence will count towards quorum and allow the absent member to participate in and vote on business before the board.

10. **Manner of Acting:** The Academy Board shall be considered to have “acted,” when a duly called meeting of the Academy Board has a quorum present and the number of board members voting in favor of an action is as follows:

| # of Academy Board positions | # for Quorum | # required to act |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Five (5)                     | Three (3)    | Three (3)         |
| Seven (7)                    | Four (4)     | Four (4)          |
| Nine (9)                     | Five (5)     | Five (5)          |

11. **Conservator; Appointment by University President:** Notwithstanding any other provision of the Contract, in the event that the health, safety, and welfare of the Academy students, property, or funds are at risk, the University President, after consulting with the University Board Chairperson, may appoint a person to serve as the Conservator of the Academy. Upon appointment, the Conservator shall have all powers of a Board of Directors of a Public School Academy and act in the place and stead of the Academy Board. The University President shall appoint the conservator for a definite term, which may be extended in writing. During the appointment, the Academy Board members are suspended and all powers of the Academy Board are suspended. All appointments made under this provision must be presented to the University Board for final determination at its next regularly scheduled meeting. During their appointment, the Conservator shall have the following powers: a) take into his or her possession all Academy property and records, including financial, board, employment, and student records; b) institute and defend board actions by or on behalf of the Academy; c) continue the business of the Academy including entering into contracts, borrowing money, and pledging, mortgaging, or otherwise encumbering the property of the Academy as security for the repayment of the loans, however, the power shall be subject to any provisions and restrictions in any existing credit documents; d) hire, fire, and discipline employees of the Academy; e) settle or compromise with any debtor or creditor of the Academy, including any taxing authority; f) review all outstanding agreements to which the Academy is a party and to take those actions which the Academy Board may have exercised to pay, extend, rescind, renegotiate, or settle such agreements as needed; and g) perform all acts necessary and appropriate to fulfill the Academy’s purposes as set forth under the Code or this Contract.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its directors, board, officers or other private persons, or organization organized and operated for a profit (except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in the furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof). Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a governmental entity exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 115 of the IRC, or comparable provisions of any successor law.

To the extent permitted by law, upon the dissolution of the corporation, the board shall after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation to the Board of Trustees for forwarding to the State School Aid Fund established under Article IX, Section 11 of the Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963, as amended.

## **ARTICLE IX**

The corporation and its incorporators, board members, officers, employees, and volunteers have governmental immunity as provided in Section 7 of Act No. 170 of the Public Acts of 1964, being Sections 691.1407 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

## **ARTICLE X**

These Articles of Incorporation shall not be amended except by the process provided in the contract executed by the Academy Board and the Board of Trustees.

## **ARTICLE XI**

The Academy Board shall have all the powers and duties permitted by law to manage the business, property and affairs of the corporation.

## **ARTICLE XII**

A volunteer director is not personally liable to the corporation or its members for money damages for any action taken or any failure to take any action as a volunteer director, except liability for any of the following:

- (i) The amount of a financial benefit received by a director or volunteer officer to which he or she is not entitled.
- (ii) Intentional infliction of harm on the corporation, its shareholders, or members.
- (iii) A violation of Section 551 of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act;

- (iv) An intentional criminal act.
- (v) A liability imposed under section 497(a).

If the corporation obtains tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code, the corporation assumes all liability to any person other than the corporation for all acts or omissions of a volunteer director occurring on or after the filing of the Articles incurred in the good faith performance of the volunteer director's duties.

This article shall not be deemed a relinquishment or waiver of any kind of Section 7 of the Government Liability for Negligence Act, being Act No. 170, Public Acts of Michigan, 1964.

### **ARTICLE XIII**

The corporation assumes the liability for all acts or omissions of a volunteer director, volunteer officer, or other volunteer if all of the following are met:

- (i) The volunteer was acting or reasonably believed he or she was acting within the scope of his or her authority;
- (ii) The volunteer was acting in good faith;
- (iii) The volunteer's conduct did not amount to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct;
- (iv) The volunteer's conduct was not an intentional tort; and
- (v) The volunteer's conduct was not a tort arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of a motor vehicle for which tort liability may be imposed under section 3135 of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.3135.

This article shall not be deemed a relinquishment or waiver of any kind of Section 7 of the Governmental Liability for Negligence Act, being Act No. 170, Public Acts of Michigan, 1964.

### **ARTICLE XIV**

The officers of the Academy Board shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and a Treasurer, each of whom shall be selected by the Board of Directors. The Academy Board may select one or more Assistants to the officers, and may also appoint such other officers and agents as they may deem necessary for the transaction of the business of the corporation.

### **ARTICLE XV**

The Articles of Incorporation shall become effective upon filing. However, the

corporation shall not carry out the purposes set forth in Article II unless/or until the Board of Trustees issues to the Academy Board a contract to operate as a public school academy, and the contract is executed by both the Academy Board and the Board of Trustees.

I, (We), the incorporator(s) sign my (our) name(s) this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[name of incorporator(s)]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[name of incorporator(s)]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[name of incorporator(s)]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[name of incorporator(s)]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[name of incorporator(s)]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[name of incorporator(s)]

Name of person or organization  
remitting fees:

Preparer's name and business  
telephone number:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(       )  
\_\_\_\_\_

**INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS**

1. This form may be used to draft your Articles of Incorporation. A document required or permitted to be filed under the act cannot be filed unless it contains the minimum information required by the act. The format provided contains only the minimal information required to make the document fileable and may not meet your needs. This is a legal document and agency staff cannot provide legal advice.
2. Submit one original of this document. Upon filing, the document will be added to the records of the Bureau of Commercial Services. The original will be returned to your registered office address, unless you enter a different address in the box on the front of this document.  
  
Since this document will be maintained on electronic format, it is important that the filing be legible. Documents with poor black and white contrast, or otherwise illegible, will be rejected.
3. This document is to be used pursuant to the provisions of Act 162, P.A. of 1982, by one or more persons for the purpose of forming a domestic nonprofit corporation.
4. Article II – The purpose for which the corporation is organized must be included. It is not sufficient to state that the corporation may engage in any activity within the purposes for which corporations may be organized under the Act.
5. Article III – the corporation must be organized on a stock or nonstock basis. Complete Article III(2) or III(3) as appropriate, but not both. Real property assets are items such as land and buildings. Personal property assets are items such as cash, equipment, fixtures, etc. The dollar value and description must be included. If there is no real and/or personal property, write in "none".
6. A domestic nonprofit corporation may be formed on either a membership or directorship basis. A membership corporation entitles the members to vote in determining corporate action. If organized on a directorship basis the corporation may have members but they may not vote and corporate action is determined by the Board of Directors.
7. Article IV – A post office box may not be designated as the address of the registered office. If the address includes a suite number, add the name of the business and the suite number to ensure proper mail delivery.
8. Article V – The Act requires one or more incorporators. Educational corporations are required to have at least three (3) incorporators. The address(es) should include a street number and name (or other designation), city and state.
9. This document is effective on the date endorsed "filed" by the Bureau. A later effective date, no more than 90 days after the date of delivery, may be stated as an additional article.
10. The Articles must be signed in ink by each incorporator listed in Article V. However, if there are 3 or more incorporators, they may, by resolution adopted at the organizational meeting by a written instrument, designate one of them to sign the Articles of Incorporation on behalf of all of them. In such event, these Articles of Incorporation must be accompanied by a copy of the resolution duly certified by the acting secretary at the organizational meeting and a statement must be placed in the articles incorporating that resolution into them.
11. **FEES:** Make remittance payable to the State of Michigan. Include corporation name on check or money order.

FILING AND FRANCHISE FEE ..... **\$20.00**

To submit by mail:

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth  
Bureau of Commercial Services  
Corporation Division  
P.O. Box 30054  
Lansing, MI 48909

To submit in person:

2501 Woodlake Circle  
Okemos, MI  
Telephone: (517) 241-6470

Fees may be paid by VISA or Mastercard when delivered in person to our office.

MICH-ELF (Michigan Electronic Filing System):  
First Time Users: Call (517) 241-6470, or visit our website at <http://www.michigan.gov/corporations>  
Customer with MICH-ELF Filer Account: Send document to (517) 636-6437.

**New expedited services beginning January 1, 2006.**

Expedited review and filing, if fileable, is available for all documents for profit corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships and nonprofit corporations.

The expedited service fees are in addition to the regular fees applicable to the specific document:

Please complete a separate BCS/CD-272 form for expedited service for each document via in person, mail and MICH-ELF.

**24-hour service- \$50 for formation documents and applications for certificate of authority.**

**24-hour service-\$100 for any document concerning an existing entity.**

**Same day service**

- **Same day- \$100 for formation documents and applications for certificate of authority.**  
**Same day- \$200 for any document concerning an existing entity**

Review completed on day of receipt. Document and request for same day expedited service must be received by 1 p.m. EST or EDT.

- **Two hour- \$500**

Review completed within two hours on day of receipt. Document and request for two hour expedited service must be received by 3 p.m. EST or EDT.

- **One hour- \$1000**

Review completed within one hour on day of receipt. Document and request for 1 hour expedited must be received by 4 p.m. EST or EDT.

First time MICH-ELF user requesting expedited service must obtain a MICH-ELF filer number prior to submitting a document for expedited service. BCS/CD-901

Changes to information on MICH-ELF user's account must be submitted before requesting expedited service. BCS/CD-901