



**Visions In Education Charter School**

**Charter Renewal**

*Presented to:*

**San Juan Unified School District  
Board of Education**

**November 18, 2008**

**VISIONS IN EDUCATION CHARTER SCHOOL CHARTER**  
**A California Charter School**  
**San Juan Unified School District**

**Table of Contents**

***ELEMENT A: THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.....4***

Philosophy on Education .....4

Vision.....4

Mission.....5

Values .....5

Guiding Principles .....5

Target Student Populations .....6

School-Wide Program Attributes.....6

The Home School Academy .....6

The 9-12 Independent Study Academy.....7

Special Education.....8

The English Language Learner Program .....9

Facilities.....9

Calendar .....10

Instructional Minutes .....10

Term.....10

***ELEMENT B: MEASURABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES .....10***

***ELEMENT C: METHODS TO ASSESS PUPIL PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING  
OUTCOMES .....11***

Serving a Diverse Community of Students.....11

Credits and Grades .....12

NCLB (National Accountability Mandates) .....12

California’s Academic Performance Index (API).....12

NCLB: Professional Development and Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT) .....12

***ELEMENT D: THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE.....12***

Governing Board.....13

Advisory Board.....13

MOU .....13

Conflict-of-Interest .....13

The Brown Act.....14

Civil Liability.....14

Amendments .....14

Renewal.....14

***ELEMENT E: EMPLOYMENT QUALIFICATIONS .....14***

***ELEMENT F: HEALTH AND SAFETY .....15***

***ELEMENT G: RACIAL AND ETHNIC BALANCE .....15***

***ELEMENT H: ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS .....15***

***ELEMENT I: ANNUAL AUDIT .....16***

***ELEMENT J: PUPIL SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION .....17***

***ELEMENT K: RETIREMENT SYSTEM .....18***

***ELEMENT L: ALTERNATIVE ATTENDANCE .....19***

***ELEMENT M: RETURN RIGHTS OF SAN JUAN UNIFIED DISTRICT EMPLOYEES .....19***

***ELEMENT N: DISPUTE RESOLUTION .....19***

***ELEMENT O: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING .....20***

***ELEMENT P: SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES .....20***

# VISIONS IN EDUCATION CHARTER SCHOOL CHARTER

A California Charter School  
San Juan Unified School District

## ELEMENT A: THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

*“Charter schools create an alternative form of public schooling. The goal of charter schools is to lift restraints from public schools so they can pursue innovative teaching methods that will improve student performance. They are designed to give significant autonomy to individual schools and, in turn, to hold those schools accountable for results. A charter is essentially a contract, negotiated between those people starting the school and the official body authorized to approve the charter. The charter spells out how the school will be run, what will be taught, how success will be measured and what students will achieve. As long as the school meets the terms of its charter, it is free from many of the rules and regulations that apply to other public schools. And unlike other public schools, if the school fails to meet those terms, the charter can be revoked and the school closes.”*

The Education Commission of the States (1996)

*“A description of the educational program of the school designed, among other things, to identify those whom the school is attempting to educate, what it means to be an “educated person” in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and how learning best occurs. The goals identified in that program shall include the objective of enabling pupils to become self-motivated, competent, and lifelong learners.”*  
(California Education Code Section 47605-(b) (5) (A))

## Philosophy on Education

Visions In Education Charter School (Visions In Education) advocates that the primary purpose of education is to enable students to reach their full potential while contributing positively to society. We recognize that the longevity of our democratic society depends on the active participation of an educated and informed public. We further understand the critical utilitarian role that formal education plays in preparing individuals to successfully compete in a technologically advanced global information society. Therefore, our overriding objective is to provide a learning environment that fosters the development of citizenship through participation in the home and society as a whole, while making available learning opportunities designed to equip the learner with the skills and tools necessary to function effectively in the marketplace. We believe that this is what it means to be an educated person in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. And, we believe that as a nonclassroom-based charter school we have the flexibility to provide an alternative model for students in pursuit of these outcomes.

## Vision

Preparing each student to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

## **Mission**

As an independent study/home school program, Visions In Education Charter School utilizes a standards-based education that addresses individual differences and learning styles. We empower students to take ownership and responsibility for their present and future learning by developing their academic, interpersonal, and technological skills.

## **Values**

- Learning – supporting a learning environment that continuously motivates all individuals to excel
- Relationships – Creating and maintaining meaningful relationships among students, families, teachers, staff, and community partners
- Integrity – conducting ourselves with honesty and responsibility
- Accountability – demonstrating a personal and institutional accountability for student learning, ethical conduct, and adherence to mandates, policies, and procedures
- Innovation – challenging ourselves to create unique ideas and innovative solutions in a technology rich environment
- Respect – promoting a school community that appreciates the value of students, families, colleagues, and cultures
- Service – dedicating ourselves to delivering excellent service

## **Guiding Principles**

- Educational choice within the public school system
- Student-centered, goal-oriented education
- Challenging students with differing prior life experiences and differing educational needs to grow into lifelong learners
- Learning through diverse social mediation with parents/guardians, mentors, teachers, support staff and peers
- Self-motivated learners
- Technology as an enabler of mediated learning

*Operationally, the guiding principles of the school translate into programs that focus on:*

- Core academic skills, including critical thinking, technological proficiency, and creative expression in all aspects of life and learning;
- An appreciation for history, our position in the world as individuals and as a nation, and the influence of the past in defining who we are today;
- What it means to be a responsible and participative citizen;
- Knowledge of the world in terms of its diversity and our place as a nation of people in it;
- An understanding and appreciation for the role of commerce in our society and the tools required for prospering economically;
- The ability to reason logically and to apply mathematics to real-life situations;
- Reading, writing, listening, and speaking as tools for functioning in day-to-day life, for expansive learning and for the appreciation of culture;

- An appreciation and understanding of the foundations of our living environment through scientific concepts.

*We believe that students learn best when:*

- Engaged in dialogue with caring teachers, parents/guardians, community mentors, school staff, and peers;
- The learning objective is relevant to the student’s personal motivation;
- Students have access to communication technologies;
- Practicing personal inquiry;
- Students feel safe;
- Supported by parents/guardians and other family members;
- Students participate in the development of their learning plan.

### **Target Student Populations**

Visions In Education serves two distinct student populations, K-12 home school students and 9-12 independent study secondary school students, in Sacramento County and its eight contiguous counties. Students who attend Visions In Education come to us in search of an alternative educational model that provides opportunities for greater flexibility in terms of time and delivery of instruction. Our K-12 Home School Academy supports the right of parents/guardians to educate their children within the home, while our 9-12 Independent Study Academy serves high school students looking for a nonclassroom-based environment that combines learning through real life experience with standards-based academic assignments.

### **School-Wide Program Attributes**

- High school students in this program are provided the opportunity to meet the University of California a-g requirements and may access the community college system while completing their high school course requirements to the extent permitted by law.
- All classes offered by Visions In Education are transferable to other San Juan Unified School District schools.
- Visions In Education will inform parents about the transferability of courses to other public high schools and the eligibility of courses to meet college entrance requirements during the enrollment process as well as annually in the student/parent handbook.
- Courses offered by Visions In Education that are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges may be considered transferable, and courses approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the “A” to “G” admissions criteria may be considered to meet college entrance requirements.

### **The Home School Academy**

Visions In Education supports the right under California law for parents/guardians to act as the primary educational provider of their K-12 children within the home. Parents/guardians provide 80 percent of the instruction, while Visions In Education credentialed teachers (CTs) provide 20 percent. In support of this learning environment, Visions In Education offers curriculum and instructional support to parents/guardians who choose to home school their children. California

credentialed teachers work with parents/guardians in selecting curriculum and monitor student assignments for compliance with California State Standards while validating attendance and assessing assignments. Furthermore, CTs assist parents/guardians in developing strategies for designing an instructional program that supports the individual student's learning needs. The outcome of this support is an individual learning plan for each student and regular and ongoing evaluation of developmental progress.

The Visions In Education Home School Academy is open to K-12 students whose families are committed to providing primary delivery of academic instruction (in English) in the home. A parent/guardian, or a designated adult, must be available for a minimum of four hours per day for instruction and assessment. Parents/guardians agree to provide necessary transportation to mandated tests or other classes or programs to improve academic outcomes when required. Credentialed teachers will work with families to ensure that curriculum meets California State Standards and assess student achievement as measured by those same standards.

A key enabler of this program is the availability of public funding in support of standards-based curriculum materials and learning opportunities. Visions In Education provides each student in the Home School Academy a curriculum budget in support of the individual learning plan. Parents/guardians may elect to develop with their CT an individualized curriculum (aligned to state standards) or they may choose a prescribed curriculum pre-qualified by Visions In Education.

### ***Program Attributes***

1. Primary place of learning is in the home.
2. Primary educator is the parent/guardian.
3. CT and parent/guardian collaborate and document that the selected curriculum meets California State Standards.
4. CT provides parent/guardian with instructional support with curriculum guidance and assessment and accounting for attendance.
5. Program provides for flexibility in terms of time and environment.
6. Program provides opportunities for authentic learning experiences.
7. A curriculum budget provides for flexibility in curriculum material purchases.
8. Program is aligned to California State Standards, and all students are required to participate in state mandated assessment exams.
9. A K-12 option within a single program is offered.

### **The 9-12 Independent Study Academy**

The Visions In Education 9-12 Independent Study Academy is a non-classroom, standards-based independent study program open to students in grades 9-12. Students enrolled in the 9-12 Independent Study Academy receive their primary academic support from an assigned credentialed teacher through face-to-face visits as established by the school calendar. CTs meet the students at the student's home or a designated meeting location outside the home. Parents/guardians agree to facilitate the student's educational needs by maintaining ongoing communication, monitoring educational progress, and providing necessary transportation to mandated tests or other classes or programs to improve academic outcomes when required. Learning activities are designed to a student's current skill level and instructional materials are provided by the academy. The 9-12 Independent Study Academy places special emphasis on mastering the knowledge and skills

necessary to pass the California High School Exit Examination and complete San Juan Unified School District graduation requirements.

Upon graduation from the academy, students are prepared to transition into the world of work, an adult vocational/technical program, or enroll in a community college with the intent of earning an Associate of Arts degree, thus creating the opportunity to transfer to a four-year college. In support of this program, Visions In Education provides students with a computer and Internet access for communications and research purposes. Assignments are available to students either through their CT and/or through a Web-based application.

CTs ensure that students receive appropriate materials, assignments, and learning facilitation in support of California State Standards-based learning objectives. Further, CTs work with 9-12 students in preparation for standardized tests including those required for graduation.

Curriculum within the 9-12 Academy is designed to support the basic requirements for graduation as defined by the San Juan Unified School District. The 9-12 Academy does not offer all of the University of California a-g requisites. However, students in the 9-12 Academy may take community college classes, to the extent permitted by law, in support of future college plans. All classes offered within the 9-12 Academy are approved for transfer to other San Juan Unified School District schools.

### ***Program Attributes***

1. Primary place of learning is in the home or community.
2. Primary educator is the CT.
3. CT selects the curriculum based on the individual learning needs of the student.
4. Program provides for flexible time and environment.
5. Opportunities are available for career development.
6. Technology is provided for distance communication and academic and career research.
7. Program is aligned to California State Standards, and all students are required to participate in state mandated assessment exams.
8. Program offers the opportunity to meet graduation requirements while working.

### **Special Education**

The San Juan Unified School District is responsible to provide special education programs and services to eligible students with disabilities who attend San Juan Unified School District schools.

The San Juan Unified School District shall receive all special education funds relating to Visions In Education and shall be responsible for allocating funds to provide special education services for all Visions In Education students. Visions In Education will receive the same annual staffing allocations as the schools within the San Juan Unified School District.

The Visions In Education instructional model emphasizes teacher supervised instruction where the parent/guardian is the primary provider of instruction in the Home School Academy. Special education in the Visions In Education Home School Academy program will be provided consistent with the parent-as-instructor home-schooling model.

Special education services for all Visions In Education Home School Academy and 9-12 Academy students will be determined by an IEP team. Visions In Education, like every school in the San Juan Unified School District, may not provide a full range of programs and services to all students who may attend. If the special education needs of a student require an intensive program that is not compatible with the home-schooling or independent-study model, the IEP team will determine the appropriate district program for the child. If the student with intensive needs resides outside the San Juan Unified School District boundaries, the student will be referred to his or her district of residence for special education services.

Student referral, identification, and assessment for special education will follow federal and state mandates. Special education policies and procedures at Visions In Education will be in accordance with the district's local plan for special education, which governs special education in the district.

### **The English Language Learner Program**

Upon enrollment in Visions In Education, English Language (EL) Learners will be initially assessed using the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) within 30 calendar days and the Primary Language Dominance Survey within 90 calendar days. EL students will take the CELDT annually to measure their language growth until the student is reclassified as Fluent English Proficient (FEP). Students may be required to attend ELD classes as determined by their annual CELDT results. EL students will also participate in other state mandated tests.

*The goals of the program are to provide:*

1. Equal access to curriculum and instructional materials at the appropriate level of their acquired English;
2. Standards-based English Language Development curriculum;
3. Qualified teachers who can equip EL students in their effective acquisition of English proficiency in content standards;
4. Culturally relevant curriculum to foster a positive self-image and to promote cross-cultural understanding;
5. The opportunity for the English Language Learners to receive support from teachers who are CLAD certified.

Visions In Education will provide opportunities for English Language Learners to develop their English language ability using state-adopted materials to transfer from Limited English Proficient (LEP) to Fluent English Proficient (FEP).

### **Facilities**

As a nonclassroom-based charter school, Visions In Education does not require the traditional facility infrastructure of a traditional classroom-based school. However, Visions In Education under the current operations occupies an administrative and support facility in Carmichael, California, as well as learning centers throughout various locations within our service area. Additional learning centers will be added as the need is substantiated and the funding is available. These locations are currently under lease to Visions In Education under the current financial arrangement with San Juan Unified School District. Visions In Education will continue to lease/purchase facilities for the duration of the charter and will fund said leases/purchases through ADA revenues. As a non-site

based education program, Visions In Education Charter School does not require that San Juan Unified School District provide facilities for its program. Visions In Education administration is charged with determining the appropriate facilities for its program in concert with the San Juan Unified School District administration. The maintenance, remodel, and adaptations of any facility are the responsibility of Visions In Education.

### **Calendar**

Visions In Education will operate on a program-specific calendar that requires students to attend 175 days. The expected attendance rate for the school is 90%.

### **Instructional Minutes**

Not applicable as a nonclassroom-based program (E.C. 47612.5[b])

### **Term**

The term of this charter begins July 1, 2009, and expires June 30, 2014.

## **ELEMENT B: MEASURABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES**

***“The measurable pupil outcomes identified for use by the Charter School. ‘Pupil Outcomes’, for purpose of this part, means the extent to which all pupils of the school demonstrate that they have attained the skills, knowledge, and attitudes specified as goals in the schools educational program.” (Education Code Section 47605-(b) (5) (B))***

Visions In Education supports the basic objective that all students meet or exceed the academic standards as specified by the State of California (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/standards>). To that end, the academic standards as stipulated by the State of California will serve as a benchmark for measurement within Visions In Education.

We recognize the following to be applicable to Visions In Education.

*Standards describe what to teach, not how to teach it. Standards-based education maintains California’s tradition of respect for local control of schools. To help students achieve at high levels, local school officials and teachers—with the full support and cooperation of families, businesses, and community partners—are encouraged to take these standards and design the specific curricular and instructional strategies that best deliver the content to their students.*

California State Board of Education 1997

Visions In Education defines student success as the individual advancement and mastery of state content standards and personal goals identified through an individualized learning plan. Individualized plans are developed in concert with the student to establish core content classes and personal learning goals which will be supported, monitored, and assessed by the CT.

Visions In Education anticipates students will continue to make progress toward meeting state content standards. Students will be annually assessed using the following mandated tests:

1. STAR (grades 2-11)
2. CELDT (grades K-12)

### 3. CAHSEE (grade 10)

Visions In Education’s overall program will be evaluated by student achievement ESLRS (Expected School-Wide Learning Results) and/or by school performance on the AYP, API, and by examining growth within aggregate data. Growth targets will be based on continuous student progress toward state standards. Individual remediation plans will be developed for students not meeting growth targets.

### **ELEMENT C: METHODS TO ASSESS PUPIL PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING OUTCOMES**

***“The method by which pupil progress in meeting those pupil outcomes is to be measured.”***  
**(Education Code Section 47605 (b) (5) (C))**

Student progress toward meeting individual learning objectives throughout the school year are measured by the CT and are based on:

1. CT review of standards-based assignments for completeness and accuracy;
2. CT dialogue with students, parents/guardians;
3. CT authentic performance assessment;
4. CT grading of curriculum prescriptive testing.

Formal semester grades provide an official record of student achievement in relation to assigned work.

Student progress toward meeting individual learning objectives over the longer term is based on State of California Standards and is determined by official scoring of mandatory tests, as well as teachers’ assessing student progress in curricular areas with a variety of assessment strategies including diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments. Administrative staff members periodically review student work to ensure that proper performance feedback is being provided by CTs. Additionally, administrators communicate with parents/guardians and CTs to ensure that communication and support is in line with school expectations.

All Visions In Education students are required to participate in state-mandated testing as a requisite for sustained enrollment.

### **Serving a Diverse Community of Students**

Visions In Education welcomes students with a variety of educational needs. Visions In Education takes students where they are and move them forward in meeting state standards. Many students coming to Visions In Education from diverse educational backgrounds have not mastered early grade level standards and are working below their current chronological grade level. Visions In Education’s instructional model identifies each student’s needs, interests, deficiencies, and strengths to build a personal learning plan. It is expected that every student will advance academically, while building positive self-esteem, strong school-to-work skills, and a healthy self-reliance. Non-native speakers are annually tested on the CELDT and intensive targeted assistance is provided to support language acquisition. This targeted assistance includes the development of an ELL curriculum, CLAD credentialed teachers assigned to ELL students, and required ELD classes.

Achievement for all students is a school-wide goal. Visions In Education utilizes a variety of strategies to measure student progress. System-wide, Visions In Education looks at a student's past educational records to help determine student grade level and coursework needs. Achievement data sources are used as triggers for development of supplemental services and targeted assistance. Visions In Education's one-to-one delivery system allows an environment that builds on student strengths and interests that encourages life-long learners and helps make learning relevant to each student.

### **Credits and Grades**

Demonstrating and documenting student progress on standards is a school-wide, district, state, and national focus. Students earn credits and grades to support their promotion to the next grade level. Students have opportunities to make up credit deficiencies. The attainment of credits and grades is based on students meeting multiple measurable objectives such as student effort, progress, and completion of a standards-based curriculum. Standards-based report cards are used in the primary grades.

### **NCLB (National Accountability Mandates)**

Visions In Education, like every other public school, is subject to the requirements of NCLB. Visions In Education has established plans toward annual measurable objectives and annual yearly progress as set forth in NCLB. Efforts to ensure testing participation is a school-wide priority.

### **California's Academic Performance Index (API)**

Visions In Education's state API is anticipated to grow as encouraged by annual targets. Alignment of all curricular areas to state content standards, curricular frameworks including foundation skills, as well as STAR testing blueprints, is a priority and is reflected in the on-line core and text-based curriculum. Refining the curriculum toward academic and performance standards is an ongoing event. Visions In Education will continue to support the success of all high school students on the CAHSEE.

### **NCLB: Professional Development and Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT)**

Professional development for all staff includes ongoing training regarding strategies and best practices that produce increased student learning results. Experimentation with alternative strategies to transmit a standards-based education are encouraged and constantly being piloted by academy staff. Formal and informal collaborative meetings with staff encourage the collegial exchange of ideas, strategies, and best practices. Visions In Education meets the Highly Qualified Teaching (HQT) requirements of NCLB for alternative, independent study charter schools. For the purposes of NCLB-HQT, Visions In Education defines core classes as English/Language Arts and math.

### **ELEMENT D: THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

***“The governance structure of the school including, but not limited to, the process to be followed by the school to ensure parental involvement.” (Education Code Section 47605(b) (5) (D))***

## **Governing Board**

Visions In Education is a public charter school currently under the local supervision of the San Juan Unified School District. The governing board of Visions In Education is the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education. The Executive Director is responsible for updating the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education on issues relating to charter accountability and revisions.

## **Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board is selected by the Visions In Education Executive Director, who chairs the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will comprise at least 7 but not more than 11 members. The Advisory Board members serve as an informational conduit for Visions In Education staff, parents/guardians, students, and the community. In this advisory role, Advisory Board members provide input for consideration to the school management team. However, this body has no direct decision-making authority within the governance structure of Visions In Education.

Members are appointed by the Visions In Education Executive Director or designee for a term of a minimum of two years. The Advisory Board will consist of up to four parents/guardians (parents/guardians remain on the board only while they have students enrolled in the program), up to four teachers, one non-instructional employee, a San Juan Unified School District representative, and a community member (the community member shall not have students in the program or a family member who is employed by the school).

The Advisory Board is responsible for making recommendations regarding policies and procedures that involve the operations of the school, school enrollment, and student education.

The Executive Director will be the non-voting Chairperson of the Advisory Board.

The Executive Director, in concert with the Visions In Education management team and with consideration of the recommendations from the Advisory Board, is responsible for the decisions of the school.

## **MOU**

Each year, Visions In Education enters into a mutually agreeable memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the San Juan Unified School District. The purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to outline the parties' agreements governing their respective fiscal and administrative responsibilities.

## **Conflict-of-Interest**

Visions In Education follows the conflict of interest policy used by the San Juan Unified School District.

## **The Brown Act**

The Visions In Education Charter School and Visions In Education Advisory Board shall be subject to the Brown Act. All meetings of the Advisory Board shall be held in accordance with the Brown Act.

## **Civil Liability**

Visions In Education is covered under the San Juan Unified School District's insurance policies for civil liabilities to the same extent as any other district school. As to liability on contractual matters not covered by insurance, in the event of a judgment against Visions In Education, such judgment will be satisfied first out of Visions In Education funds, and only if those funds are insufficient, will the San Juan Unified School District become liable for Visions In Education obligations.

## **Amendments**

Any amendments to this charter shall be made by the mutual agreement of the San Juan Unified School District Board and the Visions In Education administration. Material revisions and amendments shall be made pursuant to the standards, criteria, and timelines in Education Code Section 47605.

## **Renewal**

Visions In Education may submit its charter for renewal to the SJUSD Board of Education in accordance with Education Code Section 47605 and San Juan Unified School District Board of Education Policy. Any renewal shall be for a five-year term.

## **ELEMENT E: EMPLOYMENT QUALIFICATIONS**

***“The qualifications to be met by individuals to be employed by the school.” (Education Code Section 47605 (b) (5) (E))***

All Visions In Education teachers must hold a valid California Commission on Teacher Credentialing teaching certificate, permit, or other documents equivalent to that specified by the California Department of Education. Credentials shall be maintained on file at Visions In Education Charter School.

Visions In Education teachers meet the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) credential requirements by either coursework, exam, or High Objective Uniform State Standards of Evaluation (HOUSSE).

Qualifications for any other full-time, part-time, or temporary employees shall be determined by Visions In Education management in consideration of the skills and knowledge required for those respective positions. Visions In Education is responsible for the selection and dismissal of all employees.

Visions In Education does not discriminate in its hiring policies and employment practices and operations and no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability, gender, nationality, race, or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained

in the definition of hate crimes set forth in California Penal Code section 422.55, including a prohibition against discrimination against any person based upon the perception that the person has any of those characteristics or is associated with a person who has, or is perceived to have, any of those characteristics. The Executive Director is responsible for monitoring the hiring policies.

All Visions In Education employees are subject to state and federal employment laws.

#### **ELEMENT F: HEALTH AND SAFETY**

***“The procedures that the school will follow to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff. These procedures shall include the requirement that each employee of the school furnish the school with a criminal record summary as described in Section 44237.” (Education Code Section 47605(b) (5) (F))***

Visions In Education will comply with all applicable laws concerning fingerprinting, immunization (including tuberculosis screenings), health and safety, child abuse reporting and related issues for both employees and students. All employees will comply with and otherwise furnish criminal record summaries in accordance with Education Code Section 44237.

Visions In Education administrators and teachers attend health and safety training classes.

Visions In Education has a site safety plan in conjunction with the San Juan Unified School District using Rapid Responder. Employees receive annual training in emergency response procedures. Administrative facilities are maintained in compliance with all local fire and safety regulations.

#### **ELEMENT G: RACIAL AND ETHNIC BALANCE**

***“The means by which the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the general population residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the school district to which the charter petition is submitted.” (Education Code Section 47605 (b) (5) (G))***

Visions In Education is open to all students. The racial and ethnic balance of the school reflects the general population of students living in the areas served. Visions In Education actively recruits students looking for the educational alternatives the school provides through promotional advertisements, a school newsletter that is made available to the community, and through community meetings.

#### **ELEMENT H: ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

***“Admission requirements, if applicable.” (Education Code Section 47605(b) (5) (H))***

Students will be considered for admission without regard to ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, or achievement level. A basic reading diagnostic test will be given to students during enrollment to determine if independent study is an appropriate placement for the student. During a student’s admission, parents/guardians and the student must complete the proper documentation required for admission, including a “Master Agreement” that specifies the terms of enrollment. Ongoing enrollment is dependent upon compliance with the “Master Agreement.”

Admission is open on a first-come-first-served basis up to the enrollment capacity in the area in which the student resides and the capacity of the program. When applications exceed the capacity, a waiting-list system will be used to determine admissions on a first-come-first served basis. However, if the number of applications submitted at one time exceeds the school's capacity, a lottery system will be used to determine which students will be enrolled.

Visions In Education is open to all students residing in Sacramento County or one of its contiguous counties: Amador, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Placer, San Joaquin, Sutter, Yolo, and Solano. However, students must not be enrolled in a tuition-based private school while enrolled in Visions In Education.

Visions In Education shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, and all other operations. Visions In Education shall not charge students tuition and shall not discriminate against any pupil. No person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability, gender, nationality, race, or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in California Penal Code section 422.55, including a prohibition against discrimination against any person based upon the perception that the person has any of those characteristics or is associated with a person who has, or is perceived to have, any of those characteristics.

Visions In Education complies with all State of California laws establishing the minimum and maximum age for public school attendance.

#### **ELEMENT I: ANNUAL AUDIT**

***“The manner in which an annual, independent, financial audit shall be conducted, which shall employ generally accepted accounting principles, and the manner in which audit exceptions and deficiencies shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the chartering authority.” (Education Code Section 47605(b) (5) (I))***

An annual independent financial audit will be completed by December 15 following the close of each fiscal year. An independent financial auditor, who has knowledge of school district audit requirements and practices, will be utilized by Visions In Education to conduct an annual audit of Visions In Education. This audit will be in accordance with audit requirements to which public school districts are subject. Upon its completion, the complete audit will be provided to the San Juan Unified School District. Audit exceptions will be resolved through the joint efforts of the school's audit administration and the Chief Financial Officer of the San Juan Unified School District.

As requested by the San Juan Unified School District, a financial report, including the current and projected financial viability of Visions In Education, will be submitted at the first, second, and third interim.

Visions In Education annually provides a report to the San Juan Unified School District.

## **ELEMENT J: PUPIL SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION**

***“The procedures by which pupils can be suspended or expelled.” (Education Code Section 47605 (b) (5) (J))***

Students may be withdrawn from Visions In Education by the school administrator and referred back to their district of residence for noncompliance with the terms of the charter. Placement for district residents, within San Juan Unified School District, will be determined as space is available. All discipline matters will be conducted in compliance with constitutional due process. Students may be recommended for expulsion upon a determination that the student has committed one of the acts listed below while on school district property or engaging in a school related event or in the presence of their credentialed teacher while any activities related to home schooling or independent study instruction are being conducted in the student's home or other place of public meeting between the student and CT. The grounds for suspension or expulsion may change yearly subject to updates to the California Education Code and the San Juan Unified School District Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion.

- Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
- Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self-defense.
- Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished a firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of an object of this type, the pupil had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal.
- Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind.
- Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and either sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to a person another liquid, substance, or material and represented the liquid, substance, or material as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant.
- Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
- Stolen or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- Possessed or used tobacco or any products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel. However, this section does not prohibit use or possession by a pupil of his or her own prescription products.
- Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Section 11014.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
- Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
- Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.

- Possessed an imitation firearm. As used in this section, “imitation firearm” means a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
- Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault or sexual battery.
- Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a pupil who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of either preventing that pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that pupil for being a witness or both.
- Committed sexual harassment as defined in Section 212.5.
- Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence as defined in subdivision (E) of section 33032.5.
- Intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation directed at school district personnel or pupils, that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonable expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of either school personnel or pupils by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.
- Made terroristic threats against school officials or school property or both.

Visions In Education shall provide fair treatment of students facing suspension and expulsion by affording them their due process rights under the law. Visions In Education shall comply with procedures for notices and appeals as specified in regulation. Procedures governing student due process shall conform in all aspects to provisions in law (Education Codes 48911, 48915, 48915.5, 48918 (a - k)).

Students shall be expelled as set forth in the policies and procedures of the San Juan Unified School District. Visions In Education students recommended for expulsion will have all the rights and constitutional due process afforded any student enrolled in San Juan Unified School District. All staff, students and parents/guardians shall be given written notice of this charter school's policies and procedures related to discipline. All discipline procedures will follow due process guidelines. Students and their parents/guardians shall be so notified in writing at the time of their enrollment. Parents/guardians will be expected to work closely with Visions In Education staff to reinforce the school rules and behavioral expectations.

When a student is expelled or leaves Visions In Education without graduating or completing the school year for any reason, Visions In Education shall notify the superintendent of the school district of the pupil's last known address within 30 days, and shall, upon request, provide that school district with a copy of the cumulative record of the pupil.

## **ELEMENT K: RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

***“The manner by which staff members of the charter school will be covered by the State Teachers Retirement System, the Public Employees Retirement System or Federal Social Security.”***  
**(Education Code Section 47605 (b) (5) (K))**

Employees of Visions In Education Charter School will participate in STRS, PERS, or Social Security depending upon each individual's eligibility. Visions In Education may contract with San Juan Unified School District for all requested personnel services and benefit programs including, but

not limited, to STRS, PERS or federal Social Security, health and welfare benefit programs, workers' compensation, and unemployment insurance.

Visions In Education will be responsible for the payment of the employer contribution for STRS, PERS, and/or Social Security depending upon each individual's eligibility and any applicable taxes.

#### **ELEMENT L: ALTERNATIVE ATTENDANCE**

***“The public school attendance alternatives for pupils residing within the school district who choose not to attend the charter school.” (Education Code Section 47605 (b) (5) (L))***

Enrollment at Visions In Education Charter School is entirely voluntary on the part of the students. District residence public schools continue to be an option for all students who choose not to attend Visions In Education. Visions In Education, therefore, makes no other provisions for alternative attendance.

#### **ELEMENT M: RETURN RIGHTS OF SAN JUAN UNIFIED DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

***“A description of the rights of any employee of the school district upon leaving the employment of the school district to work in a charter school and of any rights of return to the school district after employment at a charter school.” (Education Code Section 47605 (b) (5) (M))***

San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) teachers (and any other SJUSD employees) do not have any employment rights with respect to Visions In Education, nor do Visions In Education employees have any employment rights in the SJUSD. Any SJUSD teacher or other employee who accepts employment with Visions In Education will be subject to SJUSD leave provisions, which do not permit a leave of absence for the purpose of other employment. SJUSD teachers or other SJUSD employees who resign from the SJUSD to work at Visions In Education Charter School and who wish to return to SJUSD employment will be in accordance with the SJUSD regular recruitment and selection processes.

Employment at Visions In Education Charter School is “at will” and entered into voluntarily.

#### **ELEMENT N: DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

***“The procedures to be followed by the charter school and the entity granting the charter to resolve disputes relating to provisions of the charter.” (Education Code Section 47605 (b) (5) (N))***

If the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education believes it has cause to revoke the Visions In Education Charter as pursuant to Education Code Section 47607(c), the SJUSD Board of Education agrees to notify the Visions In Education Executive Director and grant the school reasonable time to respond to the notice and take appropriate action prior to revoking the charter pursuant to Education Code Section 47607(d) and (e). If corrective action fails to resolve the dispute, Visions In Education Charter School and the San Juan Unified School District agree to submit the matter to a mutually agreeable third party for a non-binding recommendation on how to resolve the matter in accordance with the terms of the charter and laws applicable to charter schools.

If a provision of the Visions In Education Charter is found to be unlawful, the remainder of the Visions In Education Charter will still be valid if to do so keeps the critical elements intact and if the provision that was found to be invalid is not of such a nature that in its absence the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education would have denied the Visions In Education Charter.

### **ELEMENT O: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

***A declaration whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive Public School Employer of the employees of the charter school for the purposes of the Educational Employment Relations Act. (Education Code Section 47605 (b) (5) (O))***

Pursuant to Education Code 47611.5 (*added by Stats. 1999, c. 828 (A.B. 631, sec. 2)*), Visions In Education Charter School shall be deemed to be the exclusive public school employer of the employees at the charter school for the purposes of Section 3540 of the Government Code.

### **ELEMENT P: SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES**

In the event that Visions In Education Charter School closes:

1. Visions In Education Charter School (Visions) will be responsible for the closure-related activities.
2. Visions In Education will notify the parents, San Juan Unified School District, the Sacramento County Office of Education, STRS, PERS, federal social security, and the California Department of Education with the following information:
  - a. The date of closure;
  - b. Contact information for inquiries;
  - c. The district residence for pupils; and
  - d. How parents may obtain copies of pupil records.
3. Visions In Education will provide San Juan Unified School District with a list of all Visions In Education pupils that includes their grade level, district of residence, and courses they have completed.
4. All pupil records, all state assessment results, and any special education records will be transferred to the San Juan Unified School District to be maintained.
5. All personnel records for Visions In Education employees will be transferred to the San Juan Unified School District.
6. Visions In Education's Executive Director will ensure the completion of an independent final audit within six months after the closure of the school that may function as the annual audit, and that includes:
  - a. An accounting of all financial assets, including cash and accounts receivable and an inventory of property, equipment, and other items of material value.
  - b. An accounting of the liabilities, including accounts payable and any reduction in apportionments as a result of audit findings or other investigations, loans, or unpaid staff compensation.
  - c. An assessment of the disposition of any restricted funds received by or due to Visions In Education.
7. The disposal of any net assets remaining after all liabilities of the charter school have been paid or otherwise addressed, including but not limited to, the following will be the property of San Juan Unified School District:

- a. The return of any grant funds and restricted categorical funds to their source in accordance with the terms of the grant or state and federal law, as appropriate, which may include submission of final expenditure reports for entitlement grants and the filing of any required Final Expenditure Reports and Final Performance Reports.
  - b. The return of any donated materials and property in accordance with any conditions established when the donation of such materials or property was accepted.
8. Visions In Education will be responsible for filing any annual reports required pursuant to Education Code section 47604.33.
9. Visions In Education will be responsible for the payment of any closure activities.