BYLAWS
OF
ACADEMY OF HOPE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
A South Carolina nonprofit corporation

ARTICLE I: Name and Address

Section 1: Name of Corporation
The name of the corporation shall be Academy of Hope Public Charter School (hereinafter referred to as "the Corporation").

Section 2: Fictitious Name
The Corporation may conduct business under the name AOH.

Section 3: Address of Corporation
The location and address of the registered office of the Corporation shall be 3521 Juniper Bay Road Conway, SC 29527, or such other place as designated, from time to time, by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II: Nature of Corporation

Section 1: Non-profit
The Corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise.

Section 2: Purposes
The purposes for which the Corporation is to be formed are as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation.

Section 3: Non-discrimination
The Corporation shall be nonreligious and shall accept students and hire staff without discrimination as to race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, educational affiliation, handicap status, or age, and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations relating thereto including those specifications regarding admissions as to racial composition pursuant to South Carolina Code.

The Corporation shall comply with all applicable federal and state non-discrimination laws, including but not limited to Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Section 4: Enrollment
Subject to total enrollment limitations, enrollment in the school shall be open to any child in accordance with current South Carolina Charter School law.

ARTICLE III: Members

Section 1: Members
The Corporation shall have no members. All corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV: Board of Directors, Charter Governing Board

Section 1: Management
The Board of Directors means the governing body of the Charter School and also shall be the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by the Board.

Section 2: Responsibilities

The Board shall sign a Charter School Contract, ensure compliance with all of the requirements for charter schools provided by South Carolina Charter School law, approve the annual budget, set policy for employment of teachers and non-teaching employees, contract for other services, and develop pay scales, performance criteria, and discharge policies for Charter School employees.

All members of the Board will sign and adhere to a Code of Ethics approved by the Board. No person who has been convicted of a felony may be nominated or elected for a Board position. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-50(B)(16), members of the Board are considered public members, and employees of the Corporation are considered public employees, subject to the ethics and government accountability requirements of Chapter 13, Title 8 of the S.C. Code of Laws (the State Ethics Act). The Board shall annually execute the statement of assurance of ethical compliance required to be included in the Corporation's charter contract.

Section 3: Annual Elections
Elections are held annually for the Board of the Directors. The Board shall consist of 9 members. Five (5) members of the Board shall be elected and four (4) members of the Board shall be appointed. Members shall serve staggered two-year terms and may serve additional consecutive terms. At least fifty percent (50%) of Board members must be individuals with a background in K-12 education or in business; if the Board has an odd number of members, the additional member beyond an even fifty percent split must also have a background in K-12 education or in business. Notice of the election shall be posted on the Charter School's website at least thirty (30) days prior to the election in accordance with South Carolina law.

All Board members will be considered at-large and assigned a member number (e.g., Board Member 1, Board Member 2, etc.) without prejudice for any one member. Board seats 1-4 will be elected seats, and Board seats 5-7 will be appointed. During even-numbered years, Board seats 2, 4, and 6 will be up for election or appointment. During odd-numbered years, Board seats 1, 3, 5, and 7 will be up for election or appointment.

Anyone wishing to run for or be appointed to the Academy of Hope Charter School Board of Directors will be required to complete a written filing form.

All employees of the Charter School and all parents or guardians of students enrolled in the Charter School are eligible to participate in the voting during each election. Parents and guardians shall have one vote per open board seat for each student enrolled in the Charter School. Employees of the school are entitled to one vote per open board seat.

The members of the Board shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast. No employee of the Corporation shall be seated on the Board in accordance with current South Carolina Charter School law.

In the event of a tie, a runoff election will occur.

New Board members will be sworn in and take office at the next school board meeting following the election. Once the election has taken place, and results duly tabulated and published, orientation training for all new Board members will be held within one year of taking office on the Board, in accordance with state law. Additional training will be required each year by the school’s authorizer.

Section 4: Regular Meetings
The Board shall adopt a schedule of monthly meetings each year. Meetings of the Board shall be general meetings and open for the transaction of any business within the powers of the Board without special notice of such business except in any case where special notice is required by law or by the Bylaws.

Section 5: Special Meetings
Special meetings of the Board shall be called at any time by the Secretary upon the written request of either the Chair or three members of the Board.

Section 6: Place and Time of Meetings
All board meetings may be conducted in person in Horry County or through a virtual or hybrid format, as permitted by applicable law. The location, meeting format, and any electronic access information shall be communicated to the public through the Board's official meeting notices in accordance with applicable state law and Board policies. All meetings shall comply with applicable public notice, public access, and livestreaming requirements.

Section 7: Notice of Meetings
An annual schedule of the Board's regular meetings shall be provided to each board member at the first regular meeting of the Board year. Each member of the Board shall also be notified by email not less than 24 hours before the meeting. Such notice shall state the date, time, and place where the meeting is to be held, and for special meetings, in addition, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called. All Board members will receive email at accounts provided by the Charter School and at any other email addresses requested in writing by a Board member.

Notices of meetings of the Board shall also be posted at the school, sent to the media at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, posted on the school's website, and given to the public in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. Public notice shall, however, not be required in the case of emergency meetings or a conference as defined in the Freedom of Information Act. The authorizer will be notified at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled meeting.

Agendas and approved minutes from each meeting will be posted on the Charter School website.

Section 8: Open Meetings
All official actions and all deliberations by a quorum of the Board shall take place at a meeting open to the public, as provided in the Freedom of Information Act, except in cases where executive sessions are authorized pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 9: Quorum
At all meetings of the Board, the presence of a majority of the members shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum and, except as otherwise provided by law or by the Bylaws, the act of a majority of the members present shall be the act of the Board. In the absence of a quorum, no business shall be transacted except to take measures to obtain a quorum, fix a time to adjourn, or to take a recess. No proxy votes will be allowed when members of the Charter School Board of Directors are absent from regular or called meetings.

Section 10: Resignation and Dismissals
A Board member may resign at any time by providing written notice to the Board Chair. Board members are expected to attend regularly scheduled meetings and complete required training. Any removal of a Board member shall be conducted in accordance with applicable South Carolina law.

Section 11: Vacancies
In the event any vacancy occurs in the Board, by death, resignation, or dismissal of any member, the vacancy will be filled as soon as reasonably possible in the same manner in which the seat was originally filled (either by appointment or election).

Section 12: Compensation and Expenses
Members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred when acting at the request of and on behalf of the Board.

Section 13: Qualifications of Board Members
Board Members shall qualify under all requirements of the South Carolina Charter School law, as amended,

including without limitation: (a) South Carolina residency; (b) the prohibition on service by any person convicted of a felony; (c) the conflicts-of-interest restrictions in Article IV, Section 15; and (d) the prohibition on simultaneous service on more than one governing board of a charter school or charter school authorizer, effective December 31, 2026.

Section 14: Bylaw Amendments
Amendments to the Bylaws will occur at a regularly scheduled Board meeting after prior written notice and discussion at a minimum of one meeting where a quorum is present. Bylaws may be adopted, amended, or repealed by a majority vote of the Board.

Section 15: Conflicts of Interest
In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-75(D)-(F), as amended by Act 123 of 2026:
(a) No individual may serve as a Board member or employee of the Corporation if that individual, or an immediate family member (a child, spouse, or an individual claimed by the person as a tax dependent), is a full or part owner or principal of an entity with which the Corporation contracts, directly or indirectly, for professional services, management-organization services, goods, or facilities, or is an employee of the Corporation's Authorizer.
(b) No individual may serve as a Board member of the Corporation if that individual, or an immediate family member, is a full or part owner, principal, or employee of a management organization.
(c) No individual may serve as a Board member of the Corporation or of any affiliated Academy of Hope foundation if that individual, or an immediate family member, is a board member of the Corporation's Authorizer or of an institution of higher learning that serves as a charter authorizer.
(d) No member of the South Carolina General Assembly, and no immediate family member of such a member, may serve on the Board, or hold any ownership interest in an entity established to operate or lease property to the Corporation.
(e) No individual employed by the Corporation's Authorizer in a position exercising direct financial decision-making authority over the Corporation may simultaneously be employed by the Corporation.
(f) After December 31, 2026, no individual may serve simultaneously as a member of more than one governing board among charter schools and charter school authorizers.

ARTICLE V: Officers

Section 1: Number of Officers
The officers of the Corporation shall be a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers must be Board members. The officers shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the offices that they hold or as may be assigned to them by the Board.

Section 2: Election of Officers
The officers shall be elected annually at the first regularly scheduled Board meeting after the new Board is seated by a plurality of the votes cast. Officers may succeed themselves in office. Each person elected as an officer shall continue in office after his/her election until the next Board officer election or until his/her earlier death or resignation, in accordance with the Bylaws. Vacancies of offices caused by death, resignation, or decrease in the number of officers may be filled by a majority vote of the Board at a special meeting called for that purpose or at any regular meeting.

Section 3: Additional Officers
The Board, at any meeting, may by resolution appoint such additional officers and such agents and employees and determine their term of office and compensation, if any, as it may deem advisable. The Board may delegate to any officer or committee the power to appoint such subordinate officers, agents, or employees and to determine their terms of office and compensation, if any.

ARTICLE VI: Committees

Section 1: Committees
The Board may from time to time, by resolution, constitute such committees of members, officers, employees, or nonmembers, with such functions, powers, and duties, as the Board deems necessary or appropriate. Unless the Board shall provide otherwise, each such committee shall enact purposes, responsibilities, and procedures for its operations.

These documents and their amendments shall be approved by the full Board. The Board retains the authority to dissolve these committees by a majority vote.

ARTICLE VII: Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1: Fiscal Year and Audit
The fiscal year of the Corporation shall end on June 30 each year. The Treasurer of the Corporation shall be required periodically and no less than once a year to employ a certified public accountant to audit the accounts of the Corporation.

Per state law, the current school budget and audit will be made available to the authorizer no earlier than October 15th or the next business day of each year, unless the Department of Education grants an extension or establishes a grace period for the authorizer.

Section 2: Execution of Contracts
The Board may authorize any officer, employee, or agent, in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by these Bylaws or by the Board, no officer, employee, or agent shall have any power to bind the Corporation by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable pecuniary for any purpose or in any amount.

Section 3: Commercial Paper
All checks and other orders for the payment of money out of the funds of the Corporation, and all notes or evidences of indebtedness of the Corporation, shall be executed on behalf of the Corporation by such officer or officers or employee or employees, as the Board may, by resolution, from time to time determine.

Section 4: Deposits
All funds of the Corporation not otherwise employed shall be deposited, from time to time, to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board may, from time to time, select or as may be selected by any officer or employee of the Corporation to whom such power may, from time to time, be delegated by the Board; and for the purpose of such deposit, any officer, or any employee to whom such power may be delegated by the Board, may endorse, assign and deliver checks, drafts, and other orders for the payment of money which are payable to the order of the Corporation.

Section 5: Notices
Except as may otherwise be required by law, any notice required to be given under these Bylaws shall be in writing and signed by the Board Chair or the Secretary; and any notice so required shall be deemed to be sufficient if given by email addressed to the person entitled thereto at his last email address appearing on the records of the Corporation.

Any notices required to be given under these Bylaws may be waived, by the person entitled thereto in writing (including telegraph, cable, radio or wireless), whether before or after the meeting or other matter in respect of which such notice is to be given, and in such event such notice need not be given to such person.

Section 6: Dissolution
Upon dissolution of the Corporation, any assets obtained through restricted agreements with a donor through awards, grants, or gifts shall be returned to the donor or granting entity in accordance with the applicable agreement. All other assets shall become property of the State of South Carolina.

ARTICLE VIII: Indemnification

Section 1: General
The Corporation shall indemnify each officer, member, employee, and representative ("Indemnitee") from the expenses and risks as set forth in Sections 2 and 3 below if such Indemnitee has acted in good faith and in a manner that he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Corporation and, with respect to criminal proceedings, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 2: Expenses
Indemnitees shall be indemnified against all expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines. and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the Corporation by reason of the fact that the Indemnitee is or was a representative, officer, or director of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a representative of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise.)

Section 3: Advances
The Corporation may advance to all Indemnitees all expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit, or proceeding in advance of final disposition of such action provided the Board determines that it is more likely than not that the Indemnitee will be entitled to indemnification pursuant to Section 1 of Article VIII, and such Indemnitee agrees to repay such amount if it is ultimately determined by the Board that the Indemnitee is not permitted to receive indemnification under Subchapter D or the South Carolina Non-Profit Corporation law.

Section 4: Insurance
The Board may cause the Corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a Director or Officer of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a Director or Officer of another corporation, or as its representatives in a partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, against any liability asserted against such person and incurred in any such capacity or arising out of such status, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such person.

ARTICLE IX: Limitation of Personal Liability

Section 1: Personal Liability
AOH Board members shall not be personally liable for monetary damages for any action taken or any failure to take any action, unless (a) such member has breached or failed to perform his/her duties as a member, including his/her duties as a member of any committee of the Board upon which he/she may serve, pursuant to the standard of care set forth in Section 2 of Article IX, and (b) such breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct, or recklessness.

Section 2: Standard of Care
Each member of the Corporation shall stand in a fiduciary relation to the Corporation and shall perform his/her duties as a member, including his or her duties as a member of any committee of the Board upon which he or she may serve, in good faith, including reasonable inquiry, skill and diligence, as a person of ordinary prudence would use under similar circumstances. In performing his or her duties, a member shall be entitled to rely in good faith on information, opinions, reports or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, in each case prepared or presented by any of the following:

1. One or more officers or employees of the Corporation whom the members reasonably believe to be reliable and competent in the matters presented.
2. Counsel, public accountants, or other persons as to matters that the members reasonably believe to be within the professional or expert competence of such person.
3. A committee of the Board, upon which he/she does not serve, duly designated in accordance with the law, as to matters within its designated authority, which committee the member reasonably believes to merit confidence.

A member shall not be considered to be acting in good faith if he/she has knowledge concerning the matter in question that would cause his/her reliance to be unwarranted.

Absent breach of fiduciary duty, lack of good faith or self-damaging, actions taken as a member or any failure to take any action shall be presumed to be in the best interests of the Corporation.

Section 3: Severability

If any provision of these Bylaws or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid or unenforceable to any extent by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be complied with or enforced to the greatest extent permitted by law as determined by such court, and the remainder of these Bylaws and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby and shall continue to be complied with and enforced to the greatest extent permitted by law.

Section 4: Conflict Between Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and Act

The Articles and Act (as either may be amended from time to time) are incorporated herein by reference. Any conflict between the terms of the Bylaws, the Articles, or the Act shall be resolved in the following order: (1) the Act, (2) the Articles, (3) the Bylaws.

Amended and approved by the Board of Directors on October 15, 2026