

YOUR FUTURE IS WITHIN



# GOVERNING BOARD APPLICATION



*Dear Potential Board Member,*

*You have received this governing board application because you have been recommended by a friend or staff member of River's Edge Academy Charter School (REACH) or you have been identified as someone in our community that we would like to explore for a potential new board member position.*

*We hope you will take this opportunity to learn more about REACH and the responsibilities of the governing board. We believe as you further explore REACH, you will love to partner with our organization in this area of personalized learning and community partners.*

*This application is just the beginning of the process in becoming a new board member. Interviews, facility tours, and board approval may also be steps in the process. Ensuring that REACH is a good fit for you and you for us is crucial in quality board development and the overall success of our organization.*

*Should you determine that you have an interest in exploring a governing board position with REACH, please complete an application.*

*Thank you for your interest in a potential Board position with REACH.*

### **WHY SERVE?**

- Have a Immediate and Lasting Impact
- Gain Expertise on Complex Issues
- Build Valuable Networks and Relationships
- Grow as a Leader Through Experience
- Community Recognition



## OUR VISION

“Achieving academic excellence through personalized learning, and parent, teacher, community partnerships.”

## OUR MISSION

REACH offers a partnership between families, community, and public education that is performance and standards-based personalized learning, supported by the principles of multiple intelligence, service learning, and college and career readiness to students in grades K-12.

## OUR CORE VALUES

REACH School is based on the belief that learning best occurs when:

- A caring adult is actively involved (parent)
- The student’s learning styles are addressed
- Real-life context-based learning is emphasized
- Enrichment occurs through field trips, apprenticeships, small group classes, technology, etc.
- Schooling is done without walls
- Students are intrinsically motivated

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

At the heart of our program are our Academic Advisory Teachers and site-based teachers. In partnership with our parents, they help REACH fulfill its vision.



# OUR PROGRAMS

## K-12 PERSONALIZED LEARNING

This program uses a blend of onsite and home-based learning opportunities to create a personalized curriculum for each student. Students have the option to attend onsite classes, the chance to learn while pursuing their passions, and opportunities to excel in academics and areas such as dance, art, 4H, sports and music through our community partners.



## K-6 PLACE-BASED LEARNING

This location specific program provides the perfect opportunity for students to learn in the classroom and through outdoor adventures and the world around them.

## EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

This Dual Enrollment Program allows students enrolled in REACH to attend college during their high school years. We oversee course selection and grant credit from the student's college transcript to complete high school coursework and diploma.



## GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL DUTIES

**Duty of Care** requires leaders to use reasonable care and good judgment in making their decisions on behalf of the interest of the Reach.

**Duty of Loyalty** requires leaders to be faithful to the organization, avoiding conflicts of interest.

**Duty of Obedience** requires leaders to comply with governing documents (i.e. bylaws, article of inc., policies, etc.)

## EXPECTATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS

- Attend and participate in meetings on a regular basis and special events.
- Be alert to community concerns that can be addressed by the mission, objectives, and programs.
- Help communicate and promote the mission and programs to the community.
- Become familiar with finances, budget, and financial/resource needs.
- Understand the policies and procedures.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

- Employ and support the Executive Director.
- Establish and oversee policies and procedures in accordance with the vision, mission, the program and any state and federal requirements for non-profit organizations.
- Ensure the financial affairs are conducted on a responsible basis in accordance with established policies.
- Oversight of program planning and evaluation
- Review of organizational and programmatic reports
- Promotion of the organization
- Fundraising and outreach



# GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER

## TIME COMMITMENT

The board of directors meet at least 6 times per year. Meetings typically last 60 minutes. Board members are asked to attend special events throughout the year.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Ensure effective planning. The board actively participates in an overall strategic planning process and assists in implementing and monitoring the school's goals.

Ensure adequate financial resources. One of the board's foremost responsibilities is to secure adequate on-going financial resources for the school to fulfill its mission.

Protect assets and provide proper financial oversight. The board assists in developing the annual budget and ensuring that proper financial controls are in place.

Enhance the school's public standing. The board clearly communicates the school's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garner support from the community. Be alert to community concerns that can be addressed by the mission, objectives, and programs.

Build a competent board. The board shares the responsibility to articulate prerequisites for board candidates, orient new members, and periodically and comprehensively evaluate their own performance.

Hire, support and evaluate the school director. The board should ensure that the school director has the moral and professional support that he or she needs to further the goals of the school.

Ensure legal and ethical integrity. The board is ultimately responsible for adherence to legal standards and best practice.



In partnering with Reach as a governing board member, you can feel confident your contribution will make a meaningful, lasting impact on our community and in the lives of our students.

Members of the board share these responsibilities while acting in the interest of River's Edge Academy Charter School. Each member is expected to make recommendations based on his or her experience and vantage point in the community.



## **GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER EXPECTATIONS**

To help REACH be successful and to be a valued board member, I will keep the following as my expectations:

I am responsible for the stability and development of River's Edge Academy Charter School. As a member of the Governing Board, I pledge to help carry out the mission of the school.

I am responsible to review, approve, and monitor the annual budget.

I am responsible to take an active role in fundraising for the school.

I am responsible to understand the legal aspects of the organization and to ensure proper insurance coverage and policies established and to monitor implementation of these policies.

I understand that my attendance at board and committee meetings is crucial to the progress of the school and will commit to be present.

I understand that the day to day operation of the school is the responsibility of the school staff.

I agree to keep confidential any sensitive information shared at board meetings, or in conversations with staff or other board members.

As a member of the board, I pledge to carry out this agreement to the best of my ability and to trust and encourage my fellow board members to do likewise.

### **Support to the Board**

Reach will provide the board with appropriate financial information that allows sound fiscal decisions to ensure the school's financial health.

Reach will provide statistical and analytical reports as needed.

*These responsibilities I accept in good faith as a member of River's Edge Academy Charter School Governing Board.*