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(Joint Administration Requested)

#### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS **DALLAS DIVISION**

In re: Chapter 11 Higher Ground Education, Inc., et al., 1 Case No.: 25-80121-11 (MVL)

**DEBTORS' EMERGENCY MOTION FOR ORDER EXTENDING TIME** TO FILE SCHEDULES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AND STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Higher Ground Education, Inc. ("HGE") and its affiliated debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases") hereby file Debtors' Emergency Motion for Order Extending Time to File Schedules of

The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal identification number, are: Higher Ground Education Inc. (7265); Guidepost A LLC (8540); Prepared Montessorian LLC (6181); Terra Firma Services LLC (6999); Guidepost Birmingham LLC (2397); Guidepost Bradley Hills LLC (2058); Guidepost Branchburg LLC (0494); Guidepost Carmel LLC (4060); Guidepost FIC B LLC (8609); Guidepost FIC C LLC (1518); Guidepost Goodyear LLC (1363); Guidepost Las Colinas LLC (9767); Guidepost Leawood LLC (3453); Guidepost Muirfield Village LLC (1889); Guidepost Richardson LLC (7111); Guidepost South Riding LLC (2403); Guidepost St Robert LLC (5136); Guidepost The Woodlands LLC (6101); Guidepost Walled Lake LLC (9118); HGE FIC D LLC (6499); HGE FIC E LLC (0056); HGE FIC F LLC (8861); HGE FIC G LLC (5500); HGE FIC H LLC (8817); HGE FIC I LLC (1138); HGE FIC K LLC (8558); HGE FIC L LLC (2052); HGE FIC M LLC (8912); HGE FIC N LLC (6774); HGE FIC O LLC (4678); HGE FIC P LLC (1477); HGE FIC Q LLC (3122); HGE FIC R LLC (9661); LePort Emeryville LLC (7324); AltSchool II LLC (0403). The Debtors' mailing address is 1321 Upland Dr. PMB 20442, Houston, Texas 77043.

Assets and Liabilities and Statements of Financial Affairs (this "Motion").<sup>2</sup> In support of this Motion, the Debtors respectfully represent as follows:

## I. JURISDICTION, VENUE, AND PREDICATES FOR RELIEF

- 1. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Court") has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334. This matter is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). The Debtors confirm their consent, pursuant to Rule 7008 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), to the entry of a final order by the Court.
  - 2. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 3. The bases for the relief requested herein are sections 105 and 521 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101–1532 (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Bankruptcy Rules 1007 and 9006, and Rules 1007-1 and 9013-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Local Rules").

#### II. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

4. From their inception in 2016 through the beginning of 2025, the Debtors grew to over 150 schools (the "Schools"), becoming the largest owner and operator of Montessori schools in the world. The Debtors' mission was to modernize and mainstream the Montessori education movement. In addition to owning and operating the Schools, the Debtors provided training and consulting services to Montessori schools around the world. The Debtors sought to offer an end-to-end experience that covers the entire lifecycle of a family at school, virtually, and at home, from birth through secondary education—enabled by next-gen, accredited Montessori instruction.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the First Day Declaration (defined below).

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Information on the Debtors, their businesses, and a summary of the relief requested in this Motion can be found in the *Declaration of Jonathan McCarthy in Support of First Day Motions* (the "**First Day Declaration**"), filed concurrently herewith and incorporated herein by reference.

- 5. On June 17, 2025 (the "**Petition Date**"), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11. The Debtors remain in possession of their property and are managing their businesses as debtors-in-possession pursuant to Sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. The court has not appointed a trustee, and no official committee has been established.
- 6. Contemporaneously with the filing of this Motion, the Debtors have filed with the Court a motion requesting joint administration of the Chapter 11 Cases for procedural purposes only pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b).

## III. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

- 7. The Debtors request emergency consideration of this Motion. The Debtors believe an immediate and orderly transition into chapter 11 is critical to the viability of their operations. Any delay in granting the relief requested could divert management's attention at a crucial time in these Chapter 11 Cases, hinder the Debtors' operations, and cause irreparable harm. As such, the Debtors believe that emergency consideration is necessary and requests that this Motion be heard at the Debtors' first day hearings.
- 8. By way of this Motion, the Debtors request that the Court enter an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the "**Proposed Order**"), extending the deadline by which the Debtors must file their Schedules and Statements (as defined below). The Debtors request an additional seven (7) days—for a total of twenty-one (21) days from the Petition Date—to file their Schedules and Statements, thereby establishing a deadline of **July 8, 2025**, for the filing of the Schedules and Statements.

#### IV. BASIS FOR RELIEF

- 9. The requirements of section 521 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 1007 require the filing of schedules of assets and liabilities, current income and expenditures, executory contracts and unexpired leases, and statements of financial affairs (collectively, the "Schedules and Statements") on or within 14 days from the date of the commencement of a bankruptcy case. See 11 U.S.C. § 521; Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1007(c). Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 1007(c) and 9006(b), the Court may extend the time for filing the Schedules and Statements for cause shown. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1007(c), 9006(b).
- 10. Showing "cause" merely requires that a debtor "demonstrate some justification for the issuance of the order" and bankruptcy courts will normally grant such extensions "in the absence of bad faith or prejudice to the adverse party." *See, e.g., Bryant v. Smith*, 165 B.R. 176, 182 (W.D. Va. 1994) (discussing the standard for granting extensions under Bankruptcy Rule 1007) (internal citations and quotation marks omitted). Moreover, section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code empowers the Court to "issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of" the Bankruptcy Code, and thus the extension of time for cause shown is within this Court's equitable powers.
- 11. The Debtors maintain that cause exists to grant the relief requested herein given the large amount of information that must be assembled and compiled and the number of hours that must be devoted by the Debtors' employees and professionals to the task of completing the Schedules and Statements.
- 12. At this juncture in the Chapter 11 Cases, the Debtors have not had sufficient time to assemble the requisite financial data and other information required to prepare the Schedules and Statements. In the days leading up to the Petition Date, the Debtors focused primarily on

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preparing for these Chapter 11 Cases, including negotiating with certain creditor constituencies, and thus the Debtors' management and professionals were not in a position to complete the Schedules and Statements as of the Petition Date—although the Debtors were able to perform substantial work towards preparing the Schedules and Statements. The substantial amount of work entailed in completing the Schedules and Statements will directly compete with the demands of the Debtors to address critical operational matters during the initial post-petition period.

- 13. To prepare their Schedules and Statements information accurately, the Debtors must thoroughly examine their books, records, and documents, and the collection and examination of this information will require substantial time and effort. Further, these Chapter 11 Cases involve thirty-five (35) Debtors. Preparing Schedules and Statements for each Debtor will require significant resources and time. Focusing the attention of key personnel and advisors on critical operational and chapter 11 compliance issues during the early days of these Chapter 11 Cases will facilitate the Debtors' smooth transition into chapter 11, thereby maximizing value for their estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest.
- 14. The Debtors estimate that an extension of seven (7) additional days (for a total of twenty-one (21) days) will provide sufficient time for the Debtors to adequately prepare and file their Schedules and Statements. The Debtors thus request that the Court establish <u>July 8, 2025</u>, as the date on or before which the Debtors must file their Schedules and Statements, without prejudice to the Debtors' right to seek further extensions from this Court.
- 15. The Debtors have made no prior requests for an extension to file the Schedules and Statements in these Chapter 11 Cases. The Debtors make this request in good faith and not merely for the purpose of delay. The Debtors submit that no creditor or other party in interest will be prejudiced by the requested extension of time for filing the Schedules and Statements.

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#### V. NOTICE

- Trustee for the Northern District of Texas; (b) the United States Attorney's Officer for the Northern District of Texas; (c) the state attorney generals for all states in which the Debtors conduct or have recently conducted business; (d) the Internal Revenue Service, (e) the holders of the 30 largest unsecured claims against the Debtors (on a consolidated basis); (f) Cozen O'Connor, as counsel to the Senior DIP Lender and Plan Sponsor; (g) Kane Russell Coleman Logan PC, as counsel to the Junior DIP Lender; and (h) all parties in interest who have formally appeared and requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. The Debtors respectfully submit that no further notice of this Motion is required.
- The pleadings in these Chapter 11 Cases and supporting papers are available on the Debtors' website at <a href="www.veritaglobal.net/HigherGround">www.veritaglobal.net/HigherGround</a> or on the Bankruptcy Court's website at <a href="https://ecf.txnb.uscourts.gov/">https://ecf.txnb.uscourts.gov/</a>. You can request any pleading you need from (i) the proposed noticing agent at: <a href="https://ecf.txnb.uscourts.gov/">HigherGroundInfo@veritaglobal.com</a>, (888) 733-1431 (U.S./Canada) (toll-free), +1 (310) 751-2632 (International), or (ii) proposed counsel for the Debtors at: Foley & Lardner LLP, 1144 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202, Attn: Tim Mohan (tmohan@foley.com), and Foley & Lardner LLP, 1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 2000, Houston, Texas 77002, Attn: Nora McGuffey (nora.mcguffey@foley.com) and Quynh-Nhu Truong (qtruong@foley.com).

**WHEREFORE**, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter the Proposed Order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, granting the relief requested herein and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

DATED: June 18, 2025 Respectfully submitted by:

/s/ Holland N. O'Neil

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on June 18, 2025, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served electronically by the Court's PACER system.

/s/ Nora J. McGuffey
Nora J. McGuffey

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### Exhibit A

**Proposed Order** 

# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

In re:	§ § Chapter 11
Higher Ground Education, Inc., et al., 1	§ Case No.: 25-80121-11 (MVL)
Debtor.	§ (Joint Administration Requested)

# ORDER GRANTING EMERGENCY MOTION FOR ORDER EXTENDING TIME TO FILE SCHEDULES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AND STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal identification number, are: Higher Ground Education Inc. (7265); Guidepost A LLC (8540); Prepared Montessorian LLC (6181); Terra Firma Services LLC (6999); Guidepost Birmingham LLC (2397); Guidepost Bradley Hills LLC (2058); Guidepost Branchburg LLC (0494); Guidepost Carmel LLC (4060); Guidepost FIC B LLC (8609); Guidepost FIC C LLC (1518); Guidepost Goodyear LLC (1363); Guidepost Las Colinas LLC (9767); Guidepost Leawood LLC (3453); Guidepost Muirfield Village LLC (1889); Guidepost Richardson LLC (7111); Guidepost South Riding LLC (2403); Guidepost St Robert LLC (5136); Guidepost The Woodlands LLC (6101); Guidepost Walled Lake LLC (9118); HGE FIC D LLC (6499); HGE FIC E LLC (0056); HGE FIC F LLC (8861); HGE FIC G LLC (5500); HGE FIC H LLC (8817); HGE FIC I LLC (1138); HGE FIC K LLC (8558); HGE FIC L LLC (2052); HGE FIC M LLC (8912); HGE FIC N LLC (6774); HGE FIC O LLC (4678); HGE FIC P LLC (1477); HGE FIC Q LLC (3122); HGE FIC R LLC (9661); LePort Emeryville LLC (7324); AltSchool II LLC (0403). The Debtors' mailing address is 1321 Upland Dr. PMB 20442, Houston, Texas 77043.

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Upon the motion (the "Motion")<sup>2</sup> of Higher Ground Education, Inc. ("HGE") and its affiliated debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases") for entry of an order (this "Order"), extending the time to file schedules of assets and liabilities and statements of financial affairs; all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and this Court having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors' estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest; and this Court having found that the Debtors' notice of the Motion and opportunity for a hearing on the Motion were appropriate and no other notice need be pr vided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at a hearing before this Court (the "Hearing"); and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before this Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is granted as set forth herein.
- 2. Pursuant to Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 1007(c) and 9006, the time within which the Debtors must file their Schedules and Statements is extended by an additional seven (7) days, for a total of twenty-one (21) days after the Petition Date, through and including July 8, 2025. This extension is granted without prejudice to the Debtors' right to seek an additional extension at a later date.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed in the Motion.

- 3. The Debtors are authorized to take all reasonable actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Motion.
- 4. This Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.

###END OF ORDER###

#### Submitted by:

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