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

In re:

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DEBTORS' EMERGENCY MOTION FOR ENTRY
OF AN ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING PROCEDURES
TO REJECT EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES
AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

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 Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing and* 

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.

Approving Procedures to Reject Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases and (II) Granting Related Relief (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(a), 365(a), and 554(a) of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101–1532 (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Bankruptcy Rules 6003 and 6004; and Rule 9013-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Local Rules").

## II. BACKGROUND

6. 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

<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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birth through secondary education—enabled by next-gen, accredited Montessori instruction. 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.

- 7. 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.
- 8. 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

4. By this Motion, the Debtors seek entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the "**Order**"): (a) authorizing and approving procedures for the rejection of executory contracts (each, a "**Contract**" and collectively, the "**Contracts**") and unexpired leases (each, a "**Lease**" and collectively, the "**Leases**"), including unexpired leases of nonresidential real property of the Debtors (each, a "**Real Property Lease**" and collectively, the "**Real Property Leases**") and the abandonment of certain property in connection therewith, (b) authorizing the abandonment of any *de minimis* equipment, furniture, and other personal property remaining in the premises of the Leases as of rejection date, and (c) granting related relief.

# IV. THE PROPOSED REJECTION PROCEDURES

- 5. As discussed above, the Debtors continue to review and evaluate their Contracts and Leases and may decide to reject additional Contracts or Leases throughout these Chapter 11 Cases. Therefore, the Debtors seek approval of the procedures outlined below in order to streamline the rejection process for Contracts and Leases, eliminate unnecessary administrative burdens, and conserve resources of their estates. Specifically, the Debtors seek entry of the Order authorizing and approving the following rejection procedures with respect to the Contracts and Leases (the "Rejection Procedures"):
  - a. **Rejection Notice**. The Debtors will file a notice (the "**Rejection Notice**") setting forth the proposed rejection of one or more Contracts and/or Leases and will serve the Rejection Notice via electronic mail or overnight mail on: (i) the counterparty to the rejected Contract or Lease (the "**Counterparty**"), and its counsel, if known, at the last known address available to the Debtors; (ii) with respect to Real Property Leases, any known third party having an interest in personal property located in or on the leased premises (the "**Leased Premises**"); (iii) any party known to assert a lien in any property subject to the rejected Contract or Lease; (iv) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of Texas (the "**U.S. Trustee**"); and (v) proposed counsel to the unsecured creditors' committee, if any (the "**Committee**," and together with the other parties listed in this paragraph, the "**Rejection Notice Parties**").
  - Contents of Rejection Notice. The Rejection Notice shall be substantially b. in the form attached as Exhibit 1 to the proposed Order. With respect to Real Property Leases, the Rejection Notice shall set forth the following information, to the best of the Debtors' knowledge: (i) the street address of the related real property; (ii) the name and address of the landlord (each, a "Landlord"); (iii) the date on which the Debtors will vacate (or have vacated) the Leased Premises; (iv) whether or not the Debtors intend to abandon any property at the Leased Premises (as described further in subparagraph c, below) and a description of the same; and (v) the proposed effective date of rejection, which shall be the later of (x) the date of filing of the Rejection Notice, and (y) the date the Debtors vacate the Leased Premises and turn over any keys or key codes to the applicable Landlord, or such date as the Debtors provide notice that the Landlord may re-let the Leased Premises, or such other date as may be agreed between the affected Landlord and the Debtors. With respect to all other Contracts or Leases to be rejected, the Rejection Notice shall set forth the following information,

to the best of the Debtors' knowledge: (i) the Contract or Lease to be rejected, (ii) the name and address of the Counterparty, (iii) a brief description of the Contract or Lease to be rejected, and (iv) the proposed effective date for rejection of the Contract or Lease, which shall not be earlier than the date of filing of the Rejection Notice. All Rejection Notices will be accompanied by a copy of the proposed order approving the rejection of the Contracts and/or Leases set forth on the Rejection Notice (each such order, a "Rejection Order").

- **Abandonment.** The Debtors will specify in the Rejection Notice whether c. they intend to abandon any personal property, including inventory, furniture, fixtures, equipment, and/or other material at the Leased Premises as of the Rejection Date. Absent a timely objection, any such property of the Debtors remaining after the Rejection Date shall be deemed abandoned to the Landlord without further notice or order of the Court, free and clear of all liens, claims, interests, or other encumbrances; provided that the Debtors shall remove any hazardous or toxic materials (as such terms are defined in any applicable federal, state, or local law, rule, regulation or ordinance) from the Leased Premises prior to the Rejection Date. Any Landlord shall be free to dispose of any abandoned property without notice or liability to any party, and the Landlord's rights, if any, to file a claim for the costs of disposal of such property are fully reserved, as are the rights of any party in interest to object to such claims. With respect to any personal property that is leased to the Debtors by a third party or owned by a third party, such third party shall contact the Debtors and remove or cause to be removed such personal property from the Leased Premises prior to the Rejection Date. For the avoidance of doubt, if any such personal property remains on the Leased Premises after the Rejection Date, the Landlord may dispose of any and all such property as set forth above.
- Parties objecting to a proposed rejection or d. Objection Procedures. abandonment must file and serve a written objection (an "Objection") so that the Objection is filed with the Court and is actually received by (i) proposed counsel to the Debtors, Foley & Lardner LLP, 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 (gtruong@foley.com); and (ii) the Rejection Notice Parties, no later than 14 days after the date the Debtors file and serve the relevant Rejection Notice (the "Rejection Objection Deadline"). Each Objection must state with specificity the legal and factual grounds for objection to the proposed rejection or abandonment.
- e. **Event of No Objection**. If no Objection is filed and properly served by the Rejection Objection Deadline, the Debtors shall submit the proposed Rejection Order to the Court after the Rejection Objection Deadline and the

Court may enter such order without a hearing. The Rejection Order shall set forth the applicable effective date of rejection for each Contract and Lease, which date shall be the date set forth in the Rejection Notice (the "Rejection Date").

- f. **Deadline for Filing Claims**. Any Rejection Order entered by the Court will be served on the appropriate Counterparties no later than three (3) days after entry of such Rejection Order. The deadline to file a proof of claim to assert any damage claim arising from the rejection of a Contract or Lease shall be the later of (i) the deadline to file general unsecured proofs of claim (the "General Claims Bar Date") fixed by the Court; and (ii) 30 days after the entry of the applicable Rejection Order. If no proof of claim is timely filed, such claimant shall not be treated as a creditor with respect to such claims for voting on any chapter 11 plan in these chapter 11 cases and shall be forever barred from asserting a claim for rejection damages and from participating in any distributions that may be made in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases.
- g. Unresolved Objections. If an Objection is timely filed and not withdrawn or resolved (an "Unresolved Objection"), the Debtors shall file a notice for a hearing for the Court to consider the Unresolved Objection at the next scheduled omnibus hearing after the Rejection Objection Deadline, unless the Debtors and objecting party agree to a different hearing date and subject to the Court's schedule. If the Unresolved Objection is overruled or withdrawn, the effective date of rejection shall be (i) the Rejection Date; (ii) such other date to which the Debtors and the counterparty to the Unresolved Objection have agreed; or (iii) such other date as determined by the Court. If an Objection is filed for fewer than all of the Contracts and Leases included on the Rejection Notice, the Debtors may proceed with submitting a proposed Rejection Order in accordance with the above procedures for the remaining Contracts and Leases on the Rejection Notice.
- h. *Treatment of Security Deposits*. If the Debtors have deposited funds with a Counterparty as a security deposit or other similar arrangement, such Counterparty may not set off or otherwise use such deposit without the prior authorization of the Court or consent of the Debtors.

# V. **BASIS FOR RELIEF**

#### A. The Rejection of the Leases is in the Best Interest of the Debtors' Estates

6. Section 365(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a debtor in possession "may assume or reject any executory contract or unexpired lease of the debtor" subject to the court's approval. 11 U.S.C. § 365(a). Courts generally authorize debtors to assume or reject executory

contracts and unexpired leases where the debtors appropriately exercise their "business judgment." *See, e.g., In re Senior Care Cts, LLC*, 607 B.R. 580, 587 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2019) ("A court evaluates whether a lease should be assumed or rejected employing the business judgment standard."); *In re TM Vill., Ltd.*, No. 18-32770, 2019 WL 1004571, at \*10 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Feb. 28, 2019) ("A debtor must "satisfy [his] fiduciary duty to . . . creditors and equity holders, [by articulating some] business justification for using, selling, or leasing the property outside the ordinary course of business.") (citation omitted); *In re TransAmerican Nat'l Gas Corp.*, 79 B.R. 663, 667 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 1987); *see also Richmond Leasing Co. v. Cap. Bank, N.A.*, 762 F.2d 1303, 1309 (5th Cir. 1985) (stating that "[i]t is well established that 'the question whether a lease should be rejected . . . is one of business judgment") (citation omitted).

7. In applying the business judgment standard, bankruptcy courts afford great deference to a debtor's decision to assume or reject contracts or leases. *See, e.g., In re Eagle Bus Mfg., Inc.*, 134 B.R. 584, 597 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 1991) (confirming reorganization plan and finding that debtor's rejection of unexpired leases was in sound business judgment and the best interest of the estate); *Sharon Steel Corp. v. Nat'l Fuel Gas Distr. Corp.*, 872 F.2d 36, 39–40 (3d Cir. 1989) (affirming rejection of a service agreement as sound exercise of debtor's business judgment when Bankruptcy Court found rejection would benefit estate); *In re Trans World Airlines, Inc.*, 261 B.R. 103, 121 (Bankr. D. Del. 2001) ("[A] debtor's decision to reject an executory contract must be summarily affirmed unless it is the product of bad faith, or whim or caprice." (quoting) (citations omitted); *Genco Shipping & Trading Ltd.*, 509 B.R. 455, 463 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2014) (stating that a court generally will not second guess a debtor's business judgment regarding assumption or rejection and such related benefits to the debtor's estate).

8. The Debtors have determined, in their sound business judgment, that the rejection of Contracts and Leases in accordance with the Rejection Procedures proposed herein is and will be in the best interest of the Debtors' estates. Further, the Rejection Procedures will avoid substantial legal expense and the use of Court time that would result if a motion were filed and a hearing held for every motion seeking the rejection of Contracts and Leases. The Debtors submit that the information provided on the Rejection Notices will provide the Court and interested parties with sufficient information to establish that the Debtors are entitled to make such a rejection in their sound business judgment. Accordingly, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court approve the Rejection Procedures.

### **B.** Retroactive Effective Relief May Be Sought Where Appropriate

9. The Rejection Procedures contemplate that the Rejection Date may be before the date an order approving rejection is entered by the Court. An order approving rejection of the Contracts and Leases as of such date will expedite the Debtors' relief from onerous obligations. Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code does not specifically address whether courts may order rejection to be effective retroactively. However, courts have held that bankruptcy courts may retroactively reject executory contracts and unexpired leases based on a "balancing of the equities" standard. See, e.g., In re Linn Energy, LLC, No. 16-60040 (DRJ) (Bankr. S.D. Tex. Nov. 7, 2016) (approving procedures to reject or assume executory contracts and unexpired leases); In re Sherwin Alumina Co., LLC, No. 16-20012 (DRJ) (Bankr. S.D. Tex. Aug. 24, 2016) (same); In re Cafeteria Operators, L.P., 299 B.R. 384, 394 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2003) (granting retroactive relief for contract rejection where debtors were "receiving no benefit" from the lease and the contract counterparties "had unequivocal notice of Debtors' intent to reject prior to the filing of the Motions"); In re O'Neil Theatres, Inc., 257 B.R. 806, 808 (Bankr. E.D. La. 2000) (granting retroactive relief based on the circumstances of the case); In re Amber's Stores, Inc., 193 B.R. 819,

827 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 1996) (finding that "nothing precludes a bankruptcy court, based on the equities of the case, from approving" retroactive rejection); *Constant Ltd. P'ship v. Jamesway Corp.* (*In re Jamesway Corp.*), 179 B.R. 33, 37 (S.D.N.Y. 1995) (stating that section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code does not include "restrictions as to the manner in which the court can approve rejection"); *see also In re Joseph C. Spiess Co.*, 145 B.R. 597, 606 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 1992) ("[A] trustee's rejection of a lease should be retroactive to the date that the trustee takes affirmative steps to reject said lease.").

10. Here, the balance of equities favors rejection of any Contracts and Leases effective as of the Rejection Date. Without such relief, the Debtors would potentially incur unnecessary administrative expenses related to the Leases. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 365(d)(3). The Landlords will not be unduly prejudiced if the rejection is deemed effective as of the Rejection Date. Possession of the premises will be delivered to each respective Landlord on, or prior to, the Rejection Date, and the Landlords will be made aware of the surrender.

### C. The Rejection Procedures Satisfy Due Process

11. The Rejection Procedures comply with the procedural requirements of the Bankruptcy Rules. "A proceeding to assume, reject, or assign an executory contract or unexpired lease . . . is governed by Rule 9014." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6006(a). Bankruptcy Rule 9014 provides that: "In a contested matter . . . , not otherwise governed by these rules, relief shall be requested by motion, and reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing shall be afforded the party against whom relief is sought." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9014(a). The notice and hearing requirements for contested matters under Bankruptcy Rule 9014 are satisfied if appropriate notice and an opportunity for hearing are given in light of the particular circumstances. See 11 U.S.C. § 102(1)(A) (defining "after notice and a hearing" or a similar phrase to mean such notice and an opportunity for hearing "as [are] appropriate in the particular circumstances").

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The Rejection Procedures provide for notice to Counterparties and an opportunity to be heard at a hearing, and thus satisfy the requirements of Bankruptcy Rules 6006(a) and 9014.

- 12. Under Bankruptcy Rule 6006(e), a debtor may join requests for authority to assume and assign or reject multiple unexpired leases in one motion, subject to Bankruptcy Rule 6006(f). See Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6006(e). Bankruptcy Rule 6006(f) sets forth six requirements that motions to assume or reject multiple unexpired leases must satisfy, all of which are procedural in nature. A motion to assume or reject multiple unexpired leases that are not between the same parties shall:
  - a. state in a conspicuous place that parties receiving the omnibus motion should locate their names and their contracts or leases listed in the motion;
  - b. list parties alphabetically and identify the corresponding contract or lease;
  - c. specify the terms, including the curing of defaults, for each requested assumption or assignment;
  - d. specify the terms, including the identity of each assignee and the adequate assurance of future performance by each assignee, for each requested assignment;
  - e. be numbered consecutively with other omnibus motions to assume, assign, or reject executory contracts or unexpired leases; and
- f. be limited to no more than 100 executory contracts or unexpired leases.

  Bankruptcy Rule 6006(f).
- 13. The Rejection Procedures satisfy Bankruptcy Rule 6006(f). The clear purpose of Bankruptcy Rule 6006(f) is to protect the due process rights of counterparties to the Debtors' Contracts and Leases. Counterparties must be able to locate their Contract or Leases and readily determine whether their Contract or Lease is being rejected. The Debtors will comply with all applicable procedural requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6006(f) when serving the Rejection Notices.

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14. Given the hundreds of Contracts and Leases to which the Debtors are party, obtaining separate Court approval of each rejection would impose unnecessary administrative burdens on the Debtors and the Court, and would result in costs to the Debtors' estates that would diminish the economic benefits of rejection. The Debtors, therefore, request approval of the Rejection Procedures as the most efficient and cost-effective way for the Debtors to eliminate the costs in connection with maintaining Contracts and Leases that no longer serve the Debtors' business needs.

15. In sum, the Rejection Procedures will minimize costs to the Debtors' estates and reduce the burden on this Court's docket while protecting parties in interest by providing notice and the opportunity to object and obtain a hearing. Moreover, the Debtors have determined that the Rejection Procedures are an appropriate means to protect and maximize the value of the Debtors' estates.

### D. Abandonment of Personal Property is in the Best Interest of the Debtors' Estates

- 16. In connection with the rejection of Real Property Leases, the Debtors also request authority to abandon any property remaining at the Leased Premises on the Rejection Date of any applicable Real Property Leases that the Debtors determine is too burdensome to remove or expensive to store, such that the economic benefits of removing or storing such remaining property would be outweighed by the attendant costs (such assets, the "Abandoned Assets").
- 17. Bankruptcy Code section 554(a) provides that "[a]fter notice and a hearing, the trustee may abandon any property of the estate that is burdensome to the estate or that is of inconsequential value and benefit to the estate." 11 U.S.C. § 554(a). Any property of the bankruptcy estates to be abandoned at the premises of the Leases would be of inconsequential value or burdensome to the Debtors' estates, and the cost of retrieving, marketing, and reselling such abandoned property would outweigh any recovery the Debtors could attain for such property.

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Accordingly, the abandonment of such property of the bankruptcy estates is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, and their creditors and parties in interest will have sufficient notice of such abandonment.

18. Although the Debtors will, in their business judgment, remove personal property from any rejected Leased Premises, if feasible, some amount of the Debtors' personal property may remain. The Debtors expect that any Abandoned Assets will primarily consist of miscellaneous furniture, fixtures or equipment that is of inconsequential value or benefit to the Debtors' estate or would be cost prohibitive to remove. Any Landlord or other designee will be free to dispose of the Abandoned Assets after the Rejection Date without notice or liability to any party. To the best of the Debtors' knowledge, the abandonment of the property would not be in violation of any state or local statutes or regulations reasonably designed to protect the public health or safety. Accordingly, abandonment of the Abandoned Assets as of the Rejection Date should be approved.

# VI. THE DEBTORS HAVE SATISFIED BANKRUPTCY RULE 6003(B)

19. Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b) provides that, to the extent relief is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm, a bankruptcy court may issue an order granting "a motion to use, sell, lease, or otherwise incur an obligation regarding property of the estate, including a motion to pay all or part of a claim that arose before the filing of the petition" before 21 days after filing of the petition. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6003(b). For the reasons described above and in the First Day Declaration, the relief requested is necessary for the Debtors to operate their businesses in the ordinary course and maximize the value of their estates for the benefit of all stakeholders. Accordingly, the Debtors believe that the relief requested herein is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm, and, therefore, Bankruptcy Rule 6003 is satisfied.

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# VII. WAIVER OF BANKRUPTCY RULE 6004(A) AND 6004(H)

20. To implement the foregoing successfully, the Debtors seek a waiver of the notice requirements under Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the 14-day stay of an order authorizing the use, sale, or lease of property under Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h).

# VIII. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

21. Nothing contained herein or any actions taken pursuant to such relief requested is intended or shall be construed as: (a) an admission as to the amount of, basis for, or validity of any claim against a Debtor entity under the Bankruptcy Code or other applicable nonbankruptcy law; (b) a waiver of the Debtors' or any other party in interest's right to dispute any claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any claim; (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this Motion or any order granting the relief requested by this Motion or a finding that any particular claim is an administrative expense claim or other priority claim; (e) a request or authorization to assume, adopt, or reject any agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code except as expressly set forth herein; (f) an admission as to the validity, priority, enforceability, or perfection of any lien on, security interest in, or other encumbrance on property of the Debtors' estates; (g) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors', or any other party in interest's, rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law; or (h) a concession by the Debtors that any liens (contractual, common law, statutory, or otherwise) that may be satisfied pursuant to the relief requested in this Motion are valid, and the rights of all parties in interest are expressly reserved to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens. If the Court grants the requested relief, any payment made pursuant to the Court's order is not intended and should not be construed as an

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admission as to the validity of any particular claim or a waiver of the Debtors' or any other party in interest's rights to subsequently dispute such claim.

# IX. NOTICE

- 9. The Debtors will provide notice of this Motion to (a) the Office of the United States 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; (h) with respect to Real Property Leases, any known third party having an interest in personal property located in or on the leased premises; and (i) 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 (<a href="mailto:tmohan@foley.com">tmohan@foley.com</a>), and Foley & Lardner LLP, 1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 2000, Houston, Texas 77002, Attn: Nora McGuffey (<a href="mailto:nora.mcguffey@foley.com">nora.mcguffey@foley.com</a>) and Quynh-Nhu Truong (<a href="mailto:qtruong@foley.com">qtruong@foley.com</a>).

WHEREFORE, the Debtors request that this Court enter the order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, granting the relief requested herein and such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

DATED: June 18, 2025 Respectfully submitted by:

/s/ Holland N. O'Neil

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PROPOSED COUNSEL TO DEBTORS AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION Case 25-80121-mvl11 Doc 7 Filed 06/18/25 Entered 06/18/25 03:21:03 Desc Main Document Page 16 of 16

# **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** 

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## 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 (I) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING PROCEDURES TO REJECT EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

The Debtors in these Cha

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"): (a) authorizing and approving procedures to reject executory contracts and unexpired leases, and (b) granting related relief; all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and upon the First Day Declaration; 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 it may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; 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 Debtors' notice of the Motion and opportunity for a hearing on the Motion were appropriate under the circumstances and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion, and all objections, if any, to the Motion having been withdrawn, resolved, or overruled; and the Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and the record of the hearing on such motion 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 HEREBY **ORDERED THAT:** 

The Motion is granted as set forth herein.

- 2. The following Rejection Procedures are approved in connection with rejecting
- Contracts and Leases:

1.

a. **Rejection Notice**. The Debtors will file a notice (the "**Rejection Notice**") setting forth the proposed rejection of one or more Contracts and/or Leases and will serve the Rejection Notice via electronic mail or overnight mail on: (i) the counterparty to the rejected Contract or Lease (the "**Counterparty**"),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

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and its counsel, if known, at the last known address available to the Debtors; (ii) with respect to Real Property Leases, any known third party having an interest in personal property located in or on the leased premises (the "Leased Premises"); (iii) any party known to assert a lien in any property subject to the rejected Contract or Lease; (iv) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of Texas (the "U.S. Trustee"); and (v) proposed counsel to the Committee (collectively, the "Rejection Notice Parties").

- Contents of Rejection Notice. The Rejection Notice shall be substantially b. in the form attached as Exhibit 1 to this Order. With respect to Real Property Leases, the Rejection Notice shall set forth the following information, to the best of the Debtors' knowledge: (i) the street address of the related real property; (ii) the name and address of the landlord (each, a "Landlord"); (iii) the date on which the Debtors will vacate (or have vacated) the Leased Premises; (iv) whether or not the Debtors intend to abandon any property at the Leased Premises (as described further in item c. below) and a description of the same; and (v) the proposed effective date of rejection, which shall be the later of (x) the date of filing of the Rejection Notice, and (y) the date the Debtors vacate the Leased Premises and turn over any keys or key codes to the applicable Landlord, or such date as the Debtors provide notice that the Landlord may re-let the Leased Premises, or such other date as may be agreed between the affected Landlord and the Debtors. With respect to all other Contracts or Leases to be rejected, the Rejection Notice shall set forth the following information, to the best of the Debtors' knowledge: (i) the Contract or Lease to be rejected, (ii) the name and address of the Counterparty, (iii) a brief description of the Contract or Lease to be rejected, and (iv) the proposed effective date for rejection of the Contract or Lease, which shall not be earlier than the date of filing of the Rejection Notice. All Rejection Notices will be accompanied by a copy of the proposed order approving the rejection of the Contracts and/or Leases set forth on the Rejection Notice (each such order, a "Rejection Order").
- c. Abandonment. The Debtors will specify in the Rejection Notice whether they intend to abandon any personal property, including inventory, furniture, fixtures, equipment, and/or other material at the Leased Premises as of the Rejection Date. Absent a timely objection, any such property of the Debtors remaining after the Rejection Date shall be deemed abandoned to the Landlord without further notice or order of the Court, free and clear of all liens, claims, interests, or other encumbrances; provided that the Debtors shall remove any hazardous or toxic materials (as such terms are defined in any applicable federal, state, or local law, rule, regulation or ordinance) from the Leased Premises prior to the Rejection Date. Any Landlord shall be free to dispose of any abandoned property without notice or liability to any party, and the Landlord's rights, if any, to file a claim for the costs of disposal of such property are fully reserved, as are the rights of any party in interest to object to such claims. With respect to any personal

property that is leased to the Debtors by a third party or owned by a third party, such third party shall contact the Debtors and remove or cause to be removed such personal property from the Leased Premises prior to the Rejection Date. For the avoidance of doubt, if any such personal property remains on the Leased Premises after the Rejection Date, the Landlord may dispose of any and all such property as set forth above.

- Objection Procedures. Parties objecting to a proposed rejection or d. abandonment must file and serve a written objection (an "Objection") so that the Objection is filed with the Court and is actually received by (i) proposed counsel to the Debtors, Foley & Lardner LLP, 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); and (ii) the Rejection Notice Parties, no later than 14 days after the date the Debtors file and serve the relevant Rejection Notice (the "Rejection Objection Deadline"). Each Objection must state with specificity the legal and factual grounds for objection to the proposed rejection or abandonment.
- e. **Event of No Objection**. If no Objection is filed and properly served by the Rejection Objection Deadline, the Debtors shall submit the proposed Rejection Order to the Court after the Rejection Objection Deadline and the Court may enter such order without a hearing. The Rejection Order shall set forth the applicable effective date of rejection for each Contract and Lease, which date shall be the date set forth in the Rejection Notice (the "Rejection Date").
- f. **Deadline for Filing Claims**. Any Rejection Order entered by the Court will be served on the appropriate Counterparties no later than three (3) days after entry of such Rejection Order. The deadline to file a proof of claim to assert any damage claim arising from the rejection of a Contract or Lease shall be the later of (i) the deadline to file general unsecured proofs of claim (the "General Claims Bar Date") fixed by the Court; and (ii) 30 days after the entry of the applicable Rejection Order. If no proof of claim is timely filed, such claimant shall not be treated as a creditor with respect to such claims for voting on any chapter 11 plan in these chapter 11 cases and shall be forever barred from asserting a claim for rejection damages and from participating in any distributions that may be made in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases.
- g. *Unresolved Objections*. If an Objection is timely filed and not withdrawn or resolved (an "Unresolved Objection"), the Debtors shall file a notice for a hearing for the Court to consider the Unresolved Objection at the next scheduled omnibus hearing after the Rejection Objection Deadline, unless the Debtors and objecting party agree to a different hearing date and subject

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to the Court's schedule. If the Unresolved Objection is overruled or withdrawn, the effective date of rejection shall be (i) the Rejection Date; (ii) such other date to which the Debtors and the counterparty to the Unresolved Objection have agreed; or (iii) such other date as determined by the Court. If an Objection is filed for fewer than all of the Contracts and Leases included on the Rejection Notice, the Debtors may proceed with submitting a proposed Rejection Order in accordance with the above procedures for the remaining Contracts and Leases on the Rejection Notice.

- h. *Treatment of Security Deposits*. If the Debtors have deposited funds with a Counterparty as a security deposit or other similar arrangement, such Counterparty may not set off or otherwise use such deposit without the prior authorization of the Court or consent of the Debtors.
- 3. The form of Rejection Notice attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** is hereby APPROVED.
- 4. The Debtors are authorized to send the Rejection Notices to the Counterparties to the Contracts and Leases.
- 5. Nothing in the Motion or this Order shall prohibit the Debtors from filing one or more motions to reject executory contracts and unexpired leases.
- 6. Nothing herein shall be construed as a concession or evidence that a Contract or Lease has expired, been terminated, or is otherwise not currently in full force and effect. The Debtors' rights with respect thereto are reserved, including the Debtors' rights to seek a later determination of such matters and to dispute the validity, status, characterization, or enforceability of such Contract or Lease and any claims related thereto. The Debtors do not waive any claims they may have against any Landlords or Counterparties, regardless of whether such claims relate to the Contract(s) or Lease(s) between the Debtors and such Landlord or Counterparty.
- 7. The Debtors are authorized to abandon personal property of their bankruptcy estates, if any, that may be located at the premises of the Leases and all such property is deemed abandoned, effective as of the Petition Date. The applicable counterparty to each Lease may effectuate its rights and remedies with respect to such property. The automatic stay, to the extent applicable, is modified to allow for such utilization or disposition.

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8. Claims arising out of the rejection of the Leases, if any, must be filed on or before the later of (a) the deadline for filing proofs of claim established in these Chapter 11 Cases, and

(b) thirty (30) days after the date of entry of this order.

9. Nothing in this Order authorizes the Debtors to lease, sell, or otherwise transfer to any other party, the personal identifying information (which means information which alone or in conjunction with other information identifies an individual, including but not limited to an individual's first name (or initial) and last name, physical address, electronic address, telephone number, social security number, date of birth, government-issued identification number, account number and credit or debit card number) of any customers unless such sale or transfer or lease is permitted by the Debtors' privacy policy and state or federal privacy and/or identity theft prevention laws and rules.

- 10. Approval of this Order will not prevent the Debtors from seeking to assume or reject an executory contract and/or unexpired lease by separate motion or pursuant to a chapter 11 plan.
- 11. The Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Motion.
- 12. The Debtors' reserve the right to assert that any provisions in any executory contract or unexpired lease that expressly or effectively restrict, prohibit, condition, or limit the assignment or effectiveness of the contract or lease are unenforceable anti-assignment or *ipso facto* clauses.
- 13. All rights and defenses of the Debtors are preserved, including all rights and defenses of the Debtors with respect to a claim for damages arising as a result of an executory contract or Lease rejection, including any right to assert an offset, recoupment, counterclaim, or deduction. In addition, nothing in this Order or the Motion shall limit the Debtors' ability to

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subsequently assert that any particular executory contract or Lease is terminated and is no longer an executory contract or unexpired lease, respectively.

- Notwithstanding the relief granted in this Order and any actions taken pursuant to 14. such relief, nothing in this Order shall be deemed: (a) an admission as to the amount of, basis for, or validity of any claim against a Debtor entity under the Bankruptcy Code or other applicable nonbankruptcy law; (b) a waiver of the Debtors' or any other party in interest's right to dispute any claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any claim; (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this Order or the Motion or a finding that any particular claim is an administrative expense claim or other priority claim; (e) a request or authorization to assume, adopt, or reject any prepetition agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, except as expressly approved herein; (f) an admission as to the validity, priority, enforceability, or perfection of any lien on, security interest in, or other encumbrance on property of the Debtors' estates; (g) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors' or any other party in interest's rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law; or (h) a concession by the Debtors that any liens (contractual, common law, statutory, or otherwise) that may be satisfied pursuant to the Motion are valid, and the rights of all parties in interest are expressly reserved to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens.
- 15. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Motion or this Order, any payment to be made, obligation incurred, or relief or authorization granted hereunder shall not be inconsistent with, and shall be subject to, and in compliance with, the requirements imposed on the Debtors under the terms of each interim and final order entered by the Court in respect of approving the DIP Motion filed substantially contemporaneously with the Motion (the "**DIP**

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**Orders**") (and any permitted variances thereto), including compliance with any budget or cash flow forecast in connection therewith and any other terms and conditions thereof. Nothing herein is intended to modify, alter, or waive, in any way, any terms, provisions, requirements, or restrictions of the DIP Orders or Approved Budget. In the event of any inconsistency between the terms of this Order and the terms of the DIP Orders, the terms of the DIP Orders shall govern.

- 16. The requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b) have been satisfied.
- 17. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.
- 18. Notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), the terms and conditions of this Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.
- 19. The Debtors are authorized to take all reasonable actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Motion.
- 20. 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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PROPOSED COUNSEL TO DEBTORS AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION

# **EXHIBIT 1**

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### 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)
	§ §	Ref. Docket No

## NOTICE OF REJECTION OF CERTAIN EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES

PARTIES RECEIVING THIS NOTICE SHOULD LOCATE THEIR NAMES AND THEIR CONTRACTS OR LEASES BELOW AND READ THE CONTENTS OF THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on [	], 2025,	the	United	States
Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Court")	entered an	order	on the 1	motion
(the "Motion") <sup>2</sup> of debtors and debtors in possession (the "Debto	ors") appro	ving	procedu	res for
the rejection of executory contracts and unexpired leases and gran	nting related	l relie	ef [Dock	cet No.
•] (the "Rejection Procedures Order") attached hereto as Schedu	<u>ule 1</u> .			
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, pursuant	to the term	s of	the Re	iection

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meaning ascribed to them in the Motion.

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Procedures Order, the Debtors hereby provide notice (this "Notice") of their intent to reject the below-referenced contracts and leases. Pursuant to the terms of the Rejection Procedures Order, unless a written objection is filed and served in accordance with the terms of the Rejection Procedures Order, unless a written objection is filed and served in accordance with the terms of the Rejection Procedures Order, the following contracts and leases will be rejected pursuant to section 365(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, effective as of the date set forth below in this Notice (the "Rejection Date"):

# EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES OTHER THAN NONRESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY LEASES

Title Description of Contract Counterparty	Name and Address	Effective Date of Rejection

#### UNEXPIRED NONRESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY LEASES

Address of Subject Property	Landlord Name and Address	Rejection Date	Description of Abandoned Property	Effective Date of Rejection

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any personal property including inventory, furniture, fixtures, equipment or other materials remaining at the premises subject to the unexpired nonresidential real property leases as of the Rejection Date shall be deemed abandoned by the Debtors to the applicable Landlord.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, with respect to any personal property that is leased to the Debtors by a third party or owned by a third party, such third party shall contact the Debtors and remove or cause to be removed such personal property from the Leased Premises prior to the Rejection Date. If any such personal property remains on the Leased Premises after

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the Rejection Date, the Landlord may dispose of any and all such property as set forth in the Procedures Order.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that objections, if any, to this Notice must be filed and served so that such objection is filed with the Court and actually received by the following parties no later than 14 days after the date of service of this Notice (the "Rejection Objection Deadline"): (i) Foley & Lardner LLP, 1144 15th Street, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202 Attn: Tim Mohan (tmohan@foley.com), and Foley & Lardner LLP, 1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 2000, Houston, TX 77002, Attn: Nora McGuffey (nora.mcguffey@foley.com) and Quynh-Nhu Truong (qtruong@foley.com); (ii) the Counterparties affected by the Rejection Notice, and their counsel, if known; (iii) with respect to Real Property Leases, any known third party having an interest in personal property located in or on the Leased Premises; (iv) Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of Texas, Earle Cabell Federal Buildings, 1100 Commerce Street, Room 976, Dallas, Texas 75242, Attn: Meredyth A. Kippes (meredyth.kippes@usdoi.gov) (collectively, the "Objection Notice Parties"). Each Objection must state, with specificity, the grounds for objection to the proposed Contract or Lease rejection or abandonment of personal property remaining on the Leased Premises.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that if no Objection is filed and served in compliance with the foregoing, the Debtors may submit to the Bankruptcy Court after the Rejection Objection Deadline a proposed order approving the rejection of the Contracts and Leases set forth in the Notice (the "**Rejection Order**"), substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, and the Bankruptcy Court may enter such order without a hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, pursuant to the terms of the Rejection Procedures Order, if no Objection is properly filed and served in compliance with the foregoing,

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the rejection of each Contract and/or Lease shall become effective as of the Rejection Date.<sup>3</sup>

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, if an Objection to this Notice is properly filed and served in compliance with the foregoing, a hearing will be scheduled to consider the Objection. If the Objection is overruled or withdrawn, the effective date of rejection shall be the (i) Rejection Date; (ii) such other date to which the Debtors and the counterparty to the Objection have agreed; or (iii) such other date as determined by the Court. If an Objection is filed for fewer than all of the Contracts and/or Leases included on this Notice, the Debtors may proceed with submitting a proposed Rejection Order in accordance with the above procedures for the remaining Contracts and/or Leases on this Rejection Notice

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to the terms of the Rejection Procedures Order, if the Debtors have deposited funds with a Counterparty as a security deposit or pursuant to some other arrangement, such Counterparty may not setoff or otherwise use such deposit without the prior authority of this Court or agreement of the Debtors.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that pursuant to the terms of the Rejection Procedures Order, any Rejection Order shall be served on the appropriate Counterparties no later than three (3) days after entry of such order.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that pursuant to the terms of the Rejection Procedures Order, the deadline to file a proof of claim to assert any damage arising from the rejection of a Contract or Lease shall be the later of (i) the deadline to file general unsecured proofs of claim fixed by the Court; and (ii) 30 days after the entry of the Rejection Order. If you do not

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> An objection to the rejection of any particular Contract listed in this Rejection Notice shall not constitute an objection to the rejection of any other contract listed in this Rejection Notice. Any objection to the rejection of any particular Contract listed in this Rejection Notice must state with specificity the Contract to which it is directed. For each particular Contract whose rejection is not timely or properly objected to, such rejection will be effective in accordance with this Rejection Notice and the Order.

timely file such proof of claim, you will not be treated as a creditor with respect to such claims for voting on any chapter 11 plan in these Chapter 11 Cases and shall be forever barred from asserting a claim for rejection damages arising from the rejection of the above-referenced Contracts and Leases and from participating in any distributions that may be made in connection with these chapter 11 cases unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

DATED: [•], 2025 Respectfully submitted by:

/s/ draft

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PROPOSED COUNSEL TO DEBTORS AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION

# **EXHIBIT A**

**Proposed Rejection Order** 

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

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

ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING DEBTORS TO (A) REJECT CERTAIN EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES OF NONRESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY AND (B) ABANDON PROPERTY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

(Related to Docket No. \_\_)

\_\_\_\_

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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Pursuant to and in accordance with the Order Authorizing and Approving Procedures to Reject Executory Contract and Unexpired Leases [Docket No. •] (the "Rejection Procedures Order")<sup>2</sup> entered in the above-caption chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases") of Higher Ground Education, Inc. ("HGE") and its debtor affiliates (collective, the "Debtors"); and the Debtors having properly filed with this Court and served on the Rejection Notice Parties a notice (the "Rejection Notice") of their intent to reject certain executory contracts (each, a "Contract" and collectively, the "Contracts") and unexpired leases (each, a "Lease" and collectively, the "Leases"), including unexpired leases of nonresidential real property of the Debtors (each a "Real Property Lease" and collectively, the "Real Property Leases") identified on Annex A hereto; in accordance with the terms of the Rejection Procedures Order, and such notice having been adequate and appropriate under the circumstances; and it appearing that no other or further notice need be provided; and no timely objections having been filed to the Rejection Notice; and the Court having found and determined that the relief requested is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, their creditors, and all parties in interest, and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefore, it is **HEREBY ORDERED THAT**:

- 1. The Contracts and Leases are hereby rejected as set forth herein, effective as of the date set forth for such Contract or Lease on <u>Annex A</u>, which shall not be prior to the date of the Debtors' unequivocal surrender of the leased premises via the delivery of the keys, key codes, and alarm codes to the premises, as applicable, to the applicable lease counterparty, or, if not delivering such keys and codes, providing notice that the landlord may re-let the premises, except as otherwise agreed by the Debtors and the applicable lease counterparty (the "Rejection Date").
  - 2. Any and all personal property remaining at the leased premises as of the applicable

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Order.

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Rejection Date shall be deemed abandoned upon the Rejection Date without further notice or order of the Court, free and clear of all liens, claims, interests, or other encumbrances. Any landlord or other designee shall be free to dispose of any such items as of the Rejection Date without notice or liability to any Debtor or non-Debtor third party and without further notice or order of the Court and, to the extent applicable, the automatic stay is modified to allow such disposition; provided that notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Order, the Debtors are not authorized hereunder to abandon, and are directed to remove, any (i) hazardous (as such term is defined in federal, state, or local law, rule, regulation, or ordinance) materials, (ii) "personally identifiable information" (as such term is defined in section 101(41A) of the Bankruptcy Code), or (iii) business records that are necessary to conduct these chapter 11 proceedings and are not available elsewhere, at any premises subject to a nonresidential real property lease or sublease. The rights, if any, of any landlord to file claims for the costs of disposal of property or other damages in connection with the Debtors' rejection of leases are fully reserved, as are the rights of any party in interest to object to such claims.

- 3. Nothing contained in this Order is intended to be or shall be construed as (i) an admission as to the validity of any claim against the Debtors; (ii) a waiver of the Debtors' or any appropriate party in interest's right to dispute the amount of, basis for, or validity of any claim against the Debtors; or (iii) a waiver of any claims or causes of action that might exist against any creditor or interest holder.
- 4. Notwithstanding entry of this Order, nothing herein shall create, nor is intended to create, any rights in favor of or enhance the status of any claim held by any party.
- 5. Consistent with the limitations of section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code, and any other applicable law, counterparties to the Contracts or Leases are prohibited from setting off or

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otherwise utilizing any amounts deposited by the Debtors with any of the counterparties to the Contracts or Leases as a security deposit or pursuant to another similar arrangement, or owed the Debtors by any of the counterparties under the Contracts or Leases or other agreements between the same parties, without further order of this Court.

- 6. The Debtors are authorized to take all action necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order.
- 7. Any proofs of claim for rejection damages or other related claims if any, asserted by counterparties to the Contracts or Leases shall be filed on or before the later of (i) the claims bar date established by the Court in these chapter 11 cases, if any, and (ii) thirty (30) days after entry of this Order.
- 8. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and/or enforcement of this Order.

###END OF ORDER###

### Submitted by:

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