

Holland N. O'Neil (TX 14864700)
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
2021 McKinney Avenue, Suite 1600
Dallas, TX 75201
Telephone: (214) 999-3000
Facsimile: (214) 999-4667
honeil@foley.com

Timothy C. Mohan
(*pro hac vice* forthcoming)
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
1144 15th Street, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202
Telephone: (720) 437-2000
Facsimile: (720) 437-2200
tmohan@foley.com

Nora J. McGuffey (TX 24121000)
Quynh-Nhu Truong (TX 24137253)
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 2000
Houston, TX 77002
Telephone: (713) 276-5500
Facsimile: (713) 276-5555
nora.mcguiffey@foley.com
qtruong@foley.com

**PROPOSED COUNSEL TO DEBTORS AND
DEBTORS IN POSSESSION**

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

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

**DEBTORS' EMERGENCY MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER (I)
AUTHORIZING DEBTORS TO PAY CERTAIN PREPETITION CLAIMS OF
FOREIGN VENDORS 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 Debtors to*

¹ 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.



Pay Certain Prepetition Claims of Foreign Vendors and (II) Granting Related Relief
(this “**Motion**”). 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 under 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 statutory bases for the relief requested herein are sections 105(a), 363, 503, 1107(a), and 1108 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532 (the “**Bankruptcy Code**”), Bankruptcy Rules 6003 and 6004, Rule 9013-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the “**Local Rules**”), and the Procedures for Complex Cases in the Northern District of Texas.

II.
BACKGROUND

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. 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. RELIEF REQUESTED

7. The Debtors seek entry of an order, substantially in the forms attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the “**Proposed Order**”): (a) authorizing, but not directing, the Debtors to pay prepetition claims, including claims for goods or materials and services provided to the Debtors, as well as foreign tax obligations, import and export fees, customs duties, or other similar fees related to such claims (collectively, the “**Foreign Vendor Claims**”) held by critical foreign vendors (collectively, the “**Foreign Vendors**”) located outside of the United States, that are essential to the Debtors’ ongoing business operations and (b) granting related relief. The Debtors request, pursuant to this Motion, authority to pay prepetition amounts owed to the Foreign Vendors in an amount not to exceed \$80,000, as they become due in the ordinary course of business.

8. The Debtors further request that the Court (a) authorize all applicable financial institutions (collectively, the “**Banks**”) to receive, process, honor, and pay all checks presented payment and electronic payment requests relating to the foregoing to the extent directed by the

Debtors in accordance with this Motion and to the extent the Debtors have sufficient funds on deposit in their accounts with such Bank, whether such checks were presented or electronic requests were submitted before or after the date hereof, and (b) authorize all Banks to rely on the Debtors' designation of any particular check or electronic payment request as appropriate pursuant to this Motion without any duty of further inquiry and without liability for following the Debtors' instructions.

IV. **THE FOREIGN VENDORS**

9. As of the Petition Date, the Debtors operate one School in Canada and three Schools in Paris, France (collectively, the "**Foreign Schools**"). The Debtors intend to transition the operations of the Foreign Schools to new entities on or around June 30, 2025. The Debtors, in transferring the Foreign Schools' operations, believe that they will have prepetition amounts outstanding and owed to vendors, employees, and other parties related to the Foreign Schools (the "**Foreign Vendors**"). Payment of the outstanding balances to the Foreign Vendors (i.e., the Foreign School Claims) will allow for the Debtors to cleanly cease all obligation at the Foreign Schools and ensure that the transition of the Foreign Schools to the new operators is consummated—alleviating any potential long-term obligations that may affect the Debtors.

V. **ADDITIONAL RISKS WITH FOREIGN VENDORS**

10. In addition to the potential risks related to the interference in the transition of operations and obligations related to the Foreign Schools, without the assurance of payment, the Foreign Vendors may also take swift action based on a mistaken belief that they are not subject to the automatic stay provisions of section 362(a) of the Bankruptcy Code. Although, as a matter of law, the automatic stay applies to protect the Debtors' assets wherever they are located in the world, attempting to enforce the Bankruptcy Code in foreign countries is often challenging and

will consume meaningful estate personnel and resources. Moreover, the automatic stay by itself would not protect assets of the Debtors' non-Debtor affiliates, which could remain at risk of seizure and setoff. Again, the Debtors have foreign affiliates in France and Canada, against which the Foreign Vendors also may take action.

11. In sum, the amount of the Foreign Vendor Claims pales in comparison to the potential damage to the Debtors' businesses and the Foreign Vendors that rely on payment of their claims. Therefore, the Debtors and their stakeholders would benefit from the relief requested herein. The Debtors seek to pay the Foreign Vendor Claims in the ordinary course on such terms and conditions as are appropriate, in the Debtors' business judgment, to avoid disruptions in their businesses. Accordingly, the Debtors seek authority, but not direction, to pay the Foreign Vendor Claims in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.

12. The Debtors propose to maintain a vendor matrix (a) identifying each Foreign Vendor paid, (b) setting forth the amount paid to each Foreign Vendor, and (c) identifying the general type of goods or services provided by each Foreign Vendor. The vendor matrix shall be provided, upon request, to (x) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of Texas (the "**U.S. Trustee**"), (y) counsel to the Senior and Junior DIP Lenders (the "**DIP Lenders**"), and (z) counsel for any official committee of unsecured creditors appointed in these Chapter 11 Cases; *provided*, pursuant to sections 107(b) and 107(c)(3)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code, the foregoing parties (including the DIP Lenders) shall keep the vendor matrix confidential and shall not disclose any of the information contained in the vendor matrix to any party without the prior written consent of the Debtors or an order of the Court.

VI.
BASIS FOR RELIEF

A. Authorizing Payment of Foreign Vendor Claims Is Warranted under Section 363(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code and Doctrine of Necessity.

13. Courts in the Fifth Circuit and elsewhere have recognized that it is appropriate to authorize the payment of prepetition obligations where necessary to protect and preserve the estate. *See, e.g., In re CoServ, L.L.C.*, 273 B.R. 487, 497 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2002); *In re Equalnet Commc'ns Corp.*, 258 B.R. 368, 369–70 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 2000); *see also In re Just for Feet, Inc.*, 242 B.R. 821, 825–26 (D. Del. 1999); *In re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc.*, 98 B.R. 174, 175–76 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1989); *Armstrong World Indus., Inc. v. James A. Phillips, Inc. (In re James A. Phillips, Inc.)*, 29 B.R. 391, 398 (S.D.N.Y. 1983). In so doing, these courts acknowledge that several legal theories rooted in sections 105(a) and 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code support the payment of prepetition claims.

14. Section 363(b) provides, in pertinent part, that “[t]he trustee, after notice and a hearing, may use, sell, or lease, other than in the ordinary course of business, property of the estate.” 11 U.S.C. § 363(b)(1). To approve the use of assets outside the ordinary course of business pursuant to section 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, courts require only that the debtor “show that a sound business purpose justifies such actions.” *In re Montgomery Ward Holding Corp.*, 242 B.R. 147, 153 (D. Del. 1999) (internal citations omitted); *see also In re Phoenix Steel Corp.*, 82 B.R. 334, 335–36 (Bankr. D. Del. 1987).

15. In addition, the Court has the authority, pursuant to its equitable powers under section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, to authorize the relief requested herein because such relief is necessary for the Debtors to carry out their fiduciary duties under section 1107(a) of the Bankruptcy Code. Section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code empowers bankruptcy courts to “issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this

title.” 11 U.S.C. § 105(a). Section 1107(a) of the Bankruptcy Code “contains an implied duty of the debtor-in-possession” to “protect and preserve the estate, including an operating business’ going-concern value,” on behalf of a debtor’s creditors and other parties in interest. *In re CEI Roofing, Inc.*, 315 B.R. 50, 59 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2004) (citations omitted); *see also Unofficial Comm. of Equity Holders v. McManigle (In re Penick Pharm., Inc.)*, 227 B.R. 229, 232–33 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1998) (“[U]pon filing its petition, the Debtor became debtor in possession and, through its management . . . was burdened with the duties and responsibilities of a bankruptcy trustee.”).

16. Specifically, a court may use its power under section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code to authorize payment of prepetition obligations when the payments are critical to preserving the going-concern value of the debtor’s estate, as is the case here. *See, e.g., In re CoServ, L.L.C.*, 273 B.R. at 497 (“[I]t is only logical that the bankruptcy court be able to use [s]ection 105(a) of the [Bankruptcy] Code to authorize satisfaction of the prepetition claim in aid of preservation or enhancement of the estate.”). A bankruptcy court’s use of its equitable powers to “authorize the payment of prepetition debt when such payment is needed to facilitate the rehabilitation of the debtor is not a novel concept.” *In re Ionosphere Clubs*, 98 B.R. at 175–76 (citing *Miltenberger v. Logansport, C. & S.W. Ry. Co.*, 106 U.S. 286 (1882)). Indeed, at least one court has recognized that there are instances when a debtor’s fiduciary duty can “only be fulfilled by the preplan satisfaction of a prepetition claim.” *In re CoServ, L.L.C.*, 273 B.R. at 497.

17. This “doctrine of necessity” functions in a chapter 11 reorganization as a mechanism by which the Court can exercise its equitable power to allow payment of critical prepetition claims not explicitly authorized by the Bankruptcy Code. *See In re Boston & Me. Corp.*, 634 F.2d 1359, 1382 (1st Cir. 1980) (recognizing “existence of a judicial power to authorize trustees . . . to pay claims . . . [for] goods or services indispensably necessary” to debtors’ continued

operation); *In re Structurlite Plastics Corp.*, 86 B.R. 922, 932 (Bankr. S.D. Ohio 1988) (“[A] per se rule proscribing the payment of pre-petition indebtedness may well be too inflexible to permit the effectuation of the rehabilitative purposes of the Code.”). The rationale for the doctrine of necessity is consistent with the paramount goal of chapter 1—“facilitating the continued operation and rehabilitation of the debtor[.]” *In re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc.*, 98 B.R. 174, 176 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1989).

18. In addition, the Court may rely on its equitable powers under section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and the doctrine of necessity to authorize the payment of prepetition claims when such payment is essential to the continued operation of a debtor’s business. *See, e.g., Just for Feet*, 242 B.R. 821, 824–25 (D. Del. 1999) (holding that section 105(a) of Bankruptcy Code provides statutory basis for payment of prepetition claims under the doctrine of necessity particularly when such payment is necessary for the debtor’s survival during chapter 11); *In re Columbia Gas Sys., Inc.*, 171 B.R. 189, 191–92 (Bankr. D. Del. 1994) (confirming that the doctrine of necessity is standard for enabling a court to authorize payment of prepetition claims before confirming a plan).

19. The Debtors’ request for authority to pay the Foreign Vendor Claims as requested herein is appropriate and warranted under the circumstances. *First*, the Debtors believe that paying the Foreign Vendors is critical to preserving the Debtors’ estates and is necessary for a successful reorganization. Indeed, absent such payment, the Foreign Vendors could take adverse actions against the Debtors, their affiliates, and their property, thereby delaying (or preventing) the transition of Foreign Schools to the new operators. *Second*, and to that end, the Debtors believe payment of the Foreign Vendor Claims is essential to avoid irreparable harm to the Debtors’ estates in the event the Debtors’ efforts to transition current Foreign School operations to a new operator

are scuttled—resulting in additional monies being paid by the Debtors’ estates. Again, failure to pay the Foreign Vendors could result in adverse actions against the Debtors or their affiliates that could not be quickly or inexpensively remedied, such as by exercising self-help remedies in far-flung jurisdictions. The Debtors’ failure to pay such suppliers could also jeopardize the financial viability of those Foreign Vendors themselves. *Third*, and finally, the Debtors submit that there is no practical or legal alternative by which they can deal with the Foreign Vendors other than by payment of the Foreign Vendor Claims.

20. In sum, the Debtors respectfully submit that the relief requested in this Motion represents a sound exercise of the Debtors’ business judgment, is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm to the Debtors’ estates, and is justified under sections 363(b) and 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code. Authorizing the Debtors to pay Foreign Vendor Claims is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, and their stakeholders.

B. Cause Exists to Authorize Debtors’ Financial Institutions to Honor Checks and Electronic Fund Transfers.

21. The Debtors anticipate having sufficient funds to pay the amounts described herein in the ordinary course of business using expected cash flows from ongoing business operations and, subject to Court approval, cash collateral and proceeds from postpetition financing. In addition, under the Debtors’ existing cash management system, the Debtors can identify readily whether checks or wire transfer requests are payments authorized by the relief requested in this Motion. Accordingly, the Debtors believe that checks or wire transfer requests, other than those relating to authorized payments, will not be honored inadvertently and that the Court should authorize the Banks, when requested by the Debtors, to receive, process, honor and pay any and all checks or wire transfer requests in respect of the relief requested herein, to the extent the Debtors have sufficient funds on deposit in their accounts with such Bank, and such Banks may

rely on the representations of the Debtors without any duty of further inquiry and without liability for following the Debtors' instructions.

VII.
RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

22. 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; (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 interests, 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 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.

VIII.
DEBTORS HAVE SATISFIED BANKRUPTCY RULE 6003(B)

23. 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). As described above and in the First Day Declaration, payment of the Foreign Vendor Claims is necessary to avoid the potentially irreparable harm to the Debtors’ businesses that could result from a disruption in the Debtors’ supply chain and distribution network. Accordingly, the Debtors believe that the relief requested herein is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm, and, therefore, Bankruptcy Rule 6003 is satisfied.

IX.
WAIVER BANKRUPTCY RULES 6004(A) AND (H)

24. To implement the foregoing successfully, the Debtors request that the Court enter an order providing that notice of the relief requested herein satisfies Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and that the Debtors have established cause to exclude such relief from the 14-day stay period under Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h).

X.
NOTICE

25. 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) the banks and financial institutions where the Debtors maintain banking accounts; (i) the Foreign Vendors; and (j) 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.

26. The pleadings in these Chapter 11 Cases and supporting papers are available on the Debtors' website at www.veritaglobal.net/HigherGround or on the Bankruptcy Court's website at <https://ecf.txnb.uscourts.gov/>. You can request any pleading you need from (i) the proposed noticing agent at: HigherGroundInfo@veritaglobal.com, (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 15th 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.mcguiffey@foley.com) and Quynh-Nhu Truong (qtruong@foley.com).

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter an 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

Holland N. O'Neil (TX 14864700)

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

2021 McKinney Avenue, Suite 1600

Dallas, TX 75201

Telephone: (214) 999-3000

Facsimile: (214) 999-4667

honeil@foley.com

-and-

Timothy C. Mohan (*pro hac vice* forthcoming)

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

1144 15th Street, Suite 2200

Denver, CO 80202

Telephone: (720) 437-2000

Facsimile: (720) 437-2200

tmohan@foley.com

-and-

Nora J. McGuffey (TX 24121000)

Quynh-Nhu Truong (TX 24137253)

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 2000

Houston, TX 77002

Telephone: (713) 276-5500

Facsimile: (713) 276-5555

nora.mcguffey@foley.com

qtruong@foley.com

**PROPOSED COUNSEL TO DEBTORS
AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION**

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

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., <i>et al.</i> , ¹	§	
	§	Case No.: 25-80121-11 (MVL)
Debtor.	§	
	§	(Joint Administration Requested)

**ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING DEBTORS TO PAY
CERTAIN PREPETITION CLAIMS OF FOREIGN VENDORS
AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF**

¹ 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.

Upon consideration of the motion (the “**Motion**”)² 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 the entry of orders (a) authorizing, but not directing, the Debtors to pay certain Foreign Vendor Claims held by Foreign Vendors and (b) granting related relief, 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 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 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 under the circumstances and no other notice need be provided; 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 HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Motion is granted as set forth herein.
2. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to pay Foreign Vendor Claims in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

3. The Debtors shall maintain a vendor matrix (a) identifying each Foreign Vendor paid, (b) setting forth the amount paid to each Foreign Vendor, and (c) identifying the general type of goods or services provided by each Foreign Vendor. The vendor matrix shall be provided, upon request, to (x) the Office of the U.S. Trustee, (y) counsel to the DIP Lenders, and (z) counsel for any official committee of unsecured creditors appointed in the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases; *provided*, pursuant to sections 107(b) and 107(c)(3)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code, the foregoing parties (including the DIP Lenders) shall keep the vendor matrix confidential and shall not disclose any of the information contained in the vendor matrix to any party without the prior written consent of the Debtors or an order of this Court.

4. Notwithstanding the relief granted in this Order and any actions taken pursuant to 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; (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.

5. The banks and financial institutions on which checks were drawn or electronic payment requests made in payment of the prepetition obligations approved herein are authorized to receive, process, honor, and pay all such checks and electronic payment requests when presented for payment, and all such banks and financial institutions are authorized to rely on the Debtors' designation of any particular check or electronic payment request as approved by this Order.

6. The Debtors are authorized to issue postpetition checks, or to effect postpetition fund transfer requests, in replacement of any checks or fund transfer requests that are dishonored as a consequence of these chapter 11 cases with respect to prepetition amounts owed in connection with the relief granted herein.

7. 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 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.

8. 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.

9. The requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b) have been satisfied.
10. 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.
11. Notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), the terms and conditions of this Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.
12. The Debtors are authorized to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted herein.
13. This Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.

###END OF ORDER###

Submitted by:

Holland N. O'Neil (TX 14864700)
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
2021 McKinney Avenue, Suite 1600
Dallas, TX 75201
Telephone: (214) 999-3000
Facsimile: (214) 999-4667
honeil@foley.com

-and-

Timothy C. Mohan (*pro hac vice* forthcoming)
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
1144 15th Street, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202
Telephone: (720) 437-2000
Facsimile: (720) 437-2200
tmohan@foley.com

-and-

Nora J. McGuffey (TX 24121000)
Quynh-Nhu Truong (TX 24137253)
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 2000
Houston, TX 77002
Telephone: (713) 276-5500
Facsimile: (713) 276-5555
nora.mcguffey@foley.com
qtruong@foley.com

**PROPOSED COUNSEL TO DEBTORS
AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION**