

## **APPENDIX C - Requested State Statute Waivers**

The School hereby invokes waivers of the following sections of the Colorado Revised Statutes; replacement policies are available for review by contacting the School.

### **Automatic State Waivers.**

- 22-32-109 (1)(f), C.R.S. Local board duties concerning selection of personnel and pay
- 22-32-109(1)(t), C.R.S. Determine educational program and prescribe textbooks
- 22-32-110 (1)(h), C.R.S. Local board powers concerning employment termination of school personnel
- 22-32-110(1)(i), C.R.S. Local board duties-Reimburse employees for expenses
- 22-32-110(1)(j), C.R.S. Local board powers-Procure life, health, or accident insurance
- 22-32-110(1)(k), C.R.S. Local board powers-Policies relating the in-service training and official conduct
- 22-32-110(1)(ee), C.R.S. Local board powers-Employ teachers' aides and other non-certificated personnel
- 22-32-126, C.R.S. Employment and authority of principals
- 22-33-104(4), C.R.S. Compulsory school attendance-Attendance policies and excused absences
- 22-63-301, C.R.S. Teacher employment, compensation and dismissal act of 1990; grounds for dismissal
- 22-63-302, C.R.S. Teacher employment, compensation and dismissal act of 1990; procedures for dismissal of teachers and judicial review
- 22-63-401, C.R.S. Teacher employment, compensation and dismissal act of 1990; teachers subject to adopted salary schedule
- 22-63-402, C.R.S. Teacher employment, compensation and dismissal act of 1990; license, authorization or residency required in order to pay teachers
- 22-63-403, C.R.S. Teacher employment, compensation and dismissal act of 1990; payment of salaries
- 22-1-112, C.R.S. School Year- National Holidays

**Non-automatic State Waivers.**

The School hereby requests waivers of the following additional State Statutes:

- C.R.S. § 22-9-106 Local Board of Education-Duties-Performance Evaluation System
- C.R.S. § 22-2-112(1)(q)(I) Commissioner-Duties
- C.R.S. §22-32-109(1)(n)(I) Board of Education- Specific Duties School Calendar
- C.R.S. §22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(B) Board of Education-Specific Duties Adoption of District Calendar
- C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(A) Determine teacher-pupil contact hours
- C.R.S. § 22-63-201 Employment. Certificate required
- C.R.S. § 22-63-202 Teacher employment, contracts in writing-duration-damage provision
- C.R.S. § 22-63-203 Probationary Teachers -renewal and non-renewal of employment contract
- C.R.S. § 22-63-206 Teacher Employment, Compensation and Dismissal Act – Transfer of Teachers
- C.R.S § 22-7-1014(2)(a) Preschool Individualized Readiness Plans – School readiness – Assessments

<b>Non-Automatic Waivers: Statute Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan</b>
<b>Statutory Citation and Title:</b> <b>C.R.S. § 22-9-106 <u>Local Board of Education-Duties-Performance Evaluation System</u></b> <b>C.R.S. § 22-2-112(1)(q)(I) <u>Commissioner-Duties</u></b>
<b>Rationale:</b> The school leader of French American School of Denver must have the ability to perform the evaluation of all personnel. Should any other designated administrator not have a principal or administrator license, this should not preclude him or her from administering the evaluations under the direction of the head of school. The BOD must also have the ability to perform the evaluation for the school leader. Additionally, French American School of Denver should not be required to report their teacher evaluation ratings as a part of the commissioner’s report as required by C.R.S. 22-2-112(1)(q)(I).
<b>Replacement Plan:</b> French American School of Denver uses its own evaluation system as agreed to in the Charter School Agreement with Denver Public Schools and therefore should not be required to report their teacher evaluation data. French American School of Denver’s evaluation system will continue to meet the intent of the law as outlined in statute. The methods used for French American School of Denver’s evaluation system includes quality standards that are clear and relevant to the administrators’ and teachers’ roles and responsibilities, and have the goal of improving student academic growth, and meet the intent of the quality standards established in SB 10-191. All evaluators will receive training in their school’s evaluation system. All teachers will be evaluated annually and the evaluation data will be used to inform professional development and employment decisions for teachers. Core course level participation will continue to be reported PURSUANT TO C.R.S. 22-11-

503.5, as this is a non-waivable statute. The school will not be required to report data to meet state requirements, including, but not limited to, its teacher evaluation ratings, but will be required to report data to meet federal requirements, including, but not limited to, in-field/out-of-field teachers and years of experience.

**Duration of Waivers:** The duration of the contract.

**Financial Impact:** The school anticipates that the requested waiver will have no financial impact upon Denver Public Schools or the school.

**How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:** Since teacher performance has a critical impact on the performance of the entire school, the impact of this waiver will be measured by the same performance criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as set forth in this Charter School Agreement.

**Expected Outcome:** With this waiver, the school will be able to implement its program and evaluate its teachers in accordance with its Performance Appraisal System, which is designed to produce greater accountability and be consistent with the school's goals and objectives. This will benefit staff members as well as students and the community.

### **Non-Automatic Waivers: Statute Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan**

**Statutory Citation and Title:**

**C.R.S. §22-32-109(1)(n)(I) Board of Education- Specific Duties School Calendar**

**C.R.S. §22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(B) Board of Education-Specific Duties Adoption of District Calendar**

**Rationale:** The responsibility to adopt an academic calendar will be delegated from the district board to the charter board. The charter board will adopt a calendar for the school that meets or exceeds the minimum number of days set in statute. French American School of Denver will prescribe the actual details of its own school calendar to best meet the needs of its students and may have a calendar that will differ from the rest of the schools within the district.

**Replacement Plan:** The final calendar and the school's daily schedule will be designed by French American School of Denver and the calendar will meet or exceed day and contact hour requirements set forth in state statute.

**Duration of Waivers:** The duration of the contract.

**Financial Impact:** The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Denver Public Schools or the school.

**How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:** The impact of these waivers will be measured by the performance appraisal criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as per this Charter School Agreement.

**Expected Outcome:** As a result of these waivers, the school will be able to implement the necessary policies to increase student achievement.

### Non-Automatic Waivers: Statute Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

**Statutory Citation and Title:**

**C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(A) Determine teacher-pupil contact hours**

**Rationale:** French American School of Denver should have the ability to determine teacher-pupil contact hours, while not reducing the total contact hours to below the minimum required by state statute. French American School of Denver will determine the actual details of teacher-pupil contact hours to best meet the needs of its students. The local board will not set these policies, and the school may specify teacher-pupil contact hours that differ from other schools in the district.

**Replacement Plan:** French American School of Denver will determine teacher-pupil contact hours in accordance with its final daily schedule and calendar. The total number of teacher-pupil contact hours will meet or exceed the days and contact hours requirements as set forth in state statute.

**Duration of Waivers:** The duration of the contract.

**Financial Impact:** The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Denver Public School or the school.

**How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:** The impact of this waiver will be measured by the performance appraisal criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as per this Charter School Agreement.

**Expected Outcome:** As a result of this waiver, the school will be able to implement the necessary policies to increase student achievement.

### Non-Automatic Waivers: Statute Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan

**Statutory Citation and Title:**

**C.R.S. § 22-63-201 Employment. Certificate required**

<p><b>Rationale:</b> French American School of Denver should be granted the authority to hire teachers and principals that will support the school’s goals and objectives. The school leader will not function as a traditional district school principal, but rather will be responsible for a wider range of tasks and act as the school’s chief executive officer. The school will seek to attract school leaders and teachers from a wide variety of backgrounds, including, but not limited to teachers from out-of-state, teachers with a lapsed Colorado certificate, persons with several years of successful teaching experience in a setting not requiring a license, as well as persons with business or professional experience.</p>
<p><b>Replacement Plan:</b> All employees of French American School of Denver will be employed on an at-will basis. The school will, as appropriate, hire certified teachers and principals. However, in some instances it may be advantageous for the school to be able to hire qualified teachers and/or administrators without a certificate and who possess unique background and/or skills that fill the need of French American School of Denver. All teachers of Core Content (Language Arts; Math; Science; Foreign language; Social Studies [Civics, Government, History, Geography, Economics]; Arts) will at a minimum meet at least one of the following guidelines set forth in the Colorado state ESSA plan, specifically (1) endorsement on a Colorado teaching license; (2) holding at least a BA, its foreign equivalent, or higher; (3) completing 36 semester credit hours in the subject matter in which s/he teaches; or (4) holding at least a BA or higher and passing a State Board approved content exam. Special Education Teachers will hold the requisite state license and endorsement. The school will prioritize the hiring of in-field teachers as defined by the Colorado State Board. The school recognizes that it is required to report data to meet federal requirements, including, but not limited to, in-field/out-of-field teachers and years of experience.</p>
<p><b>Duration of Waivers:</b> The duration of the contract.</p>
<p><b>Financial Impact:</b> The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Denver Public School or the school.</p>
<p><b>How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:</b> The impact of these waivers will be measured by the performance appraisal criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as per this Charter School Agreement.</p>
<p><b>Expected Outcome:</b> As a result of these waivers, the school will be able to employ professional staff possessing unique skills and/or background filling all staff needs.</p>

<p><b>Non-Automatic Waivers: Statute Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan</b></p>
<p><b>Statutory Citation and Title:</b>  <b>C.R.S. § 22-63-202 <u>Teacher employment, contracts in writing-duration-damage provision</u></b>  <b>C.R.S. § 22-63-203 <u>Probationary Teachers -renewal and non-renewal of employment contract</u></b>  <b>C.R.S. § 22-63-206 <u>Teacher Employment, Compensation and Dismissal Act – Transfer of Teachers</u></b></p>

<p><b>Rationale:</b> French American School of Denver should be granted the authority to develop its own employment agreements and terms and conditions of employment. The school will be operating differently from other schools with a unique curriculum for which having the proper teaching staff is essential. Not every teacher who is successful at a traditional public school will be successful at French American School of Denver. In addition, French American School of Denver is granted the authority under the Charter School Agreement to select its own teachers. No other schools or the Denver Public Schools should have the authority to transfer its teachers into the school or transfer teachers from French American School of Denver to any other schools, except as provided for in the Charter School Agreement.</p>
<p><b>Replacement Plan:</b> French American School of Denver has employment agreements with the terms of nonrenewal and renewal set forth in the agreement, including payment of salaries upon termination of employment. Employment offers will be given in writing and will be at an at-will basis. French American School of Denver will hire teachers on a best qualified basis. There is no provision for transfers. However, to the extent that teachers are transferred to other positions or grades within the school, there shall be no discrimination shown toward any teacher in the assignment or transfer of that teacher because of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, or membership or non-membership in any group or organization. Race includes hair texture, hair type, or a protective hairstyle that is commonly or historically associated with race.</p>
<p><b>Duration of Waivers:</b> The duration of the contract.</p>
<p><b>Financial Impact:</b> The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Denver Public School or the school.</p>
<p><b>How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:</b> The impact of these waivers will be measured by the performance appraisal criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as per this Charter School Agreement.</p>
<p><b>Expected Outcome:</b> The school expects that as a result of this waiver it will be able to manage its own personnel affairs.</p>

<p><b>Non-Automatic Waivers: Statute Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan</b></p>
<p><b>Statutory Citation and Title:</b>  C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(b) <u>Local board duties concerning competitive bidding</u>  C.R.S. § 22-32-110(1)(y) <u>Board of Education Accepting gifts, donations, grants</u></p>
<p><b>Rationale:</b> In order to manage its own budget and finances, French American School of Denver must be granted the authority to develop its own financial policies and practices.</p>

**Replacement Plan:** French American School of Denver, rather than the District, will be responsible for determining whether or not to accept gifts, donations and grants. The School will ensure the process is an open process in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. Additionally, French American School of Denver, rather than the District, is in the best position to know what goods and services are needed and which vendors and providers may be available. The School will be responsible for establishing procedures for competitive bidding, as required by applicable law, and for selecting successful bidders on projects/contracts. The School will ensure the process is open, transparent, and in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations.

**Duration of Waivers:** The duration of the contract.

**Financial Impact:** The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on Denver Public Schools or the school.

**How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:** Since this area has a critical impact on the performance of the entire school, the impact of this waiver will be measured by the same performance criteria and assessments that apply to the school, as set forth in this Charter School Agreement.

**Expected Outcome:** As a result of this waiver, the school will be able to carry out its educational program, administer its affairs in an efficient manner, and accomplish its mission as set forth in the Charter School Agreement.

### **Non-Automatic Waivers: Statute Description and Rationale and Replacement Plan**

**Statutory Citation and Title:**

**C.R.S § 22-7-1014(2)(a) Preschool Individualized Readiness Plans – School readiness – Assessments**

**Rationale:** French American School of Denver is a data driven school that is constantly evaluating and assessing students’ academic readiness, character development, and physical well-being in order to ensure student success. French American School of Denver already has strong programs and assessments in place that assess students’ physical well-being, social-emotional development, language and comprehension development, cognition, and knowledge.

**Replacement Plan:** Every kindergarten student at French American School of Denver will be administered a school readiness assessment within the first 60 calendar days of the school year. The assessment instruments used will be research based, reliable and valid, and will assess students, at a minimum, on the domains of physical well-being, social-emotional development, language and comprehension development, cognition, and knowledge. Methods and assessments used are clear and relevant and have the goal of improving student academic growth, and meet the intent of the quality standards established in CRS 22-7-1014(2)(a). French American School of Denver will fulfill the requirement to administer the literacy component of school readiness by administering the i Ready assessment, or other State Board-approved READ Act assessment, within the first 60 calendar days of the school year. The data collected from these assessments will be used to develop an individualized readiness plan for each kindergarten student, and will inform programming accordingly. This school readiness data will not be used to deny admission to first grade. The data collected will be made readily available to the District, and the school will report this data, as required by State law.

**Duration of Waivers:** The duration of the contract.

**Financial Impact:** The school anticipates that the requested waivers will have no financial impact on the Denver Public School or the school.

**How the Impact of the Waivers Will be Evaluated:** The impact of this waiver will be measured by the performance criteria and assessments that apply to the School.

**Expected Outcome:** As a result of this waivers, the school will be able to implement the necessary policies to increase student achievement within existing structures.