

**The Midlands STEM Charter School
Fundraising Policy**

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY: Finance

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2026

POLICY

To establish the basic structure for the solicitation and acceptance of additional sources of revenue for Midlands STEM Charter School. In order to offer the best educational and innovative opportunities possible for the students, teachers, school leaders, and school board members of the Midlands STEM Charter School, the Midlands STEM Charter School will seek additional sources of revenue to supplement the funds available at the Midlands STEM Charter School.

PROCEDURES

Donations from Private Sources

Midlands STEM Charter School is committed to addressing existing needs, launching new initiatives, setting ambitious goals, and creating exciting opportunities to deliver educational excellence across South Carolina. To assist with this commitment, the Midlands STEM Charter School encourages donations and sponsorships from private sources. All donations and sponsorships are voluntary and no goods, services, or promises are to be committed in exchange for the donations and sponsorships.

The Midlands STEM Charter School may not, directly or indirectly, knowingly ask, demand, exact, solicit, seek, accept, assign, receive or agree to receive any donations or sponsorship for the Midlands STEM Charter School in return for being:

- Influenced in the discharge of the Midlands STEM Charter School responsibilities; • Influenced to commit, aid in committing, collude in, allow fraud, or make an opportunity for the commission of fraud on Midlands STEM Charter School responsibilities; or
- Induced to perform or fail to perform an act in violation of the Midlands STEM Charter School responsibility.
- No vendor may obtain or retain a contract in exchange for a donation or gain any advantage in obtaining a contract in exchange for a donation. No vendor is disadvantaged in obtaining a contract from having refused to make a donation.

Donations may be received in the form of goods, financial donations, and volunteer services.

Unique donations in excess of \$25,000 will be approved by the board. The Board will be informed of the usage of these donations.

Acceptance of Donations

Monetary and or in-kind donations may be accepted from individuals, businesses, foundations, and other entities, provided they meet the following criteria.

- Serve the same desirable educational purpose consistent with the Midlands STEM Charter School mission.
- Are consistent with Midlands STEM Charter School Philosophy.
- Believed will cause no harm to the reputation of the Midlands STEM Charter School.

No donation is permitted if it does the following.

- Obligates the board to continue funding, unless explicitly approved by the board.
- Implies endorsement of a business, commercial product, or political party. Public recognition of the donation does not imply endorsement.
- No vendor may obtain a contract or retain a contract by making a donation or gain any advantage in obtaining a contract by making a donation. Nor may a vendor be disadvantaged in obtaining a contract from having refused to make a donation. All vendors shall be given the same opportunities to participate in competition for Institute business. This includes vendors seeking a contract from an authorized charter school.

Donations will not be accepted if they violate federal, state, and local laws or IRS rules.

The School Leader or designee, unless requested to remain private and anonymous, may recognize the donors publicly during a board meeting or other Midlands STEM Charter School events.

Purpose of Donations

Donations will be used to enhance the Midlands STEM Charter School's commitment to elevate educational opportunities through innovation and non-traditional initiatives. Any carryover donations or sponsorships, unless specifically requested by the donor or sponsor, will be used at the discretion of the Midlands STEM Charter School.

Prohibited Uses of Donations

Donations may not be used for undue influence over Midlands STEM Charter School authorizing decisions, or any personal benefit of any Midlands STEM Charter School staff member, immediate family, or board member.

Grant Awards

The Midlands STEM Charter School may request and accept grants from federal, state, corporate, and private sources. The Board will be informed of the usage of any grants outside of the awards from the South Carolina Department of Education.

Accounting and Reporting

All donations shall be recorded in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and any applicable Uniform Guidance standards. All donations shall be in alignment with the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act and the South Carolina Charter School Act.

Approve 09/28/26