



***Highpoint Virtual Academy of Michigan
TRAVEL AND GENERAL EXPENSE POLICY
Updated August 2025***

Highpoint Virtual Academy of Michigan (HVAM) staff and administrators may incur certain general and travel expenses while conducting business for the school. HVAM appreciates the efforts of those who incur expenses on behalf of the school. At the same time, it is necessary to keep costs within a reasonable limit and to follow consistent reimbursement guidelines. Employees should submit their expense reports according to timelines identified below. Itemized receipts or mileage reports are required for every line item. Questions about this policy or expense reimbursements should be directed to the Accounts Payable Clerk.

Expenses should be reported within 45 days of receipt. Repeated delayed reporting may result in delayed or rejected expenses.

Final Expense Report Timelines:

- The final expense submission for the fiscal year must be submitted no later than June 20th each year. Expenses from the previous fiscal year cannot be carried into the next fiscal year. The fiscal year ends June 30th of every year. If an invoice is received after the cutoff, it must be submitted no later than July 5th. **Submissions after July 5th will not be reimbursed.**
- Grant Fund expenses are to be submitted no later than 45 days post expense date OR by grant cycle end, whichever comes first. Dates will be communicated to allow for timely submissions.

General Expenses:

- **Non-Cellular Phone Expenses:** New teachers will be provided a phone from HVAM. In the event that HVAM's phone system is not compatible with the teacher's resident internet, HVAM will provide the following: (1) the teacher will be reimbursed at actual cost, up to \$100 maximum, for the purchase of compatible phone and headset; (2) the teacher will receive a one-time reimbursement for the actual cost of installation (HVAM will not pay for subsequent installation costs in the event the employee changes residences, service providers, etc.); and (3) the teacher will be reimbursed for the actual cost, up to \$100 maximum per month, of having a dedicated phone number for HVAM business purposes. These school-related phone expenses will be reimbursed as noted above, including all applicable taxes and surcharges; however, HVAM will not reimburse for certain itemized phone service charges such as caller ID, inside wire maintenance and late fees. Employees must submit a complete phone bill each month with their expense reimbursement requests to receive reimbursement. Every effort should be made to use the least expensive phone service outside of the school service.
- **Internet Service Expenses:** HVAM will reimburse the cost of phone or cable Internet connection installation plus monthly service charges for designated staff who work from home, up to \$75 per month maximum. HVAM will reimburse installation charges only once, and HVAM will not pay for subsequent installation costs in the event the employee changes residences, service providers, etc. Employees who do not have phone, cable or other reasonable internet service options may request permission to use a Satellite-based internet connection. The employee must first obtain approval from the Head of School and the Finance Manager. If approved, HVAM will reimburse the employee for costs up to 50% or \$300 maximum, whichever is greater, for installation charges. HVAM will reimburse installation charges only once, and HVAM will not pay for subsequent installation costs in the event the employee changes residences, service providers, etc. The employee is asked to find the most economical satellite service available. The employee must submit a receipt for this service for reimbursement. In the event that an employee's position requires the use of a wireless ISP "air



card" and one is distributed to the employee, home internet service will not be reimbursed, as the air card serves this purpose.

- **Bundled Phone and Internet:** If an employee's phone and internet services are bundled together in a cost savings plan offered by the carrier and the cost per service is not itemized on the bill, the cost per service will be calculated by dividing the total bundle amount by the number of services provided. Applicable taxes and surcharges for the bundled services will only be reimbursed if these charges are itemized separately on the bill. Complete receipts/invoices are required for reimbursement.
- **Cell/Wireless Phone Service:** Cell phones, wireless ISP "air cards" and similar items are NOT reimbursable items, unless approval is expressly given in advance by the Head of School and the Finance Manager.
- **Office Supplies:** Approved and reasonable costs for office supplies to be used in instruction to students and service to families will be reimbursed up to \$100 annually plus the cost of ink reimbursement. Unless otherwise stated, off-site employees should obtain approval from their direct supervisor and reimburse expenses.
- **Office Furniture** is not a reimbursed expense.
- **Computer Supplies:** Computer related software, hardware or accessories such as headsets, microphones, external hard drives, and the like require advance approval from the Head of School to be reimbursed.
- **Postage:** Postage expenses will be reimbursed for one "social" mailing (e.g. birthday card) to students per year and for all reasonable business-related mailings. Any postage/shipping charges for returning items to K12 or HVAM will be reimbursed with prior approval from Head of School or Finance Manager. The employee must submit detailed receipts and/or invoices for reimbursement of postage and shipping expenses. Postage to submit expense reports will not be reimbursed.

Field Trip Expenses: HVAM will reimburse reasonable field trip expenses for the teacher only. Eligible expenses include any entrance fees for the teacher or the nominal cost (\$25 or less without prior approval) of renting a facility.

- **NOTE:** Student gifts are not reimbursable.

The following guidelines apply with respect to transportation expenses:

- Employees are expected to use the most cost-efficient ground transportation considering cost, time, availability, and scheduling. Employees may rent a car for transportation if the cost of the rental and gas is most cost-effective than the mileage rate.
- Meals will be reimbursed at actual cost up to a maximum as follows:
 - Breakfast – \$10.00 (including gratuity)
 - Lunch – \$15.00 (including gratuity)
 - Dinner - \$20.00 (including gratuity)
- HVAM will **NOT** reimburse employees for any meals that are included as part of a professional development training or conference fee.
- There is no reimbursement for alcoholic beverages and should not appear on receipts.



- **Group Meals:** Supervisors or other staff who pay for a group meal must have express approval from the Head of School, and must include the names of each individual in attendance with the receipt submitted for reimbursement.

The following guidelines apply with respect to lodging expenses:

- When traveling for School Meetings or Professional Development, lodging may be obtained the night prior if:
 - The meeting begins prior to 10:00 and staff lives more than 90 miles away from the location.
 - The meeting begins at or after 10:00 and the staff lives more than 120 miles away from the location.
- Travel back and forth to a multi-day meeting or PD will only be reimbursed if the cost of mileage is cheaper than the cost of obtaining lodging.
- Attempts should be made to find reasonably priced accommodations through various travel sites. Safety is of top concern when making decisions regarding hotel accommodations and cost.

The following guidelines apply with respect to site rental expenses:

- If over \$100 per rental, employees will be required to obtain the ***pre-approval*** of the Head of School before renting a facility or location for a School-approved event, and will need to follow current HVAM Check Request/Purchase Requisition and Order guidelines.
- Regarding Family Coaches, the HVAM Days Out site rental allowance is \$700 per school year or \$70 per month. All Site Rentals will need pre-approval by the employee's Departmental Director and completion of the Purchase Order Requisition Form.
- If a site rental is under \$100, the employee can simply expense the cost of the rental on their expense report for reimbursement.

Please note reimbursement occurs when:

- The travel expenses were incurred while conducting HVAM business.
- Information contained in the expense report and in the attached documentation is accurate and in accordance with this policy.
- The expenditure is charged to the proper business unit, and cost center.