

GREEN MOUNTAIN HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM 403(B) PLAN

SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

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INTRODUCTION TO YOUR PLAN

Green Mountain Higher Education Consortium 403(b) Plan ("Plan") has been adopted to provide you with the opportunity to save for retirement on a tax advantaged basis. This Plan is a type of retirement plan known as a 403(b) plan.

This Summary Plan Description ("SPD") contains information regarding when you may become eligible to participate in the Plan, your Plan benefits, your distribution options, and many other features of the Plan. You should take the time to read this SPD to understand the features of the Plan.

If you have any questions about the Plan, contact the Plan Administrator or other Plan representative. The Plan Administrator is generally responsible for responding to questions and making determinations related to the administration, interpretation, and application of the Plan, unless those responsibilities have been delegated to other parties. The name of the Plan Administrator can be found at the end of this SPD in the Article entitled "General Information about the Plan."

This SPD describes the Plan's benefits and obligations as contained in the legal Plan document, which governs the operation of the Plan. The Plan document is written in much more technical and precise language and is designed to comply with applicable legal requirements. If the non-technical language in this SPD and the technical, legal language of the Plan document conflict, the Plan document always governs. If you wish to receive a copy of the legal Plan document, please contact the Plan Administrator.

The Plan, and your rights under the Plan, are subject to federal laws such as, ERISA (the Employee Retirement Income Security Act), the Internal Revenue Code and other federal and state laws. The provisions of the Plan are subject to revision due to a change in laws. Your Employer may also amend or terminate this Plan. The Plan Administrator will notify you if the provisions of the Plan that are described in this summary change.

Investment arrangement. The investment products you select (known as investment arrangements) may also affect the provisions of the Plan. In some cases the investment arrangements may limit your options under the Plan. This SPD does not address the provisions of the various investment arrangements. You should contact the Plan Administrator or the investment provider if you have questions about the provisions of your specific investment arrangements.

Types of contributions. The following types of contributions are allowed under this Plan:

- Mandatory employee contributions
- Employee elective deferrals including Roth Deferrals

- Employer matching contributions
- Employee (after-tax) contributions
- Employee rollover contributions

ARTICLE I PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAN

How do I participate in the Plan?

Provided you are not an Excluded Employee, you can begin participating under the Plan once you have satisfied the eligibility requirements and reached your Entry Date, except as indicated below for reclassified employees. The following describes Excluded Employees, the eligibility requirements and Entry Dates that apply.

Elective Deferrals

Excluded Employees. If you are a member of a class of employees identified below, you are an Excluded Employee and you are not entitled to participate in the Plan for purposes of elective deferrals. The employees who are excluded are:

- employees who normally work less than 20 hours per week. (However, if you actually complete a Year of Service, you will no longer be a part of this excluded class)

Eligibility Conditions. You will be eligible to participate in the Plan for purposes of making elective deferrals as of your date of hire (which is the Entry Date).

Entry Date. For purposes of elective deferrals, your Entry Date will be your date of hire.

Matching Contributions

Excluded Employees. If you are a member of a class of employees identified below, you are an Excluded Employee and you are not entitled to participate in the Plan for purposes of matching contributions. The employees who are excluded are:

- employees who normally work less than 20 hours per week. (However, if you actually complete a Year of Service, you will no longer be a part of this excluded class)

Eligibility Conditions. You will be eligible to participate in the Plan for purposes of matching contributions when you have satisfied the following eligibility condition(s) and reached the Entry Date (described below).

- attainment of age 21.

Entry Date. For purposes of matching contributions, your Entry Date will be the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date on which you satisfy the eligibility requirements.

Mandatory Employee Contributions

Excluded Employees. If you are a member of a class of employees identified below, you are an Excluded Employee and you are not entitled to participate in the Plan for purposes of mandatory employee contributions. The employees who are excluded are:

- employees who normally work less than 20 hours per week. (However, if you actually complete a Year of Service, you will no longer be a part of this excluded class)

Eligibility Conditions. You will be eligible to participate in the Plan for purposes of mandatory employee contributions when you have satisfied the following eligibility condition(s) and reached the Entry Date (described below).

- attainment of age 21.

Entry Date. For purposes of mandatory employee contributions, your Entry Date will be the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date on which you satisfy the eligibility requirements.

Employee (after-tax) Contributions

Excluded Employees. If you are a member of a class of employees identified below, you are an Excluded Employee and you are not entitled to participate in the Plan for purposes of Employee (after-tax) contributions. The employees who are excluded are:

- employees who normally work less than 20 hours per week. (However, if you actually complete a Year of Service, you will no longer be a part of this excluded class)

Eligibility Conditions. You will be eligible to participate in the Plan for purposes of Employee (after-tax) contributions when you have satisfied the following eligibility condition(s) and reached the Entry Date (described below).

- attainment of age 21.

Entry Date. For purposes of Employee (after-tax) contributions, your Entry Date will be the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date on which you satisfy the eligibility requirements.

Reclassified Employee

Regardless of the above, if it is determined that your Employer erroneously classified you as a non-Employee and you should have been treated as an Employee, you are not entitled to participate in the Plan.

What happens if I'm a Participant, terminate employment and then I'm rehired?

If you are no longer a Participant because of a termination of employment, and you are rehired, then you will be able to participate in the Plan on the date on which you are rehired if you are otherwise eligible to participate in the Plan.

ARTICLE II EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS

What are elective deferrals and how do I contribute them to the Plan?

Elective Deferrals. As a Participant under the Plan, you may elect to reduce your compensation by a specific amount and have that amount contributed to the Plan as an elective deferral. There are two types of elective deferrals: Pre-Tax Deferrals and Roth Deferrals. For purposes of this SPD, "elective deferrals" generally means both Pre-Tax Deferrals and Roth Deferrals. Regardless of the type of elective deferral you make, the amount you defer is counted as compensation for purposes of Social Security taxes.

Pre-Tax Deferrals. If you elect to make Pre-Tax Deferrals, then your taxable income is reduced by the deferral contributions so you pay less in federal income taxes. Later, when the Plan distributes the deferrals and earnings, you will pay the taxes on those deferrals and the earnings. Therefore, with a Pre-Tax Deferral, federal income taxes on the elective deferral contributions and on the earnings are only postponed. Eventually, you will have to pay taxes on these amounts.

Roth Deferrals. If you elect to make Roth Deferrals, the elective deferrals are subject to federal income taxes in the year of elective deferral. However, the elective deferrals and, in certain cases, the earnings on the elective deferrals are not subject to federal income taxes when distributed to you. In order for the earnings to be tax free, you must meet certain conditions. See "What are my tax consequences when I receive a distribution from the Plan?" below.

You will always be 100% vested in your elective deferrals (see the Article in this SPD entitled "Vesting").

Elective Deferral procedure. The amount you elect to defer will be deducted from your pay in accordance with a procedure established by the Plan Administrator. If you wish to defer, the procedure will require that you enter into a Salary Reduction Agreement. You may elect to defer a portion of your compensation payable on or after your Entry Date. Such election will become effective as soon as administratively feasible after it is received by the Plan Administrator. Your election will remain in effect until you modify or terminate it unless notified by the Employer or if your elective deferrals are automatically suspended under the terms of the Plan.

Your deferral election will also apply to irregular pay (e.g., bonuses) Also, your deferral election will not apply to amounts that are taxable but not payable in cash (such as taxable fringe benefits).

Deferral modifications. You are permitted to revoke your salary deferral election at any time during the Plan Year. You may make a new election or modify an existing election as of each payroll period or in accordance with any other procedure that your Employer provides. Any modification will become effective as soon as administratively feasible after it is received by the Plan Administrator.

Elective Deferral Limit. Your total elective deferrals in any taxable year cannot exceed a dollar limit which is set by law. The limit for 2018 is \$18,500. After 2018, the dollar limit may increase for cost-of-living adjustments. See the paragraph below on Annual dollar limit.

Age 50 Catch-Up Deferrals. If you are at least age 50 or will attain age 50 before the end of a calendar year, then you may elect to defer additional amounts (called Age 50 Catch-Up Deferrals) to the Plan as of the January 1st of that year. You can defer the additional amounts regardless of any other limitations on the amount you can defer to the Plan. The maximum Age 50 Catch-Up Deferrals that you can make in 2018 is \$6,000. After 2018, the maximum might increase for cost-of-living adjustments. In determining any Employer matching contribution made to the Plan, any Age 50 Catch-Up Deferrals that you make will be taken into account in determining any Employer matching contribution made to the Plan.

Annual dollar limit. You should also be aware that each separately stated annual dollar limit on the amount you may defer (the annual deferral limit and the "catch-up contribution" limit) is a separate aggregate limit that applies to all such similar salary deferral amounts and "catch-up contributions" you may make under this Plan and any other cash or deferred arrangements (including tax-sheltered 403(b) annuity contracts, simplified employee pensions or other 401(k) plans) in which you may be participating. Generally, if an annual dollar limit is exceeded, then the excess must be returned to you in order to avoid adverse tax consequences. For this reason, it is desirable to request in writing that any such excess salary deferral amounts and "catch-up contributions" be returned to you.

If you are in more than one plan, you must decide which plan or arrangement you would like to return the excess. If you decide that the excess should be distributed from this Plan, you must communicate this in writing to the Plan Administrator no later than the March 1st following the close of the calendar year in which such excess deferrals were made. However, if the entire dollar limit is exceeded in this Plan or any other plan the Employer maintains, then you will be deemed to have notified the Plan Administrator of the excess. The Plan Administrator will then return the excess deferral and any earnings to you by April 15th.

What are mandatory employee contributions?

Mandatory employee contributions. As a condition of employment, you must agree to contribute 1.0% of your compensation each Plan Year to the Plan.

The mandatory employee contribution you make is a pre-tax contribution. This means that the mandatory employee contribution is not subject to federal income taxes, and in most cases, will not be subject to Social Security and Medicare taxes. You will always be 100% vested in any mandatory employee contributions you make to the Plan.

What are Employee (after-tax) contributions?

Employee (after-tax) contributions. As a Participant under the Plan, you may make contributions to the Plan on an after-tax basis. Employee (after-tax) contributions are subject to current taxation even though they are contributed to the Plan. However, any earnings you receive on your after-tax contributions made to the Plan will generally not be taxed until you withdraw those amounts from the Plan. When you retire or otherwise become eligible for Plan benefits, the value of your Employee Contribution Account will be used to provide additional benefits for you or your beneficiaries.

You will always be 100% vested in your after-tax contributions (see the Article in this SPD entitled "Vesting").

Limitations. There are certain limitations imposed by law on the amount of Employee (after-tax) contributions you can contribute to the Plan. These limitations will change from year to year depending upon the level of such contributions made by other Participants during the year. If your after-tax contributions exceed these limitations, the Plan Administrator will return the excess contributions to you. In addition, if you take certain hardship distributions, you might be required to suspend making after tax contributions for six months.

Withdrawal of Employee (after-tax) contributions. You may withdraw amounts in your Employee Contribution Account at any time.

What are rollover contributions?

Rollover contributions. Subject to the provisions of your investment arrangements and at the discretion of the Plan Administrator, you might be permitted to deposit into the Plan distributions you have received from other plans and certain IRAs. Such a deposit is called a "rollover" contribution and might result in tax savings to you. You may ask the Plan Administrator of the other plan or the trustee or custodian of the IRA to directly transfer (a "direct rollover") to this Plan all or a portion of any amount that you are entitled to receive as a distribution from such plan. Alternatively, you may elect to deposit any amount eligible to be rolled over within 60 days of your receipt of the distribution. You should consult qualified counsel to determine if a rollover is in your best interest.

Rollover account. Your rollover contribution will be accounted for in a "rollover account." You will always be 100% vested in your "rollover account" (see the Article in this SPD entitled "Vesting"). Rollover contributions will be affected by any investment gains or losses. In addition, any Roth deferrals that are accepted as rollovers in this Plan will be accounted for separately.

Withdrawal of rollover contributions. You may withdraw the amounts in your "rollover account" at any time.

ARTICLE III EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

This Article describes Employer contributions that might be made to the Plan and how your share of the contributions is determined.

What is the Employer matching contribution and how is it allocated?

Amounts taken into account. Matching contributions are only based on your pre-tax deferrals and Roth deferrals.

Matching Contribution. Each payroll period, the Employer might make a discretionary matching contribution equal to a uniform percentage or dollar amount of your elective deferrals. Each year, the Employer will determine the formula for the discretionary matching contribution.

Matching catch-up deferrals. The Plan will include catch-up deferrals in the elective deferral amount used to determine the amount of your matching contribution.

Allocation conditions. You will always share in the matching contribution regardless of the amount of service you complete during the Plan Year.

ARTICLE IV COMPENSATION AND ACCOUNT BALANCE

What compensation is used to determine my Plan benefits?

All Contributions

Definition of compensation. Compensation is defined as your total compensation that is subject to income tax and paid to you by your Employer for the Plan Year. The following describes the adjustments to compensation that apply for the contributions noted above.

Adjustments to compensation. The following adjustments to compensation will be made:

- elective deferrals to this Plan and to any other plan or arrangement (such as a cafeteria plan) will be included.
- reimbursements or other expense allowances, fringe benefits, moving expenses, deferred compensation, and welfare benefits will be excluded.
- leave of absence pay will be excluded.
- compensation paid after you terminate is generally excluded for Plan purposes. However, the following amounts will be included in compensation even though they are paid after you terminate employment, provided these amounts would otherwise have been considered compensation as described above and provided they are paid within 2 1/2

months after you terminate employment, or if later, the last day of the Plan Year in which you terminate employment:

- compensation paid for services performed during your regular working hours, or for services outside your regular working hours (such as overtime or shift differential), or other similar payments that would have been made to you had you continued employment.
- compensation paid for unused accrued bona fide sick, vacation or other leave, if such amounts would have been included in compensation if paid prior to your termination of employment and you would have been able to use the leave if employment had continued.
- nonqualified unfunded deferred compensation if the payment is includible in gross income and would have been paid to you had you continued employment.

Is there a limit on the amount of compensation which can be considered?

The Plan, by law, cannot recognize annual compensation in excess of a certain dollar limit. The limit for the Plan Year beginning in 2018 is \$275,000. After 2018, the dollar limit might increase for cost-of-living adjustments.

Is there a limit on how much can be contributed to my account each year?

Generally, the law imposes a maximum limit on the amount of contributions including elective deferrals (excluding catch-up contributions) that may be made to your account and any other amounts allocated to any of your accounts during the Plan Year, excluding earnings. Beginning in 2018, this total cannot exceed the lesser of \$55,000 or 100% of your includible compensation (generally your highest compensation for any 12 month period, as limited under the previous question). After 2018, the dollar limit might increase for cost-of-living adjustments.

If you have more than 50% control of a corporation, partnership, and/or sole proprietorship, then the above limit is based on contributions made to your account in this Plan as well as to contributions made to any 403(b) or qualified plans maintained by the businesses you control. If you control another business that maintains a plan in which you participate, then you are responsible for providing the Plan Administrator with information necessary to apply the annual contribution limits. If you fail to provide necessary and correct information to the Plan Administrator, it could result in adverse tax consequences to you, including the inability to exclude contributions to the Plan from your gross income for tax purposes.

How is the money in the Plan invested?

The Plan assets may be invested in mutual funds and Annuity Contracts. Contact the Plan Administrator for further details regarding permissible investments.

You will be able to direct the investment of your Plan account, including your elective deferrals. The Plan Administrator will provide you with information on the investment choices available to you, the frequency with which you can change your investment choices and other information.

If you do not direct the investment of your Plan account, then your account will be invested in accordance with the default investment alternatives your Employer establishes under the Plan.

The Plan is intended to comply with Section 404(c) of ERISA (the Employee Retirement Income Security Act). If the Plan complies with this Section, then the fiduciaries of the Plan, including your Employer and the Plan Administrator, will be relieved of any legal liability for any losses which are the direct and necessary result of the investment directions that you give. You must follow procedures in giving investment directions. If you fail to do so, then your investment directions need not be followed.

When you direct investments, your account is segregated for purposes of determining the earnings or losses on these investments. Your account does not share in the investment performance for other Participants who have directed their own investments.

You should remember that the amount of your benefits under the Plan will depend in part upon your choice of investments. Gains as well as losses can occur and your Employer and the Plan Administrator will not provide investment advice or guarantee the performance of any investment you choose.

Periodically, you will receive a benefit statement that provides information on your account balance and your investment returns. It is your responsibility to notify the Plan Administrator of any errors you see on any statements within 30 days after the statement is provided or made available to you.

Will Plan expenses be deducted from my account balance?

Expenses allocated to all accounts. Subject to the terms of the investment arrangements funding the plan, the Plan might pay some or all Plan related expenses except for a limited category of expenses which the law requires your Employer to pay. The category of expenses which your Employer must pay are known as "settlor expenses." Generally, settlor expenses relate to the design, establishment or termination of the Plan. The expenses charged to the Plan might be charged pro rata to each Participant in relation to the size of each Participant's account balance or might be charged equally to each Participant. In addition, some types of expenses might be charged only to some Participants based upon their use of a Plan feature or receipt of a Plan distribution. Finally, the Plan might charge expenses in a different manner as to Participants who have terminated employment with your Employer versus those Participants who remain employed with your Employer.

Terminated employee. After you terminate employment, subject to the terms of the investment arrangements funding the Plan, your Employer reserves the right to charge your account for your pro rata share of the Plan's administration expenses, regardless of whether your Employer pays some of these expenses on behalf of current employees.

Expenses allocated to individual accounts. There are certain other expenses that might be paid just from your account subject to the terms of the investment arrangements funding the Plan. These are expenses that are specifically incurred by, or attributable to, you. For example, if you are married and get divorced, the Plan might incur additional expenses if a court mandates that a portion of your account be paid to your ex-spouse. These additional expenses might be paid directly from your account (and not the accounts of other Participants) because

they are directly attributable to you under the Plan. The Plan Administrator will inform you when there will be a charge (or charges) directly to your account.

Your Employer might, from time to time, change the manner in which expenses are allocated.

The above is only a general statement about the possible treatment of Plan expenses. See the Appendix for Plan Expense Allocations for details.

ARTICLE V VESTING

What is my vested interest in my account?

You are always 100% vested in all of your Plan accounts.

ARTICLE VI DISTRIBUTIONS PRIOR TO TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

The terms of the investment arrangements that you selected for your Plan contributions might contain additional limits on when you can take a distribution, the form of distribution that is available as well as your right to transfer among approved investment options. Please review both the following information in this SPD and the terms of your investment arrangements before requesting a distribution.

Can I withdraw money from my account while working?

In-service distributions. You may be entitled to receive an in-service distribution. However, this distribution is not in addition to your other benefits and will therefore reduce the value of the benefits you will receive at retirement. This distribution is made at your election subject to possible administrative limitations on the frequency and actual timing of such distributions. You may withdraw amounts from accounts for Employee (after-tax) contributions and rollover contributions.

Conditions. Generally you may receive a distribution from certain accounts prior to termination of employment provided you satisfy any of the following conditions:

- you have attained age 59 1/2. Satisfying this condition allows you to receive distributions from all contribution accounts.
- you have incurred a financial hardship as described below.
- you incur a disability (as defined in the Plan). Satisfying this condition allows you to receive distributions from all contribution accounts.

Distributions for deemed severance of employment. If you are on active military duty for more than 30 days, then the Plan generally treats you as having severed employment for purposes of receiving a distribution from the Plan from all contribution accounts. If you request

a distribution on account of this deemed severance of employment and all or part of the distribution is taken from elective deferrals, then you are not permitted to make any contributions to the Plan for six (6) months after the date of the distribution.

Additional in-service conditions. The following additional conditions apply to in-service distributions from certain accounts:

- The minimum amount you can receive as an in-service distribution is \$1,000.
- In-service distributions can only be made from accounts which are 100% vested, unless the distribution is based on hardship. Although you may receive an in-service distribution based on hardship from accounts which are not 100% vested, the amount of the distribution may not exceed the vested amount in the distributing account.

Withdrawal of Employee (after-tax) contributions. You may withdraw amounts in your Employee Contribution Account at any time.

Can I withdraw money from my account in the event of financial hardship?

Hardship distributions. You may withdraw money on account of financial hardship if you satisfy certain conditions, subject to the rules and conditions set forth in the investment arrangements. This hardship distribution is not in addition to your other benefits and will therefore reduce the value of the benefits you will receive upon termination of employment or other event entitling you to distribution of your account balance.

Qualifying expenses. A hardship distribution may be made to satisfy certain immediate and heavy financial needs that you have. A hardship distribution may only be made for payment of the following:

- Expenses for medical care (described in Section 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code) for you, your spouse or your dependents.
- Costs directly related to the purchase of your principal residence (excluding mortgage payments).
- Tuition, related educational fees, and room and board expenses for the next twelve (12) months of post-secondary education for you, your spouse, your children or your dependents.
- Amounts necessary to prevent your eviction from your principal residence or foreclosure on the mortgage of your principal residence.
- Payments for burial or funeral expenses for your deceased parent, spouse, children or your dependents.
- Expenses for the repair of damage to your principal residence (that would qualify for the casualty loss deduction under Internal Revenue Code Section 165).

Conditions. If you have any of the above expenses, a hardship distribution can only be made if you certify and agree that all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The distribution is not in excess of the amount of your immediate and heavy financial need. The amount of your immediate and heavy financial need may include any amounts necessary to pay any federal, state, or local income taxes or penalties reasonably anticipated to result from the distribution;
- (b) You have obtained all distributions, other than hardship distributions, and all nontaxable loans currently available under all plans that your Employer maintains; and
- (c) That you will not make any elective deferrals and Employee (after-tax) contributions for at least six (6) months after your receipt of the hardship distribution. If your salary deferrals are suspended, then your deferral election that was in place prior to the suspension will not continue in effect after the suspension.

Account restrictions. You may request a hardship distribution only from the vested portion of the following accounts:

- elective deferrals
- accounts attributable to Employer matching contributions
- accounts attributable to Employer nonelective contributions
- accounts attributable to mandatory employee contributions

Restricted Amounts. There are additional restrictions placed on hardship distributions from certain accounts (referred to as "Restricted Accounts"). Restricted Accounts include your matching Contributions invested in custodial accounts and any qualified nonelective contributions. Generally, the only amounts that can be distributed to you on account of a hardship from these Restricted Accounts are your elective deferrals (earnings on elective deferrals cannot be withdrawn for a hardship). Ask the Administrator if you need further details.

ARTICLE VII DISTRIBUTIONS UPON TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

To the extent permitted in the investment arrangements, the provisions in this Article apply to distributions from the Plan following termination of employment.

When can I get money out of the Plan?

You might be able to receive a distribution of some or all of your accounts in the Plan when you terminate employment with your Employer. The rules regarding the payment of death benefits to your beneficiary are described in the Article in this SPD entitled "Distributions upon Death."

If you terminate employment and your vested benefit exceeds \$1,000, you will be entitled to a distribution within a reasonable time after your termination. You must consent to this distribution. (See the question "How will my benefits be paid?" for a further explanation of how benefits are paid from the Plan.)

If you terminate employment, and the value of your vested benefit does not exceed \$1,000, then a distribution will automatically be paid to you even if you do not consent. Such distribution will be paid to you within a reasonable period of time after your termination of employment. See the question entitled "How will my benefits be paid to me?" for an explanation of how these benefits will be paid.

Treatment of "rollover" contributions for consent to distribution. In determining if the value of your vested account balance exceeds the \$1,000 threshold described above used to determine whether you must consent to a distribution, your "rollover account" will be considered as part of your benefit.

Military Service. If you are a veteran and are reemployed under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, your qualified military service may be considered service with your Employer. There might also be benefits for employees who die or become disabled while on active duty. Employees who receive wage continuation payments while in the military may benefit from various changes in the law. If you think you may be affected by these rules, ask the Plan Administrator for further details.

What is Normal Retirement Age and what is the significance of reaching Normal Retirement Age?

Normal Retirement Age. Your Normal Retirement Age is the date you reach age 65.

Payment of benefits. You will become 100% vested in all of your accounts under the Plan (assuming you are not already fully vested) if you are employed on or after your Normal Retirement Age. However, the actual payment of benefits generally will not begin until you have terminated employment. In such event, a distribution will be made, at your election, as soon as administratively feasible. If you remain employed past your Normal Retirement Age, you may generally defer the receipt of benefits until you actually terminate employment. In such event, benefit payments will begin as soon as feasible at your request, but generally not later than age 70 1/2. (See the question entitled "How will my benefits be paid to me?" for an explanation of how these benefits will be paid.)

When am I considered to be disabled under the Plan?

Definition of disability. Under the Plan, disability is defined as the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve months. The permanence and degree of such impairment must be supported by medical evidence. The Plan Administrator may require that your disability be determined by a licensed physician.

If you become disabled while an employee, you will become 100% vested in all of your accounts under the Plan.

How will my benefits be paid to me?

The following provisions apply to the extent permitted under the investment arrangements in which the plan assets are invested.

Lump-sum distributions. If you terminate employment and your vested account balance does not exceed \$5,000, then your vested account balance might only be distributed to you in a single lump-sum payment.

Distribution methods. If you terminate employment and your vested account balance exceeds \$5,000 (or another amount as provided in your investment arrangement), then your vested account balance might be distributed to you under any method permitted under your investment arrangements, including the following:

- a single lump-sum payment
- ad-hoc distributions. You may request a distribution of some or all of your Plan accounts, at any time following your termination of employment, subject to any reasonable limits regarding timing and amounts as the Plan Administrator or your investment arrangements may impose.

Required beginning date. There are rules that require that certain minimum distributions be made from the Plan. Distributions are required to begin not later than the April 1st following the end of the year in which you reach age 70 1/2 or terminate employment, whichever is later. Contact the Plan Administrator if you think you might be affected by these rules.

ARTICLE VIII DISTRIBUTIONS UPON DEATH

What happens if I die while working for the Employer?

If you die while still employed by the Employer, then your account balance will be used to provide your beneficiary with a death benefit.

Who is the beneficiary of my death benefit?

No beneficiary designation. Subject to the terms of the investment arrangements, at the time of your death, if you have not designated a beneficiary or your beneficiary is not alive, the death benefit will be paid in the following order of priority to:

- (a) your surviving spouse
- (b) your children, including adopted children in equal shares (and if a child is not living, that child's share will be distributed to that child's living descendants)
- (c) your surviving parents, in equal shares
- (d) your estate

How will the death benefit be paid to my beneficiary?

Lump-sum distribution. If the death benefit payable to your beneficiary does not exceed \$5,000, then the benefit may only be paid as a lump sum.

Distribution method. Except for special distributions described below, if the death benefit payable to your beneficiary exceeds \$5,000, the benefit may be paid under any method permitted under your investment arrangements, including the methods described above under "How will my benefits be paid to me?". The beneficiary may choose among the then available distribution methods unless you elected the death benefit distribution method prior to your death.

When must payments be made to my beneficiary (required minimum distributions)?

If your designated beneficiary is a person (other than your estate or most trusts) then minimum distributions of your death benefit must generally begin within one year of your death and must be paid over a period not extending beyond your beneficiary's life expectancy. If your spouse is the beneficiary, the start of payments may be delayed until the year in which you would have attained age 70 1/2. Generally, if you die before you are required to begin minimum distributions (which for most people is shortly after the later of age 70 1/2 or retirement) and your beneficiary is not a person, then your entire death benefit must be paid within five years after your death. Some investment products may allow a person to use this five-year rule.

Since a spouse has certain rights in the death benefit, you should immediately report any change in your marital status to the Plan Administrator.

What happens if I terminate employment, commence required minimum distribution payments and then die before receiving all of my benefits?

Your beneficiary will be entitled to your remaining vested interest in the Plan at the time of your death. Payments must generally come out at least as rapidly as the required minimum distributions. Contact the Plan Administrator for more information regarding the timing and method of payments that apply to your beneficiary. The provision in the Plan providing for full vesting of your benefit upon death does not apply if you die after terminating employment.

ARTICLE IX TAX TREATMENT OF DISTRIBUTIONS

What are my tax consequences when I receive a distribution from the Plan?

Generally, you must include any Plan distribution in your taxable income in the year in which you receive the distribution. The tax treatment may also depend on your age when you receive the distribution. Certain distributions made to you when you are under age 59 1/2 could be subject to an additional federal 10% penalty tax. You will not be taxed on your Employee (after-tax) contributions to the Plan when they are distributed from the Plan. You will, however, be taxed on income attributable to those contributions.

You will not be taxed on distributions of your Roth deferrals. In addition, a distribution of the earnings on the Roth deferrals will not be subject to tax if the distribution is a "qualified distribution." A "qualified distribution" is one that is made after you have attained age 59 1/2 or is made on account of your death or disability. In addition, in order to be a "qualified distribution," the distribution cannot be made prior to the expiration of a 5-year participation period. The 5-year participation period is the 5-year period beginning the calendar year in which you first make a Roth deferral to our Plan (or to another 401(k) plan or 403(b) plan if such amount was rolled over into this Plan) and ending on the last day of the calendar year that is 5 years later.

Can I elect a rollover to reduce or defer tax on my distribution?

Rollover or Direct Transfer. You may reduce, or defer entirely, the tax due on your distribution through use of one of the following methods:

(a) **60-day rollover.** You may roll over all or a portion of the distribution to an Individual Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA) or another employer retirement plan willing to accept the rollover. This will result in no tax being due until you begin withdrawing funds from the IRA or other qualified employer plan. The rollover of the distribution, however, **MUST** be made within strict time frames (normally, within 60 days after you receive your distribution). Under certain circumstances, all or a portion of a distribution (such as a hardship distribution) may not qualify for this rollover treatment. In addition, most distributions will be subject to mandatory federal income tax withholding at a rate of 20%. This will reduce the amount you actually receive. For this reason, if you wish to roll over all or a portion of your distribution amount, then the direct rollover option described in paragraph (b) below would be the better choice.

(b) **Direct rollover.** For most distributions, you may request that a direct transfer (sometimes referred to as a direct rollover) of all or a portion of a distribution be made to either an Individual Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA) or another employer retirement plan willing to accept the transfer. A direct transfer will result in no tax being due until you withdraw funds from the IRA or other employer plan. Like the 60-day rollover, under certain circumstances all or a portion of the amount to be distributed may not qualify for this direct transfer. If you elect to actually receive the distribution rather than request a direct transfer, then in most cases 20% of the distribution amount will be withheld for federal income tax purposes.

Tax Notice. WHENEVER YOU RECEIVE A DISTRIBUTION THAT IS AN ELIGIBLE ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTION, THE PLAN ADMINISTRATOR WILL DELIVER TO YOU A MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THESE OPTIONS. HOWEVER, THE RULES WHICH DETERMINE WHETHER YOU QUALIFY FOR FAVORABLE TAX TREATMENT ARE VERY COMPLEX. YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH QUALIFIED TAX COUNSEL BEFORE MAKING A CHOICE.

ARTICLE X LOANS

Is it possible to borrow money from the Plan?

Yes, it is possible to borrow money from the Plan. Loans are permitted in accordance with the Plan Loan Policy attached to this SPD and subject to the limitations of your investment arrangements. If you wish to receive a copy of the Loan Policy, please contact the Plan Administrator.

ARTICLE XI PROTECTED BENEFITS AND CLAIMS PROCEDURES

Are my benefits protected?

As a general rule, your interest in your account, including your "vested interest," may not be alienated. This means that your interest may not be sold, used as collateral for a loan (other than for a Plan loan), given away or otherwise transferred (except at death to your beneficiary). In addition, your creditors (other than the IRS) may not attach, garnish or otherwise interfere with your benefits under the Plan.

Are there any exceptions to the general rule?

There are three exceptions to this general rule. The Plan Administrator must honor a domestic relations order (QDRO). A (QDRO) is defined as a decree or order issued by a court that obligates you to pay child support or alimony, or otherwise allocates a portion of your assets in the Plan to your spouse, former spouse, children or other dependents. If a (QDRO) is received by the Plan Administrator, all or a portion of your benefits may be used to satisfy that obligation. The Plan Administrator will determine the validity of any domestic relations order received. You and your beneficiaries can obtain from the Plan Administrator, without charge, a copy of the procedure used by the Plan Administrator to determine whether a qualified domestic relations order is valid.

The second exception applies if you are involved with the Plan's operation. If you are found liable for any action that adversely affects the Plan, the Plan Administrator can offset your benefits by the amount that you are ordered or required by a court to pay the Plan. All or a portion of your benefits may be used to satisfy any such obligation to the Plan.

The last exception applies to federal tax levies and judgments. The federal government is able to use your interest in the Plan to enforce a federal tax levy and to collect a judgment resulting from an unpaid tax assessment.

Can the Employer amend the Plan?

Your Employer has the right to amend the Plan at any time. In no event, however, will any amendment authorize or permit any part of the Plan assets to be used for purposes other than the exclusive benefit of Participants or their beneficiaries. Additionally, no amendment will cause any reduction in the amount credited to your account.

What happens if the Plan is discontinued or terminated?

Although your Employer intends to maintain the Plan indefinitely, your Employer reserves the right to terminate the Plan at any time. Upon termination, no further contributions will be made to the Plan and all amounts credited to your accounts will continue to be 100% vested. Your Employer will direct the distribution of your accounts in a manner permitted by the Plan as soon as practicable. You will be notified if the Plan is terminated.

How do I submit a claim for Plan benefits?

Benefits will generally be paid to you and your beneficiaries without the necessity for formal claims. Contact the Plan Administrator or investment provider if you are entitled to benefits or if you think an error has been made in determining your benefits. Any such request should be in writing.

If the Plan Administrator determines the claim is valid, then you will receive a statement describing the amount of benefit, the method or methods of payment, the timing of distributions and other information relevant to the payment of the benefit.

What if my benefits are denied?

Your request for Plan benefits will be considered a claim for Plan benefits, and it will be subject to a full and fair review. If your claim is wholly or partially denied, the Plan Administrator will provide you with a written or electronic notification of the Plan's adverse determination. This written or electronic notification must be provided to you within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 90 days after the receipt of your claim by the Plan Administrator, unless the Plan Administrator determines that special circumstances require an extension of time for processing your claim. If the Plan Administrator determines that an extension of time for processing is required, written notice of the extension will be furnished to you prior to the termination of the initial 90-day period. In no event will such extension exceed a period of 90 days from the end of such initial period. The extension notice will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of time and the date by which the Plan expects to render the benefit determination.

In the case of a claim for disability benefits, if disability is determined by a physician (rather than relying upon a determination of disability for Social Security purposes), then instead of the above, the Plan Administrator will provide you with written or electronic notification of the Plan's adverse benefit determination within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 45 days after receipt of the claim by the Plan. This period may be extended by the Plan for up to 30 days, provided that the Plan Administrator both determines that such an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the Plan and notifies you, prior to the expiration of the initial 45-day period, of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which the Plan expects to render a decision. If, prior to the end of the first 30-day extension period, the Plan Administrator determines that, due to matters beyond the control of the Plan, a decision cannot be rendered within that extension period, the period for making the determination may be extended for up to an additional 30 days, provided that the Plan Administrator notifies you, prior to the expiration of the first 30-day extension period, of the circumstances requiring the extension and the date as of which the Plan expects to render a

decision. In the case of any such extension, the notice of extension will specifically explain the standards on which entitlement to a benefit is based, the unresolved issues that prevent a decision on the claim, and the additional information needed to resolve those issues, and you will be afforded at least 45 days within which to provide the specified information.

The Plan Administrator's written or electronic notification of any adverse benefit determination must contain the following information:

- (a) The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination.
- (b) Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the determination is based.
- (c) A description of any additional material or information necessary for you to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary.
- (d) Appropriate information as to the steps to be taken if you or your beneficiary wants to submit your claim for review.
- (e) In the case of disability benefits where disability is determined by a physician:
 - (i) If an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion (collectively "rule") was relied upon in making the adverse determination, either the specific rule or a statement that such rule was relied upon in making the adverse determination and that a copy of that rule will be provided to you free of charge upon request.
 - (ii) If the adverse benefit determination is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the Plan to your medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided to you free of charge upon request.

If your claim has been denied, and you want to submit your claim for review, you must follow the claims review procedure in the next question.

What is the claims review procedure?

Upon the denial of your claim for benefits, you may file your claim for review, in writing, with the Plan Administrator.

(a) YOU MUST FILE THE CLAIM FOR REVIEW NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF THE DENIAL OF YOUR CLAIM FOR BENEFITS.

HOWEVER, IF YOUR CLAIM IS FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS AND DISABILITY IS DETERMINED BY A PHYSICIAN, THEN INSTEAD OF THE ABOVE, YOU MUST FILE THE CLAIM FOR REVIEW NO LATER THAN 180 DAYS FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF AN ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION.

(b) You may submit written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to your claim for benefits.

(c) You may review all pertinent documents relating to the denial of your claim and submit any issues and comments, in writing, to the Plan Administrator.

(d) You will be provided, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to your claim for benefits.

(e) Your claim for review must be given a full and fair review. This review will take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by you relating to your claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

In addition to the claims review procedure above, if your claim is for disability benefits and disability is determined by a physician, then:

(a) Your claim will be reviewed without deference to the initial adverse benefit determination and the review will be conducted by an appropriate named fiduciary of the Plan who is neither the individual who made the adverse benefit determination that is the subject of the appeal, nor the subordinate of such individual.

(b) In deciding an appeal of any adverse benefit determination that is based in whole or part on medical judgment, the appropriate named fiduciary will consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment.

(c) Any medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained on behalf of the Plan in connection with your adverse benefit determination will be identified, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the benefit determination.

(d) The health care professional engaged for purposes of a consultation under (b) above will be an individual who is neither an individual who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination that is the subject of the appeal, nor the subordinate of any such individual.

The Plan Administrator will provide you with written or electronic notification of the Plan's benefit determination on review. The Plan Administrator must provide you with notification of this denial within 60 days after the Plan Administrator's receipt of your written claim for review, unless the Plan Administrator determines that special circumstances require an extension of time for processing your claim. If the Plan Administrator determines that an extension of time for processing is required, written notice of the extension will be furnished to you prior to the termination of the initial 60-day period. In no event will such extension exceed a period of 60 days from the end of the initial period. The extension notice will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of time and the date by which the Plan expects to render the determination on review. However, if the claim relates to disability benefits and disability is determined by a physician, then 45 days will apply instead of 60 days in the preceding sentences. In the case of an adverse benefit determination, the notification will set forth:

- (a) The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination.
- (b) Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the benefit determination is based.
- (c) A statement that you are entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to your claim for benefits.
- (d) In the case of disability benefits where disability is determined by a physician:
 - (i) If an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion (collectively "rule") was relied upon in making the adverse determination, either the specific rule or a statement that such rule was relied upon in making the adverse determination and that a copy of that rule will be provided to you free of charge upon request.
 - (ii) If the adverse benefit determination is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the Plan to your medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided to you free of charge upon request.

If you have a claim for benefits which is denied, then you may file suit in a state or federal court. However, in order to do so, you must file the suit no later than 180 days after the date of the Plan Administrator's final determination denying your claim.

What are my rights as a Plan Participant?

As a Participant in the Plan you are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides that all Plan Participants are entitled to:

- (a) Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and at other specified locations, all documents governing the Plan, including collective bargaining agreements and insurance contracts, if any, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

(b) Obtain, upon written request to the Plan Administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the Plan, including collective bargaining agreements and insurance contracts, if any, and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated Summary Plan Description. The Plan Administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.

(c) Receive a summary of the Plan's annual financial report. The Plan Administrator is required by law to furnish each Participant with a copy of this summary annual report.

In addition to creating rights for Plan Participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the Plan. The people who operate your Plan, called "fiduciaries" of the Plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of you and other Plan Participants and beneficiaries. No one, including your Employer or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a pension benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

If your claim for a pension benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.

Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request a copy of Plan documents or the latest annual report from the Plan and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a federal court. In such a case, the court may require the Plan Administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the Plan Administrator.

If you have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court. In addition, if you disagree with the Plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a domestic relations order or a medical child support order, you may file suit in federal court. You and your beneficiaries can obtain, without charge, a copy of the Plan's QDRO procedures from the Plan Administrator.

If it should happen that the Plan's fiduciaries misuse the Plan's money, or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful, the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees, for example, it finds your claim is frivolous.

What can I do if I have questions or my rights are violated?

If you have any questions about the Plan, you should contact the Plan Administrator. If you have any questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the Plan Administrator, you should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in the telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

ARTICLE XII GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLAN

There is certain general information which you may need to know about the Plan. This information has been summarized for you in this Article.

Plan Name

The full name of the Plan is Green Mountain Higher Education Consortium 403(b) Plan.

Plan Number

The Employer has assigned Plan Number 001 to your Plan.

Plan Effective Dates

The provisions of the Plan become effective on January 1, 2018.

Other Plan Information

Plan Year. The Plan's records are maintained on a twelve-month period of time. This is known as the Plan Year. The Plan Year ends on 12/31.

The Plan will be governed by the laws of the state of the Employer's principal place of business to the extent not governed by federal law.

Benefits provided by the Plan are NOT insured by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) under Title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 because the insurance provisions under ERISA are not applicable to this type of Plan.

Service of legal process may be made upon the Employer. Service of legal process may also be made upon the Employer's chief executive officer or Plan Administrator.

Employer Information

The Employer's name, address, business telephone number and identification number are:

Green Mountain Higher Education Consortium
84 South Service Road
Middlebury, Vermont 05753
802-443-2304
90-1113280

Plan Administrator Information

The Plan Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day administration and operation of the Plan. For example, the Plan Administrator maintains the Plan records, including your account information, provides you with the forms you need to complete for Plan participation, and directs the payment of your account at the appropriate time. The Plan Administrator will also allow you to review the formal Plan document and certain other materials related to the Plan. If you have any questions about the Plan or your participation, you should contact the Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator may designate other parties to perform some duties of the Plan Administrator, and some duties are the responsibility of the investment provider(s) to the Plan.

The Plan Administrator has the complete power, in its sole discretion, to determine all questions arising in connection with the administration, interpretation, and application of the Plan (and any related documents and underlying policies). Any such determination by the Plan Administrator is conclusive and binding upon all persons.

The name, address and business telephone number of the Plan's Administrator are:

Green Mountain Higher Education Consortium
84 South Service Road
Middlebury, Vermont 05753
802-443-2304

**APPENDIX
PLAN EXPENSE ALLOCATIONS**

The Plan will assess against an individual Participant's account the following Plan expenses which are incurred by, or are attributable to, a particular Participant based on use of a particular Plan feature, listed by type and the amount charged. All fees are subject to change.

[X] **Distribution following termination.** Distribution of account upon termination of employment, including preparation of required notices and elections, distribution check or transfer of funds by direct rollover, as appropriate, and tax reporting forms.

Amount: \$ 25

[X] **Participant loan.** Participant loan application fee (includes processing and document preparation) and annual maintenance fee.

Amount of application fee: \$ 100

Amount of annual maintenance fee: \$ 75

[X] **Hardship distribution.** Hardship distribution, including application processing and preparation of required notices, elections and distribution check.

Amount: \$ 25

[X] **In-service distribution.** Non-hardship in-service distribution, including application processing and preparation of required notices, elections and distribution check.

Amount: \$ 25

[X] **RMD.** Required minimum distributions, including annual calculation of required minimum distribution and preparation of required notices, elections and distribution check.

Amount: \$ 25

[X] **Other (describe)**

Terminated Participant Annual Recordkeeping-related expenses. Amount \$30.

