

## **MASTER FACILITATOR AGREEMENT**

**THIS MASTER FACILITATOR AGREEMENT** (this “Agreement”), dated as of March 10, 2008, is by and between the **NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION** (the “Board”), and SunTrust Equipment Finance & Leasing Corp., located at 300 E. Joppa Rd, 7<sup>th</sup> FL, Towson, MD, 21286, hereinafter known as **CONTRACTOR**.

### **WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to G.S. 115C-240(e), the Board is authorized to fund public school transportation operations and, pursuant to G.S. 115C-249, the replacement of school buses and other vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has promulgated criteria by which buses in the statewide fleet are to be replaced in a given year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board, through the Department of Public Instruction (“DPI”) has identified buses (the “Buses”) for replacement for use by the local boards of education (each, a “LEA”) at an approximate aggregate cost of \$51.2 million; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to G.S. 115C-528, an LEA may purchase or finance the purchase of school buses; and

**WHEREAS**, of the funds appropriated to the Board for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the North Carolina General Assembly has authorized the Board to use up to \$17.06 million for allotments to the LEAs to pay the cost of Bus financing for the first year; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to a solicitation for third party financing (#40-Finance0708), DPI has selected **CONTRACTOR** to provide financing for the replacement Buses; and

**WHEREAS**, each LEA will enter into a Master Replacement Bus Financing Agreement (each, a “Financing Agreement”) with **CONTRACTOR** pursuant to which the LEAs will finance the purchase of the Buses through **CONTRACTOR**, on the terms and conditions as provided therein; and

**WHEREAS**, as buses are accepted, each LEA will submit an Appendix (each, an “Appendix”) to **CONTRACTOR** to facilitate the acquisition of one or more Buses; and

**WHEREAS**, for purposes of financing, the Buses will be considered to be accepted at the time that the Buses are accepted by DPI and the respective LEA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board, for convenience and ease of administration has agreed to collect Installment Payments from the LEAs as due under the Financing Agreements and to remit the collective payments to **CONTRACTOR** ; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has included and will continue to include in its request to the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management, an appropriation request in an amount sufficient to provide for all Installment Payments due and owing for fiscal years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 on behalf of the LEAs.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board and CONTRACTOR agree:

1. The Board agrees to allocate to the LEAs all necessary funds appropriated by the General Assembly to the LEAs for the acquisition of the Buses acquired pursuant to the Financing Agreements. The Board agrees to direct those funds to CONTRACTOR for Installment Payments on behalf of the LEAs pursuant to the Financing Agreements.

2. The Board will collect the Installments Payments from the LEA and will cause the Installment Payments to be paid to CONTRACTOR, on the dates and in the amounts set forth "Part 2--Payment Schedule" in the applicable Appendix to each Financing Agreement.

3. In the event that during fiscal year 2008-2009 or fiscal year 2009-2010 sufficient funds are not appropriated for the payment of the total of all Installment Payments required to be paid pursuant to the Financing Agreements, then any LEA under the North Carolina General Contract Terms and Conditions - Third Party Financing included in each respective Financing Agreement, may terminate its Financing Agreement together with each and every one of the Appendices.

4. The State Board further intends and hereby covenants that it will (i) include in its proposed budgets for fiscal years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 an appropriation in an amount sufficient to provide for all Installment Payment due and owing for such fiscal years on behalf of the LEAs; (ii) include in such proposed budget and accompanying material submitted for each such fiscal year adequate information and recommendations regarding the purchase of the Buses, the public purposes served, and the Installment Payments required therefor; (iii) do all things lawfully within its power to request the appropriation of all funds anticipated by this Agreement; and (iv) use its best efforts to secure the timely approval and appropriation in the budget for each of the fiscal years of any and all such amounts as may become due under this Agreement.

5. If the Board shall take any official action, or if any other fact or circumstance shall occur, regarding the Board's proposed budget with respect to the total amount of the Installment Payments collected by the Board on behalf of each of the LEAs, or any amended or supplemental appropriation that may be proposed with respect to the Installment Payment that adversely affects the securing of timely approval and appropriation of funds therefor, the Board shall promptly notify CONTRACTOR thereof.

6. Pursuant to G.S. 115C-249(f), if any Bus is damaged or destroyed by fire, collision or otherwise, the LEA may apply to the Board for funds with which to replace it. If the Board finds that the Accepted Bus has been destroyed or damaged to the extent that it cannot be made suitable for further use, and if the Board finds that the replacement of the Bus is necessary in order to enable the LEA to operate properly its transportation system, the Board shall allot the LEA from the funds held by it for the replacement of school buses, or from funds hereafter appropriated by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina for that purpose, a sum sufficient to purchase free and clear a new bus to be used as a replacement for the damaged or destroyed Bus and upon such allocation, such sum shall be paid over to or for the account of the LEA for such purpose. The replacement Bus will be substituted as a security interest for the financing of the damaged or destroyed Bus. Alternatively, the Board may allot to the LEA sufficient funds to fulfill remaining payments due.

7. The State recognizes that CONTRACTOR may assign its right to receive payment under this contract with written permission of the State. In no event does the recognition of assignment of CONTRACTOR's right to receive payments obligate the State to anyone except CONTRACTOR. The State merely recognizes financial assignment as a

convenience to CONTRACTOR and will hold CONTRACTOR responsible for fulfillment of all contract obligations.

8. The DPI agrees to coordinate the inspection and acceptance of the Buses by the respective LEAs at the vendor's facilities in the state of North Carolina. To the extent possible, Buses will be inspected by the DPI and accepted by one or more LEAs in lots of at least fifty (50). The DPI agrees to perform a visual inspection of each Bus to determine whether the Bus is acceptable to be included in the State's fleet. Each LEA will inspect the Buses ordered by it. Upon satisfactory inspection of one or more Buses by the LEA, and approval by the DPI, the respective LEA and the DPI may complete and execute the Form of Acceptance Certificate attached to this Agreement as Exhibit "B". An identical form of the Acceptance Certificate is attached to the Disbursement Request, which is Part 3 of each Financing Agreement. Execution of the Acceptance Certificate constitutes acceptance of the buses for any Master Replacement Bus Financing Agreement. The DPI agrees to transmit any Acceptance Certificate by facsimile transfer to CONTRACTOR within 72 hours of execution of such Acceptance Certificate. CONTRACTOR agrees to transmit by facsimile transfer any Payment Schedule within 72 hours of receipt of such Acceptance Certificate.

9. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, any of which shall be regarded for all purposes as an original and all of which constitute one and the same instrument. The Board agrees that it will execute any and all documents or other instruments and take such other actions as may be necessary to give effect to the terms of this Agreement.

10. No waiver by the Board of any term or condition of this Agreement shall be deemed or construed as a waiver of any other terms or conditions, nor shall a waiver of any breach be deemed to constitute a waiver of any subsequent breach, whether of the same or of a different section, subsection, paragraph, clause, phrase or other provision of this Agreement.

11. CONTRACTOR, not being a "seller" of the Accepted Buses, as such term is used in the Uniform Commercial Code nor a seller's agent, hereby expressly disclaim, and make no warranty or representation, either express or implied, as to the value, design, condition, merchantability or fitness for particular purpose or fitness for use of the Accepted Buses, or any other warranty with respect thereto and, as to CONTRACTOR, the Accepted Buses will be purchased AS IS. In no event shall CONTRACTOR be liable for any loss or damage, including incidental, indirect, special or consequential damage, in connection with or arising out of the existence, furnishing, functioning, or the use of the Accepted Buses by the LEAs.

12. This Agreement may only be revised with the prior written consent of the Board and CONTRACTOR, as the third-party financier under each of Financing Agreements.

**Exhibit "B"**

**Form of Acceptance Certificate**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Re: Acceptance Certificate No. \_\_ to Master Facilitator Agreement (the "Agreement"), dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008, made and entered into by and between the **North Carolina State Board of Education** (the "Board") and \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter referred to as CONTRACTOR; and Schedule No. \_\_ to that certain Master Replacement Bus Financing Agreement executed by the Local Education Agency indicated below (the "LEA") and CONTRACTOR (the "Financing Agreement"). Unless otherwise defined herein, all terms shall have the meaning ascribed thereto by the Agreement.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please refer to the above-described Agreement. In accordance with the terms of the Agreement, the LEA, together with the Department of Public Instruction (the "DPI"), acting on behalf of the Board, acting hereby, each certify and represent to, and agree with CONTRACTOR as follows:

A. The Accepted Buses described on **Attachment A** hereto been inspected by the LEA and the DPI on behalf of the Board on or before the date hereof.

B. The LEA and the DPI have conducted such inspection of the Accepted Buses as each deems necessary and appropriate and hereby respectively acknowledge that the Accepted Buses are acceptable to be included in the State of North Carolina's bus fleet, effective the date hereof.

C. The Accepted Buses described on **Attachment A** are insured pursuant to a program of self-insurance as provided by the Board.

Yours truly,

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_,  
as the LEA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment "A"**

**The Accepted Buses**

Name of Local Education Agency  
or County Number

Bus Number

VIN

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IN WITNESSETH WHEREOF, we have set our hands unto this Agreement as of the date above written

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: Joe H. Clark Alton 3/10/08  
State Superintendent Date

By: [Signature] 3/7/08  
Associate State Superintendent, Finance Date

CONTRACTOR  
SUNTRUST EQUIPMENT FINANCE & LEASING CORP.

By: [Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
D. S. Keough  
Vice President