

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

Division Number:	214	Program Name:	Virtual School Network
Org. Code:	711P	Legal/Funding Authority:	TGC Title 7, Chapter 791; General Appropriations Act, Article III, 84 th Texas Legislature, 2015, Rider 48
Speed Chart:	7P015	Payee Name:	Education Service Center, Region 1
Payee Name:	Education Service Center, Region 1	Payee ID:	1741588196
ISAS Contract #:	3715	PO #:	36495

INTERLOCAL COOPERATION CONTRACT

Section 1.0 PARTIES AND AUTHORITY

This Interlocal Cooperation Contract (ICC) is entered into by and between the Texas Education Agency (Receiving Party) and Education Service Center (ESC) Region 1 (Performing Party) pursuant to the authority granted and in compliance with the provisions of the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, of the Texas Government Code which enables state local governments to contract with state agencies for governmental functions and services.

Section 2.0 STATEMENT OF SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED:

Education Service Center Region 1 (ESC) will provide local education agencies (LEAs) technical assistance and program support needed to make available quality, electronic courses to Texas students via two programs, the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) statewide course catalog and the TxVSN online schools program. Appendix One, Description of Services, attached hereto, is hereby incorporated by reference and made, therefore, a part of this ICC.

Section 3.0 TERM OF CONTRACT:

This ICC is to begin May 18, 2017 and shall terminate on August 31, 2017. This ICC may be renewed for two (2) additional one-year terms subject to appropriation of funds by the Texas Legislature for this project, by mutual agreement of the Parties in the form of a written amendment.

Section 4.0 AMOUNT:

The total amount of this ICC shall not exceed: **\$12,000.00** for the original term of the ICC.

Appendix Two, Task Activity Plan, attached hereto, is hereby incorporated by reference and made, therefore, a part of this ICC.

Section 5.0 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES:

Receiving Party shall pay Performing Party in accordance with the approved budget for the services performed described in this ICC. Receiving Party shall pay for services received from the appropriation item or account from which the Receiving Party would ordinarily make expenditures for similar services or resources. Payments received by the Performing Party shall be credited to its current appropriation item(s) or account(s) from which the expenditure for the services or resources was made.

Performing Party shall bill Receiving Party monthly for services rendered in accordance with the provisions of the ICC. Performing Party may submit invoices electronically to the following email address: TEAAccountsPayable@tea.texas.gov or the Performing Party can direct invoices to:

Texas Education Agency
Attn: Accounting Department
1701 N. Congress Ave.,
Austin, Texas 78701-1494

TEA follows the Federal Rate Schedule for reimbursement of meal and lodging expenditures adopted by the State of Texas. Performing Agency shall maintain receipts in accordance with paragraph F of the Contract General Provisions. The Comptroller's website for travel rules and regulations – [texttravel: https://fmx.cpa.state.tx.us/fmx/travel/texttravel/index.php](https://fmx.cpa.state.tx.us/fmx/travel/texttravel/index.php). Receipts must be made available for programmatic or financial audit, by TEA and by others authorized by law or regulation to make such an audit, for a period of not less than seven (7) years.

State travel expense reimbursement is not a per diem. Employees and Performing Agency s must claim the actual expenses incurred for meals and lodging not to exceed the maximum allowable rates. The maximum should not be claimed unless the actual expenditures equal or exceed the maximum allowable rate. Effective 01/01/16, the mileage rate is .54¢.

Section 6.0 CONTRACT MANAGEMENT:

6.1 Notices: Any notice relating to this ICC, which is required or permitted to be given under this ICC by one party to the other party shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the designated point of contact at the address specified below. The notice shall be deemed to have been given immediately if delivered in person to the recipient's email address specified below. It shall be deemed to have been given on the date of certified receipt if placed in the United States mail, postage prepaid, by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested, addressed to the receiving party at the address specified below. Registered or certified mail with return receipt is not required for copies.

6.2 Points of Contact: The parties shall direct all correspondence, notices, invoices and payments to:

TEA (Receiving Party)	ESC 1 (Performing Party)
Kerry Ballast	Kelly VanHee
Director, Digital Learning	Program Director
Texas Education Agency	Education Service Center, Region 1
1701 N. Congress Ave,	1900 W. Schunior
Austin, Texas 78701	Edinburg, Texas 78541
Kerry.Ballast@tea.texas.gov	kkvanhee@esc1.net

Section 7.0 CONTRACT AMENDMENT:

Any modifications, additions, or deletions, to the specified deliverables or terms and conditions of this ICC, including the allocation of additional funds to the current list of proposed activities, or any extensions of the ICC shall be processed through a written amendment and executed by both parties.

Section 8.0 ENTIRE CONTRACT:

This ICC together with the documents mentioned herein and which are incorporated herein by this reference, contains the entire agreement between the parties relating to the rights granted and the obligations assumed in it. Any oral representations or modifications concerning this contract shall be of no force or effect unless contained in a subsequent amendment executed by both parties.

8.1 Appendixes:

- 8.1.1 Appendix One, Description of Services
- 8.1.2 Appendix Two, Task Activity Plan
- 8.1.3 Appendix Three, Invoice Template

8.2 Attachments:

Attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference are the documents indicated below with an "X" beside each:

☒ Terms & Conditions

Section 9.0 CERTIFICATIONS:

RECEIVING PARTY further certifies that it has the authority to receive the above services by authority granted in:

Texas Government Code, Ch. 791, Interlocal Cooperation Act and Texas Education Code, Chapter 8.

PERFORMING PARTY further certifies that it has authority to perform the above services by authority granted in:

Texas Government Code, Chapter 791, Interlocal Cooperation Act.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL, the authorized representatives of the undersigned parties bind themselves to the faithful performance of this ICC. It is mutually understood that this ICC will be effective on the earliest date shown in Section 3.0.

RECEIVING PARTY

PERFORMING PARTY

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER, REGION 1

By: *Kara Belew*
Name: Kara Belew
Deputy Commissioner Finance Administrator

By: *Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez*
Name: Cornelio Gonzalez
Executive Director

5.25.17
Date

5.11.2017
Date

Submit an Electronic Copy to:
TEAcontracts@tea.texas.gov
Or by mail to:
Norma Barrera, Director
Purchasing, Contracts and Agency Services
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue, Room 2-125
Austin, Texas 78701-1494

APPENDIX ONE

Description of Services

Project Description and Requirements

A. A participating ESC will develop and implement an outreach program that increases awareness and participation in the TxVSN. The program should:

1. Designate one or more liaisons in the specified ESC region(s) to collect, disseminate and provide information and training related to the TxVSN statewide course catalog
2. Provide outreach and technical assistance to school districts and charter schools as receiver districts
3. Provide outreach and technical assistance to interested school districts and charter schools as course providers

B. The ESC liaison will:

1. Serve as TxVSN liaison(s) between the TEA and school districts and charter schools in the specified ESC region(s) to increase awareness and understanding of and participation in the TxVSN statewide course catalog, disseminate information, identify local needs and possible barriers to use of the TxVSN, and provide technical support to local education agencies (LEAs).
2. Provide contact information to the TEA. Confirm or update this information annually or sooner, as applicable.
3. Participate in an initial one-day face-to-face training provided by the TEA and TxVSN central operations at Region 10 ESC, an annual one-day face-to-face training at Region 10 ESC, and a minimum of two webinar training sessions per year, supplemented with additional TxVSN update webinars as necessary.
4. Provide a minimum of ten face-to-face presentations to or webinars with districts and charter schools in the specified ESC region(s) about the TxVSN during each school year.
5. Contact all districts and charter schools in the specified ESC region(s) through a variety of methods for the purpose of increasing student participation in the TxVSN catalog and to inform districts and charter schools about the following:
 - a. Academic opportunities available through TxVSN
 - b. Benefits of participation in the TxVSN catalog as a receiver district
 - c. Related state laws and rules
 - d. Their responsibilities related to the TxVSN
 - e. Parents' and student's rights concerning the TxVSN
 - f. School districts and charter schools identified by TxVSN central operations as not currently using the TxVSN statewide course catalog should be the primary outreach objective. Contact with these identified school districts and charter schools, as well as contacts to support and encourage expanded use of the TxVSN catalog by districts and charter schools currently using the TxVSN may occur as part of scheduled meetings, visits, webinars, or regional conferences. Contact persons shall include superintendents, principals, other appropriate central (district or charter school) and campus administrators, curriculum and instruction directors, and counselors.
6. Create and maintain a log to document all contacts related to the TxVSN. Submit a quarterly summary report submitted to TEA. Documentation should include the name(s) and contact information of each district and campus contact person, date, location, means of contact (e.g. phone, email, face-to-face visit), purpose of scheduled webinar, conference, etc., number of individuals contacted or in attendance, TxVSN information provided, and comments and concerns received, including but not limited to information about why the district does or does not participate in the TxVSN catalog, local educational needs that may be addressed by the TxVSN, and barriers, if any, to use of the TxVSN catalog.

APPENDIX ONE

Description of Services

7. Create and maintain a link to the TxVSN website at www.txvsn.org in a prominent location on the ESC homepage.
8. Print and routinely include hard copy TxVSN materials in meeting packets for superintendents, principals, other appropriated central (district or charter school) and campus administrators, curriculum and instruction directors, and counselors. Digital files of approved content will be provided by the TxVSN. Any additional print materials related to the TxVSN created by the ESC must be approved by the TEA prior to distribution or publication.
9. Include TxVSN information in digital communications such as newsletters, listserv messages, and social networking sites throughout each school year. Any additional electronic content or materials related to the TxVSN created by the ESC must be approved by the TEA prior to distribution or publication.
10. Promote and support school districts' and charters schools' application for TxVSN course catalog sub grants created and funded by the TEA and manage the sub grant program for districts and charter schools in the specified ESC region(s).
11. Submit all required monthly and annual reports and status summaries which include data reports, progress reports, log of contacts made to districts, charter schools and stakeholders, findings, evaluation of the action plan and program and recommendation. All documents should be emailed to Kerry Ballast at kerry.ballast@tea.texas.gov and Kate Loughrey at kate.loughrey@tea.texas.gov.

C. The TEA will:

1. Provide leadership and guidance in determining timelines, tasks, and products associated with the goals of this project.
2. Review and approve all documents, presentations and corresponded related to ESC before publication and/or dissemination.
3. Review and approve all strategies used by the ESC to accomplish the goals of this project before implementation.
4. Review all reports and provide feedback as deemed appropriate.
 - a. Conduct webinars quarterly and/or twice a year with Central Operations to facilitate collaborative efforts of ESCs and to develop best practices.

D. Eligibility to Serve as an ESC TxVSN Liaison

A person serving as an ESC liaison may not be directly involved in planning, implementing, or supervising an ESC's TxVSN program or other online or distance learning program and/or directly involved in TxVSN central operations or course review services provided by the ESC.

APPENDIX TWO
Task Activity Plan

	Task/Subtask/Subtask Items	Deliverables	Projected Cost	Contract Year (Sept 1, 2016 - Aug 31, 2017)
Task 1	Designate ESC TxVSN Liaison(s) and Participate in Professional Development (PD)			
1.1	Designate one or more TxVSN liaison(s) to accomplish the goals of the TxVSN Outreach and Support project	Provide the contact information of the ESC-designated TxVSN liaison(s) to TEA; Include name, title, email address, and phone number.	0	May 2017
1.2	Participate in all required professional development, trainings, webinars, and meetings as determined by TEA	TxVSN liaisons and other appropriate ESC staff participate in kick-off meeting.	NA	May 2017
		Liaisons participate in initial, face-to-face training in Austin, Texas.	NA	NA
		Liaisons participate in two additional training webinars.	0	Spring and Summer 2017
		Liaisons participate in all additional follow up webinars, meetings, and PD as required throughout the school year.	550	ongoing
Task 2	Develop and Create an Outreach and Support Action Plan		500	Completion Date
2.1	Create and submit an annual action plan for outreach and support to districts and open-enrollment charter schools in the specified ESC region(s) to increase awareness and understanding of and participation in the TxVSN statewide course catalog	Submit annual action plan to the TEA for review and approval. Plan must include strategies and timelines for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively contacting all districts and charter schools within the specified region(s) to inform them about the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> academic opportunities available through the TxVSN benefits of participation in the catalog as a receiver district related state laws and rules their responsibilities related to the TxVSN parents and students rights concerning the TxVSN opportunities and benefits of serving as a TxVSN course provider Disseminating TEA-approved TxVSN information Gathering information to identify local needs and possible barriers to use of the TxVSN Delivering technical support to LEA's, including promotion and support of LEA's application for TxVSN course catalog sub grants, and managing the sub grant program. 		May 31 2017 and June 30, 2017
Task 3	Implement the approved Outreach and Support Action Plan		\$6,700	
3.1	Contact superintendents, principals, other appropriate central and campus administrators, curriculum and instruction directors, and counselors at all districts and charter schools within the ESC region(s) to increase awareness and understanding of and participation in the TxVSN	Maintain the information required in the quarterly report submitted to the TEA.	\$500	ongoing
3.2	Conduct a minimum of 10 face-to-face and/or webinars with districts, charter schools, and other stakeholders regarding the TxVSN	Maintain the information required in the quarterly report submitted to the TEA.	\$2,500	ongoing
3.3	Disseminate print and digital information related to the TxVSN provided by the TEA to LEAs on a regular basis through a variety of means	Maintain the information required in the quarterly report submitted to the TEA. (Any additional print or digital materials created by the ESC related to the TxVSN must be approved by the TEA prior to distribution or publication.)	\$1,200	ongoing

APPENDIX TWO
Task Activity Plan

3.4	Gather information and identify local needs and possible barriers to use of the TxVSN	Maintain the information required in the quarterly report submitted to the TEA.	\$500	ongoing
3.5	Provide technical support to districts and charter schools within the specified ESC region(s), including promotion and support for districts' and charter schools to complete application for TxVSN course catalog sub grants created and funded by the TEA, and management of the sub grant program	Maintain information needed to document the following and submit to TEA in the format and schedule required by the TEA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacts with districts and charter schools to promote and support their application for TxVSN course catalog sub grants funded by the TEA, and • Records and data related to management of the sub grant program funded by the TEA. 	\$1,000	ongoing
3.6	Create and maintain easy accessibility to the TxVSN resources	Create and maintain a prominent link to the TxVSN webpage at www.txvsn.org on the ESC landing page and submit current screenshot as part of required quarterly report submitted to the TEA.	1,000	May 31, 2017
Task 4	Submit Required Evaluation and Reports		\$4,250	
4.1	Evaluate the effectiveness of the TxVSN outreach and support action plan and its implementation annually	Complete the TEA-approved evaluation and submit annually. Evaluation responses must include lessons learned, recommendations for improvement, and proposed changes to the annual action plan for the next school year to the TEA.	\$750	May 2017
4.2	Complete and submit a quarterly status report to the TEA	Submit a quarterly report to TEA in the required format. The quarterly report must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a list of all districts and campuses contacted • agendas, purpose of scheduled webinar, conference, etc., • number of individuals contacted or in attendance by category (e.g., superintendent, principal, counselor, etc.) • a summary of comments and concerns received, including but not limited to information about why the district or campus does or does not participate in the TxVSN catalog, local educational needs that may be addressed by the TxVSN, and barriers, if any, to use of the TxVSN catalog. • current screenshot of link to TxVSN webpage at www.txvsn.org showing prominent location on ESC website. 	2,000	August 15, 2017
4.3	Create and submit an annual summary report for the school year to the TEA	Submit to the TEA a final report for the school year that includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a summary of the year's activities and accomplishments; and • a summary of information gathered from the LEAs, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ comments and concerns; ◦ information about why districts and campuses do or do not participate in the TxVSN catalog; ◦ local education needs that may be addressed by the TxVSN; and ◦ barriers, if any, to use of the catalog. 	\$500	August 15, 2017
4.4	Create and submit quarterly invoices detailing the deliverables and related costs	Invoices must clearly link expenditures to a specific deliverable and include date completed.	\$1,000	May 31, 2017; Oct. 13, 2017 (final invoice for initial ICC period ending Aug. 31, 2017)
Total Budget:			\$12,000	

**APPENDIX THREE
Invoice Template**

Texas Virtual School Network	
Payee Name	ESC Region
PO Number	
Contract Number	
Payee VID	
Payee Mailing Address	
Invoice Date	
Invoice Total	
Dates of Service	
Payee Contact & Phone	

Cost Category	Description	Budget Amount	Current Expenditures for Reporting Period	Cumulative Expenditures to Date	Remaining Budget to Date
Task 1		\$	\$	\$	\$
Task 2		\$	\$	\$	\$
Task 3		\$	\$	\$	\$
Task 4		\$	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL		\$	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL INVOICE AMOUNT					

APPENDIX THREE Invoice Template

Contractor must submit written amendment to TEA to request revisions to the budget prior to incurring any expenditures which exceed the amount approved for each object of expenditure. Costs will not be reimbursed for line items not in the approved budget.

Reimbursement of Travel Costs:

The State of Texas Travel Guidelines specifies reimbursement rates for lodging, meals, and mileage. Refer to the current rates located at CPA's State of Texas Travel Guidelines website: <https://fm.x.cpa.state.tx.us/fmx/travel/texttravel/index.php>. For areas not listed, the rates are as follows:

- a) Lodging: Actual lodging expense not to exceed the federal rate for that city. Cities that are not listed may not exceed \$85/day.
- b) Meal Cost: Actual meal expense not to exceed the federal rate for that city. Cities that are not listed may not exceed \$36/day. Meal expenses will only be reimbursed if the travel requires an overnight stay,
- c) Mileage: Actual miles may not to exceed the official mileage allowed in the CPA Texas Mileage Guide. Effective January 1, 2016 the rate is 54¢. The State of Texas has adopted the federal travel reimbursement rates and the new rates may be accessed from the CPA website listed above.
Note: In addition to the state mileage guide, the agency uses **MapQuest.com** to report the mileage between duty points. Travelers must attach a copy of the MapQuest showing the miles and directions between two duty points as supporting documentation.

Contract personnel or subcontractors shall make a good faith effort to comply with the State of Texas Travel Guidelines. State travel expense reimbursement is not a per diem. Employees and Contractors must claim the actual expenses incurred for meals and lodging not to exceed the maximum allowable rates. The maximum should not be claimed unless the actual expenditures equal or exceed the maximum allowable rate.

No expenditures will be reimbursed for costs related to:

- a) Food/refreshments (except while on travel status)
- b) Gifts or items that appear to be gifts
- c) Souvenirs, memorabilia, or promotional items

CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. Definitions as used in these Contract Terms and Conditions:

- *Contract* means the document entered into between TEA and Contractor or Performing Agency, including all of TEA's attachments, appendices, schedules (including, but not limited to the General Provisions and the Special Provisions), amendments and extensions of or to the Contract.
- *TEA, Receiving Agency, or Owner* means the Texas Education Agency.
- *Proposer, Respondent, or Bidder* identifies a person or entity who responds to the following specific competitive solicitations; Proposer or Respondent (may be used interchangeably) responds to a Request for Proposal; Respondent responds to a Request for Qualifications, Bidder responds to an Invitation for Bid. Proposer, Respondent, and Bidder infer pre-solicitation award status and Contractor infers post-award status.
- *Proposal, or Response, or Bid Package*, is what a Proposer, or Respondent, or Bidder submits in response to the following specific competitive solicitations: a Proposal or Response (may be used interchangeably) is submitted for a Request for Proposal; a Response is submitted for a Request for Qualifications; a Bid Package is submitted for an Invitation for Bid;
- *Contractor or Performing Agency* means the party to this Contract who is providing the contracted goods or services to TEA, the Receiving Agency.
- *Project Manager/Administrator* means the respective person(s) representing TEA or Contractor, as indicated by the Contract, for the purposes of administering the Contract Project.
- *Contract Project* means the purpose intended to be achieved through the Contract.
- *Amendment* means a contract document used to formalize additions or changes to the Contract mutually agreed to by both Parties.
- *Major Contract* means any contract that has a value of at least \$1 million pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 2262.001(4).
- *Works* means all tangible or intangible material, products, ideas, documents or works of authorship prepared or created by Contractor for or on behalf of TEA at any time after the beginning date of the Contract. "Works" includes but is not limited to computer software, data, information, images, illustrations, designs, graphics, drawings, educational materials, assessment forms, testing materials, logos, trademarks, patentable materials, etc. "Works" does not include any pre-existing materials of Contractor, or any licensed third party materials provided by Contractor.
- *Intellectual Property Rights* means the worldwide intangible legal rights or interests evidenced by or embodied in: (a) any idea, design, concept, method, process, technique, apparatus, invention, discovery, or improvement, including any patents, trade secrets, and know-how; (b) any work of authorship, including any copyrights, moral rights or neighboring rights; (c) any trademark, service mark, trade dress, trade name, or other indicia of source or origin; (d) domain name registrations; and (e) any other similar rights. The Intellectual Property Rights of a party include all worldwide intangible legal rights or interests that the party may have acquired by assignment or license with the right to grant sublicenses.
- *TEA Confidential Information* means information that is confidential under the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Texas Public Information Act, or other applicable state or federal laws. Examples of TEA Confidential Information include: (a) personally identifiable student information; (b) social security numbers; (c) driver's license numbers; (d) criminal background checks; (e) e-mail address of a member of the public, unless the individual waives his or her right to e-mail confidentiality by affirmatively consenting to disclose the e-mail address or the individual seeks to contract or has a contract with TEA; (e) certain personnel information concerning a TEA employee including home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, and family member information (if the employee elects in writing to keep this information confidential), personal medical information, and information reflecting personal financial decisions such as the employee's choice of insurance carrier or choice to contribute money to a 401(k); (f) biometric identifiers such as fingerprints; (g) information about security vulnerabilities in TEA systems; and (h) SAS data sets.

- B. Funding Out Clause:** This Contract is contingent upon the availability of funding. If funds become unavailable through lack of appropriations, legislative or executive budget cuts, amendment of the Appropriations Act, state agency consolidations, or any other disruptions of current appropriations, this Contract is void upon the insufficiency (in TEA's discretion) or unavailability of appropriated funds. In addition, this Contract may be terminated by TEA at any time for any reason upon notice to Contractor. Expenditures and/or activities for which Contractor may claim reimbursement shall not be accrued or claimed subsequent to receipt of such notice from TEA.

CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

C. Indemnification:

Acts or Omissions

Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the State of Texas and TEA, AND/OR THEIR OFFICERS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND/OR DESIGNEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, OR SUITS, AND ALL RELATED COSTS, ATTORNEY FEES, AND EXPENSES arising out of, or resulting from any acts or omissions of Contractor or its agents, employees, subcontractors, order fulfillers, or suppliers of subcontractors in the execution or performance of the Contract and any purchase orders issued under the Contract. THE DEFENSE SHALL BE COORDINATED BY CONTRACTOR WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHEN TEXAS STATE AGENCIES ARE NAMED DEFENDANTS IN ANY LAWSUIT AND CONTRACTOR MAY NOT AGREE TO ANY SETTLEMENT WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CONCURRENCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. CONTRACTOR AND TEA AGREE TO FURNISH TIMELY WRITTEN NOTICE TO EACH OTHER OF ANY SUCH CLAIM.

Infringements

1. Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the State of Texas and the TEA, AND/OR THEIR EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND/OR DESIGNEES from any and all third party claims involving infringement of United States patents, copyrights, trade and service marks, and any other intellectual or intangible property rights in connection with the PERFORMANCES OR ACTIONS OF CONTRACTOR PURSUANT TO THIS CONTRACT. CONTRACTOR AND TEA AGREE TO FURNISH TIMELY WRITTEN NOTICE TO EACH OTHER OF ANY SUCH CLAIM. CONTRACTOR SHALL BE LIABLE TO PAY ALL COSTS OF DEFENSE INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES. THE DEFENSE SHALL BE COORDINATED BY CONTRACTOR WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHEN TEXAS STATE AGENCIES ARE NAMED DEFENDANTS IN ANY LAWSUIT AND CONTRACTOR MAY NOT AGREE TO ANY SETTLEMENT WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CONCURRENCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.
2. Contractor shall have no liability under this section if the alleged infringement is caused in whole or in part by: (i) use of the product or service for a purpose or in a manner for which the product or service was not designed, (ii) any modification made to the product without Contractor's written approval, (iii) any modifications made to the product by Contractor pursuant to TEA's specific instructions, (iv) any intellectual property right owned by or licensed to TEA, or (v) any use of the product or service by TEA that is not in conformity with the terms of any applicable license agreement.
3. If Contractor becomes aware of an actual or potential claim, or TEA provides Contractor with notice of an actual or potential claim, Contractor may (or in the case of an injunction against TEA, shall), at Contractor's sole option and expense; (i) procure for the TEA the right to continue to use the affected portion of the product or service, or (ii) modify or replace the affected portion of the product or service with functionally equivalent or superior product or service so that TEA's use is non-infringing.

Taxes/Workers' Compensation/Unemployment Insurance – Including Indemnity

CONTRACTOR AGREES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT DURING THE EXISTENCE OF THIS CONTRACT, CONTRACTOR SHALL BE ENTIRELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LIABILITY AND PAYMENT OF CONTRACTOR'S AND CONTRACTOR'S EMPLOYEES' TAXES OF WHATEVER KIND, ARISING OUT OF THE PERFORMANCES IN THIS CONTRACT. CONTRACTOR AGREES TO COMPLY WITH ALL STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS APPLICABLE TO ANY SUCH PERSONS, INCLUDING LAWS REGARDING WAGES, TAXES, INSURANCE, AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION. TEA AND/OR THE STATE SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO CONTRACTOR, ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, OR OTHERS FOR THE PAYMENT OF TAXES OR THE PROVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND/OR WORKERS' COMPENSATION OR ANY BENEFIT AVAILABLE TO A STATE EMPLOYEE OR EMPLOYEE OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY CUSTOMER.

CONTRACTOR AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS TEA, THE STATE OF TEXAS AND/OR THEIR EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, AND/OR ASSIGNEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, OR SUITS, AND ALL RELATED COSTS, ATTORNEYS' FEES, AND EXPENSES, RELATING TO TAX LIABILITY, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND/OR WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN ITS PERFORMANCE UNDER THIS CONTRACT. CONTRACTOR SHALL BE LIABLE TO PAY ALL COSTS OF DEFENSE INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES. THE DEFENSE SHALL BE COORDINATED BY CONTRACTOR WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHEN TEXAS STATE AGENCIES ARE NAMED DEFENDANTS IN ANY LAWSUIT AND CONTRACTOR MAY NOT AGREE

CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TO ANY SETTLEMENT WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CONCURRENCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. CONTRACTOR AND TEA AGREE TO FURNISH TIMELY WRITTEN NOTICE TO EACH OTHER OF ANY SUCH CLAIM.

For local educational agencies (LEAs), regional education service centers (ESCs), public institutions of higher education (IHEs), and state agencies: Contractor or Performing Agency, to the extent permitted by law, shall hold TEA harmless from and shall indemnify TEA against any and all claims, demands, and causes of action of whatever kind or nature asserted by any third party and occurring or in any way incident to, arising from, or in connection with, any acts of Contractor or Performing Agency in performance of the Contract.

- D. **Assignments, Transfers, Subcontracting and Substitutions:** Contractor shall not assign, transfer, subcontract or substitute any of its rights or responsibilities under this Contract without prior formal written amendment to this Contract properly executed by both TEA and Contractor. TEA reserves the right to request changes in personnel assigned to the project. The TEA Project Manager must pre-approve any changes in key personnel throughout the contract term. Any changes to the HUB Subcontracting Plan (HSP) must be approved by TEA HUB Coordinator before staffing changes are initiated. Substitutions are not permitted without written approval of TEA Project Manager. The awarded Contractor will be responsible for maintaining business records documenting compliance with HUB Program requirements. Contractor shall submit a Progress Assessment Report (PAR) monthly documenting all subcontractor payments made in the preceding month. Submission of the PAR is a condition for payment. The selected Contractor shall also report all 2nd and 3rd Tier subcontracting in the monthly PAR. PAR's are due no later than the 10th day of the following month. The PAR is required to be submitted monthly, even if no activity occurred for the month. Reports shall be submitted electronically to the HUBOffice@tea.texas.gov. In addition to the PAR, Contractor shall also create and maintain a monitoring report to document that it is diligently monitoring and enforcing subcontractor compliance with the Contract. When requested by TEA, Contractor shall furnish TEA with satisfactory proof of its compliance with this provision.
- E. **Encumbrances/Obligations:** All encumbrances, accounts payable, and expenditures shall occur on or between the beginning and ending dates of this Contract. All goods must have been received and all services rendered during the Contract period in order for Contractor to recover funds due. In no manner shall encumbrances be considered or reflected as accounts payable or as expenditures.
- F. **Contractor's Proposal:** Contractor's Proposal that was furnished to TEA in response to the competitive solicitation (Request for Proposal) is incorporated in this Contract by reference. The provisions of this Contract shall prevail, however, in all cases of conflict arising from the terms of Contractor's Proposal whether such Proposal is a written part of this Contract or is attached as a separate document.
- G. **Requirements, Terms, Conditions, and Assurances:** The terms, conditions, and assurances, which are stated in the competitive solicitation, in response to which Contractor submitted a Proposal, Response or Bid Package, are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, although the current General Provisions shall prevail in the event of conflict.
- H. **Records Retention and the Right to Audit:** Contractor shall maintain its records and accounts in a manner which shall assure a full accounting for all funds received and expended by Contractor in connection with the Contract Project. These records and accounts shall be retained by Contractor and made available for programmatic or financial audit by TEA and by others authorized by law or regulation to make such an audit for a period of not less than 7 years from the date of completion of the Contract Project or the date of the receipt by TEA of Contractor's final claim for payment or final expenditure report in connection with this Contract, whichever is later. If an audit has been announced, the records shall be retained until such audit has been completed.

Pursuant to Section 2262.154 of the Texas Government Code, the state auditor may conduct an audit or investigation of Contractor or any other entity or person receiving funds from the state directly under this Contract or indirectly through a subcontract under this Contract. The acceptance of funds by Contractor or any other entity or person directly under this Contract or indirectly through a subcontract under this Contract acts as acceptance of the authority of the state auditor, under the direction of the legislative audit committee to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Under the direction of the legislative audit committee, Contractor or other entity that is the subject of an audit or investigation by the state auditor must provide the state auditor with access to any information the state auditor considers relevant to the investigation or audit. Contractor will ensure that this clause concerning the authority to audit funds received indirectly by subcontractors through Contractor and the requirement to cooperate is included in any subcontract it awards.

Contractor further agrees that acceptance of funds under this Contract acts as acceptance for TEA to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Contractor, subcontractors, and any entities receiving

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funds through this Contract shall cooperate fully with TEA in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including providing all records pertaining to this Contract that are requested.

- I. **Intellectual Property Ownership:** Contractor agrees that all Works are, upon creation, works made for hire and the sole property of TEA. If the Works are, under applicable law, not considered works made for hire, Contractor hereby assigns to TEA all worldwide ownership of all rights, including the Intellectual Property Rights, in the Works, without the necessity of any further consideration, and TEA can obtain and hold in its own name all such rights to the Works. Contractor agrees to maintain written agreements with all officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives and subcontractors engaged by Contractor for the Contract Project, granting Contractor rights sufficient to support the performance and grant of rights to TEA by Contractor. Copies of such agreements shall be provided to TEA promptly upon request.

Contractor warrants that (i) it has the authority to grant the rights herein granted, (ii) it has not assigned or transferred any right, title, or interest to the Works or Intellectual Property Rights that would conflict with its obligations under the Contract, and Contractor will not enter into any such agreements, and (iii) the Works will be original and will not infringe any intellectual property rights of any other person or entity. These warranties will survive the termination of the Contract. If any preexisting rights are embodied in the Works, Contractor grants to TEA the irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free right and license to (a) use, execute, reproduce, display, perform, distribute copies of, and prepare derivative works based upon such preexisting rights and any derivative works thereof and (b) authorize others to do any or all of the foregoing. Contractor agrees to notify TEA on delivery of the Works if they include any such preexisting rights. On request, Contractor will provide TEA with documentation indicating a third party's written approval for Contractor to use any preexisting rights that may be embodied or reflected in the Works.

Contractor agrees, at Contractor's expense, to indemnify, hold harmless and defend TEA and the State from claims involving infringement of third parties' licenses, trademarks, copyrights or patents.

For School Districts and Nonprofit Organizations: The foregoing Intellectual Property Ownership provisions apply to any school districts, nonprofit organizations, and their employees, agents, representatives, consultants and subcontractors.

For Education Service Centers (ESCs): The foregoing Intellectual Property Ownership provisions apply to an ESC and its employees, agents, representatives, consultants, and subcontractors. If an ESC or any of its subcontractor(s) wish to obtain a license agreement to use, advertise, offer for sale, sell, distribute, publicly display, publicly perform or reproduce the Works, or make derivative works from the Works, then express written permission must first be obtained from TEA's Office of Legal Services.

For Colleges and Universities: The foregoing Intellectual Property Ownership provisions apply to any colleges and universities and their employees, agents, representatives, consultants, and subcontractors; provided, that for all Works created or conceived by colleges or universities under the Contract, they are granted a non-exclusive, non-transferable, royalty-free license to use the Works for their own academic and educational purposes only. Colleges and universities are prohibited, however, from advertising, offering for sale, selling, distributing, publicly displaying, publicly performing, or reproducing the Works, or making derivative works from the Works that are created or conceived under this Contract, without the express written permission of TEA's Office of Deputy Commissioner for Finance.

- J. **Time Delays; Suspension; Sanctions for Failure to Perform; Noncompliance:**

Time is of the Essence.

Contractor's timely performance is essential to this contract.

Suspension

If this Contract is suspended by TEA prior to its expiration date, the reasonable monetary value of services properly performed by Contractor pursuant to this contract prior to suspension shall be determined by TEA and paid to Contractor as soon as reasonably possible. TEA shall not be required to pay any standby hourly rates during a suspension of Work, if TEA suspends performance of the Work because the Work is defective, or Contractor fails to supply sufficiently skilled workers or suitable materials or equipment, or fails to provide required insurance coverage, or fails to furnish or perform the Work in such a way that the completed Work will conform to this Contract.

Sanctions

If Contractor, in TEA's sole determination, fails or refuses for any reason to comply with or perform any of its obligations under this Contract, TEA may impose such sanctions as it may deem appropriate. This includes but

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is not limited to the withholding of payments to Contractor until Contractor complies; the cancellation, termination, or suspension of this Contract in whole or in part; and the seeking of other remedies as may be provided by this Contract or by law. Any cancellation, termination, or suspension of this Contract, if imposed, shall become effective at the close of business on the day of Contractor's receipt of written notice thereof from TEA.

K. Information Security Requirements, Proprietary, FERPA, and Confidential Information:

Access to TEA Confidential Information

Contractor represents and warrants that it will take all necessary and appropriate action within its abilities to safeguard TEA Confidential Information and to protect it from unauthorized disclosure. If Contractor discloses any TEA Confidential Information to a subcontractor or agent, Contractor will require the subcontractor or agent to comply with the same restrictions and obligations as are imposed on Contractor. Whenever communications with Contractor necessitate the release of TEA Confidential Information, additional TEA Confidential forms will need to be signed by each individual who will require access to or may be exposed to that information. Contractor shall access TEA's systems or TEA Confidential Information only for the purposes for which it is authorized. TEA reserves the right to review Contractor's security policy to ensure that any data that is on Contractor's servers is secure. Contractor shall cooperate fully by making resources, personnel, and systems access available to TEA and TEA's authorized representative(s).

Contractor shall ensure that any TEA Confidential Information in the custody of Contractor is properly sanitized or destroyed when the information is no longer required to be retained by TEA or Contractor in accordance with this contract. Electronic media used for storing any TEA Confidential Information must be sanitized by clearing, purging or destroying in accordance with such standards established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Center for Internet Security. These standards are also required if Contractor is collecting, maintaining, or analyzing data gathered, collected, or provided under this Contract. Contractor must maintain a record documenting the removal and completion of all sanitization procedures with the following information:

1. Date and time of sanitization/destruction;
2. Description of the item(s) and serial number(s) if applicable;
3. Inventory number(s); and
4. Procedures and tools used for sanitization/destruction.

No later than 60 days from Contract expiration or termination or as otherwise specified in this Contract, Contractor must complete the sanitization and destruction of the data and provide to TEA documentation that the sanitization has been completed. The documents must be certified by an authorized agent of the company.

FERPA

Contractor, its employees and subcontractor's, agree that in executing tasks on behalf of the TEA, they will not use any student-identifying information in any way that violates the provisions of FERPA, and will destroy or return all student-identifying information within 60 days of project completion. Contractor also agrees not to disclose any information to which it is privy under this Contract without the prior consent of the agency.

Access to Internal TEA Network and Systems

As a condition of gaining remote access to any internal TEA network and systems, Contractor must comply with TEA's policies and procedures. TEA's remote access request procedures will require Contractor to submit TEA Applicable Access Request forms for TEA's review and approval. Remote access technologies provided by Contractor must be approved by TEA's Information Security Officer. TEA, in its sole discretion, may deny network or system access to any individual that does not complete the required forms. Contractor must secure its own connected systems in a manner consistent with TEA's requirements. TEA reserves the right to audit the security measures in effect on Contractor's connected systems without prior warning. TEA also reserves the right to immediately terminate network and system connections not meeting such requirements.

Disclosure of Security Breach

Contractor shall provide notice to TEA's Project Manager and TEA's Information Security Officer as soon as possible following Contractor's discovery or reasonable belief that there has been unauthorized use, exposure, access, disclosure, compromise, modification, or loss of sensitive or TEA Confidential Information ("Security Incident"). Within 24 hours of the discovery or reasonable belief of a Security Incident, Contractor shall provide a written report to TEA's Information Security Officer detailing the circumstances of the incident which includes at a minimum:

1. Description of the nature of the Security Incident;
2. The type of TEA information involved;
3. Who may have obtained the information;
4. What steps Contractor has taken or will take to investigate the Security Incident;
5. What steps Contractor has taken or will take to mitigate any negative effect of the Security Incident; and

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6. A point of contact for additional information.

Each day thereafter until the investigation is complete, Contractor shall provide TEA's Information Security Officer with a written report regarding the status of the investigation and the following additional information as it becomes available:

1. Who is known or suspected to have gained unauthorized access to TEA information;
2. Whether there is any knowledge if TEA information has been abused or compromised;
3. What additional steps Contractor has taken or will take to investigate the Security Incident;
4. What steps Contractor has taken or will take to mitigate any negative effect of the Security Incident; and
5. What corrective action Contractor has taken or will take to prevent future similar unauthorized use or disclosure.

Contractor shall confer with TEA's Chief Information Security Officer regarding the proper course of the investigation and risk mitigation. TEA reserves the right to conduct an independent investigation of any Security Incident, and should TEA choose to do so, Contractor shall cooperate fully by making resources, personnel, and systems access available to TEA and TEA's authorized representative(s). Subject to review and approval of TEA's Information Security Officer, Contractor, at its own cost, shall provide notice that satisfies the requirements of applicable law to individuals whose personal, confidential, or privileged data were compromised or likely compromised as a result of the Security Incident. If TEA, in its sole discretion, elects to send its own separate notice, then all costs associated with preparing and providing notice shall be reimbursed to TEA by Contractor. If Contractor does not reimburse such costs within 30 days of TEA's written request, then TEA shall have the right to collect such costs.

- L. Refunds Due to TEA:** If TEA determines that TEA is due a refund of money paid to Contractor pursuant to this Contract, Contractor shall pay the money due to TEA within 30 days of Contractor's receipt of written notice that such money is due to TEA. If Contractor fails to make timely payment, TEA may obtain such money from Contractor by any means permitted by law, including but not limited to offset, counterclaim, cancellation, termination, suspension, total withholding, and/or disapproval of all or any subsequent applications for said funds.
- M. Capital Outlay:** If Contractor purchases capital outlay (furniture and/or equipment) to accomplish the Contract Project, title will remain with Contractor for the period of the Contract. TEA reserves the right to transfer capital outlay items for Contract noncompliance during the Contract period or as needed after the ending date of the Contract. This provision applies to any and all furniture and/or equipment regardless of unit price and how the item is classified in Contractor's accounting record. This provision is applicable when federal funds are utilized for the Contract.
- N. TEA Property (terms):** In the event of loss, damage or destruction of any property owned by or loaned by TEA while in the custody or control of Contractor, Contractor shall indemnify TEA and pay to TEA the full value of or the full cost of repair or replacement of such property, whichever is the greater, within 30 days of Contractor's receipt of written notice of TEA's determination of the amount due. This applies whether the property is developed or purchased by Contractor pursuant to this Contract or is provided by TEA to Contractor for use in the Contract Project. If Contractor fails to make timely payment, TEA may obtain such money from Contractor by any means permitted by law, including but not limited to offset or counterclaim against any money otherwise due to Contractor by TEA.
- O. Governing Law, Venue, and Jurisdiction:** Subject to and without waiving any of TEA's rights, including sovereign immunity, this Contract is governed by and construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. Venue for any suit concerning the solicitation, this Contract, and any resulting contract or purchase order shall be in a court of competent jurisdiction in Travis County, Texas.
- P. Point of Contact and Escalation:** All notices, reports and correspondence required by this Contract shall be in writing and delivered to TEA Project Manager listed below or their successors in office. Within 30 days of execution of this Contract, the respective Parties will designate the next level of personnel within each organization to address conflicts or ambiguity that cannot be resolved at the Project Manager level.

TEA	CONTRACTOR
Monica Martinez	Cornelio Gonzalez
Associated Commissioner Standards and Support	Executive Director
Texas Education Agency	Education Service Center Region 1
1701 N. Congress Ave	1900 W. Schunior
Austin, Texas 78701	Edinburg, Texas 78541
Monica.Martinez@tea.texas.gov	cgonzalez@esc1.net

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- Q. Federal Rules, Laws, and Regulations That Apply to all Federal Programs:** Contractor shall be subject to and shall abide by all federal laws, rules, and regulations, pertaining to the Contract Project, including, but not limited to:

1. Americans With Disabilities Act, P.L. 101-336, 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101, and the regulations effectuating its provisions contained in 28 CFR Parts 35 and 36, 29 CFR Part 1630, and 47 CFR Parts 0 and 64;
2. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (prohibition of discrimination by race, color, or national origin), and the regulations effectuating its provisions contained in 34 CFR Part 100;
3. Title IX of the Education Amendments 1972, as amended (prohibition of sex discrimination in educational institutions) and the regulations effectuating its provisions contained in 34 CFR Part 106, if Contractor is an educational institution;
4. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (nondiscrimination on the basis of handicapping condition), and the regulations effectuating its provisions contained in 34 CFR Parts 104 and 105;
5. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (prohibition of discrimination on basis of age), and the implementing regulations contained in 34 CFR, Part 110;
6. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1975, as amended, and the implementing regulations contained in 34 CFR, Part 99, if Contractor is an educational institution;
7. Section 509 of H.R. 5233 as incorporated by reference in P.L. 99-500 and P.L. 99-591 (prohibition against the use of federal grant funds to influence legislation pending before Congress);
8. P.L. 103-227, Title X, Miscellaneous Provisions of the GOALS 2000: Educate America Act; P.L. 103-382, Title XIV, General Provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended; and
9. General Education Provisions Act, as amended.

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) annual edition is the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the departments and agencies of the Federal Government produced by the Office of the Federal Register (OFR) and the Government Publishing Office. Website: http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=6214841a79953f26c5c230d72d6b70a1&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl

- R. Forms, Assurances, and Reports:** Contractor shall timely make and file with the proper authorities all forms, assurances and reports required by federal laws and regulations. TEA shall be responsible for reporting to the proper authorities any failure by Contractor to comply with the foregoing laws and regulations coming to TEA's attention, and may deny payment or recover payments made by TEA to Contractor in the event of Contractor's failure so to comply. Contractor who is indebted or owes delinquent taxes to the state will have any payments under the Contract applied toward the debt or delinquent taxes owed the state until the account is paid in full, regardless of when the debt or delinquency was incurred. This provision does not apply if the warrant or transfer results in payments being made in whole or in part with money paid to the state by the Federal Government. Pursuant to 34 TAC §201.14 -18 and Texas Government Code, Chapter 2161, Contractors shall maintain business records documenting compliance with the HUB subcontracting plan (HSP) and shall submit a compliance report to TEA monthly, in the format required by TEA. The compliance report submission shall be required as a condition for payment. If Contractor subcontracts any part of the Contract in a manner that is not consistent with its HSP, the selected respondent must submit a revised HSP before subcontracting any of the work under the Contract. If Contractor subcontracts any of the work without prior authorization and without complying with this section, Contractor is deemed to have breached the Contract and is subject to any remedial actions provided by Government Code, Chapter 2161, and other applicable state law.
- S. Signature Authority; Final Expression; Superseding Document:** Contractor certifies that the person signing this Contract has been properly delegated this authority. The Contract represents the final and complete expression of the terms of agreement between the parties. The Contract supersedes any previous understandings or negotiations between the parties. Any representations, oral statements, promises or warranties that differ from the Contract shall have no force or effect. The Contract may be modified, amended or extended only by formal written amendment properly executed by both TEA and Contractor.
- T. Antitrust:** By signing this Contract, Contractor, represents and warrants that neither Contractor nor any firm, corporation, partnership, or institution represented by Contractor, or anyone acting for such firm, corporation or institution has, (1) violated the antitrust laws of the State of Texas under Texas Business and Commerce Code, Chapter 15, or the federal antitrust laws; or (2) communicated directly or indirectly the Proposal to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business during the procurement process for this Contract.
- U. Family Code Applicability:** By signing this Contract, Contractor, if other than a state party, certifies that in Section 231.006 of the Family Code, that Contractor is not ineligible to receive specified grant, loan, or payment under this Contract and acknowledges that this Contract may be terminated and payment may be withheld if this

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certification is inaccurate. TEA reserves the right to terminate this Contract if Contractor is found to be ineligible to receive payment. If Contractor is found to be ineligible to receive payment and the Contract is terminated, Contractor is liable to TEA for attorney's fees, the costs necessary to complete the Contract, including the cost of advertising and awarding a second contract, and any other damages or relief provided by law or equity.

- V. **Dispute Resolution:** The dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 of the Texas Government Code must be used by TEA and Contractor to attempt to resolve all disputes arising under this Contract. The parties may agree to mediation of their dispute at any time. However, if all issues in dispute are not completely resolved through direct negotiations between the parties within 180 days after TEA receives Contractor's notice of claim, then the parties must submit the dispute to mediation before a mutually acceptable mediator in Travis County, Texas. The mediation must be completed on or before 270 days after TEA receives Contractor's notice of claim. Completion of the mediation is a condition precedent to the filing of a contested case hearing under Chapter 2260. TEA's participation in mediation or any other dispute resolution process shall not waive any of TEA's contractual or legal rights and remedies, including but not limited to sovereign immunity.
- W. **Interpretation:** In the case of conflicts arising in the interpretation of wording and/or meaning of various sections, parts, Appendices, General Provisions, Special Provisions, Exhibits, and Attachments or other documents; this Contract and its General Provisions, Appendices and Special Provisions shall take precedence over all other documents which are a part of this Contract.
- X. **Compliance with Laws:** Contractor shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, and the orders and decrees of any court or administrative bodies or tribunals in any matter affecting Contractor's performance, including if applicable, workers' compensation laws, minimum and maximum salary and wage statutes and regulations, prompt payment and licensing laws and regulations. For the entire duration of the Contract, Contractor shall maintain all required licenses, certifications, permits, and any other documentation necessary to perform this Contract. When required or requested by TEA, Contractor shall furnish TEA with satisfactory proof of its compliance with this provision.
- Y. **Public Information:** TEA is subject to the provisions of the Texas Public Information Act. If a request for disclosure of this Contract or any information related to the goods or services provided under the Contract or information provided to TEA under this Contract constituting a record under the Act is received by TEA, the information must qualify for an exception provided by the Act in order to be withheld from public disclosure. Contractor authorizes TEA to submit any information contained in the Contract, provided under the Contract, or otherwise requested to be disclosed, including information Contractor has labeled as confidential proprietary information, to the Office of the Attorney General for a determination as to whether any such information may be exempt from public disclosure under the Act. If TEA does not have a good faith belief that information may be subject to an exception to disclosure, TEA is not obligating itself by this Contract to submit the information to the Attorney General. It shall be the responsibility of Contractor to make any legal argument to the Attorney General or appropriate court of law regarding the exception of the information in question from disclosure. Contractor waives any claim against and releases from liability TEA, its officers, employees, agents, and attorneys with respect to disclosure of information provided under or in this Contract or otherwise created, assembled, maintained, or held by Contractor and determined by the Attorney General or a court of law to be subject to disclosure under the Act.

Under Section 2252.907 of the Texas Government Code, a contract between a state governmental entity and a non-governmental contractor involving the exchange or creation of public information, as defined by the Texas Government Code Section 552.002, must require the non-governmental contractor to make any information created or exchanged with the state pursuant to this contract, and not otherwise excepted from disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act, available in a format that is accessible by the public at no additional charge to the state. TEA Project Manager will provide the specific format by which Contractor is required to make the information accessible by the public.

- Z. **Gratuities:** By signing this Contract, Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give at any time hereafter any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor, or service to a public servant in connection with the submitted response.
- AA. **Protests:** Any actual or prospective Respondent, Proposer, Bidder, or Contractor who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation, evaluation, or award of this Contract by TEA may submit a formal protest to the Director of TEA's Contracts, Purchasing and Agency Services (PCAS) Division. This protest procedure shall be the exclusive method by which anyone may make a challenge to any aspect of TEA's contracting process. TEA will not be required to consider the merits of any protest unless the written protest is submitted within 10 working days after such aggrieved person knows, or reasonably should have known, of the occurrence of the action

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which is protested. The protest document must meet with all requirements in applicable law and TEA's rules (19 TAC Section 30.2002) <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/index.html>.

If the protest procedure results in a final determination by TEA that a violation of law has occurred in its contracting process in a case in which a contract has been awarded, then TEA may declare the contract void at inception. In that event, the party who had been awarded the contract shall have no rights under the contract and no remedies under the law against TEA.

- BB. Liability for and Payment of Taxes:** Contractor represents and warrants that it shall pay all taxes or similar amounts resulting from this Contract, including, but not limited to, any federal, state, or local income, sales or excise taxes of Contractor or its employees. TEA shall not be liable for any taxes resulting from this Contract.
- CC. Severability:** In the event that any provision of this Contract is later determined to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the invalid provision will be deemed severable and stricken from the Contract as if it had never been incorporated herein. The remaining terms, provisions, covenants, and conditions of this Contract shall remain in full force and effect, and shall in no way be affected, impaired, or invalidated.
- DD. Conformance:** Contractor warrants that all goods and services furnished shall conform in all respects to the terms of this Contract, including any drawings, specifications or standards incorporated herein, and any defects in materials, workmanship, and free from such defects in design. In addition, Contractor warrants that goods and services are suitable for and will perform in accordance with the purposes for which they are intended.
- EE. Felony Criminal Convictions:** Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor has not and Contractor's employees assigned to TEA projects have not been convicted of a felony criminal offense, or that, if such a conviction has occurred, Contractor has fully advised TEA as to the facts and circumstances surrounding the conviction.
- FF. Criminal Background Checks:** If during the term of this Contract, Contractor, and/or Contractor staff, or subcontractor have access to Texas public school campuses, all Contractor and/or Contractor's staff must submit to a national criminal history record information review (includes fingerprinting) and meet all eligibility standards and criteria as set by TEA before serving in assignments on behalf of TEA. This requirement applies to all individuals who currently serve or will serve in TEA assignments that have the possibility of direct contact with students. Assignments are contingent upon meeting TEA eligibility standards. Contractor and/or any staff member of Contractor who may perform services under this Contract must complete this criminal history review before the beginning of an assignment. If said individuals have not completed this requirement or the review results in a determination that Contractor is not eligible for assignment, this Contract will be terminated effective immediately or the date of notice of non-eligibility, whichever is earliest.
- GG. Assignment of Contract:** This Contract may not be assigned, sold, or transferred without the express written consent of TEA Purchasing, Contracts, and Agency Services (PCAS) Division. An attempted assignment after Contract award without TEA approval will constitute a material breach of Contract.
- HH. Buy Texas:** In accordance with Government Code, Section 2155.444, the State of Texas requires that during the performance of a contract for services, Contractor shall purchase products and materials produced in the State of Texas when available at a price and time comparable to products and materials produced outside the state. This provision does not apply if Contractor receives any federal funds under this Contract.
- II. Excluded Parties List System:** TEA and Contractor must adhere to the directions provided in the President's Executive Order (EO) 13224, Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism, which may be viewed at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/executive-orders>. That Executive Order prohibits any transaction or dealing by United States persons, including but not limited to the making or receiving of any contribution of funds, goods, or services to or for the benefit of those persons listed in the General Services Administration's Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) which may be viewed on the System for Award Management (SAM) site at <http://www.sam.gov>.
- JJ. Suspension and Debarment:** Contractor certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntary excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal, state or local government entity and that Contractor is in compliance with the State of Texas statutes and rules relating to procurement. If Contractor is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this Contract.

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- KK. Electronic and Information Resources Accessibility Standards:** State agencies shall procure products which comply with the State of Texas Accessibility requirements for Electronic Information Resources specified in 1 TAC Chapter 213 when such products are available in the commercial marketplace or when such products are developed in response to a procurement solicitation. Regulations updating the accessibility requirements for entities covered by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 have been adopted in FY 2015. Therefore, all current and potential contractors are hereby notified of the changes. The current technical requirements for accessibility contained within this regulation form the basis for our Texas TAC rules on EIR Accessibility. This refresh of 508 uses the WCAG 2.0 AA Accessibility Guidelines (also ISO/IEC standard 40500) as the new technical standard that federal agencies are required to meet when procuring products and services. The Texas Department of Information Resources is modifying the TAC rules to align with it.

Given this change, all Texas agencies and institutions of higher education must begin using or specifying WCAG 2.0 AA guidelines for the design of new websites or web applications. The rationale is twofold:

1. It is technically difficult and expensive to bring these websites/applications to WCAG 2.0 AA later.
2. WG 2.0 AA is a superior, more flexible standard and is in use all over the world. If a website is compliant with WCAG 2.0 AA, it will, by default comply with our current TAC rules on EIR Accessibility.

Web development Contractors should already be familiar with designing to this standard, and their ability to meet these standards should be a strong consideration in the selection process.

The free online resources listed below are available to assist developers and content producers in transitioning to these guidelines.

[WCAG 2.0 at a glance](#)

[IBM Developer Guidelines Web Checklist](#)

[Webaim.org Accessibility Checklist](#)

All websites must follow Federal 508 accessibility requirements and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 AA standards and be tested for accessibility before acceptance by TEA. For sites developed outside of TEA, the vendor must contract with a third party with expertise and a proven track record in accessibility testing. This company must evaluate the site and produce a report that verifies the site is compliant to (WCAG) 2.0 AA.

The awarded Contractor must employ real users with disabilities for manual testing. Contractor must provide a report that will include the results of auto-testing, screen-by-screen assessments, pass/fail status for each of the identified compliance standards to be met and recommendations for how to repair the screens/pages that do not meet the standards. Remediation recommendations shall be provided to the code level. The report should include documentation of the experience of real users with disabilities and may recommend techniques for improving the usable accessibility of the application. Contractor shall validate, by title, if all accessibility requirements have been met.

- LL. Collusion:** Contractor certifies and represents that Contractor has not colluded with, nor received any assistance from, any person who was paid by TEA to prepare specifications or a solicitation on which a Contractor's Bid or Proposal or Response is based and will not allow any person who prepared the respective specifications or solicitation to participate financially in any contract award.
- MM. Social Security Numbers Withheld:** TEA will not provide Social Security Numbers (SSNs) to any Contractor under this Contract unless specifically specified as part of the Contract Project requirements. TEA, its Contractors and their subcontractors, will not require or request school districts to provide SSNs under this Contract. Contractor agrees that in executing tasks on behalf of TEA, they will not use any student-identifying information in any way that violates the provisions of FERPA, and will destroy or return all student-identifying information to TEA within 30 days of project completion. An authorized officer of Contractor must certify that ALL records have either been properly destroyed or returned to TEA in order to close out the Contract.
- NN. Nondisclosure; Press Releases:** All information gathered, produced, derived, obtained, analyzed, controlled or Accessed by Contractor in connection with this Contract shall be and remain confidential and shall not be released or disclosed by Contractor without the prior written consent of TEA.
- OO. Independent Contractor:** Contractor or Contractor's employees, representatives, agents and any subcontractors shall serve as an independent contractor in providing the services under any purchase order resulting from this Contract. Contractor or Contractor's employees, representatives, agents and any subcontractors shall not be employees of TEA. Should Contractor subcontract any of the services required in this Contract, Contractor expressly understands and acknowledges that in entering into such subcontract(s), TEA is

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in no manner liable to any subcontractor(s) of Contractor. In no event shall this provision relieve bidder of the responsibility for ensuring that the services rendered under all subcontracts are rendered in compliance with this Contract.

- PP. Contractor Performance:** All state agencies must report unsatisfactory Contractor performance on purchases over \$25,000. Proposers who are in default or otherwise not in good standing under any other current or prior contract with TEA at the time of selection will not be eligible for award of this Contract. A Proposer's past performance will be measured based upon pass/fail criteria, in compliance with applicable provisions of Government Code §§ 2155.074, 2155.075, 2156.007, 2157.003, and 2157.125. Proposers may fail this selection criterion for any of the following conditions: A score of less than 90% in Contractor Performance System, currently under a Corrective Action Plan, having repeated negative Contractor performance reports for the same reason, having purchase orders that have been cancelled in the previous 12 months for non-performance (i.e. late delivery, etc.). TEA may conduct reference checks with other entities regarding past performance. In addition to evaluating performance through Contractor Performance Tracking System (as authorized by 34 Texas Administrative Code §20.108). TEA or a designee may conduct periodic contract compliance reviews without advance notice, to monitor performance. TEA may examine other sources of Contractor performance including, but not limited to, notices of termination, cure notices, assessments of liquidated damages, litigation, audit reports, and non-renewals of contracts. Any such investigations shall be at the sole discretion of TEA, and any negative findings, as determined by TEA, may result in non-award to the Proposer.

Agencies report satisfactory and exceptional Contractor performance to assist in determining best value. In accordance with Texas Government Code, §2155.074 and §2155.75, Contractor performance may be used as a factor in future contract awards. Contractor performance information is located on the CPA website at <https://www.comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/programs/vendor-performance-tracking/>

- QQ. Termination:** This Contract shall terminate upon full performance of all requirements contained in this Contract, unless otherwise extended or renewed as provided in accordance with the Contract Terms and Conditions.

1. **Termination for Convenience:** TEA may terminate this Contract at any time, in whole or in part, without penalty, by providing 15 calendar days' advance written notice to Contractor. In the event of such a termination, Contractor shall, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing, cease all work immediately upon the effective date of termination. TEA shall be liable for reimbursing only those expenses incurred by Contractor that are permitted, properly performed under this Contract and were incurred prior to the effective termination date.
2. **Termination for Cause/Default:** If Contractor fails to provide the goods or services contracted for according to the provisions of the Contract, or fails to comply with any of the terms or conditions of the Contract, TEA may, upon written notice of default to Contractor, immediately terminate all or any part of the Contract. Termination is not an exclusive remedy, but will be in addition to any other rights and remedies provided in equity, by law or under the Contract.

TEA may exercise any other right, remedy or privilege which may be available to it under applicable law of the state and any other applicable law or may proceed by appropriate court action to enforce the provisions of the Contract, or to recover damages for the breach of any agreement being derived from the Contract. The exercise of any of the foregoing remedies will not constitute a termination of the Contract unless TEA notifies Contractor in writing prior to the exercise of such remedy.

Contractor shall remain liable for all covenants and indemnities under the Contract. Contractor shall be liable for all costs and expenses, including court costs, incurred by TEA with respect to the enforcement of any of the remedies listed herein.

3. **Termination Due to Changes In Law:** If federal or state laws or regulations or other federal or state requirements are amended or judicially interpreted so that either party cannot reasonably fulfill this Contract and if the parties cannot agree to an amendment that would enable substantial continuation of the Contract, the parties shall be discharged from any further obligations under this contract.
4. **Rights upon Termination or Expiration of Contract:** In the event that the Contract is terminated for any reason, or upon its expiration, TEA shall retain ownership of all associated work products and documentation obtained from Contractor under the Contract.
5. **Survival of Terms:** Termination of the Contract for any reason shall not release Contractor from any liability or obligation set forth in the Contract that is expressly stated to survive any such termination or

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by its nature would be intended to be applicable following any such termination, including the provisions regarding confidentiality, indemnification, transition, records, audit, property rights, dispute resolution, invoice and fees verification.

6. **Contract Transition:** In the event a subsequent competitive solicitation is awarded to a New Contractor, the Outgoing Contractor shall hand-over to the New Contractor all "Works" including but not limited to the following: data, materials, database access, intellectual property, source code, training materials, access to websites, asset transfer, and maintenance of service commitments. The purpose of transition planning is to ensure a seamless and continuous service when changing from one contract to another. The Outgoing Contractor will begin shipping, transmitting or providing access to all appropriate materials and data to the New Contractor within 10 days of announcement of award at the New Contractor's expense for data processing and production, packing and shipping. The Outgoing Contractor will be responsible for providing the services identified in the Contract until all records have been completely transferred to the New Contractor. The Outgoing Contractor is responsible for performing due diligence to ensure that all the transition activities are identified and completed during the Contract transition.

The Outgoing Contractor shall submit to TEA requested reports and data. TEA will not release the final invoice until all materials are returned to TEA or their designee. TEA Project Manager shall approve the Transition Plan prior to its implementation. The Transition Plan must minimize the impacts on continuity of operations and maintain communication with TEA Project Manager and the New Contractor.

- RR. **Amendments:** All amendments to this Contract will be in a manner as prescribed by the TEA Contracting Process and are, subject to Paragraph B of the General Provisions and will be made on the AMENDMENT TO TEA STANDARD CONTRACT form. All amendments will be initiated by TEA Purchasing and Contracts staff. An Amendment to this Contract will become effective on the date of signature of TEA or the effective date shown on the amendment document whichever is first. All Amendments must be signed by both parties.

If the solicitation documents and contract documents for a TEA contract submitted to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Contract Advisory Team (CAT) (contracts with a value of at least \$10 million pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 2262.101(1) substantially changes, agencies are required to resubmit their solicitation documents(s) for CAT review. Changes in the major contract solicitation are considered substantial when: 1) the solicitation change caused the estimated value for the original term of the contract, not including renewal periods, to increase by 20% or more; 2) or there are significant revisions, deletions and/or additions to the specifications, statement of work (SOW), set(s) of deliverables, performance measures, payment methodology, etc.

1. For all other contracts (excludes major contracts) the Contractor is permitted to re-budget among direct cost categories within the approved budget to meet unanticipated requirements and to make limited changes 25% or up to \$1,000 in a direct category in the approved budget without the issuance of a written Amendment as long as the total budget amount does not change. Contractors are required to report deviations from budget and request prior approvals from the TEA Project Manager. Additionally, a revised budget document must be submitted to TEA Project Manager for approval. Once approved, the documents must be submitted to the Contract staff for incorporation into the contract file. **Failure to submit the budget documents will result in invoices being rejected or payment delayed.**
 2. Written amendments are required for the following Contract changes:
 - a. Any revision which would result in the need for additional funding;
 - b. Revisions or additions to the scope of work, deliverables, or objectives of the Contract (regardless of whether there is an associated budget revision requiring prior approval). Increases of 20% or more for major contracts must be approved by the Texas Comptroller;
 - c. A request to extend the period of the Contract;
 - d. Any reduction of funds or reduction in the scope of work;
 - e. Whenever a line item within a class/object code is added;
 - f. An increase in the quantity of capital outlay item(s) requested; and
 - g. An increase or decrease in the number of positions charged to Contract.
- SS. **Payment:** Payment for goods or services purchased with state-appropriated funds will be issued by electronic direct deposit from the State Treasury. Direct deposit is the preferred method of payment. Additional information and a Direct Deposit Authorization application may be found at: <https://fm.xcpa.state.tx.us/fm/payment/index.php> Invoices must be submitted to TEAAccountsPayable@tea.texas.gov and TEA Project Manager. Any payment owed by TEA must be transmitted electronically to Contractor no later than 30 days after the later of:

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1. Day on which TEA received the goods;
2. Date the performance of the service under the Contract is completed; or
3. Day on which TEA received the complete and correct invoice for goods or services.

Payment for service(s) described in this Contract is contingent upon satisfactory completion of the deliverables or services. TEA project manager may also utilize a Deliverables and Services Review and Acceptance Process written procedures. When the formal procedures are to be utilized, the TEA project manager will provide to the selected Contractor a copy of the Handbook. Contractor must submit final deliverables to TEA for review and approval prior to invoicing. These include test items developed under the Contract. "Final" deliverable means a deliverable that, in the belief and testimony of Contractor, is in final completed form and in compliance with all required specifications as defined by project documentation and this Contract. TEA will review each deliverable, including test items, submitted by Contractor for quality and alignment to the deliverable definition agreed to under the "Deliverables and Services Definition Process". TEA will have 15 working days to approve a deliverable or request revisions to the deliverable. TEA must review and approve any deliverable before it may be invoiced by Contractor. If TEA finds a submitted deliverable to be substandard or not in compliance with the deliverable definition agreed to under the "Deliverables and Services Definition Process" provided by the TEA Program Manager, located in the Service Level Agreement or the Contract Monitoring Tool. Contractor will have 10 working days to provide a Corrective Action Plan and address the quality or other compliance requirement and resubmit the deliverable. Additional costs incurred by Contractor that result from repeated submissions and revising of substandard deliverables will be borne solely by Contractor and not charged against the Contract or to TEA. This process will apply to all deliverables and requirements of the Contract, including test items developed. This does not preclude an arrangement that allows Contractor to bill against a deliverable as progress is made toward completing that deliverable, so long as documentation of such progress in a form and nature satisfactory to TEA is provided and is approved by TEA. It is up to Contractor to request incremental billing based on progress towards a deliverable, and such a request must be approved by TEA prior to submission of any invoice by Contractor. TEA reserves the right to reject and not provide payment for deliverables found to be substandard or not in compliance with the deliverable definition agreed to under the "Deliverables and Services Definition Process", including test items developed under the Contract. Contractor is strongly encouraged to collaborate with TEA on draft versions of any deliverables or services and request review(s) of such draft versions before submitting a final version.

Retainage: TEA may withhold 5% or less of each payment as retainage for certain projects. Retainage fees must be stated in the competitive solicitation and documented in the Contract. The fees may not be arbitrarily imposed after execution of the Contract. The release of retainage shall be requested in the final invoice.

Unless otherwise stated, payment under this Contract will be made upon performance of services based upon submission of an expenditure report/invoice, properly prepared and certified, outlining expenditures by cost category. Include the Contract number, purchase order number, and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Texas Identification Number (TIN) on all invoices/expenditure reports. The cost categories provided in the expenditure report/invoice must coincide with the cost categories detailed in the approved budget. A list of tasks/activities performed during the invoice period must accompany the expenditure report/invoice. The final expenditure report/invoice is due within 45 days after the end of the Contract. Payment on the final expenditure report is contingent upon receipt of all reports/products required by this Contract.

An encumbrance, accounts payable, and expenditure, as with all other contract accounting terms, will be as defined in the *Financial Accounting and Reporting Module of TEA Financial Accountability System Resource Guide*. All goods must have been received and all services rendered by the ending date of this Contract in order for Contractor to include these costs as either expenditures or as accounts payable and, thereby, recover funds due. In no manner shall encumbrances be considered or reflected as accounts payable or as expenditures.

Contractor who is indebted or owes delinquent taxes to the state will have any payments under the Contract applied toward the debt or delinquent taxes owed the state until the amount is paid in full, regardless of when the debt or delinquency was incurred. TEA shall determine whether a payment law prohibits the Comptroller from issuing a warrant or initiating an electronic funds transfer to a person before TEA enters into a written contract with that person.

Contractor may verify its account status by accessing the Texas Comptroller's website at https://fm.xcpa.state.tx.us/fm/pubs/purchase/restricted/index.php?section=indebted&page=persons_indebted

- TT. **Prohibition of text messaging and emailing while driving during official federal grant business:** Federal grant recipients and their grant personnel are prohibited from texting messaging while driving a government

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owned vehicle or while driving their own privately-owned vehicle during official grant business, or from using government supplied electronic equipment to text message or email while driving. Recipients must comply with these conditions under Executive Order 13513, "Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving," effective October 1, 2009.

- UU. Insurance:** Contractor represents and warrants that it will, within five business days of being requested by TEA, provide TEA with current certificates of insurance or other proof acceptable to TEA of the following insurance coverage:

Workers Compensation & Employers Liability: Contractor must maintain Workers' Compensation insurance coverage in accordance with statutory limits.

Workers Compensation: Statutory Limits

Employers Liability: Each Accident \$1,000,000

Disease- Each Employee \$1,000,000

Disease-Policy Limit \$1,000,000

This state of Texas website (Coverage starts with 406 of the Labor code) addresses what Texas requires may be found at: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/act/index.html>

Commercial General Liability: Occurrence based:

Bodily Injury and Property Damage

Each occurrence limit: \$1,000,000;

Aggregate limit: \$2,000,000;

Medical Expense each person: \$5,000;

Personal Injury and Advertising Liability: \$1,000,000;

Products /Completed Operations Aggregate Limit: \$2,000,000; and

Damage to Premises Rented to You: \$50,000

Contractor represents and warrants that all of the above coverage is with companies licensed in the state of Texas, with "A" rating from A.M. Best, and authorized to provide the corresponding coverage. Contractor also represents and warrants that all policies contain endorsements prohibiting cancellation except upon at least 30 days' prior written notice to TEA. Contractor represents and warrants that it shall maintain the above insurance coverage during the term of this contract, and shall provide TEA with an executed copy of the policies immediately upon request.

- VV. Force Majeure:** Neither Contractor nor TEA shall be liable to the other for any delay in, or failure of performance, of any requirement included in this Contract caused by force majeure. The existence of such causes of delay or failure shall extend the period of performance until after the causes of delay or failure have been removed provided the non-performing party exercises all reasonable due diligence to perform. Force majeure is defined as acts of God, war, fires, explosions, hurricanes, floods, failure of transportation, or other causes that are beyond the reasonable control of either party and that by exercise of due foresight such party could not reasonably have been expected to avoid, and which, by the exercise of all reasonable due diligence, such party is unable to overcome. Each party must inform the other in writing, with proof of receipt, within three business days of the existence of such force majeure, or otherwise waive this right as a defense.
- WW. Drug Free Workplace Policy:** Contractor shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Drug-Free Work Place Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701 ET SEQ.) and maintain a drug-free work environment; and the final rule, government-wide requirements for drug-free work place (grants), issued by the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Defense (32 CFR Part 280, Subpart F) to implement the provisions of the Drug-Free Work Place Act of 1988 is incorporated by reference and Contractor shall comply with the relevant provisions thereof, including any amendments to the final rule that may hereafter be issued.
- XX. Abandonment or Default:** If Contractor defaults on the Contract, TEA reserves the right to cancel the Contract without notice and either re-solicit or re-award the Contract to the next best responsive and responsible Proposer. The defaulting Contractor will not be considered in the re-solicitation and may not be considered in future solicitations for the same type of work, unless the specification or scope of work significantly changed. The period of suspension will be determined by TEA based on the seriousness of the default.
- YY. Applicable Law and Conforming Amendments:** Contractor must comply with all laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines applicable to a Contractor providing services to the State of Texas as these laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines currently exist and as they are amended throughout the term of this Contract. TEA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to unilaterally amend this Contract throughout its term to

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incorporate any modifications necessary for TEA or Contractor's compliance with all applicable State and federal laws, and regulations.

- ZZ. Education Service Center:** No funds transferred to Regional Education Service Centers or to school districts may be used to hire a registered lobbyist.