

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

Div/Org Code	160-006	Program Name	IDEA B Formula
Speed Chart		Legal/Funding Authority	20 USC
Payee Name	Sherry R. Wetsch	1400 et Seq	
Payee ID ISAS		Contract #	3056
		PO #	32157

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY STANDARD CONTRACT

ARTICLE I. PARTIES TO CONTRACT

This agreement is entered into by and between the Texas Education Agency ("TEA"), a Texas State Agency and Sherry R. Wetsch ("Contractor").

ARTICLE II. PERIOD OF CONTRACT

TEA shall pay Contractor for the reasonable and approved costs incurred by Contractor in connection with the Contract Project during the period beginning **September 1, 2013** and ending **August 31, 2014**, unless extended or terminated as otherwise provided for this contract. TEA, at its own discretion, may extend the contract awarded for up to **four (4)** additional fiscal years under the same or different terms subject to appropriation of funds by the Texas Legislature for this project.

If extended, the first extension period shall be from September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015; and the second extension period shall be from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016; the third extension period shall be from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017; the fourth extension period shall be from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSES OF CONTRACT

Contractor shall perform all of the functions and duties described herein and in the appendices to this Contract, which are attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

ARTICLE IV. PAYMENT UNDER CONTRACT

Subject to the availability to TEA of funds for the purpose(s) of this contract, TEA shall pay to Contractor by State of Texas warrant(s) the following amounts for the performance, satisfactory to the TEA, of Contractor's functions and duties under this Contract.

- A. Compensation at the hourly rate of \$150.00 for time spent performing the functions of a hearing officer. Contractor will be compensated up to three hours for actual time spent on the organization of files, papers, exhibits, or other documents for the preparation of the final file that will be returned to TEA.
- B. Time expended traveling to and from a hearing will be compensated at the hourly rate of \$60.00. In cases where return travel is delayed due to inclement weather, canceled flights, or other unforeseen circumstances, TEA will consider on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with state and TEA travel rules whether Contractor should be compensated for all of the time expended as a result of the delay.
- C. Contractor will be reimbursed for TEA-sponsored training sessions at the hourly rate of \$150.00 for the actual time spent in training. Contractor will be reimbursed at the current state rates for transportation expenses for all TEA-sponsored training sessions. Lodging and meal expenses will only be reimbursed if the travel requires an overnight stay, and reimbursement is limited to actual expenses incurred up to the maximum state rate.
- D. TEA will reimburse Contractor for certain expenses as provided below:
 1. Copying costs will be reimbursed at 10 cents per page or the amount invoiced if service was contracted to another vendor, whichever is less.
 2. Telephone and long distance charges will be reimbursed at the actual cost incurred.
 3. Facsimile (fax) costs will be reimbursed at 10 cents per page.
 4. Translation and sign language interpreter costs, if required, will be reimbursed at a reasonable rate based upon usual and customary fees for such services. When possible, Contractor should obtain multiple estimates for these services.
 5. An amount not to exceed \$1,500.00 for tuition to attend TEA approved seminars for continuing legal education (CLE) credit hours. The \$1,500.00 limit applies to all contractors regardless of whether they serve as both a hearing officer and a mediator or serve in only one capacity. The transportation, lodging, and meal expenses related to attending seminars that fall within the \$1,500.00 tuition cap will be reimbursed at the current state rate, except that TEA will only reimburse Contractor for the travel expenses for one out-of-state seminar per fiscal year. Contractor must seek TEA's approval before the expiration of the early registration deadline for a seminar, if any, or at least 30 days before the date on which the seminar begins. Tuition reimbursement for seminars offering an early registration discount will be limited to the amount of the early registration tuition.

6. Lodging and meal expenses to conduct hearings will be reimbursed at the current General Services Administration (GSA)'s federal travel rates, except that the "standard rate" shall be \$85 maximum for lodging and \$46 maximum for meals and will apply for in-state locations that are not specifically listed in the GSA federal rates. Although receipts are not required for meals, reimbursement is limited to actual expenses incurred up to the maximum rate. The maximum rates for meals and lodging should not be claimed unless the actual expenditures equal or exceed the maximum allowable rate. Meal expenses are reimbursed only for travel requiring overnight stay. (Tips and alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed.)
7. Mileage will be reimbursed at the current state rate. Car rentals, when required, will be reimbursed at the current state rate. Mileage is not reimbursed for car rentals; however, gasoline will be reimbursed at actual cost.
8. For air travel, a receipt must be provided from the airline showing the class of airfare purchased. Airfare will be reimbursed at the actual cost incurred except that first class, business class, or similar upgraded airfare will not be reimbursed without documentation that the upgraded airfare was the only available fare.
9. Contractor should ensure that all travel expenses incurred are the most cost effective considering all relevant circumstances. Contractor shall maintain receipts in accordance with item H of the General Provisions. The Comptroller's website for travel rules and regulations – **tExtravel**: <https://fmx.cpa.state.tx.us/fmx/travel/textravel/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 five (5) years.

E. Contractor will not be compensated for time spent preparing billing invoices.

ARTICLE V. GENERAL AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS OF CONTRACT

Attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference are the General Provisions and the Special Provisions indicated below with an "X" beside each:

- ☒ Special Provisions A, Program Specific
- ☒ Special Provisions B, Debarment
- ☒ Special Provisions C, Lobbying
- ☒ Special Provisions D, Historically Underutilized Business Subcontracting Plan (HSP) Changes and Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to Section 2252.901 of the Texas Government Code, Contractor certifies that it is not a former employee of TEA or that Contractor has not been an employee of TEA for twelve (12) months prior to the beginning date of this contract.

ARTICLE VI. ENTIRE CONTRACT

This contract together with the documents including but not limited to Appendices, Attachments, Exhibits, Proposal Responses, mentioned herein and incorporated by 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.

AGREED and accepted on behalf of Contractor effective beginning on the date of the Contract as specified above and as indicated by signature below of a person authorized to bind Contractor.

Typed name: Sherry R. Wetsch

 8/26/13
Authorized Signature

Typed title: Attorney at Law

This section reserved for TEA use.

I, an authorized official of the Texas Education Agency, hereby certify that this contract is in compliance with the authorizing program statute and applicable regulations and authorize the services to be performed as written above.

AGREED and accepted on behalf of Agency on 9-10-13 (month/day/year) by a person authorized to bind Agency.

Return three (3) copies with original signature to:

Norma Barrera
Texas Education Agency
Purchasing and Contracts Division
1701 North Congress Avenue Rm. 2-125
Austin, Texas 78701-1494


Shirley Beauleu, Associate Commissioner
Finance/ CFO

APPENDIX 1

- I. The definitions of terms in the General Provisions are incorporated herein.
- II. If there is a conflict or ambiguity between or among the terms of the documents that constitute this Contract, and if that conflict or ambiguity cannot be resolved by construing the terms so as to harmonize all their terms, then the conflict or ambiguity shall be resolved with the following Contract documents prevailing in the following order of priority:
 - General and Special Provisions of the Standard Contract;
 - The Standard Contract, inclusive of all appendices;
 - Contractor's Proposal to the Texas Education Agency in response to RFQ No. 701-14-006 Special Education Hearing Officers, including the Historically Underutilized Business Subcontracting Plan (HSP); and
 - RFQ No. 701-14-006 Special Education Hearing Officers.

III. Description of Services

Sherry R. Wetsch ("Contractor") shall serve as a special education due process hearing officer by performing the applicable duties specified in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA), the IDEA federal regulations, the Texas Education Code, and 19 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 89, Division 7, and in this Contract. See Special Provisions A, Program Specific for additional requirements of a hearing officer.

IV. Budget:

Contractor shall be compensated for services performed and shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred as provided in Article IV Payment Under Contract in this Standard Contract.

No funds shall be used to pay for food costs (i.e., refreshments, banquets, group meals, etc.) unless requested as a specific line item in the budget by the Contractor and approved (prior to expenditures occurring) by TEA. This applies to both federally and state funded Contracts.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. As used in these General Provisions:

- *Contract* means the entire document, and 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 Standard Contract;
- *Receiving Agency or Party or TEA* means the Texas Education Agency;
- *Performing Agency or Contractor* means the party or parties to this Contract other than TEA, including its or their officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, consultants and subcontractors, and subcontractors' officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives and consultants;
- *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 that is revised in any respect, and includes both the original Contract, and any subsequent amendments or extensions thereto;
- *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.); and,
- *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.

B. **Contingency:** The Contract(s), including any amendments, extensions or subsequent contracts, are executed by TEA contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds by legislative act. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Contract or any other document, 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.

C. **Indemnification:**

For local educational agencies (LEAs), regional education service centers (ESCs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and state agencies: Contractor, 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 in performance of the Contract Project.

For all other contractors, including nonprofit organizations and for-profit businesses: Contractor shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend TEA and the State, all of its officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims, actions, suits, 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 or omissions of the Contractor or any agent, employee, subcontractor, or supplier of Contractor in performance of the Contract Project.

D. **Subcontracting:** Contractor shall not assign, transfer or subcontract any of its rights or responsibilities under this Contract.

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 a Request for Qualifications 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 Request for Qualifications, in response to which Contractor submitted a proposal, are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, although the current General Provisions shall prevail in the event of conflict.

H. **Records Retention:** 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 five (5) 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.

Contractor understands that acceptance of funds under this contract acts as acceptance of the authority of the State Auditor's office, or any successor agency, to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Contractor further agrees to cooperate fully with the State Auditor's Office or its successor in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including providing all records requested. Contractor will ensure that this clause concerning the authority to audit funds received indirectly by subcontractors through Contractor and the requirements to cooperate is included in any subcontract it awards.

- 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 (i) use, execute, reproduce, display, perform, distribute copies of, and prepare derivative works based upon such preexisting rights and any derivative works thereof and (ii) 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 Education Service Center (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 Legal Division.

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 Legal Division.

- J. **Sanctions for Failure to Perform or for Noncompliance:** 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 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. **Contract Cancellation, etc.:** If this Contract is cancelled, terminated, or suspended by TEA prior to its expiration date, the reasonable monetary value of services properly performed by Contractor pursuant to this Contract prior to such cancellation, termination or suspension shall be determined by TEA and paid to Contractor as soon as reasonably possible.
- 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. **State of Texas Laws:** In the conduct of the Contract Project, Contractor shall be subject to Texas State Board of Education rules pertaining to this Contract and the Contract Project, and to the laws of the State of Texas governing this Contract and the Contract Project. This Contract constitutes the entire agreement between TEA and Contractor for the accomplishment of the Contract Project. This Contract shall be interpreted according to the laws of the State of Texas except as may be otherwise provided for in this Contract.
- P. **Federal Regulations Applicable to All Federally Funded Contracts:**
1. For Local Education Agencies (LEAs): 28 CFR 35 Subparts A-E, 28 CFR 36 Subparts C & D, Appendix A, 29 CFR 1630, 34 CFR 75 or 76 as applicable, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 99, 104, 47 CFR 0 and 64, and OMB Circulars A-87 (Cost Principles) and A-133 (Audits);
 2. For Education Service Centers (ESCs): 28 CFR 35 Subparts A-E, 28 CFR 36 Subparts C & D, Appendix A, 29 CFR 1630, 34 CFR 75 or 76 as applicable, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 99, 104, 47 CFR 0 and 64, and OMB Circulars A-87 (Cost Principles) and A-133 (Audits);
 3. For Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs): 28 CFR 35 Subparts A-E, 28 CFR 36 Subparts C & D, Appendix A, 29 CFR 1630, 34 CFR 74, 77, 79, 81, 82, 85, 99, 104, OMB Circular A-21 (Cost Principles), 47 CFR 0 and 64, OMB Circular A-133 (Audits), and OMB Circular A-110 (Uniform Administrative Requirements);
 4. For Nonprofit Organizations: 28 CFR 35 Subparts A-E, 28 CFR 36 Subparts C & D, Appendix A, 29 CFR 1630, 34 CFR 74, 77, 79, 81, 82, 85, 99, 104, 47 CFR 0 and 64, OMB Circulars A-122 (Cost Principles) and A-133 (Audits), and OMB Circular A-110 (Uniform Administrative Requirements);
 5. For State Agencies: 28 CFR 35 Subparts A-E, 28 CFR 36 Subparts C & D, Appendix A, 29 CFR 1630, 34 CFR 76, 80, 81, 82, 85, 99, 104, 47 CFR 0 and 64, OMB Circulars A-87 (Cost Principles) and A-133 (Audits), and OMB Circular A-110 (Uniform Administrative Requirements); and
 6. For Commercial (for-profit) Organizations: 29 CFR 1630 and 48 CFR Part 31.
 7. For American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded projects: FAR 52.204-11, 52.212-5, 52.214-26, 52.215-2, and OMB Guidance Memo M-09-15.
- Q. **Point of Contact:** All notices, reports, and correspondence required by this Contract shall be in writing and delivered to the TEA project manager listed below or their successors in office:

TEA

Margaret Baker
Texas Education Agency
William B. Travis Building
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

CONTRACTOR

Sherry R. Wetsch
14103 Manderly Drive,
Houston, TX 77077
Phone: (281) 558-3503

- R. **Time and Effort Recordkeeping:** For those personnel whose salaries are prorated between or among different funding sources, time and effort records will be maintained by Contractor that will confirm the services provided within each funding source. Contractor must adjust payroll records and expenditures based on this documentation. This requirement applies to all projects, regardless of funding source, unless otherwise specified. For federally funded projects, time and effort records must be in accordance with the requirements in the applicable OMB cost principles.
- S. **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 of 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.
- T. **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.
- U. **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.
- V. **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 Tex. Bus. & Com. 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.
- W. **Family Code Applicability:** By signing this Contract, Contractor, if other than a state Party, certifies that under Section 231.006, 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 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.
- X. **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 the agency 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 the agency 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. The agency's participation in mediation or any other dispute resolution process shall not waive any of the agency's contractual or legal rights and remedies, including but not limited to sovereign immunity.
- Y. **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, the TEA Contract and its General Provisions, Appendices and Special Provisions shall take precedence over all other documents which are a part of this contract.
- Z. **Education Service Center:** No funds transferred to Regional Education Service Centers or to school districts may be used to hire a registered lobbyist.
- AA. **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 the Agency, Contractor shall furnish TEA with satisfactory proof of its compliance with this provision.
- BB. **Public Information:** The 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 the TEA under this Contract constituting a record under the Act is received by the TEA, the information must qualify for an exception provided by the Texas Public Information Act in order to be withheld from public disclosure. Contractor authorizes the 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 the TEA does not have a good faith belief that information may be subject to an exception to disclosure, the TEA is not obligating itself by this Contract to submit the information to the Attorney General. It shall be the responsibility of the 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. The Contractor waives any claim against and releases from liability the 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 the Contractor and determined by the Attorney General or a court of law to be subject to disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act.

- CC. **Gratuities:** By signing this Contract, Contractor represents and warrants that the 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.
- DD. **Venue and Jurisdiction:** Subject to and without waiving any of the Agency'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 this solicitation and any resulting contract or purchase order shall be in a court of competent jurisdiction in Travis County, Texas.
- EE. **Protests:** Any actual or prospective bidder, offeror, or contractor who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation, evaluation, or award of this or any other contract by the Texas Education Agency may submit a formal protest to the Director of the Agency's Contracts and Purchasing Division. This protest procedure shall be the exclusive method by which anyone may make a challenge to any aspect of the Agency's contracting process. The Agency will not be required to consider the merits of any protest unless the written protest is submitted within ten (10) working days after such aggrieved person knows, or reasonably should have known, of the occurrence of the action which is protested. The protest document must meet with all requirements in applicable law and Agency's rules (Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code, at § 30.2002) <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/index.html>.

If the protest procedure results in a final determination by the Agency that a violation of law has occurred in its contracting process in a case in which a contract has been awarded, then the Agency 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 the Agency.

- FF. **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.
- GG. **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.
- HH. **Conformance:** The 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, respondent warrants that goods and services are suitable for and will perform in accordance with the purposes for which they are intended.
- II. **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.
- JJ. **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 Agency before serving in assignments on behalf of the Agency. This requirement applies to all individuals who currently serve or will serve in Agency assignments that have the possibility of direct contact with students. Assignments are contingent upon meeting Agency 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.
- KK. **Assignment of Contract:** This Contract may not be assigned, sold, or transferred.
- LL. **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.
- MM. **Excluded Parties List System:** The Texas Education Agency and the 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/news/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>.

- NN. **Suspension and Debarment:** Contractor certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal, state or local government entity. If Contractor is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this contract.
- OO. **Web Accessibility Policy:** State law requires State Agencies and institutions of higher education to provide persons and employees with disabilities access comparable to access and use provided to the public and State employees without disabilities for the following: telephones and other telecommunications products, information kiosks, transaction machines, internet websites, and multimedia resources. TEA adheres to the standards set forth in TAC §206 State Web Sites, TAC §213 Electronic and Information Resources, and the Federal 508 requirements which may be viewed at <http://www.governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/resources/keylaws/access>. This policy is applicable to all TEA contractors who develop or provide any of the services or products listed above as a result of a TEA contract award or approved vendor list. All documents created or developed under this Contract must also be compliant with all state and federal regulations for web accessibility (i.e., Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, http://www.dir.state.tx.us/general_info/accessibility.htm).
- PP. **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 respondent's bid or proposal is based and will not allow any person who prepared the respective specifications or solicitation to participate financially in any contract award.
- QQ. **Social Security Numbers Withheld:** TEA will not provide Social Security Numbers (SSNs) to any Contractor under this contract. TEA, its contractors and their subcontractors, will not require or request school districts to provide SSNs under this contract.
- RR. **Proprietary or Confidential Information:** Contractor, its employees and subcontractors, 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 thirty (30) 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. Contractor will indemnify and hold harmless the State of Texas, its officers and employees, and TEA, its officers and employees for any claims or damages that arise from the disclosure by Contractor or its contractors of information held by the State of Texas.
- SS. **Independent Contractor:** Contractor shall serve as an independent contractor in providing services under this Contract. Contractor's employees are not and shall not be construed as employees or agents of the State of Texas.
- TT. **Vendor Performance:** All state agencies must report unsatisfactory vendor performance on purchases over \$25,000. Contractors 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. Agencies report satisfactory and exceptional vendor performance to assist in determining best value. In accordance with Texas Government Code, §2155.074 and §2155.75, vendor performance may be used as a factor in future contract awards.

Contractor performance information is located on the CPA web site at:
http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/vendor_performance/

- UU. **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:** Either Party may terminate this Contract at any time, in whole or in part, without penalty, by providing thirty (30) calendar days advance written notice to the other Party. In the event of such a termination, the 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 the Contractor that are permitted under this Contract and were incurred prior to the effective termination date.
 2. **Termination for Cause/Default:** If the 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 the 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 the Contractor in writing prior to the exercise of such remedy.

The Contractor shall remain liable for all covenants and indemnities under the Contract. The 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 the Contractor under the Contract.
5. **Survival of Terms:** Termination of the Contract for any reason shall not release the Contractor from any liability or obligation set forth in the Contract that is expressly stated to survive any such termination or 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, and invoice and fees verification.

VV. Amendments:

1. All amendments to this Contract will be in a manner as prescribed by the Project Administrator of TEA, subject to Paragraph B of the General Provisions and will be made on AMENDMENT TO TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY STANDARD CONTRACT form supplied by TEA. Amendments must be mailed to the Purchasing and Contracts Division, Room 2-125, Texas Education Agency, William B. Travis Building, 1701 North Congress, Austin, Texas 78701. An amendment to this Contract will become effective on the date of signature of TEA.
2. The Contractor is permitted to rebudget among direct cost categories within the approved budget to meet unanticipated requirements and to make limited changes (less than 10%) to the approved budget without submitting a written amendment. However, a revised budget document must be submitted to the TEA Project Manager for approval. Once approved, the documents must be submitted and Contracts office and will be incorporated into the Contract file. Failure to submit the budget documents will result in invoices being rejected or payment delayed.
3. Written amendments are required for the following Contract changes:
 - a. any revision which would result in the need for additional funding;
 - b. any revision to the scope or objectives of the Contract (regardless of whether there is an associated budget revision requiring prior approval);
 - c. a request to extend the period of the Contract;
 - d. cumulative transfers among direct cost categories which exceed or are expected to exceed ten percent of the current total approved budget category
 - e. any reduction of funds or reduction in the scope of work;
 - f. whenever a line item within a class/object code is added;
 - g. an increase in the quantity of capital outlay item(s) requested; and
 - h. an increase or decrease in the number of positions charged to Contract.

All amendments must be signed by both parties.

WW. Payment:

Payment for goods or services purchased with State-appropriated funds is made by warrant (check) or by electronic Direct Deposit from the State Treasury. Direct Deposit is the preferred method of payment. Any payment owed by an agency must be mailed or transmitted electronically to the vendor no later than 30 days after the later of:

- (1) the day on which the agency received the goods;
- (2) the date the performance of the service under the contract is completed; or
- (3) the day on which the agency received the complete and correct invoice for goods or services.

Additional information and a Direct Deposit Authorization application may be found at: <https://fm.x.cpa.state.tx.us/fm/payment/index.php>.

1. Payment for service(s) described in this Contract is contingent upon satisfactory completion of the service(s). Satisfaction will be determined by TEA's Project Administrator, in his sole discretion but in accordance with reasonable standards and upon advice of his superiors in TEA, if necessary. 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 forty-five 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.
2. 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 the 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.

3. 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 their account status by accessing the Comptroller's website at: <http://ecpa.cpa.state.tx.us/vendor/tpsearch1.html>. If the account status message is "on vendor hold," the contractor is advised to contact the Comptroller's Warrant Hold Section in the Division of Revenue Accounting at 1-800-531-5441 ext. 3-4561 for assistance in resolving the issue.

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

- YY **Insurance:** Contractor represents and warrants that it will, within five (5) business days of being requested by the TEA, provide TEA with current certificates of insurance or other proof acceptable to TEA of the following insurance coverage: Standard Workers Compensation Insurance, covering all personnel who will provide services under this Contract; Commercial General Liability Insurance, personal injury and advertising injury with, at a minimum, the following limits: \$500,000 minimum each occurrence; \$1,000,000 per general aggregate.

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 thirty (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.

- ZZ. **Force Majeure:** Neither Contractor nor TEA shall be liable to the other for any delay in, nor failure of performance, of any requirement included in any PO resulting from this RFP 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 (3) business days of the existence of such force majeure, or otherwise waive this right as a defense.

- AAA. **Drug Free Workplace Policy:** The 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 the contractor shall comply with the relevant provisions thereof, including any amendments to the final rule that may hereafter be issued.

The Texas Government Code and Family Code sites referenced in this document may be viewed at: <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/>

The Texas Administrative Code site referenced in this document may be viewed at: [http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.viewtac](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.viewtac)

SPECIAL PROVISIONS - A

Program Specific

- A. A hearing officer must be independent and impartial. Accordingly, Contractor may not:
1. Be an employee of TEA or any public agency that is involved in the education or care of the student who is the subject of a hearing;
 2. Have a personal or professional interest that would conflict with his or her objectivity in a hearing; and
 3. Represent, contract with, be employed by, or accept any remuneration from any individual or entity (including, without limitation, any child, parent, teacher, administrator, school district, charter school, or regional education service center) in connection with any matter relating to or involving public education (including, without limitation, any matter arising under or relating to the Texas Education Code, IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and any other federal or state law, rule, or regulation relating to education).

The outside practice of law is not barred as long as it is permitted under Section A above and is compatible with the duties of a special education hearing officer. Specifically, Contractor must maintain the ability to meet all legal and contractual timelines.

- B. Contractor must travel to the school district or charter school involved in a hearing to conduct the hearing.
- C. Contractor must arrange for the attendance of a TEA contracted court reporter to record verbatim testimony.
- D. TEA may assign or reassign all or part of a hearing to another hearing officer. In these situations, the hearing officers must work cooperatively with each other.
- E. Contractor must possess, at his or her own expense, the necessary support and equipment to perform his or her duties. At a minimum, Contractor must have and maintain in good working order: (1) a telephone (monitored during business hours by an assistant, answering service, or answering system); (2) a fax machine; (3) a personal computer, with Internet service, running Windows and Microsoft Office compatible software; (4) an electronic mail (email) address; and (5) access to an online legal research system.
- F. Contractor must comply with the standards of neutrality, confidentiality, and conduct required by IDEA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and the State Bar of Texas Rules.
- G. Contractor shall organize and maintain individual case files along with detailed records of activity on each case, such as travel, administrative expenses, research, drafting of orders, decisions, and correspondence.
- H. Contractor shall comply with all legal and contractual timelines, including but not limited to the following:
1. Promptly after being assigned a case, Contractor shall schedule and hold a prehearing conference.
 2. For hearings conducted under 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.507 through 300.513, Contractor shall render a final decision no later than 45 days after the expiration of the 30-day period under 34 C.F.R. § 300.510(b), or the adjusted time periods described in 34 C.F.R. § 300.510(c), unless the deadline for a final decision has been extended by Contractor at the request of a party as provided by 34 C.F.R. § 300.515(c).
 3. Contractor shall only permit extensions upon the request of a party and shall not grant an extension without a request from a party.
 4. If an extension of time is granted, Contractor shall render a written order stating the good cause grounds for the extension and the specific date by which the final decision is due. Contractor shall mail the written order to the parties within one business day of the date on which it is rendered.
 5. Contractor shall email all orders extending the timeline for rendering a final decision and all dispositive orders (e.g., orders of dismissal, summary judgment orders, orders following a hearing, etc.), to TEA on the day that the order is rendered.
 6. For hearings requested under 34 C.F.R. § 300.532, Contractor shall conduct the hearing in an expedited matter within 20 school days of the date the complaint requesting the hearing is filed and rendering a decision within 10 school days after the hearing as provided by 34 C.F.R. § 300.532(c). Contractor shall not grant any extensions of time in a hearing requested under 34 C.F.R. § 300.532.

7. Contractor shall mail a final written decision or any dispositive order to the parties on the date the decision or order is rendered;
 8. Contractor shall mail the parties the "Due Process Hearing Questionnaire" along with any final written decision or any dispositive orders that disposes of all of the issues in the hearing;
 9. Contractor shall return individual case files to TEA within 30 days of rendering a final decision or a dispositive order that disposes of all of the issues in a hearing; and
 10. Upon notification that TEA has received a request for a document pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, Contractor shall provide the relevant document to TEA immediately.
- I. Contractor shall prepare and submit to TEA by the 10th day of each month a standard invoice (on a template provided by TEA) detailing the activities and expenses by case. Payment for services and reimbursement of expenses by TEA is further conditioned upon:
 1. Contractor's full compliance with all legal and contractual requirements applicable to special education due process hearings (including, without limitation, the specific requirements described in Section A, above);
 2. The reasonableness of the amount of time spent by Contractor on the case(s) for which he or she is seeking payment/reimbursement;
 3. Contractor's timely submission of reasonable and acceptable documentation supporting all expenses being claimed; and
 4. Contractor's prompt return to TEA of all file materials relating to closed cases.
 - J. Contractor shall attend all training sessions held at TEA (typically two or three each fiscal year). In addition, Contractor shall earn at least 10 hours of CLE in subject areas directly applicable to the duties of a hearing officer. An individual who serves as both a hearing officer and a mediator must earn at least 15 hours of CLE credit in subject areas directly applicable to the duties of both roles.
 - K. If Contractor has not previously served as a special education hearing officer for TEA, he or she must:
 1. Attend orientation training(s) required by TEA;
 2. Observe at least two special education due process hearings before being assigned a case.
 - L. Contractor shall comply with the decision format requirements set by TEA pursuant to the rules governing special education due process hearings. Specifically, decisions must meet the following requirements:
 1. Contain correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling usage;
 2. Include findings of fact that are clear and concise, supported by the evidence, and necessary to resolve an issue properly before Contractor;
 3. Include conclusions of law that accurately apply the law to the findings of fact and that are necessary to resolve an issue properly before Contractor;
 4. Include discussion to explain a rationale not otherwise apparent from the findings and conclusions;
 5. Include an order that rules on all requests for relief and that does not require the parties to refer to any other part of the decision to implement the mandates in the order; and
 6. Include a synopsis of the case that includes each issue decided, the prevailing party on that issue, and a supporting citation to a provision of the IDEA regulations in 34 C.F.R. Part 300, the Texas Education Code, or the Texas Commissioner of Education's Rules for special education.
 - M. Contractor shall provide updates on case activities for each case file in the manner specified by TEA, including but not limited to entering direct updates into TEA's electronic docket system.
 - N. Contractor shall submit to a national criminal history record information review (including fingerprinting) and meet all eligibility standards and criteria set by TEA before serving in assignments on behalf of TEA. If Contractor has not completed this requirement or the review results in a determination that Contractor is not eligible for assignment, the contract will be terminated effective immediately or on the date of notice of non-eligibility, whichever is earliest.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS - B

Debarment and Suspension Certification
(Required for all federally-funded contracts)

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 34 CFR Part 85, §85.510, Participants' Responsibilities. The regulations were published as Part VII of the May 26, 1988 Federal Register (pages 19,160-19,211). Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the Division of Grants Administration of the Texas Education Agency at (512) 463-9269.

READ INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE BEFORE COMPLETING CERTIFICATION

CERTIFYING STATEMENT

- (1) The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this Contract, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- (2) Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this Contract.

Sherry Wetsch
Organization or Person's Name

Sherry Wetsch, Attorney
Name and Title of Authorized Representative (if applicable)

SR Wetsch 8/26/13
Signature Date

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIAL PROVISIONS - B DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION CERTIFICATION

Definitions:

Lower Tier Participant - Any organization or person receiving a grant or contract. This also includes subsequent subgrants and subcontracts.

Covered Transaction - The act of applying for federal funds or submitting a contract for federal funds.

Lower Tier Transaction - The making of a (1) subgrant to another entity or person or (2) procurement contract by a Lower Tier Participant to some other entity or person for goods or services, regardless of type, expected to equal or exceed a cumulative value of \$25,000.

Principals - An administration head, key project/grant management person, officer, director within the Lower Tier Participant's organization or within a suborganization or subcontractor (i.e., superintendents and the key person in the school district who will exert control or management influence over this project. At a university, it would be the president and principal investigator).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

1. By signing and submitting this Contract, the prospective lower tier participant is stating that it is neither debarred nor suspended.
2. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this certification was signed. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment from federal funds participation.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the organization to which this Contract is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "contract," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this certification, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the organization to which this Contract is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this Contract that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this Contract that it will include the two-paragraph "CERTIFYING STATEMENT" without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous.
8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS- C

Part A

Lobbying Certification

(Required for all federally-funded contracts greater than \$100,000)

Submission of this certification is required by the U.S. Department of Education and Section 1352, Title 31 of the United States Code. It is a prerequisite for making or entering into a subgrant or subcontract over \$100,000 with any organization. (See next page of this schedule for further instructions.)

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making of any Federal grant, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal grant or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal grant or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, Special Provisions D Part B "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subgrants, contracts under grants and cooperative agreements, and subcontracts) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact on which the U.S. Department of Education and the Texas Education Agency relied when it made or entered into this grant or Contract. Any organization that fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Sherry Wetsch
Organization or Person's Name

Sherry Wetsch Attorney
Name and Title of Authorized Representative (if applicable)

SR Wetsch
Signature

8/26/13
Date

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIAL PROVISIONS - C
PART A
LOBBYING CERTIFICATION

This is a Congress of the United States and the U. S. Department of Education requirement. The Contractor must submit this schedule to TEA for a federal-funded contract(s) with an approved amount in excess of \$100,000. TEA will be unable to pay for any obligations established by the Contractor unless this schedule is submitted.

In addition, if the Contractor makes a subgrant or subcontract in excess of \$100,000 to another organization of any type, then the Contractor shall require this form to be filed with and retained by the Contractor. According to federal law, failure to obtain the certification subjects the Contractor to civil penalties.

- (1) This certification states that the Contractor is prohibited from using federal funds for influencing or attempting to influence any member of Congress or its employees or any federal agency employee concerning the making or awarding of a federal grant.
- (2) This certification states that the Contractor is prohibited from using federal funds for influencing or attempting to influence any member of Congress or its employees or any federal agency employee concerning the making or awarding of a federal grant.
- (3) This certification also states that if the Contractor pays or has paid any funds other than federal funds to any one person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence any member of Congress or its employees, or any federal agency employee concerning the making or awarding of a federal grant, that the Contractor will disclose to whom payments were made, how much money was involved and the type of work involved. The Contractors must use Special Provisions D Part B, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities for complying with this disclosure requirement. The Contractor shall require this form to be filed with the Contractor on any subgrants or subcontracts it makes in excess of \$100,000 if funds have been spent as stipulated in this paragraph. The Contractor will then forward a legible copy of Special Provisions D Part B, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities to the Texas Education Agency.

Additionally, this certification requires the Contractor to incorporate the language of this certification into any award or Contract documents for awarding subgrants or subcontracts that exceed \$100,000 and that subgrantees and subcontractors shall certify and disclose accordingly.

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities for lobbying services procured (pursuant to Title 31 U.S.C. §1352). This disclosure form is required for any federal grant/contract received in excess of \$100,000 and on any subgrant/subcontract made by the grantee/contractor. (Read the instructions for this schedule for further information.) **Do not complete and sign this disclosure form unless lobbying activities are being disclosed.**

Federal Program Name: _____

1. Type of Federal Action: <input type="checkbox"/> Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Grant	2. Status of Federal Action <input type="checkbox"/> Bid/Offer/Application <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Award <input type="checkbox"/> Post-award	3. Report Type <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Filing <input type="checkbox"/> Material Change For Material Change Only: Year _____ Quarter _____ Date of Last Report: _____
4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity: <input type="checkbox"/> Subawardee Tier _____, if known: Congressional District, if known: _____.		5. If Reporting Entity in No. 4 is Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime: Texas Education Agency 1701 N. Congress Avenue Austin, Texas 78701 Congressional District: 10
6. Federal Department/Agency:		7. Federal Program Name/Description: CFDA Number, if applicable: _____
8. Federal Action Number, if known:		9. Award Amount, if known: \$ _____
10. A) Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant (If individual, Last name, First name, MI):		B) Individuals Performing Services (include address, if different from 10 A) (Last name, First name, MI):
11. Information requested through this form is authorized by Title 31 U.S.C. §1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when this transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to Title 31 U.S.C. §1352. This information will be reported to the Congress semi-annually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.		Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Title: _____ Telephone No: _____ Date: _____
Federal Use Only:		Authorized for Local Reproduction Standard Form—LLL

(STCONT)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIAL PROVISIONS - C
PART B
DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

The filing of this form is required for each payment or agreement to make payment to any lobbying entity for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with a covered Federal action. Complete all items that apply for both the initial filing and material change report.

1. Identify the type of covered Federal action for which lobbying activity is and/or has been secured to influence the outcome of a covered Federal action.
2. Identify the status of the covered Federal action.
3. Identify the appropriate classification of this report. If this is a follow-up report caused by a material change to the information previously reported, enter the year and quarter in which the change occurred. Enter the date of the last previously submitted report by this reporting entity for this covered Federal action.

Each organization shall file a disclosure form at the end of each calendar quarter in which there occurs any event that requires disclosure or that materially affects the accuracy of the information contained in any disclosure form previously filed by such organization. An event that materially affects the accuracy of the information reported includes:

- (a) A cumulative increase of \$25,000 or more in the amount paid or expected to be paid for influencing or attempting to influence a covered Federal action; or
 - (b) A change in the organization(s) or individual(s) influencing or attempting to influence a covered Federal action; or
 - (c) A change in the officer(s), employee(s), or Member(s) of Congress contacted to influence or attempt to influence a covered Federal action.
4. Enter the full name, address, city, state, and zip code of the reporting entity. Include congressional district, if known. Check the appropriate classification of the reporting entity that designates if it is, or expects to be, a prime or subaward recipient. Identify the tier of the subawardee, e.g., the first subawardee of the prime is the 1st tier. Subawards, include but are not limited to, subcontracts, subgrants and contract awards under grants.
 5. If the organization filing the report in item 4 checks "Subawardee," then enter the full name, address, city, state and zip code of the prime Federal recipient. Include congressional district, if known.
 6. Enter the name of the Federal agency making the award or loan commitment. Include at least one organizational level below agency name, if known. For example, Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard.
 7. Enter the Federal program name or description for the covered Federal action (item 1). If known, enter the full Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and loan commitments.
 8. Enter the most appropriate Federal identifying number available for the Federal action identified in item 1 (e.g., Request for Proposal (RFP) number; Invitation for Bid (IFB) number; grant announcement number; the contract, grant, or loan award number; the application/proposal control number assigned by the Federal agency). Include prefixes, e.g., "RFP-DE-90-001."
 9. For a covered Federal action where there has been an award by the Federal agency, enter the Federal amount of the award for the prime entity identified in item 4 or 5.
 10. (a) Enter the full name, address, city, state and zip code of the lobbying entity engaged by the reporting entity identified in item 4 to influence the covered Federal action.

(b) Enter the full names of the individual(s) performing services, and include full address if different from 10(a). Enter Last Name, First Name, and Middle Initial (MI).
 11. The certifying official shall sign and date the form, print his/her name, title, and telephone number.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS - D
Historically Underutilized Business Subcontracting Plan (HSP) Changes and Reporting

- A. Any changes to the HUB Subcontracting Plan (HSP) submitted in the Contractor's proposal must be approved by the Agency HUB Coordinator before staffing changes are initiated.
- B. If applicable, contractor must submit monthly compliance reports (Prime Contractor Progress Assessment Report (PAR) to the TEA HUB Coordinator, verifying their compliance with the HSP, including the use/expenditures they have made to all subcontractors. (The PAR is available at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=7038>).