

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

(Contract Amount over \$5,000)

THIS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT (hereinafter "Agreement") is between **Aspire Construction & Design** hereinafter "INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR"), with its principal place of business at **352 University Ave. SW. Suite S107, Atlanta, Ga. 30310** and the DeKalb County School District (hereinafter "DCSD"), with its principal place of business at 1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR and DCSD are referred to herein jointly as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party." In consideration of the mutual agreements and covenants set forth herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt, adequacy and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties to this Agreement hereby covenant and agree as follows:

- A. ENGAGEMENT:** Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, DCSD hereby retains INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, as an independent contractor, to provide the Services (as described below), and INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR hereby accepts such engagement to provide the Services to DCSD.
- B. SERVICES:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees to render the following services (hereinafter "Services") (Description should clearly define WHAT? WHERE? WHEN?): Specific deliverables, performance standards, deliverable dates/milestones and scope of work. If an attachment is used for this section, reference it with "SEE ATTACHED SCOPE OF WORK".

Repairs, Demos and Renovation Services District Wide

1. **Performance of Services.** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR (a) will supply all tools and materials necessary to perform the Services under this Agreement; (b) use its best efforts to furnish the Services to DCSD as and when requested or as otherwise required hereunder; (c) will perform the Services in a good, workmanlike and professional manner, in accordance with all applicable industry customs and standards and with the same degree of skill and care which others would exercise in like circumstances; (d) will provide such warranties as are consistent with industry customs and standards or as otherwise expressly required hereunder; (e) act with prudence and diligence in the performance of the Services; (f) act in good faith and in the best interests of the DCSD in the performances of the Services; and (g) devote such time, energy and abilities as is necessary to perform the Services in a timely and productive manner. Any tangible materials or other deliverables (whether tangible or intangible) to be produced for to or delivered to DCSD as part of the Services will be of merchantable quality and free from defects in materials and workmanship. Subject to any other written agreement between INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR and DCSD, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR is free to engage in other independent contracting activities, provided that INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR does not engage in any such activities which are inconsistent with or conflict with INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's Services for DCSD, or that so occupy INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's attention as to interfere with the proper and efficient performance of the Services.

2. **Supervision of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR represents and warrants that it has the knowledge, training, skills and resources necessary to perform the Services. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR acknowledges and agrees that DCSD shall retain the right to require certain results and/or deliverables in conformity with this Agreement or which meet or exceed the requirements hereof. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR will determine, and is solely responsible for, the means, method and details in connection with the performance of the Services. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR further acknowledges and agrees that DCSD shall not exercise any control over the time, manner, means or methods of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's performance of the Services.

- C. TERM:** The Term of this Agreement is for the period from the Start Date set forth below through December 31 of the year in which it is made. At such time, this Agreement shall automatically renew for the period beginning January 1 of the following year through the End Date set forth below, unless DCSD shall provide notice to INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR of non-renewal of its desire not to renew this Agreement by

November 30. For the avoidance of doubt, the End Date may not be more than one (1) year from the Start Date and **in no event shall the Term hereof exceed one (1) year.**

Start Date: 7-1-2025

End Date: 6-30-2026

1. **Termination for Convenience.** DCSD may terminate this Agreement at any time, for any (or no) reason, upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. In such event, DCSD shall pay INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR for all Services performed prior to termination.

2. **Termination for Breach.** In the event INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR breaches any term or condition of this Agreement, DCSD shall provide written notice to INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR thereof. Should INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR fail and/or refuse to cure such breach within seven (7) days of its notification thereof, DCSD may terminate this Agreement for cause. In such event, DCSD shall pay INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR for all Services performed prior to termination, less any damages incurred (or reasonably expected to be incurred) by DCSD in connection therewith.

3. **Return of Materials; Delivery of Deliverables.** Within three (3) business days of the termination of this Agreement, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR will deliver to DCSD all documents, materials, data and information gathered, developed or created by INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR prior to the termination of this Agreement. Under no circumstances shall INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR assert any lien or other claim over or relating to any such documents, material, data and information.

4. **Time Periods.** Any reference to "day" used in this Agreement shall mean a calendar day.

D. **SERVICE FEES:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall be paid the following fee for the Services: (check the appropriate compensation plan and complete blanks)

- A fixed, lump-sum amount of \$ _____, all paid at the end OR
- \$ _____ per hour; maximum hours are to be _____.
- Unless this box is checked and a payment schedule is attached hereto, DCSD shall make payment for all Services upon final completion thereof. Any other option, **must** indicate, "see attached".

MAXIMUM CONTRACTED AMOUNT

The TOTAL amount of payments by DCSD, including all fees, travel, or other expenses under this Agreement shall not exceed **\$90,000** hereinafter this amount is referred to as the "Maximum Contracted Amount"). The Maximum Contracted Amount shall not be modified unless otherwise agreed in a written amendment hereto. No adjustment to the Total Maximum Amount shall be made unless there is a change in the scope or time for performance of the Services.

1. **Invoices.** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall prepare and submit to DCSD invoices for payment of all charges. Each invoice shall be in such detail and in such format as DCSD may reasonably require. As a condition precedent to all required payments under this agreement and/or Payment Schedule, the Independent Contractor shall submit to DCSD for review and approval, invoices detailing the specific work performed for which payment is requested, in a form acceptable to DCSD. Required payment under this Agreement shall only be for actual work performed by the Independent Contractor and shall only be pursuant to invoices reviewed and approved by DCSD.
2. **Maximum Amount.** DCSD shall not be obligated to pay any amount in excess of the Maximum Contracted Amount for all Services under all invoices.
3. **Payment Not Acceptance.** Neither payment by DCSD nor DCSD's receipt of the Services shall constitutes acceptance of any defective Services.

- E. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIP:** It is mutually understood, acknowledged and agreed that the parties intend to create and are creating an independent contractor relationship under this Agreement. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR is an independent contractor for all purposes, having the right to exercise independent judgment as to the time, place, and manner of performing the Services hereunder. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR is not subject to the control of DCSD except as set forth herein. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR is not authorized to enter into any agreement or incur any debt or obligation on behalf of DCSD and is not authorized to otherwise act on behalf of DCSD or to hold itself out as an agent of DCSD. Under no circumstances shall INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR or any of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's employees, look to DCSD as his/her/its employer, or as a partner, agent or principal of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.
- F. NO BENEFITS:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR acknowledges that INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR is not eligible for or entitled to participate in any benefits provided by DCSD to its employees, regardless of the length of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR'S relationship with DCSD and regardless of whether INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR is held to be a common-law employee of DCSD for any purpose. Neither INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, nor any of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's employees, shall be entitled to any benefits made available to DCSD's employees, including, but not limited to, health insurance, workers' compensation, disability insurance, vacation or sick pay. Accordingly, with full knowledge and understanding of the foregoing, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR hereby expressly waives any claim or right that INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR may have, now or in the future, to such benefits and agrees not to make any claim for such benefits. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for providing, at INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's expense, and in INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's name, unemployment, disability, worker's compensation and other insurance, as well as licenses and permits usual or necessary for conducting the Services.
- G. TAXES AND REPORTING:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR is solely responsible for the payment of all federal, state and local income taxes, self-employment taxes, Social Security taxes, Medicare taxes, workers' compensation premiums, unemployment taxes, and any other similar obligations arising from the performance of the Services or receipt of the fees hereunder. DCSD will not withhold any income or social security taxes from any fees payable to INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR hereunder and will not pay any such taxes for or on behalf of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. DCSD shall report all fees paid to INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR to the Internal Revenue Service (and other taxing agencies) on Form 1099 or other equivalent forms. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR acknowledges and agrees that it is solely responsible for the reporting of all fees payable hereunder as income and for payment of all taxes due thereon. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees to indemnify DCSD and hold it harmless from any and all obligations imposed on DCSD to pay any taxes or insurance premiums, including the interest and penalties thereon, in connection with any payments made to INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR by DCSD pursuant to this Agreement. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees to pay, and to indemnify and hold DCSD harmless from, any tax imposed by any governmental authority with respect to either or both of any payment to be made by DCSD under this Agreement or any item to be delivered by INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR to DCSD under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, sales, use, excise, value added, withholding, or similar tax or any fees and penalties or interest associated with any of the foregoing.
- 1. ACA Compliance.** If INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR is an individual, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees that he/she is not an employee of DCSD for purposes of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, 42 U.S.C. § 18001, et seq. ("ACA"), or for any other purpose. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees that he/she will be responsible for all compliance and reporting requirements under the ACA and certifies that he/she has their own individual health plan coverage. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees that he/she shall make the necessary federal, state, and local filings and returns as required by law at the appropriate times, including, but not limited to, federal, state, and local income tax (including estimates), filings and returns required by the Self-Employment Contribution Act, and any other filing or return, required by federal, state, or local government. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR retains sole and exclusive liability for all contributions, taxes or payments required to be made on account of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's employees under federal or state income tax laws, unemployment and workers' compensation acts, social security acts, and all other legislation requiring employer contributions or withholdings.

2. **ACA Reporting.** With respect to ACA compliance obligations, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR acknowledges and agrees that: a. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR is responsible for filing Form 1094-C and Form 1095-C with respect to all assigned workers assigned to DCSD; b. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR is responsible for compliance with Internal Revenue Code Section 4980H with respect to assigned workers; c. If requested by DCSD in connection with any governmental audit or inquiry, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR will cooperate in furnishing DCSD with detailed information on assigned workers as reasonably needed for DCSD to respond to such audit or inquiry, and at no additional charge, d. In addition to any existing indemnification obligations set forth in this Agreement, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees to reimburse DCSD for any penalty or tax imposed against DCSD with respect to any assigned worker, and to indemnify and hold harmless DCSD against all liabilities, penalties and fees that may be imposed upon DCSD, under Internal Revenue Code Section 4980H(a) or (b); *provided* that DCSD will provide prompt notice to INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR of its receipt of any notice of assessment of penalty or taxes under Code Section 4980H and INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR will cooperate fully with DCSD in contesting such assessment and accepting responsibility for its assigned workers.

H. **NOTICES:** All notices shall be in writing, be deemed served on the date on which they are actually received, and shall be served by personal delivery, or United States First Class Mail, properly addressed with postage prepaid, or a nationally recognized overnight courier/delivery service, electronic mail transmission, or telephonic facsimile transmission. Invoices, Notices of Termination of this Agreement or of an election not to renew this Agreement shall be served directly upon DCSD or INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, as the case may be, addressed as set forth below:

DCSD's address and its contact person are:

DeKalb County School District
1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd.
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Attention (Dept Head): Lemuel Hawkins

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's address and its contact person are:

352 University Ave. SW, Suite S107.
Atlanta, Ga. 30310
678-310-4643
amber@aspirecd.com

Attention: Amber Lawson

I. **WORKING RELATIONSHIP:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees that DCSD's daily contract representative for the purpose of this Agreement is Lemuel Hawkins and that such designated representative shall be authorized by DCSD to act on its behalf. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR will consult with DCSD's representative before finalizing recommendations or taking action at key decision points. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall fully cooperate with DCSD, and DCSD's representative or designee. Such cooperation shall include, without limitation, providing any requested information to DCSD's representative and advising, meeting with, consulting with, and coordinating with DCSD's representative.

1. **Employees.** DCSD shall have the right, at its sole discretion, to demand and require INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR to remove any employee or subcontractor working on any provision of this Agreement and to replace the employee or subcontractor without cost or liability to the DCSD.

2. **Communication.** For purposes of safety and otherwise, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, at all times, shall ensure its ability to thoroughly and clearly communicate, in any and all necessary languages, with DCSD's representative and with INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's employees, agents, representatives, and subcontractors.

3. **Protection of IT Assets.** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall ensure that any and all electronic devices, computers, software, hardware, equipment and other similar and related items that are utilized by INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR or any entity or person under INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's supervision or control, do not harm, or allow harm, to DCSD's computers, systems, networks, and technology. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall take any and all measures possible to protect DCSD's computers, systems, networks, and technology from viruses and other malicious codes.

- J. DEFECTIVE OR NON-CONFORMING SERVICES:** If the Services fail to meet the standards set forth in this Agreement, DCSD may elect to have INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR re-perform, at no cost to DCSD, any of the Services which fail to meet said standards where: (a) such failure appears during the performance of the Services or within one (1) year from the date of completion of the Services, and (b) DCSD notifies INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR of any such failure within sixty (60) days of the time that the failure becomes apparent. This paragraph shall not be interpreted to limit the right of DCSD to pursue and obtain any and all other remedies against INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR at law or in equity.
- K. DCSD WARRANTY:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR acknowledges that it shall be entitled to rely on the accuracy of information supplied by DCSD or any of DCSD's contractors or consultants to be provided by DCSD hereunder. Except for the foregoing warranty, DCSD makes no other warranties, whether express or implied.
- L. WORK FOR HIRE:** To the extent that the Services involve the creation or development of custom, proprietary materials for DCSD which are specially ordered and commissioned by DCSD hereunder and are subject to copyright, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees that the Services are performed as a "work for hire" as that term is defined under U.S. copyright law, and that as a result, DCSD will own all copyrights in any and all materials or other deliverables resulting from or provided in conjunction with the Services. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees to perform such Services in a diligent and workmanlike manner. The content, style, form and format of any such work for hire shall be completely satisfactory to DCSD and shall be consistent with DCSD's standards. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR hereby grants DCSD the right to use and license others to use INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR and INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's employees' name, voice, signature, photograph, likeness and biographical information in connection with and related to the Services, including any materials, deliverables or works for hire provided in conjunction therewith.
- M. OWNERSHIP OF WORK PRODUCT:** Any reports, recommendations, estimates, specifications, drawings, technical data, sketches, computer software, and all other information developed, created or procured by INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR or its subcontractors in connection with the performance of Services hereunder shall be the property of DCSD. In entering into this Agreement, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR hereby transfers to DCSD all right, title, and interest, including the copyright, in and to such work product except that, with respect to any standard or non-customized software incorporated into the work product, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall grant to DCSD only a license to use such software. All original technical data, evaluations, reports and other work product of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall be delivered to DCSD upon the completion, cancellation or termination of services under this Agreement within three (3) business days of such completion, cancellation or termination. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR may retain one (1) copy of all documents produced by it for its permanent file.
- N. ACCOUNTING AND RECORD KEEPING:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall maintain a system of accounting and record keeping for all Services. Further, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR will allow DCSD's inspection of necessary supporting receipts and documentation for audit purposes for a period of six (6) years after completion of Services provided under this Agreement.

- O. BACKGROUND CHECKS:** If INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR or any personnel/subcontractors of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR will have contact with students or will perform services in buildings or in close proximity to students, then a Background Check is required for each person providing said Services. Such background check shall be the same criminal background check, within the last 365 days, as required by DCSD employees. Such background checks will be performed by DCSD at the expense of the INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. Additionally, any charges against the INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, or personnel, may be deemed unacceptable in DCSD's sole discretion regardless of whether dismissed, expunged, sealed, removed from the record, treated as a "first offender" or dead docketed. Upon receipt and evaluation of DCSD's background check results, DCSD may demand that the personnel named in the check result, not provide services to DCSD premises. Any failure of the INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, or personnel, to obtain a criminal records background check through DCSD, as stated herein, may result in termination of any resulting contract between INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR and DCSD.
- P. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall comply with all federal, state and local laws, regulations, ordinances, and DeKalb County Board of Education policies in the performance of the Services including, but not limited to, all laws governing health, safety, the protection or preservation of the environment, OSHA requirements, and occupational licensing.
- Q. IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR certifies its compliance with the Georgia Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act of 2011, O.C.G.A. § 13-10-90 *et seq.* INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR warrants that it has registered with and uses the federal work authorization program commonly known as "E-Verify" and agrees that if it contracts for the physical performance of services by others hereunder, it shall do so only with firms or persons who present an affidavit as required by O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91.

*****INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR MUST SIGN AND RETURN THE E-VERIFY AFFIDAVITS BEFORE ANY PAYMENT CAN BE MADE HEREUNDER*****

- R. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR will not discriminate against any worker, employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, citizenship status, veteran status, sexual orientation or handicap. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that workers are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, citizenship status, veteran status, sexual orientation or handicap. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer, recruitment, or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship.
- S. CONTINGENCY FEES:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR represents that it has not employed and shall not employ any person other than its own principals and employees to solicit this Agreement or any contract with DCSD, and that it has not and shall not pay any person other than its own principals and employees any fee, commission, percentage, gift or other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement or any other contract with DCSD.
- T. SUBCONTRACTORS:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall manage all work and services performed under this Agreement. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall not, unless DCSD consents in writing thereto, subcontract all or part of the Services or otherwise assign, whether by operation of law or otherwise, any of the rights, duties or obligations of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR hereunder. In the event DCSD consents in writing to any such subcontracting or assignment, the rights and obligations of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall not be released or diminished thereby. All of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's subcontractors shall be directly responsible to INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR and shall be under INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's direct supervision. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall be as fully responsible and accountable to DCSD for the acts and omissions of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR's subcontractors and of persons either directly or indirectly employed by any subcontractors in the performance of services under this Agreement as INDEPENDENT

CONTRACTOR is for the acts and omissions of persons it directly employs. Other than DCSD being a third-party beneficiary to any agreement between INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR and its subcontractors, no other contractual relationship between DCSD and any subcontractor is created by any provision contained in this Agreement. If INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR utilizes subcontractor(s) with respect to this Agreement, then INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR will require subcontractor(s) to comply with all terms and conditions of this Agreement including, but not limited to the insurance requirements. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall require all subcontractors to supply a certificate of insurance as required herein before the subcontractor commences any work.

- U. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall not assign its rights hereunder, excepting its right to payment, nor shall it delegate any of its duties hereunder without the written consent of DCSD. Subject to the provisions of the immediately preceding sentence, each Party hereto binds itself, its successors, assigns and legal representatives to the other and to the successors, assigns and legal representatives of such other Party.
- V. INSURANCE:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR and all subcontractors and consultants, shall maintain insurance in the types and coverage amounts shown below, which insurance shall provide coverage for INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR during the term of this Agreement. On the date INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR signs this Agreement, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR shall provide DCSD with (i) an endorsement from the insurer naming the DeKalb County School District and The DeKalb County Board of Education as an additional insured under the liability policies and (ii) certificate(s) verifying that these insurance coverages and limits are in force. Additional certificates of insurance shall be provided whenever individual policies are renewed (or replaced) on their anniversary date and at such other times as DCSD requests.

The insurance requirements of this Agreement are:

Type of Insurance	Coverage Limits
Commercial General Liability Including Contractual Liability, Bodily Injury and Property Damage	\$1,000,000 per occurrence \$2,000,000 general aggregate Products/Completed Operations Aggregate
Comprehensive Auto Liability Bodily Injury and Property Damage Covering Owned, Hired and Non Owned Autos	\$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit each accident
Umbrella Liability/Excess Liability	\$2,000,000 occurrence \$2,000,000 aggregate
Workers Compensation and Employer's Liability	Statutory Coverage A \$1,000,000 per accident

1. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR waives all rights, including rights of subrogation, against DCSD and its respective directors, officers, partners, Board Members, officials, agents, insurers, subcontractors, consultants and employees for damages covered by any type of insurance during and after the completion of the Work.
 2. NO LIMITATION ON LIABILITY: The limits of the coverage as agreed upon by the Parties shall not be construed as a limit on INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR'S potential liability to DCSD.
- W. INDEMNIFICATION:** INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the DeKalb County Board of Education, DCSD, their respective members, officers, employees, agents and representatives (hereinafter the "Released Parties") from and against any and all liabilities, claims, actions, causes of action, losses, damages, demands, suits, judgments, costs and expenses, including legal fees, costs and expenses incurred in and about investigation, defense or prosecution thereof, arising out of the performance of the Services by of INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR further agrees to release, indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all claims, demands, rights, liabilities and causes of action incurred or suffered by INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR from events over which the Released Parties exercise no control, including Acts of God, strikes, government restrictions or other force majeure events.

X. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION:

1. **Waiver.** Failure of DCSD to insist in any one or more instances on performance of any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, or to exercise any right or privilege contained in this Agreement, or the waiver of any breach of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, shall not be considered as creating or constituting a waiver of any such terms, conditions, rights or privileges, and the same shall continue and remain in force and effect.

2. **Governing Law; Jurisdiction.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia. In the event of any dispute arising out of this Agreement or the performance of Services hereunder, each of the parties irrevocably submits to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the Superior Court of DeKalb County, Georgia with respect to any litigation in connection therewith.

3. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in separate counterparts, each of which is deemed to be an original and all of which taken together constitute one and the same agreement. A scanned or photocopy of an original signature shall be deemed an original for purposes of this Agreement.

Y. CAPTIONS: The headings in this Agreement are for the convenience of the Parties hereto and shall in no way affect the construction or interpretation of this Agreement or any part hereof.

Z. ENTIRE AGREEMENT: This Agreement (including any exhibits and schedules hereto) constitutes the entire and exclusive agreement between the Parties with reference to this contract and supersedes any and all prior communications, discussions, negotiations, understandings, or agreements. This Agreement may be amended only by a writing signed by both DCSD and INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR acknowledges that DCSD does not, and will not be deemed to, waive this condition precedent under any circumstances and that no employee or agent of DCSD is authorized to waive this requirement.

AA. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION: INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, and all consultants and subcontractors, agree to keep confidential all information, records and documents obtained from DCSD or created on behalf of DCSD in connection with the performance of the Services. Such confidential information includes, but is not limited to, data collected by INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR and any student information, including but not limited to, student test scores, student test results, student attendance records, student assessments or student grades. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees not to use any confidential information received for any purpose other than in connection with the services provided herein. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR agrees to limit disclosure of the confidential information to its employees, officers, directors, affiliates and consultants with a bona fide need to know, but only to the extent necessary in connection with the services. All individuals receiving access to the confidential information must previously have entered into a confidentiality agreement with INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR or otherwise be bound under terms at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

[Signatures appear on following page]

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT USE ONLY

752 OPERATIONS

School/Department Name and Location Number

Charge Code (Operations)

FUND	FUNCTION	PROJECT	OBJECTIVE	LOCATION	PROGRAM	FACILITY	DIVISION	FUTURE
100	2600	524000	00011	7620	9990	8013	040	0000

THE ABOVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED BY:

ASPIRE CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN

BY: 

PRINT NAME: Amber Lawson

TITLE: CEO

DATE: March 14, 2025

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BY: _____

NAME: Dr. Devon Q. Horton

TITLE: Superintendent

DATE: _____