



South East SELPA
Making a Difference



Santa Clara County Office of Education

SELPA's I, II, III, IV, VII

MASTER CONTRACT

GENERAL AGREEMENT FOR NONSECTARIAN, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL AND AGENCY SERVICES

LEA SAN JOSÉ UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Contract Year 2024-2025

Nonpublic Agency THE STEPPING STONES GROUP, LLC

Type of Contract:

_____ Master Contract for fiscal year with Individual Service Agreements (ISA) to be approved throughout the term of this contract.

When this section is included as part of any Master Contract, the changes specified above shall amend Section 2 – Term of Master Contract.



SANTA CLARA COUNTY SELPAs/ DISTRICT MASTER CONTRACT
GENERAL AGREEMENT
FOR NONSECTARIAN, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL/AGENCY SERVICES
2024-2025

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**SANTA CLARA COUNTY SELPAS
MASTER CONTRACT
FOR NONPUBLIC, NONSECTARIAN SCHOOL/AGENCY SERVICES
2024-2025**

THIS MASTER CONTRACT (contract) is made and entered into this 12th day of June 2024, between San José Unified School District, County of Santa Clara, hereinafter referred to as the "LEA" and The Stepping Stones Group, LLC, hereinafter referred to as "CONTRACTOR" for the purpose of providing special education and/or related services to individuals with disabilities under the authorization of Education Code Sections 56157, and 56365-56366.7. It is understood that this Contract does not commit LEA to payment for special education and related services provided to any individual unless and until an Individual Service Agreement (ISA) for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency (NPS/NPA) Services is executed between LEA and CONTRACTOR on behalf of such individual or interim telephone approval is given to the CONTRACTOR by a representative of LEA.

WITNESSETH:

Whereas, LEA has determined that the need for such services exists;

Whereas, CONTRACTOR is a nonpublic nonsectarian school or agency holding all required certificates and licenses; and

Whereas, that CONTRACTOR is capable of and willing to provide such services.

A current copy of California Department of Education NPS/NPA certification is attached. If certification expires during Contract period, CONTRACTOR must provide an updated copy.

In consideration of mutual promises contained herein, it is mutually agreed between the parties as follows:

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. INDIVIDUAL SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR NONPUBLIC, NONSECTARIAN SCHOOL/AGENCY SERVICES

An Individual Services Agreement (ISA) for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency (NPS/NPA) Services shall be a part of this Master Contract, which CONTRACTOR will be required to execute with LEA with respect to each student for whom CONTRACTOR is to provide special education and/or designated instruction and services. Each student's Individual Services Agreement (ISA) shall identify the provider of each service required by the student's IEP (CCR 3062(e)). Individual Services Agreements shall only be issued for those students enrolled with the approval of the LEA. CONTRACTOR is responsible for providing those services, which it has agreed to provide for each individual student in that student's ISA, unless mutually agreed upon otherwise. Individual Services Agreements are null and void upon termination of the Master Contract.

The Individual Services Agreement may be terminated by the LEA or the CONTRACTOR for cause, as set forth in EC section 56366 (a) (4), with twenty (20) days written notice. The ISA may be terminated without advance notice if both parties agree to do so in writing.

2. **TERM**

The term of this Master Contract shall be from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 (Title 5 California Code of Regulations section 3062(a) unless otherwise stated. Neither the CONTRACTOR nor the LEA is required to renew this Master Contract in subsequent contract years. The parties acknowledge that any subsequent Master Contract is to be renegotiated prior to June 30, 2025. In the event the contract negotiations are not agreed to by June 30th, the most recently executed Master Contract will remain in effect for 90 days. (Ed Code 56366 (c)(1), Title 5 California Code of Regulations section 3062(d).) No Master Contract will be offered unless and until all the contracting requirements have been satisfied. The offer of a Master Contract to a CONTRACTOR is at the sole discretion of the LEA.

3. **MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

This Contract may be modified or amended by a written document, which complies with legal mandates, executed by CONTRACTOR and LEA. If certification expires during Master Contract period, CONTRACTOR must provide an updated copy or a copy of a waiver of such certification issued by the CDE. This Master Contract will be null and void if such certification or waiver is expired and not renewed or waived, or if such certification is revoked, rescinded, or otherwise nullified during the effective period of this Master Contract. The CONTRACTOR agrees to apply the same rate for the term of the contract unless mutually agreed otherwise in writing by LEA and contractor. Changes in the administrative or financial provisions of the Contract which do not alter the educational services or placement may be made at any time during the term of the Contract, as mutually agreed in writing by CONTRACTOR and LEA.

4. **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS**

During the term of this Contract, CONTRACTOR shall comply with all applicable federal, state, CDE, LEA and other local statutes, laws, ordinances, and regulations including, but not limited to, those relating to the required special education services, facilities for individuals with disabilities, student enrollment and transfer, corporal punishment, student discipline, and positive behavior interventions. The CONTRACTOR shall also fully cooperate with any due process or complaint investigations. CONTRACTOR shall complete and sign the Contractor Certification attached hereto and incorporated herein as EXHIBIT A.

5. **DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

The following acronyms and definitions shall apply for the purpose of the contract:

- BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan)
- CONTRACT (Master Contract)
- CONTRACTOR - the term "CONTRACTOR" means a nonpublic, nonsectarian school/agency certified by the California Department of Education and its officers, agents and employees.
- CDE (California Department of Education)
- CDOJ (California Department of Justice)
- DAYS - Calendar days, unless otherwise specified
- DIS (Designated Instruction Service); also known as "Related Services"
- FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education)
- FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974)
- IEP (Individualized Education Program)
- ISA (Individual Service Agreement)
- ITP (Individual Transition Plan)
- IMMEDIATE - within 24 Hours

- LEA (Local Education Agency)
- LEA Representative - the term “LEA representative” means a LEA administrator designated to be responsible for nonpublic school/agencies. It is understood, a representative of the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) of which the LEA is a member is an authorized LEA representative in collaboration with the LEA. The LEA maintains sole responsibility for the contract, unless otherwise specified in the contract.
- LICENSE - the term “license” means a valid non-expired document issued by a licensing agency within the Department of Consumer Affairs or other state licensing office authorized to grant licenses and authorizing the bearer of the document to provide certain professional services or refer to themselves using a specified professional title including but not limited to mental health and board and care services at a residential placement. If a license is not available through an appropriate state licensing agency, a certificate of registration with the appropriate professional organization at the national or state level which has standards established for the certificate that are equivalent to a license shall be deemed to be a license as defined in Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations section 3001(l).
- CREDENTIAL - the term “credential” means a valid credential, life diploma, permit, or document in special education or student personnel services issued by, or under the jurisdiction of, the State Board of Education if issued prior to 1970 or the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, which entitles the holder thereof to perform services for which certification qualifications are required as defined in Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations section 3001(g).
- LRE (Least Restrictive Environment)
- NOTIFICATION - within fourteen (14) calendar days, unless otherwise specified.
- NPA (Nonpublic Agency, as defined in EC 56035)
- NPS (Nonpublic School, as defined in EC 56034)
- OAH (Office of Administrative Hearings)
- PARENT - “Parent” means:
 - i. a biological or adoptive parent; unless the biological or adoptive parent does not have legal authority to make educational decisions for the child,
 - ii. a guardian generally authorized to act as the child’s parent or authorized to make educational decisions for the child,
 - iii. an individual acting in the place of a biological or adoptive parent, including a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative with whom the child lives, or an individual who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare,
 - iv. a surrogate parent,
 - v. a foster parent if the authority of the biological or adoptive parent to make educational decisions on the child’s behalf has been specifically limited by court order in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations 300.30(b)(1) or (2).

Parent does not include the state or any political subdivision of government or the nonpublic school or agency under contract with the LEA for the provision of special education or designated instruction and services for a child. (California Education Code section 56028).

- Qualified - The term “qualified” means that a person holds a certificate, permit or other document equivalent to that which staff in a public school are required to hold to provide special education and designated instruction and services and has met federal and state certification, licensing, registration, or other comparable requirements which apply to the area in which he or she is providing special education or related services, including those requirements set forth in Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations sections 200.56 and 200.58, and those requirements set forth in Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Sections 3064 and 3065, and adheres to the standards of professional practice established in federal and state law or regulation, including the standards contained in the California Business and Professions Code.

Nothing in this definition shall be construed as restricting the activities in services of a graduate needing direct hours leading to licensure, or of a student teacher or intern leading to a graduate degree at an accredited or approved college or university, as authorized by state laws or regulations. (Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Section 3001 (r)).

- SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area)
- SELPA AU (Special Education Local Plan Area Administrative Unit)
- SubCONTRACTOR - any individual contracted to provide direct service to student.
- SPI (Superintendent of Public Instruction)

6. NO DISCRIMINATION

LEA and CONTRACTOR shall not, in employment or operation of its programs, unlawfully discriminate on the basis of gender, nationality, national origin, ancestry, race, color, ethnicity, ethnic group affiliation, religion, age, marital status, pregnancy or parental status, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, physical or mental disability, genetic information or any other classification protected by federal or state law or the perception of one or more of such characteristics or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

In the event any CONTRACTOR employee, working on a public school campus, alerts CONTRACTOR or LEA of a concern, CONTRACTOR and LEA shall coordinate efforts to respond and rectify any validated concerns.

7. GOVERNING LAW

The terms and conditions of the Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of California with venue in Santa Clara County, California.

II. ADMINISTRATION OF MASTER CONTRACT

8. NOTICES

All notices involving 1) revocation of CONTRACTOR's certification, 2) Master Contract disputes, 3) changes of LEA student's residence outside of current LEA attendance area, 4) termination of ISA, 5) termination of Master Contract, 6) notification of cancellation or material change in CONTRACTOR's or LEA's insurance coverage, and 7) LEA's reasonable objections to a subCONTRACTOR's liability insurance policy, are required to be given to the LEA and/or CONTRACTOR in writing and may be delivered in person or by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid or by other delivery services. Notices to LEA shall be addressed to Director of Special Education, 855 Lenzen Avenue, San José, CA 95126. Notices to The Stepping Stones Group, LLC shall be addressed to Joseph "Jay" Totter, 99 South Almaden Blvd., Suite 600, San Jose, CA 95113. If mailed, notice shall be effective as of the date of postmark on receipt by addressee. If delivered by hand, the effective date shall be the date of receipt of addressee.

For state data reporting purposes, the Contractor will also send annual timely reports with required data elements to the abovementioned LEA contact 1) All incidents in which one or more statutory offenses described in Education Code sections 48900 and 48915 that were committed by any LEA student regardless if it results in a disciplinary action of in- or out-of-school suspension or expulsion and 2) All incidents resulting in the use of a behavioral restraint and/or seclusion even if they were not a result of a violation of Education Code sections 48900 and 48915.

9. MASTER CONTRACT DISPUTES

Any disputes or disagreements between CONTRACTOR and LEA regarding implementation or interpretation of this Master Contract, or otherwise relating to this Master Contract, that are not informally voluntarily resolved shall be addressed and/or resolved as set forth in this section of the Master Contract. This provision in this section of the Master Contract, shall apply to all disputes and disagreements related to events that occur and/or injuries that are incurred and/or commence during the term of this Master Contract, even if the party claiming injury first discovers the events and/or injuries giving rise to the disagreement or dispute or first notifies the other party of the disagreement or dispute, after expiration of this Master Contract. For purposes of this section of the Master Contract, the term “injury” shall include monetary and/or non-monetary injuries.

Step One: The party claiming injury as a result of the facts underlying the dispute or disagreement shall first attempt to resolve the dispute directly between senior level representatives of the parties. If CONTRACTOR is the party claiming injury, CONTRACTOR shall notify the LEA’s Special Education Director or other LEA employee known or reasonably believed to be responsible for LEA’s special education program, of the existence of a disagreement or dispute and attempt to resolve the matter informally.

Step Two: If the dispute or disagreement is not resolved at Step One, the party claiming injury as a result of the facts underlying the dispute or disagreement shall notify the Administrator of the SELPA of which the LEA is a member and request that the SELPA administrator facilitate a meeting to assist both parties in resolving the dispute or disagreement. In order to attempt to resolve the dispute or disagreement, both parties must agree to participating in the facilitated meeting.

Step Three: If the dispute or disagreement is not resolved at Step Two, the party claiming injury, if it wishes to pursue resolution of the dispute or disagreement, shall notify the other party in writing that it wishes to proceed to Step Three, which involves a neutral third-party mediator. The cost of the mediator will be shared by both parties.

In this step, both parties have the opportunity to share information, describe the issues, discuss their interests and understandings, and explore ideas for the resolution of the dispute. Both parties must agree to participating in the mediation. The process remains voluntary in that the parties are not required to come to agreement. The mediator does not have the power to decide for the parties but can help the parties find a mutually acceptable resolution.

Step Four: If the dispute or disagreement is not resolved at Step Three, the party claiming injury may seek legal and/or equitable redress in a court of competent jurisdiction, or if mutually agreed to in writing by the parties, may submit the matter to the binding arbitration by an arbitrator or arbitration service to be agreed to by the parties.

10. SUBCONTRACTS AND ASSIGNMENT

- A. CONTRACTOR shall have available a list to LEA of subcontracts for any of the related services contemplated, including transportation, under this Contract.
- B. SubContracts for the provision of special education and related services may be entered into only with NPS/NPA’s certified by the California Department of Education (CDE) except for an individual providing speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, or psychological or educational assessment who has a current license issued by the applicable licensing authority for those services provided.
- C. CONTRACTOR agrees that any subCONTRACTORs providing educational instruction or services including transportation shall keep in effect an appropriate policy of liability insurance as outlined in item 15 (Insurance) of the master contract CONTRACTOR agrees that subCONTRACTORs providing transportation shall keep in effect a liability insurance policy providing at least \$1,000,000.00 coverage. CONTRACTOR shall ensure

that such subCONTRACTOR shall require the subcontractor's insurance provider to send written notice of cancellation to LEA at least twenty (20) days prior to cancellation or material change in coverage. Proof of insurance shall be provided to LEA prior to the beginning of transportation services by a subCONTRACTOR and upon renewal of coverage thereafter. Transportation subCONTRACTORS shall submit copies of insurance policies upon request of LEA; otherwise, certificates of insurance may be acceptable proof, provided that the information thereon is adequate and verifiable.

11. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS

This Contract is by and between two independent entities and is not intended to and shall not be constructed to create the relationship of agent, servant, employee, partnership, joint venture, or association.

12. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

CONTRACTOR shall provide to SELPA a copy of its current bylaws and a current list of its Board of Directors (or Trustees) if it is incorporated. CONTRACTOR and any member of its Board of Directors (or Trustees) shall disclose any relationship with LEA that constitutes or may constitute a conflict of interest pursuant to California Education Code section 56042 and including, but not limited to, employment with LEA, provision of private party assessments and/or reports, and attendance at IEP team meetings acting as a student's advocate. Pursuant to California Education code section 56042, an attorney or advocate for a parent of an individual with exceptional needs shall not request or recommend placement at CONTRACTOR's facility if the attorney or advocate is employed or contracted by the CONTRACTOR, or will receive a benefit from the CONTRACTOR, or otherwise has a conflict of interest. The CONTRACTOR shall have in place a policy to ensure that employees inform CONTRACTOR of any dual relationship with parents of students who are clients of LEA/CONTRACTOR. CONTRACTOR shall inform LEA of parents who hire employees of CONTRACTOR to provide independent services for parents on behalf of their students outside business hours. The LEA may find that this type of dual relationship is a conflict of interest and may request that any employee of the CONTRACTOR who engages in a dual relationship be reassigned from providing support services to the student during school hours.

The LEA shall neither execute an ISA with CONTRACTOR nor amend an existing ISA for a student when a recommendation for special education and/or related services is based in whole or in part on assessment(s) or reports provided by CONTRACTOR to the student without prior written authorization by LEA. This paragraph shall apply to CONTRACTOR regardless of when an assessment is performed or a report is prepared (i.e. before or after the student is enrolled in CONTRACTOR's school/agency) or whether an assessment of the student is performed or a report is prepared in the normal course of the services provided to the student by CONTRACTOR. To avoid conflict of interest, and in order to ensure the appropriateness of an Independent Educational Evaluation (hereinafter referred to as "IEE") and its recommendations, the LEA may, in its discretion, not fund an IEE by an evaluator who provides ongoing service(s) or is sought to provide service(s) to the student for whom the IEE is requested. Likewise, the LEA may, in its discretion, not fund services through the evaluator whose IEE the LEA agrees to fund. When no other appropriate assessor is available, LEA may request and if CONTRACTOR agrees, the CONTRACTOR may provide an IEE.

CONTRACTOR shall not admit a student living within the jurisdictional boundaries of the LEA on a private pay or tuition free "scholarship" basis and concurrently or subsequently advise/request parent(s) to pursue funding for the admitted school year from the LEA through due process proceedings.

13. TERMINATION

- A. This Contract may be terminated for cause by LEA or CONTRACTOR at any time. To terminate this Contract either party shall give no less than 20-calendar days written notice prior to the date of the termination (EC 56366 (a) (4)). Upon termination without default of CONTRACTOR, LEA shall make payment, without

duplication, for all services satisfactorily performed and verified expenses incurred to date of termination. Expenses shall be itemized for review and approval by LEA.

- B. In consideration of this payment, CONTRACTOR waives all right to any further payment of damage and shall turn over to LEA everything pertaining to its services hereunder, possessed by CONTRACTOR or under its control at the time of termination.
- C. Individual Service Agreements (ISA's) for NPS/NPA services may be terminated without advance notice if both parties agree to do so in writing.
- D. LEA shall not terminate this contract or Individual Service Agreements for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency Services because of the availability of a public class initiated during the course of the contract unless the parent agrees to the transfer of a student to a public school program through the IEP process. (EC 56366 (a) (4))
- E. Continued enrollment and provision of a free appropriate public education ("FAPE") to a student currently attending NPS and/or receiving services from a NPA shall not be terminated when stay put is ordered by OAH under California Education Code § 56505.

14. INDEMNIFICATION

CONTRACTOR shall defend, hold harmless and indemnify LEA and its governing board, officers, administrators, agents, employees, independent contractors, subCONTRACTORS, consultants, and other representatives, from all liabilities and claims for damage for death, sickness, or injury to any person(s) or damage to any property, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, from any cause whatsoever arising from or connected with its service hereunder, whether or not resulting from the negligence of CONTRACTOR, its agents or employees. CONTRACTOR shall save harmless and indemnify and defend LEA and its governing board, officers, agents, and employees from all damages of every nature and description proximately caused by negligent or willful acts or omissions by CONTRACTOR, its agents or employees in the course of rendering service(s) under this Agreement.

LEA shall defend, hold harmless and indemnify CONTRACTOR and its governing board, officers, administrators, agents and employees from all liabilities and claims for damage for death, sickness, or injury to any person(s) or damage to any property, including, without limitation all consequential damages, from any cause whatsoever arising from or connected with its service hereunder, whether or not resulting from the negligence of LEA, its agents or employees. LEA shall save harmless and indemnify and defend CONTRACTOR and its governing board, officers, administrators, agents, and employees from all damages of every nature and description proximately caused by negligent or willful acts of omissions by LEA, its agents or employees in the course of rendering service(s) under Contract.

Notwithstanding any contrary provisions herein, both parties agree that it retains legal responsibility for its own actions in complying with any and all obligations it has under state and federal law and will not be indemnified for the same.

15. INSURANCE

CONTRACTOR shall, at CONTRACTOR'S sole cost and expense, maintain in full force and effect, during the term of this Agreement, the following insurance coverage from a California licensed and/or admitted insurer with an A minus (A-), VII, or better rating from A.M. Best, sufficient to cover any claims, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses (including counsel fees) arising out of or in connection with CONTRACTOR'S fulfillment of any of its obligations under this Agreement or either party's use of the Work or any component or part thereof:

- A. **Commercial General Liability Insurance**, including both bodily injury and property damage, with limits as follows:

- \$ 2,000,000 per occurrence
- \$ 500,000 fire damage
- \$ 5,000 medical expenses
- \$ 1,000,000 personal & adv. injury
- \$ 3,000,000 general aggregate
- \$ 2,000,000 products/completed operations aggregate

- B. **Business Auto Liability Insurance** for all owned scheduled, non-owned or hired automobiles with a \$1 million combined single limit.

If no owned automobiles, then only hired and non-owned is required.

If CONTRACTOR uses a vehicle to travel to/from school sites, between schools and/or to/from students' homes or other locations as an approved service location by the LEA, CONTRACTOR must comply with State of California auto insurance requirements.

- C. **Workers' Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance** in a form and amount covering CONTRACTOR'S full liability under the California Workers' Compensation Insurance and Safety Act and in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

Part A – Statutory Limits

Part B - \$1,000,000/\$1,000,000/\$1,000,000 Employers Liability

- D. **Errors & Omissions (E & O)/Malpractice (Professional Liability)** coverage, **including Sexual Molestation and Abuse coverage, unless that coverage is afforded elsewhere in the Commercial General Liability policy by endorsement or separate policy**, with the following limits:

- \$ 1,000,000 per occurrence
- \$ 2,000,000 general aggregate

- E. CONTRACTOR, upon execution of this Master Contract and periodically thereafter upon request, shall furnish the LEA with certificates of insurance evidencing such coverage. The certificate of insurance shall include a ten (10) day non-renewal notice provision. The Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability policy shall name the LEA and the District's Board of Education as additional insured's premiums on all insurance policies shall be paid by CONTRACTOR and shall be deemed included in CONTRACTOR's obligations under this contract at no additional charge.

- F. Any deductibles or self-insured retentions above \$100,000 must be declared to and approved by the LEA. At its option, the LEA may require the CONTRACTOR, at the CONTRACTOR's sole cost, to: (a) cause its insurer to reduce to levels specified by the LEA or eliminate such deductibles or self-insured retentions with respect to the LEA, its officials and employees, or (b) procure a bond guaranteeing payment of losses and related investigation.

- G. For any claims related to the services, the CONTRACTOR's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the LEA, its subsidiaries, officials, and employees. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the LEA, its subsidiaries, officials, and employees shall be excess of the CONTRACTOR's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

- H. All Certificates of Insurance shall reference the contract number, name of the school or agency submitting the certificate, and the location of the school or agency submitting the certificate on the certificate.

If the LEA or CONTRACTOR determines that changes in insurance coverage obligations under this section is necessary, either party may reopen negotiations to modify the insurance obligations.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS AFFILIATED WITH RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY (“RTC”)

When CONTRACTOR is a nonpublic school affiliated with a residential treatment center (NPS/RTC), the following insurance policies are required:

- A. **Commercial General Liability** coverage of **\$3,000,000 per Occurrence** and **\$6,000,000 in General Aggregate**. The policy shall be endorsed to name the LEA and the Board of Education as named additional insured and shall provide specifically that any insurance carried by the LEA which may be applicable to any claims or loss shall be deemed excess and the RTC’s insurance primary despite any conflicting provisions in the RTC’s policy. Coverage shall be maintained with no Self-Insured Retention above \$100,000 without the prior written approval of the LEA.
- B. **Workers' Compensation Insurance** in accordance with provisions of the California Labor Code adequate to protect the RTC from claims that may arise from its operations pursuant to the Workers' Compensation Act (Statutory Coverage). The Workers’ Compensation Insurance coverage must also include Employers Liability coverage with limits of **\$1,000,000/\$1,000,000/\$1,000,000**.
- C. **Commercial Auto Liability** coverage with limits of **\$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit per Occurrence** if the RTC does not operate a student bus service. If the RTC provides student bus services, the required coverage limit is \$5,000,000 Combined Single Limit per Occurrence.
- D. **Fidelity Bond or Crime Coverage** shall be maintained by the RTC to cover all employees who process or otherwise have responsibility for RTC funds, supplies, equipment, or other assets. Minimum amount of coverage shall be **\$250,000** per occurrence, with no self-insured retention.
- E. **Professional Liability/Errors & Omissions/Malpractice** coverage with minimum limits of **\$3,000,000** per occurrence and **\$6,000,000** general aggregate.
- F. **Sexual Molestation and Abuse Coverage**, unless that coverage is afforded elsewhere in the Commercial General Liability or Professional liability policy by endorsement, with minimum limits of **\$3,000,000** per occurrence and **\$6,000,000** general aggregate.

If LEA or CONTRACTOR determines that a change in insurance coverage obligations under this section is necessary, either party may reopen negotiations to modify the insurance obligations.

16. CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

CONTRACTOR shall notify parents in writing of their obligation to notify CONTRACTOR of changes in student's residence. CONTRACTOR shall notify LEA in writing of student and/or parent's change of residence within five (5) school days after CONTRACTOR becomes aware of said change.

If the student's new residence is located within an area outside of LEA's service boundaries and CONTRACTOR fails to follow the procedures specified in this provision, LEA shall not be responsible for the costs of services delivered after the student's change of residence if CONTRACTOR had knowledge of the student's change of residence.

CONTRACTOR shall notify LEA immediately (within 24 hours) when the CONTRACTOR becomes aware of an emergency change of placement (i.e., hospitalization, juvenile hall, shelter, etc.).

17. LICENSED CHILDCARE INSTITUTION (LCI) CONTRACTOR

If CONTRACTOR is an LCI, CONTRACTOR shall adhere to all legal requirements regarding educational placements for LCI students as stated in Education Code 56366 (a) (2) (C), 56366.9 (c) (1), Health and Safety Code section 1501.1 and any other applicable laws and/or regulations, including LEA guidelines or procedures. An LCI shall not require that a pupil be placed in its NPS as a condition of being placed in its residential facility.

If CONTRACTOR is a NPS/RTC, CONTRACTOR shall adhere to all legal requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. section 1400 et seq. including the federal regulations 34 C.F.R. section 300 et seq. and Education Code section 56000 et seq. including Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations section 3000 et seq. CONTRACTOR shall comply with all monitoring requirements set forth in Section 43 below.

If CONTRACTOR is a NPS that is owned, operated by, or associated with a LCI, CONTRACTOR shall provide to LEA, on a quarterly basis, a list of all students, including those identified as eligible for special education. For those identified as special education students, the list shall include: 1) special education eligibility at the time of enrollment and 2) the educational placement and services specified in each student's IEP at the time of enrollment. A copy of the current IEP shall be provided to the LEA.

Unless placement is made pursuant to an Office of Administrative Hearings order or a lawfully executed agreement between LEA and parent, LEA is not responsible for the costs associated with NPS placement until the date on which an IEP team meeting is convened, the IEP team determines that a NPS placement is appropriate, and the IEP is signed by the student's parent or another adult with educational decision-making rights.

In addition to meeting the certification requirements of the State of California, a CONTRACTOR that operates a program outside of this State shall be certified or licensed by that state to provide, respectively, special education and related services and designated instruction and related services to pupils under the federal IDEA (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.) and shall be certified or licensed by the state to provide nonmedical care, clinical services, or short-term residential therapeutic programs, as applicable to the facility type.

18. CERTIFICATION AND WAIVER

When a CONTRACTOR seeks renewal of certification, the CONTRACTOR shall provide the LEA, in which the applicant is located, written notification of its intent to seek renewal.

CONTRACTOR shall be certified by the California Department of Education (hereinafter referred to as "CDE") as a nonpublic, nonsectarian school/agency. All nonpublic school and nonpublic agency services shall be provided consistent with the area of certification specified by CDE Certification and as defined in California Education Code, section 56366 et seq. and within the professional scope of practice of each provider's license, certification and/or credential. A current copy of CONTRACTOR's nonpublic school/agency certification or a waiver of such certification issued by the CDE pursuant to Education Code section 56366.2 must be provided to LEA on or before the date this contract is executed by CONTRACTOR. This Master Contract shall be null and void if such certification or waiver is expired, revoked, rescinded, or otherwise nullified during the effective period of this Master Contract. Total student enrollment shall be limited to capacity as stated on CDE certification.

In addition to meeting the certification requirements of the State of California, Contractor that operates a program outside of this state shall be certified or licensed by that state to provide, respectively, special education and related services to students under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.).

19. FACILITIES MODIFICATION

CONTRACTOR shall provide special education and/or related services to students in facilities that comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances related, but not limited to: disability access; fire, health, sanitation, and building standards and safety; fire warning systems; zoning permits; and occupancy capacity. When CONTRACTOR is a nonpublic school, CONTRACTOR shall conduct fire drills as required by Title 5 California Code of Regulations, Section 550, and California Education Code, section 32001. CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for any structural changes and/or modifications to CONTRACTOR's facilities as required complying with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances.

20. RENEWAL

LEA/CONTRACTOR may, but is not required to, renew this Master Contract in subsequent Contract years.

21. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Contract and any exhibits or attachments hereto constitute the entire Contract between LEA and CONTRACTOR and supersedes any prior or contemporaneous understanding or contract with respect to the services contemplated. This Contract binds the heirs, successors, assignees, agents, and representatives of CONTRACTOR.

22. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this Contract is held in whole or in part to be unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of that provision and of the entire Contract shall be severable and remain in effect.

23. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Authorization to enter into this agreement on behalf of the LEA is strictly limited to the LEA Governing Board/Superintendent/designee as the sole individual who has the capacity to act as a representative on behalf of the school district.

III. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**24. FREE AND APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Unless otherwise agreed to, in writing, by LEA and CONTRACTOR, CONTRACTOR shall not accept payment from a parent for, or provide any services outside of those identified in a particular student's ISA. This clause shall not apply to the ability of a CONTRACTOR to accept payment from parents for additional services funded solely by parents' private insurance, so long as LEA and CONTRACTOR agree in writing to this arrangement, and so long as CONTRACTOR ensures that parents' payments are being made from a private insurance source only. Further, this clause is not intended to affect a CONTRACTOR'S ability to accept private payment for a student not being served under an ISA by that CONTRACTOR.

Unless otherwise agreed to by LEA and CONTRACTOR, CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for the provision of all programmatic supplies, equipment, or facilities specified in the students' IEP and ISA. No charge of any kind to parents shall be made by CONTRACTOR for special education and/or related services specified on the student's IEP, including screening or interviews which occur prior to or as a condition of the student's enrollment under the terms of this Contract, except as specified in writing signed by all relevant parties and attached to the

student's ISA. This provision does not apply to voluntary activities unnecessary to provide the student with a free appropriate public education conducted after written notification to parents as to the cost and the voluntary nature of the activity. Unless the activity takes place during a school vacation or holiday, students not participating in such activities shall continue to receive special education and/or related services as set forth in their IEPs. CONTRACTOR shall guarantee that all charges to the LEA are consistent, justified, and based on standards applied to all students enrolled and attending the NPS/NPA.

If an individual's IEP requires specialized low incidence equipment based on their qualifying disability, the specialized equipment and/or supplies shall be provided by the LEA unless otherwise specified in the ISA. The LEA shall provide the low incidence equipment and/or supplies identified in the student's IEP unless the CONTRACTOR specifically agrees in the ISA to provide them. Supplies and/or equipment purchased and/or provided by the SELPA/LEA remain the property of the SELPA/LEA, and the supplies and/or equipment purchased by the CONTRACTOR remain the property of the CONTRACTOR.

If the IEP team determines that the individual with an IEP requires Assistive Technology and/or Augmentative Alternative Communication (AT/AAC) devices, equipment and/or materials, the LEA shall provide such items unless the LEA and the NPS/NPA agree otherwise. AT and/or AAC devices, equipment and/or materials purchased by the LEA remain the property of the LEA.

In the event that a foster youth may be placed in a NPS, the contractor and LEA will work collaboratively with the LEA Foster Youth Liaison to ensure and facilitate proper school placement enrollment, transfer of credits, records, grades and checkout from school. (EC 48853.5 (e) (1) and AB490) Whenever a change in foster child's residence occurs, the foster child has a right to remain in the school of origin to the end of the highest grade maintained at that school. Decisions regarding placement are IEP decisions which should include participation of LEA Foster Youth Liaison as appropriate.

25. COPY OF IEP AND PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

Upon referral of a student to CONTRACTOR the LEA shall provide CONTRACTOR with a copy of that student's IEP, as well as available assessment information, and facilitate, if requested, an observation of the student. CONTRACTOR retains the right to decline enrollment of any student. CONTRACTOR shall notify the LEA of its decision to decline enrollment. CONTRACTOR will provide student a program of instruction that is consistent with each student's IEP as specified in the ISA's for NPS/NPA. The general program of instruction provided to students under the ISA for NPS/NPA shall be responsive to LEA's required sequence of courses and related curriculum for students and be responsive to the IEP goals and objectives assigned by NPS/NPA. The program of instruction shall be described in writing and a copy provided to LEA prior to the effective date of this Contract. Designated instruction and related services will only be provided during the period of the student's regular or extended school year program, or both, and shall occur at the school site, unless otherwise specified by the student's IEP. CONTRACTOR shall ensure that Individual Transition Plans (ITP's) are completed for all students at the age of 16 years and older. CONTRACTOR agrees to use SELPA IEP/ ITP forms and SELPA service logs.

26. SERVICE/PROGRAM MONITORING

CONTRACTOR shall participate in any LEA or CDE compliance review, if applicable, to be conducted as aligned with the CDE Onsite Review and monitoring cycle in accordance with California Education Code section 56366.1(j). This review will address programmatic aspects of the NPS, compliance with relevant state and federal regulations, and Master Contract compliance. CONTRACTOR shall conduct any follow-up or corrective action procedures related to review findings.

If CONTRACTOR is also an LCI and/or NPS/RTC, the CDE shall annually evaluate whether CONTRACTOR is in compliance with Education Code section 56366.9 and Health and Safety Code section 1501.1(b).

The LEA or SELPA shall conduct an onsite visit to the NPS before placement of a pupil if the LEA does not have any pupils enrolled at the school at the time of placement.

The LEA or SELPA shall conduct at least one onsite monitoring visit during each school year to the CONTRACTOR site certified as an NPS where the LEA has placed a pupil and entered into a master contract. The monitoring visit shall include, but is not limited to, a review of services specified on the ISA and provided to the pupil, a review of progress the pupil is making toward the goals set forth in the pupil's IEP, a review of progress the pupil is making toward the goals set forth in the pupil's behavioral intervention plan, if applicable, an observation of the pupil during instruction, and a walkthrough of the facility. The LEA or SELPA shall report the findings resulting from the monitoring visit to the CDE within 60 calendar days of the onsite visit.

CONTRACTOR shall allow LEA representatives access to its facilities for additional periodic monitoring of each student's instructional program. LEA shall have access to observe each student at work, observe the instructional setting, interview CONTRACTOR employees, and review each student's records and progress. Such access shall include unannounced monitoring visits. When making site visits, LEA shall initially report to CONTRACTOR's site administrative office. CONTRACTOR shall be invited to participate in the review of each student's progress.

CONTRACTOR understands that LEA reserves the right to institute a program audit with or without cause. The program audit may include, but is not limited to, a review of core compliance areas of health and safety; curriculum/instruction; related services; and contractual, legal, and procedural compliance.

When CONTRACTOR is an NPS, CONTRACTOR shall collect all applicable data and prepare the applicable portion of a School Accountability Report Card as appropriate in accordance with California Education Code Section 33126.

27. STUDENT DISCIPLINE/ SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

Suspensions and expulsions of students by CONTRACTOR shall be consistent with the provisions of the California Education Code and California Code of Regulations (EC 48900 et seq. and 48915.5 et seq.) CONTRACTOR shall have a written policy regarding suspension and expulsion procedures. CONTRACTOR shall notify within five (5) days and provide written documentation to LEA each time a student is suspended, including the reason for said suspension. Written documentation shall include, but not be limited to, student's name, date, time, offense, rationale for disciplinary action taken, and an attached copy of all applicable Behavior Plans (i.e. goals, BIP's, etc.). CONTRACTOR agrees to contact LEA to schedule a manifestation determination at an IEP meeting no later than the 10th day of suspension. CONTRACTOR shall collaborate with LEA representatives at an IEP team meeting where the manifestation determination will be made.

28. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

When CONTRACTOR is an NPS, CONTRACTOR is responsible for assigning grades for any course of instruction taught at the NPS. The grades determined by the pupil's teacher, in the absence of clerical or mechanical mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetency, shall be final and consistent with the provisions specified in EC Section 49066. The grades each pupil receives in all courses of instruction taught by the NPS shall be reported to the parents and the LEA on a quarterly basis. Consistent with the LEA, should it become evident to the NPS the pupil is in danger of failing a course, the CONTRACTOR must initiate a parent conference, and the LEA representative must be notified.

When CONTRACTOR serves students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) inclusive, LEA shall provide to CONTRACTOR a specific list of the course requirements to be satisfied by the CONTRACTOR leading toward graduation or completion of LEA's diploma requirements. CONTRACTOR shall not recommend awarding a high school diploma to students who have not successfully completed all of the LEA's graduation requirements.

Pupils enrolled in high school during the 2020-2021 academic year may request a Pass or No Pass grade as permitted in EC Section 49066.5, which may be reflected on the student's transcript and shall not negatively affect the pupil's grade point average.

If the student is enrolled in a NPS and is of secondary school age, LEA will list the course requirements to be satisfied by the CONTRACTOR leading toward graduation or completion of diploma requirements and specify levels of proficiency in basic skills as measured by LEA approved proficiency tests. Standardized tests including state mandated assessments shall be administered pursuant to LEA state and federal guidelines. For students in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, LEA will provide a current transcript and a specific list of courses required. At the close of each semester CONTRACTOR shall prepare transcripts and submit them to the student's district of residence for evaluation of progress toward completion of diploma requirements.

At the close of each semester, or upon student transfer for students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12), inclusive, CONTRACTOR shall update transcripts and submit them upon request to the student's school of residence. Six months prior to graduation, CONTRACTOR shall notify LEA of the transition to high school for graduation.

When a student exits from special education, as a result of earning a diploma, aging out or returning back to LEA, the CONTRACTOR shall provide to the LEA a summary of student's academic achievement and functional performance along with recommendations how to assist the student in meeting their post-secondary goals. For purposes of this provision if the needs of the students are such that the IEP team determines that a functional skills curriculum is most appropriate, the educational program shall be designed to be in alignment with the essential state standards and will result in the awarding of a certificate of completion either by the LEA or the NPS as determined by mutual agreement.

When CONTRACTOR is a nonpublic school, CONTRACTOR's general program of instruction shall: (a) be consistent with LEA's and CDE's standards regarding the particular course of study and curriculum; (b) include curriculum that addresses mathematics, literacy and the use of educational, assistive technology and transition services; and (c) provide the services as specified in the LEA student's IEP and ISA. LEA students shall have access to: (a) State Board of Education (SBE) - adopted standards-based, core curriculum and the same instructional materials for kindergarten and grades 1 to 8, inclusive; and provide standards -aligned core curriculum and instructional materials for grades 9 to 12, inclusive, used by a local education agency (LEA), that contracts with the nonpublic school; (b) college preparation courses; (c) extracurricular activities, such as art, sports, music and academic clubs; (d) career preparation and vocational training, consistent with transition plans that are in compliance with state and federal law and; (e) supplemental assistance, including individual academic tutoring, psychological counseling, and career and college counseling. CONTRACTOR's general program of instruction shall be described in writing and available to the SELPA prior to the effective date of this Master Contract.

FOSTER YOUTH - AB 167 – Assembly Bill 167 refers to California legislation that amended Ed Code to exempt students in foster care from school district graduation requirements that exceed state graduation requirements if the student transfers to the district, or transfers from one high school to another within a district in the 11th or 12th grade if the student would not be reasonably able to complete the additional district requirements. AB 167 requires school districts to provide notice to foster youth exempted from additional district requirements if failure to satisfy such local requirements will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.

29. REASONABLE VISITATION/ PARENT ACCESS

CONTRACTOR will provide for reasonable parental access to LEA students and all facilities including, but not limited to: the instructional setting, recreational activity areas, meeting rooms and LEA student living quarters,

for those parents whose children reside in the living quarters. CONTRACTOR shall ensure that parental visits are in agreement with court order, if any.

CONTRACTORs operating programs associated with a NPS/RTC shall cooperate with a parent's reasonable request for LEA student therapeutic visits in their home or at the NPS/RTC. CONTRACTOR shall require that parents obtain prior written authorization for the therapeutic visits from the CONTRACTOR and LEA at least thirty (30) days in advance. CONTRACTOR shall facilitate all parent travel and accommodations and provide travel information to the parent as appropriate. Payment by LEA for approved travel-related expenses shall be made directly through the LEA consistent with LEA Procedures.

CONTRACTOR providing services in the student's home as specified in the IEP shall ensure that at least one parent of the child, or an adult caregiver with written and signed authorization to make decisions in an emergency, is present. The names of any adult caregiver other than the parent shall be provided to the LEA prior to the start of any home-based services, including written and signed authorization for in emergency situations. The adult caregiver cannot also be an employee or volunteer associated with the NPS/NPA service provider. All problems and/or concerns reported to parents, both verbal and written, shall also be provided, in writing, to the LEA.

30. WITHDRAWAL BY PARENT

CONTRACTOR shall immediately report by telephone to LEA if a student is withdrawn from school by the parent. CONTRACTOR shall confirm such telephone call in writing immediately or no later than five (5) school days.

31. MEDICATIONS

Unless otherwise set forth in the student's ISP, CONTRACTOR shall comply with the requirements of California Education Code section 49423 when CONTRACTOR serves a LEA student that is required to take prescription and/or over-the-counter medication during the school day. CONTRACTOR may designate personnel to assist the LEA student with the administration of such medication after the LEA student's parent(s) provides to CONTRACTOR: (a) a written statement from a physician detailing the type, administration method, amount, and time schedules by which such medication shall be taken; and (b) a written statement from the LEA student's parent(s) granting CONTRACTOR permission to administer medication(s) as specified in the physician's statement. CONTRACTOR shall maintain, and provide to LEA upon request, copies of such written statements. CONTRACTOR shall maintain a written log for each LEA student to whom medication is administered. Such written log shall specify the student's name; the type of medication; the date, time, and amount of each administration; and the name of CONTRACTOR's employee who administered the medication. CONTRACTOR maintains full responsibility for assuring appropriate staff training in the administration of such medication consistent with physician's written orders. Any change in medication type, administration method, amount or schedule must be authorized by both a licensed physician and parent.

32. ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT

Contractor agrees to submit a written accident report to LEA within 24 hours of incident when a student has suffered an injury requiring medical attention provided by a medical practitioner resulting from physical restraint, injured another individual, is named as a suspected perpetrator or victim in an official sexual harassment complaint, or has been involved in an activity requiring notification of law enforcement or emergency personnel.

33. STUDENT RECORDS

CONTRACTOR agrees to keep a current listing of names and positions of employees who have access to confidential records. All student records shall be kept in a secure location preventing access by unauthorized individuals. CONTRACTOR will maintain access log delineating date, time, agency, and identity of individual

for any authorized person accessing student records who is not in the direct employ of the CONTRACTOR. SubCONTRACTORs shall not be considered in the direct employ of the CONTRACTOR for the purposes of accessing student records. Nevertheless, pursuant to EC 49076(b)(6), CONTRACTOR may provide subCONTRACTORs access to student records when the subCONTRACTOR provides services within CONTRACTOR's educational institution and has a legitimate interest in the information contained in the student records. CONTRACTOR also agrees to comply with the parental right to request records and the parental right to inspect a student's file as defined in the federal law under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 ("FERPA") and the California Educational Code § 49000 et seq. and § 56000 et seq.

34. ACCESS TO RECORDS

CONTRACTOR shall insure that records of access are maintained for individual files. These records shall include the name of the party, date, and purpose of access.

35. PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports relating to goals and objectives in a student's IEP and other data required for review shall be sent by CONTRACTOR to LEA and parent on a quarterly basis or trimester as appropriate. Additional reporting periods may be identified by the IEP team. Upon request, an updated report shall be provided if there is no current progress report, whenever a student is scheduled for an IEP review by LEA's Individualized Education Program team or when a student's enrollment is terminated. CONTRACTOR shall establish grading policies to be followed unless otherwise specified in student's IEP.

36. FORWARDING OF RECORDS

CONTRACTOR agrees, in the event of school or agency closure, to forward student records immediately but no later than seven (7) days to LEA. These shall include, but are not limited to, current transcripts, IEP/IFSP reports and results of proficiency testing and State Assessments.

37. IEP/IFSP MEETINGS

The CONTRACTOR is responsible for providing the student's special education teacher and the related services or personnel appropriate to represent the related services at required IEP /ITP meetings. These meetings will be held at the NPS unless otherwise approved by the LEA and CONTRACTOR. Except as otherwise provided in the Master Contract, CONTRACTOR and LEA shall participate in all IEP team meetings regarding LEA students for whom ISAs have been or may be executed. The LEA is responsible for scheduling and issuing the Notice of Meeting for all IEP team meetings. Parents or guardians shall be notified of the IEP meeting early enough to ensure an opportunity to attend. Proper notice of meeting shall include the purpose, time, and location and who shall be in attendance. Every effort shall be made to schedule the IEP meetings at a time that is mutually convenient to parents, LEA, and CONTRACTOR's staff. Parents or guardians shall be informed in the notice of the right to bring other people to the meeting who has knowledge or special expertise of the student. The CONTRACTOR shall ensure private and confidential communication between the student and members of the IEP team, at the student's discretion. Transition services (designed with a results-oriented process focused on improving the academic functional achievement of the child) must be addressed in the IEP for the student no later than in the year in which they turn 16 years of age. Extended school year shall be discussed as part of the IEP meeting with an emphasis on student need.

It is understood that the CONTRACTOR shall utilize the approved electronic IEP system of the LEA for all IEP planning and progress reporting at the LEA's discretion. The LEA or SELPA shall provide training for any NPS and CONTRACTOR to ensure access to the approved system. The CONTRACTOR shall maintain confidentiality of all IEP data on the approved system and shall protect the password requirements of the system. When a student

dis-enrolls from the NPS/NPA, the NPS/NPA and LEA shall discontinue use of the approved system for that student.

38. STATEWIDE MANDATED ASSESSMENT

CONTRACTOR shall administer all statewide achievement tests and any other state assessment as mandated by LEA pursuant to LEA and/or CDE guidelines.

Each student, subject to the alternative accountability system pursuant to EC section 52052, placed in an NPS by an LEA, shall be tested by qualified staff of the NPS in accordance with that accountability program.

The CONTRACTOR agrees to conform to the approved testing calendar window. The LEA shall provide opportunities for training as necessary and requested by the contractor. The LEA shall provide all appropriate test materials to the NPS for administration of the tests.

NOTE: CONTRACTOR shall determine its state-mandated testing period subject to EC section 60640. CONTRACTOR shall notify the LEA of a student enrolled in the school of its testing period. CONTRACTOR's staff, who shall administer the assessments, shall attend the regular testing training sessions provided by the LEA.

If CONTRACTOR's staff have received training from one LEA or similar agency, that training will be sufficient for all LEAs that send students to the CONTRACTOR.

39. SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD

The NPS shall prepare a school accountability report card in accordance with EC section 33126.

40. CLASS SIZE-NONPUBLIC SCHOOL

When Contractor is a nonpublic school, CONTRACTOR shall ensure that class size shall not exceed a ratio of one teacher per twelve (12) students. Upon written approval by an authorized LEA representative, class size may be temporarily increased by a ratio of one (1) teacher to fourteen (14) students when necessary, during the regular or extended school year to provide services to students with disabilities.

In the event a nonpublic school is unable to fill a vacant teaching position responsible for direct instruction to students, and the vacancy has direct impact on the California Department of Education Certification of that school, the nonpublic school shall develop a plan to assure appropriate coverage of students by first utilizing existing certificated staff. The nonpublic school and the LEA may agree to one thirty (30) school day period per contract year where class size may be increased to assure coverage by an appropriately credentialed teacher. Such an agreement shall be in writing and signed by both parties. This provision does not apply to a nonpublic agency.

CONTRACTOR providing special education instruction for individuals with exceptional needs between the ages of three and five years, inclusive, shall also comply with the appropriate instructional adult to child ratios pursuant to California Education Code sections 56440 et seq.

41. RELATED SERVICES

Unless otherwise specified in the LEA student's IEP and/or ISA, CONTRACTOR shall provide related services to LEA students on only those days that the LEA student's school of attendance is in session and the LEA student is scheduled to attend school. If student misses a related service session due to staff absence, that session shall be provided within thirty (30) school days.

Any adjustment, correction, addition or offer of added work shall be discussed with the CONTRACTOR and not the teacher or direct service provider.

Upon mutual agreement between contractor and district, related services may be provided outside of regular hours to meet the needs of the student and/or unique circumstances.

42. DUE PROCESS AND COMPLAINTS

CONTRACTOR shall fully participate in due process proceedings before OAH, including mediations and hearings, as requested by LEA. CONTRACTOR shall also fully participate in the investigation and provision of documentation related to any complaint filed with the State of California, the Office of Civil Rights, or any other state and/or federal governmental body or agency.

LEA shall inform parent(s) of their due process rights upon 1) each notification of an IEP meeting; 2) reevaluation of their child; 3) registration of a complaint or a request for a due process hearing; and (4) the commencement of an expulsion proceeding. Upon request by LEA, CONTRACTOR shall assist the LEA in meeting its due process notification obligations.

43. STATE MEAL MANDATE

CONTRACTOR shall assist LEA to meet the LEA’s responsibilities to satisfy the State Meal Mandate under California Education Code sections 49005 et seq.; 49501.5, the universal meal mandate enacted by AB 130 (2021-2022); 49530 et seq; and 49550 et seq.

44. HEALTH AND SAFETY

CONTRACTOR shall require all regular and substitute employees, volunteers, and any other individual who may come into contact with a student on school grounds to provide verification of having been tested for tuberculosis and cleared to work with minors as evidenced by a state licensed medical doctor's signature. CONTRACTOR shall keep a copy of said information in the employee file or volunteer file.

CONTRACTOR agrees all employees, subCONTRACTORS, volunteers, and any other individual who may come into contact with a student on school grounds to follow universal health care precautions when providing medical treatment or assistance to a student.

CONTRACTOR further agrees to provide annual training to all employees, volunteers, and any other individual who may come into contact with a student on school grounds regarding universal health care precautions and to post required notices in areas designated by the California Health & Safety Code.

45. BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT/ POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

Pursuant to Education Code section 56521.2, CONTRACTOR shall not authorize, order, consent to, or pay for the following interventions, or any other interventions similar to or like the following: (1) any intervention that is designed to, or likely to, cause physical pain, including, but not limited to, electric-shock; (2) an intervention that involves the release of noxious, toxic, or otherwise unpleasant sprays, mists, or substances in proximity to the face of the individual; (3) an intervention that denies adequate sleep, food, water, shelter, bedding, physical comfort, or access to bathroom facilities; (4) an intervention that is designed to subject, used to subject, or likely to subject, the individual to verbal abuse, ridicule, or humiliation, or that can be expected to cause excessive emotional trauma; (5) restrictive interventions that employ a device, material, or objects that simultaneously immobilize all four extremities, including the procedure known as prone containment; (6) locked seclusion, unless it is in a facility otherwise licensed or permitted by state law to use a locked room; (7) an intervention that precludes adequate supervision of the individual; (8) an intervention that deprives the individual of one or more of his or her

senses.

In the case of a child whose behavior impedes the child's learning or that of others, the IEP team shall consider the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports, and other strategies, to address that behavior, consistent with Section 1414(d)(3)(B)(i) and (d)(4) of Title 20 of the United States Code and associated federal regulations.

All restraint practices must be reviewed and revised, consistent with law ([AB 2657](#), [Ed Code 5621.1](#)). CONTRACTOR shall notify the student's parent/guardian when any type of physical or mechanical restraint or seclusion has been used. Upon the use of any type of physical or mechanical restraint or seclusions of a LEA student, CONTRACTOR shall complete a BER per the reporting and notification requirements listed above.

46. STUDENT RETURN TO DISTRICT

CONTRACTOR and LEA shall assist all SELPA and LEA policies and procedures that support Least Restrictive Environment ("LRE") options and/or Dual Enrollment options for students to have access to the general curriculum and to be educated with their nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate.

When an IEP team has determined that a student should be transitioned into the public school setting, CONTRACTOR shall assist the LEA in implementing the IEP team's recommendations activities to support the transition. This may include, but not be limited to, facilitation of dual enrollment, scheduling, transportation arrangements and other student supports. These provisions shall also apply to mediated agreements and OAH decisions.

47. EDUCATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE/SURROGATE PARENT

CONTRACTOR shall recognize an LEA-appointed surrogate parent assignments for students without parental representation, including unaccompanied homeless youths, in special education procedures pursuant to California Government Code Section 7579.5. Surrogate parents shall serve as the child's parent and have all the rights relative to the student's education that a parent has under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act pursuant to *20 USC 1414-1482* and *34 CFR 300.1-300.756*. A pupil in foster care shall be defined pursuant to California Education Code section 42238.01(b). The LEA shall annually notify the CONTRACTOR who the LEA has designated as the educational liaison for foster children. When a pupil in foster care is enrolled in a NPS by the LEA any time after the completion of the pupil's second year of high school, the CONTRACTOR shall schedule the pupil in courses leading towards graduation based on the diploma requirements of the LEA unless provided notice otherwise in writing pursuant to Section 51225.1.

48. GRADE LEVEL ASSIGNMENT

All students enrolled in NPS shall be assigned a grade level commensurate with their chronological age if it is not designated on the IEP prior to admission. If student is participating in a functional skill development program, the grade assigned shall be determined by the following formula (age – 5 = grade level).

49. MIDDLE SCHOOL/ HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION

When student is to transition to a high school district, the LEA/CONTRACTOR shall follow the SELPA policy as outlined in the Local Plan as it relates to fiscal responsibility. All services provided in ESY are the fiscal responsibility of the elementary district.

50. OVERSIGHT/ PLACEMENTS/ EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

The LEA shall evaluate NPS placements through the IEP process. Included in this evaluation, is a review of IEP stated goals and state assessment results in order to determine if student is making appropriate educational

progress. The LEA shall consider whether or not the needs of the student require an NPS and whether changes to the IEP are necessary, including whether the student may be transitioned to a public school setting.

IV. PERSONNEL

51. CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES/FINGERPRINT CLEARANCE

The CONTRACTOR providing special education and designated instruction and services must utilize staff that holds a certificate, permit, or other document equivalent to that which staff in a public school are required to hold.

EC Section 56366.1(n) requires all teachers in nonpublic schools to meet the same credentialing requirements as those for public school teachers. Only those nonpublic, nonsectarian schools or agencies located outside of California that employ staff that hold a current valid credential or license to render special education and related services as required by that state shall be eligible to be certified.

When CONTRACTOR is a NPS, an appropriately qualified person shall serve as curricular and instructional leader, and be able to provide leadership, oversight, and professional development. The administrator of the NPS holds or is in the process of obtaining one of the following: (A) An administrative credential granted by an accredited postsecondary educational institution and two years of experience with students with disabilities. (B) A student personnel services credential that authorizes school counseling or psychology. (C) A license as a clinical social worker issued by the Board of Behavioral Sciences. (D) A license in psychology regulated by the Board of Psychology. (E) A master's degree issued by an accredited postsecondary institution in education, special education, psychology, counseling, behavioral analysis, social work, behavioral science, or rehabilitation. (F) A credential authorizing special education instruction and at least two years of experience teaching in special education before becoming an administrator. (G) A license as a marriage and family therapist certified by the Board of Behavioral Sciences. (H) A license as an educational psychologist issued by the Board of Behavioral Sciences. (I) A license as a professional clinical counselor issued by the Board of Behavioral Sciences. (California Education Code Section 56366.1 (a)(5))

- A. CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for verification of security clearance, credentials, and licenses held by its employees, agents, and subCONTRACTORS. Education credentials shall be on file at the NPS/NPA office. A copy of the CDE Certification will be submitted with the contract to the LEA.
- B. CONTRACTOR shall provide to LEA on annual basis copies of appropriate credentials and/or license(s) if change of staff occurs, which directly affects the students. CONTRACTOR shall notify LEA in writing within forty-five (45) days when personnel changes occur which may affect the provision of special education and/or related services to LEA students.
- C. CONTRACTOR shall require all employees and all subCONTRACTORS to submit fingerprints consistent with California Education Code Section 44237. CONTRACTOR shall comply with the requirements of Education Code Section 45125.1 including, but not limited to: obtaining California Department of Justice (CDOJ) clearance for CONTRACTOR'S employees; prohibiting its employees from coming in contact with students until CDOJ clearance is ascertained; and certifying in writing and providing such certification to the LEA that none of its employees who may come in contact with students have been, convicted of a violent or serious felony. Nor will any person be employed who has been convicted of or entered a plea of nolo contendere to charges of any sex offense as defined in Education Code § 44010 or to a felony that would disqualify that person from employment pursuant to EC 44237. The requirements of this section apply to all of contractors, subcontractors, in addition to employees.

- D. This provision shall apply in all circumstances except those in which a written waiver has been granted by the State of California Board of Education with respect to state laws and regulations or by LEA with respect to its requirements.

52. TEACHER/STAFF ABSENCE

When a classroom teacher/instructor is absent, CONTRACTOR shall employ a substitute teacher/instructor or provide coverage by an appropriately qualified and credentialed staff person. Coverage shall be provided in the classroom in place of the absent teacher for the entirety of the school day to provide instruction and fulfill other duties of the absent teacher. Upon written or oral request, CONTRACTOR shall provide to LEA documentation of substitute coverage. Substitute teachers shall remain with their assigned class during all instructional time. In regard to an NPA, when a related service provider is absent, CONTRACTOR shall employ a substitute service provider who is an appropriately credentialed staff person to provide service and fulfill other duties of the absent provider. The CONTRACTOR shall elect to reschedule the related service session consistent with Section 41 and 58 related services of this contract.

When CONTRACTOR is a NPA and/or related services provider, and CONTRACTOR's service provider is absent, CONTRACTOR shall provide a qualified (as defined in Section 7 of this agreement and as determined by LEA) substitute, unless LEA provides appropriate coverage in lieu of CONTRACTOR's service providers. It is understood that the parent of a student shall not be deemed to be a qualified substitute for their student. LEA will not pay for services unless a qualified substitute is provided and/or CONTRACTOR provides documentation evidencing the provision of "make-up" services by a qualified service provider within thirty (30) calendar days from the date on which the services should have been provided. CONTRACTOR shall not "bank" or "carry over" make up service hours under any circumstances, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by CONTRACTOR and authorized LEA representative.

53. MANDATED REPORTING

CONTRACTOR hereby agrees to annually train all staff members, including volunteers, so that they are familiar with and agree to adhere to its own child and dependent adult abuse reporting obligations and procedures as specified in California Penal Code section 11164, et seq., and maintain documentation of such trainings. To protect the privacy rights of all parties involved (i.e., reporter, child and alleged abuser), reports will remain confidential as required by law and professional ethical mandates. The contractor shall acknowledge the legal requirements and maintain written documentation and verification of staff training and adherence to such reporting including timelines, which shall be submitted upon request to the SELPA and the LEA (EC § 44691). CONTRACTOR shall further ensure that its SUBCONTRACTORS are similarly trained.

54. REPORTING OF MISSING CHILDREN

CONTRACTOR assures the LEA that all staff members, including volunteers, is familiar with and agrees to adhere to requirements for reporting missing children as specified in California Education Code section 49370. A written statement acknowledging the legal requirements of such reporting and verification of staff adherence to such reporting shall be properly submitted to the LEA. The written statement shall be submitted as specified by the LEA.

55. SEXUAL HARASSMENT

CONTRACTOR shall have policy procedures in place to immediately (within 24 hours) report any allegations of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment as per federal and state law. This reporting must include appropriate governmental, social service, and law enforcement agencies as well as the LEA. CONTRACTOR shall ensure

that an immediate and comprehensive investigation is commenced and shall keep the LEA fully informed of the progress and result of such investigation. CONTRACTOR further agrees to provide annual training to all employees regarding regulations concerning sexual harassment and related procedures.

V. FINANCIAL SECTION

56. SCHOOL CALENDAR

- A. The CONTRACTOR shall submit to LEA a school calendar with the total number of billable days not less than the number of school days prescribed by the State of California for the regular school year (RSY) days, plus extended school year (ESY) as determined by the IEP team. Unless otherwise stated in a particular Student's IEP, billable days shall include only those days that are included in the submitted and approved school calendar or required by the IEP for each LEA student.
- B. Services are not provided during winter break, spring break, intersessions, or the period between extended year and the fall semester.
- C. LEA observes legal holidays including, but not limited to, the following: Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Juneteenth, and Memorial Day, as specified in the LEA's official calendar.

57. STUDENT ABSENCES: NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL

No later than the fifth (5th) consecutive day of a student's absence, CONTRACTOR shall notify LEA of such absence in writing, unless a written time extension is granted by a LEA authorized representative.

CONTRACTOR will maintain written records regarding all LEA students' absences. These records shall indicate school and/or residential absences, as appropriate.

LEA shall not be responsible for payment for more than 8 cumulative days of absences per semester, unless a written time extension is granted by LEA. No more than three of the 8 cumulative absences shall be unexcused.

58. STUDENT ABSENCES: AGENCY ONLY

If the student is enrolled in a NPA, the LEA shall not be responsible for the payment of educational services when the student is absent. CONTRACTOR shall notify LEA in writing when the student absences exceed three (3) sessions. Make-up sessions may be scheduled but shall be limited 30 school days in which the original services were scheduled. Unless otherwise agreed, all related services shall be provided by CONTRACTOR during the LEA's regular school and extended school calendar days unless otherwise specified on the IEP. A unit of service for payment purposes is one day of attendance. LEA shall not be responsible for payment of services for days on which a student's attendance does not qualify for reimbursement under state law.

59. LEA and/or CONTRACTOR CLOSURE DUE TO EMERGENCY

NPS School Closure and Make-Up Day of Service

In the event of an NPS school closure due to an emergency consistent with guidelines followed by LEAs under Education Code Section 41422, the NPS would be permitted to schedule a makeup day of service. The NPS would work collaboratively with LEAs and inform them of a date(s) during the current school calendar year on which the makeup day of service would occur.

The following shall apply in the event of a LEA or CONTRACTOR closure due to an emergency consistent with guidelines followed by LEAs under Education Code Section 41422:

Contractor is Open and LEA is Open or Closed

- If CONTRACTOR remains open during an emergency and serves students appropriately as delineated in the ISA, CONTRACTOR shall receive payment, regardless of whether a sending LEA is open or closed.

Contractor Closure

- Unless otherwise directed by Executive Order, Law, or other similar directive, if the LEA is able to obtain alternative placement for the student, CONTRACTOR shall not receive payment for days the student is not in attendance due to school closure.
- Unless otherwise directed by Executive Order, Law, or other similar directive, If the LEA is unable to obtain an alternative placement, CONTRACTOR shall receive payment consistent with the signed ISA, as though the student were continuing in their regular attendance, until alternative placement can be found.

Both LEA and Contractor are Closed

- On days the LEA is funded via Waiver, Executive Order, Law or other similar directive, CONTRACTOR shall receive payment consistent with the signed ISA, until alternative placement can be found. If the LEA is able to obtain alternative placement for the student, CONTRACTOR shall not receive payment for days the student is not in attendance due to school closure if stated by the Waiver guidance, Executive Order, Law or other similar directive.

When the emergency school closure is lifted, CONTRACTOR shall notify the LEAs it serves of any lost instructional minutes. CONTRACTOR and LEAs shall work collaboratively to determine the need for make-up days or service changes and shall work together to amend IEP and ISA paperwork as appropriate. CONTRACTOR and LEA shall work collaboratively to resolve any payment and service disputes brought about by emergency closures. CONTRACTOR will provide documents, information, and clarification on services as requested by the LEA.

60. ATTENDANCE RECORDS

- A. CONTRACTOR shall keep daily attendance of each student and shall report attendance monthly to LEA. Such attendance shall be filed with monthly invoices to LEA within thirty (30) days of the close of the school month. Separate attendance register forms must be submitted for all related services as specified on the IEP.
- B. Original attendance registers submitted to the LEA with invoices for payment must be completed by the service provider whose signature must appear on said register. CONTRACTOR is responsible for verifying accuracy of said registers and for informing service providers of their personal responsibility for the completion and accuracy of said attendance registers.
- C. CONTRACTOR shall permit LEA representatives, upon reasonable notice, to meet with staff of CONTRACTOR for the purpose of auditing attendance reporting.
- D. The LEA is required to maintain school records in order to ensure the appropriate high school graduation credit is received by the student. The contract may allow for partial or full-time attendance at the NPS.

61. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

All records shall be maintained by CONTRACTOR as required by state and federal laws and regulations. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, CONTRACTOR shall maintain all records for at least five (5) years after

the termination of this Master Contract. For purposes of this Master Contract, “records” shall include, but not be limited to student records as defined by California Education Code section 49061(b) including electronically stored information;; registers and roll books of teachers and/or daily service providers; daily service logs and notes and other documents used to record the provision of related services including supervision; daily service logs and notes used to record the provision of services provided through additional instructional assistants, NPA behavior intervention aides, and bus aides; behavior emergency reports (BER); incident reports; notification of injuries; absence verification records (parent/doctor notes, telephone logs, and related documents) if the CONTRACTOR is funded for excused absences, however, such records are not required if positive attendance is required; bus rosters; staff lists specifying credentials held and documents evidencing other staff qualifications, social security numbers, dates of hire, and dates of termination; records of employee training and certification, including verification of behavior training consistent with 56366.1; staff time sheets; non-paid staff and volunteer sign-in sheets; transportation and other related services subcontracts; school calendars; bell/class schedules when applicable; liability and worker’s compensation insurance policies; state nonpublic school and/or agency certifications by-laws, if applicable; lists of current board of directors/trustees, if incorporated; statement of income and expenses; general journals; cash receipts and disbursement books; general ledgers and supporting documents; documents evidencing financial expenditures; federal/state payroll quarterly reports; evidence of electronic payments; and bank statements and canceled checks or facsimile thereof.

CONTRACTOR shall maintain student records in a secure location to ensure confidentiality and prevent unauthorized access. CONTRACTOR shall maintain a current list of the names and positions of CONTRACTOR’s employees who have access to confidential records. CONTRACTOR shall maintain an access log for each student’s record which lists all persons, agencies, or organizations requesting or receiving information from the record. Such log shall be maintained as required by California Education Code section 49064 and include the name, title, agency/organization affiliation, and date/time of access for each individual requesting or receiving information from the student’s record, and a description of the record/s provided. Such log needs to record access to the student’s records by: (a) the student’s parent; (b) an individual to whom written consent has been executed by the student’s parent; or (c) employees of LEA or CONTRACTOR having a legitimate educational interest in requesting or receiving information from the record. CONTRACTOR/LEA shall maintain copies of any written parental concerns granting access to student records. For purposes of this paragraph, “employees of LEA or CONTRACTOR” do not include subcontractors. CONTRACTOR shall grant the following access to student records: (a) the student’s parents; (b) employees of LEA of CONTRACTION having a legitimate educational interest in requesting or receiving information for the record and comply with parents’ requests for copies of student records, as required by state and federal laws and regulations. CONTRACTOR agrees, in the event of school or agency closure, to forward student records within ten (10) business days to LEA. These shall include, but not limited to, current transcripts, IEPs, BERs, incident reports, notification of injuries, and all other relevant reports. LEA and/or SELPA shall have access to and receive copies of any and all records upon request within five (5) business days.

62. INSTRUCTIONAL DAY

The total number of instructional minutes per school year provided by CONTRACTOR shall be equivalent to the number of instructional minutes established for LEA schools unless otherwise specified within the student’s IEP or ISA, provided the ISA meets the minimum standards for instructional minutes as specified in Education Code. The number of instructional minutes shall be exclusive of recess, lunch, and passing time. For Pre-K through grade twelve (12), unless otherwise specified on the student’s IEP or ISA, the number of minimum instructional minutes shall be as follows: one hundred eighty (180) instructional minutes shall be provided to pre & kindergarten students: two hundred thirty (230) instructional minutes shall be provided to students in grades one (1) through three (3): two hundred forty (240) instructional minutes shall be provided to students in grades four (4) through twelve (12).

63. PAYMENT UNIT: NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL ONLY

A unit of service for payment purposes is one day of attendance or apportionment absence as defined in California Education Code 46010. LEA shall not be responsible for payment of services for days on which a student's attendance or absence does not qualify for Average Daily Attendance (ADA) reimbursement under state law. Per Diem rates for students whose IEPs authorize less than full instructional day may be adjusted on a pro rata basis in accordance with the actual proportion of the school day serviced.

CONTRACTOR shall notify LEA when Medi-Cal is billed for educationally related expenses.

64. PAYMENT UNIT: NON-PUBLIC AGENCY ONLY

A unit of service for payment purposes is one hour of related service. LEA shall not be responsible for payment of services for days on which a student's attendance does not qualify for Average Daily Attendance (ADA) reimbursement under state law.

65. RATE SCHEDULE

The CONTRACTOR agrees to apply the same rate for the entire fiscal year. Education service(s) and/or related services offered by CONTRACTOR in accordance with the IEP and the charges for such service(s) during the term of this Agreement shall be as follows:

A. Designated Instruction and Service and/or Other Related Services

Service	Rate	Per
SLP	\$ 105.60	Hour
OT	\$ 100.80	Hour
Counselor	\$ 106.34	Hour
Psychologist Monolingual	\$ 133.25	Hour
Psychologist Bilingual	\$ 138.88	Hour
BCBA	\$ 120.00	Hour
RBT	\$ 74.31	Hour
Audiologist	\$ 115.00	Hour

Note: 8 hours billable for all services, except RBT which is 7.

66. PAYMENT DEMAND

If a student is enrolled in an NPS/NPA, with the approval of the LEA, prior to agreement to a contract or ISA, the LEA shall issue a warrant for services for up to 90 days during which time the contract shall be consummated. If after 60 days the Master Contract has not been finalized, either party may appeal to the SPI. Within 30 days of receipt of appeal, the SPI, or designee, shall mediate the formulation of a contract which shall be binding upon both parties.

CONTRACTOR shall submit invoices and related documents to LEA for payment, for each calendar month when education or related services were provided. At a minimum, each invoice must contain the following information: month of service; specific days and times of services coordinated by the LEA approved calendar unless otherwise specified in the IEP or agreed to by the LEA; title of staff who provided the service; approved cost of each invoice; total for each service and total for the monthly invoice; date invoice was mailed; signature of NPS/NPA administrator authorizing that the information is accurate and consistent with the ISA, CDE certificates and staff notification; verification that attendance report is attached as appropriate; indication of any made-up session consistent with this contract; verification that progress reports have been provided consistent with the ISA

(monthly or quarterly unless specified otherwise on the ISA); and name or initials of each student for when the service was provided.

CONTRACTOR shall submit said demands for payment for services rendered no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the attendance accounting period in which said services are actually rendered. CONTRACTOR shall maintain separate registers for the basic education program and each related service. Original attendance forms (i.e., roll books for the basic education program and service logs and notes for each related service) shall be completed by the service provider whose signature must appear on such forms and shall be available for review, inspection, or audit by LEA during the effective period of this Contract and for a period of five (5) years thereafter. CONTRACTOR shall verify the accuracy of reported attendance which is the basis of services being billed for payment and shall inform service providers of their personal responsibility for the services being reported as rendered.

Upon approval of said payment demand, LEA shall make payment in an amount equal to the number of creditable days of attendance multiplied by the agreed upon unit amount. Payment shall be made within forty-five (45) days of receipt by LEA of invoices properly submitted and approved by LEA.

If an LEA fails to send a warrant for the amount requested within forty-five (45) days or failed to notify the contractor within 10 working days of any reason why the requested payment shall not be paid, the NPS may require the LEA to pay an additional amount of 1.5 % of the unpaid balance per month until full payment is made, such interest being calculated beginning forty-six (46) days from receipt of the invoice. The CONTRACTOR shall bill the LEA for the interest due.

67. RIGHT TO WITHHOLD

LEA has the right to withhold payment to CONTRACTOR when: (A) CONTRACTORS performance, in whole or in part, either has not been carried out or is insufficiently documented; including but not limited to, failure to implement the individualized education program and all attachments incorporated therein of the student(s) for whom this Contract is written; (B) CONTRACTOR has neglected, failed or refused to furnish information or to cooperate with the inspection, review or audit of its program, work or records; (C) education and/or related services is provided by LEA students by personnel who are not appropriately credentialed/licensed or otherwise qualified; (D) Contractor was overpaid by LEA as determined by inspection, review, and/or audit of its program, work, and /or records; (E) CONTRACTOR has failed to provide to LEA all documents prior to school closure; (F) CONTRACTOR has failed to provide to LEA properly prepared invoices within thirty (30) days from the end of the attendance accounting period; or (G) CONTRACTOR has failed to provide to LEA proper rebilling invoices within (30) calendar days from the date that the original invoice was returned to CONTRACTOR. If LEA determines that cause exists to withhold payment to CONTRACTOR, within ten (10) working days written notice shall be sent that LEA is withholding payment to CONTRACTOR. Such notice shall specify the basis for LEA's withholding payment. Within fourteen (14) days from the date of receipt of such notice, CONTRACTOR shall take all necessary and appropriate action to correct the deficiencies which form the basis for LEA's withholding payment. Upon receipt of CONTRACTOR's written request showing good cause, LEA shall extend CONTRACTOR'S time to respond by an additional fourteen (14) days.

68. AUDIT EXCEPTIONS

CONTRACTOR agrees to accept responsibility for receiving, replying to, and/or complying with any audit exceptions by LEA or by appropriate state or federal audit agencies occurring as a result of CONTRACTOR's performance of this Contract. CONTRACTOR also agrees to pay to LEA within thirty (30) days of written demand by LEA the full amount of LEA'S liability to the state, if any, resulting from any audit exceptions, to the extent such are attributable to CONTRACTOR's failure to perform properly any of its obligations under this Contract.

Upon request of LEA and except as otherwise provided by law, CONTRACTOR shall provide LEA, a state agency, a federal agency, and/or an independent agency/firm contracted by LEA, access to the following records: registers and roll books of teachers; daily service logs and notes or other documents used to record the provision of related services: absence verification records (parent doctor notes, telephone logs, and related documents); staff lists specifying credentials held, business licenses held, documents evidencing other qualifications, social security numbers, dates of hire, and dates of termination: staff time sheets: non-paid staff and volunteer sign-in sheets; transportation and other related services subAgreements; school calendars; bell/class schedules; liability and workers compensation insurance policies; state nonpublic school and/or agency certifications; marketing materials; by-laws; lists of current board of directors/trustees, if incorporated; statements of income and expenses; general journals; cash receipts and disbursement books; general ledgers and supporting documents; federal/state payroll quarterly reports; and bank statements and cancelled checks. Such access may include inspections by LEA with prior notice.

All budgetary information and projections submitted by CONTRACTOR to LEA for purpose of contract negotiations shall be made available for the relevant Contract period being audited in order to assess the extent to which funds were expended consistent with such budgetary information.

CONTRACTOR shall comply with any requests resulting from an inspection, review, or audit by LEA, a state agency, a federal agency, and/or an independent agency/firm in a reasonable and timely manner. If an inspection, review, or audit by LEA, a state agency, a federal agency, and/or an independent agency/firm determines that CONTRACTOR owes LEA monies as a result of CONTRACTOR's over billing or failure to perform, in whole or in part, any of its obligations under this Contract, LEA shall provide to CONTRACTOR written notice demanding payment from CONTRACTOR and specifying the basis for such demand. Unless CONTRACTOR and LEA otherwise agree in writing, CONTRACTOR shall pay to LEA the full amount owed as result of CONTRACTOR's failure to perform, in whole or in part any of its obligations under this Contract as determined by an inspection, review, or audit by LEA, a state agency, a federal agency, and/or an independent agency/firm CONTRACTOR shall make such payment to LEA within thirty (30) days of receipt of LEA's written notice demanding payment.

69. INSPECTION AND AUDIT

CONTRACTOR shall provide access to or forward copies of any books, documents, papers, reports, records, or other matter relating to the Contract upon request by LEA except as otherwise provided by state and federal law. All budgetary information and projections submitted by CONTRACTOR to LEA for purpose of contract negotiations shall be made available for the relevant Contract period being audited to assess the extent to which funds were expended consistent with said budgetary information. Fiscal records shall be maintained by CONTRACTOR for five (5) years and shall be available for audit. To the extent, the CONTRACTOR disagrees with the findings of the audit; the dispute process as authorized in section 9 shall be utilized for the resolution of the dispute.

70. PAYMENT FROM OUTSIDE AGENCIES

CONTRACTOR shall notify the LEA when Medi-Cal or any other agency is billed for the costs associated with the provision of special education and/or related services to LEA students. Upon request, CONTRACTOR shall provide to the LEA any and all documentation regarding reports, billing, and/or payment by Medi-Cal or any other agency for the costs associated with the provision of special education and/or related services to LEA students.

71. DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION

By signing this agreement, CONTRACTOR certifies that:

- (a) CONTRACTOR and any of its shareholders, partners, or executive officers are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for the award of contracts by any Federal agency, and
- (b) Has/have not, within a three-year period preceding this contract, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a Federal, state or local government contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or state antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, or receiving stolen property; and are not presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a Government entity with, commission of any of these offenses.

The parties hereto have executed this Master Contract by and through their duly authorized agents or representatives.

CONTRACTOR

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA)

The Stepping Stones Group, LLC
Name of Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency

San José Unified School District
Authorized Representative/School District

DocuSigned by:

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Joseph "Jay" Totter
Vice-President of Client Services
Date: 6/21/2024

Tracy Morrison
Director, Procurement
Date:



EXHIBIT A
CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION

THE UNDERSIGNED EXECUTE THIS FORM AND HEREBY CERTIFIES TO THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE DISTRICT THAT UNDERSIGNED IS:

- (1) A representative of the Contractor,
- (2) Familiar with the facts herein certified,
- (3) Authorized and qualified to execute this certificate on behalf of Contractor and that by executing this Agreement is certifying the following items.

Fingerprint and Background Certification. Business entities entering into a Service Agreement with the District shall comply with Education Code section [45125.1](#). Such entities are responsible for ensuring full compliance with the requirements of this statute and should thoroughly review the requirements thereunder.

The Contractor and the Contractor parties shall at all times comply with the fingerprint and background certification requirements as set forth below. Specifically, by checking an applicable option below, Contractor hereby represents and warrants to District the following:

- Contractor and/or Contractor parties will not be present on a District site or will not have contact with District students when District students are present during the term of this Agreement.
- The Contractor shall conduct the required criminal background check(s) of all persons who will be providing services to the San José Unified School District on behalf of Contractor, and that none of those persons have been reported by the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) as having been convicted of a serious or violent felony as specified in Penal Code Sections [667.5](#) and/or [1192.7\(c\)](#). I understand that this Certificate is not to be signed and submitted until I have received clearance from DOJ regarding those persons named. Upon request, Contractor will provide a list of the names of the employees who may come in contact with pupils while providing Services under this Agreement. This list shall be regularly maintained and updated by Contractor and shall be available to District upon request or audit.
- Arrange to have a Certificated District Employee continually monitor and supervise the Contractor at all times while services are provided on site such that Contractor will have no interaction with any District student outside the immediate supervision and control of a District employee. As supported by California Education Code Section 45125.1.

Certificated District Employee:

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Principal Initials: _____

Megan’s Law (Sex Offenders). I have verified and will continue to verify that the employees of the Contractor and the Subcontractor(s) having contact with District students under this agreement are **not** listed on California’s “Megan’s Law” Website (<http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/>).

Tuberculosis Certification. The Contractor and the Contractor parties shall at all times comply with the certification requirements as set forth below. Specifically, by checking the one applicable option below, Contractor hereby represents and warrants to District the following:

- Contractor and/or Contractor parties will not be present on a District school site and will not have contact with District students when District students are present during the term of this Agreement.
- District has determined that Contractor will not have frequent or prolonged contact with students. District's determination is in compliance with and supported by California Education Code Section [49406\(m\)](#).
- The following Contractor and/or Contractor parties shall or may be on a District school site and have contact with District students during the term of this Agreement and, at no cost to District, they have received a tuberculosis risk assessment that complies with the requirements of California Education Code Section [49406](#). In addition, the Contractor shall maintain on file the certificates showing that the Contractor parties were examined and found free from active tuberculosis. These forms shall be regularly maintained and updated by Contractor and shall be available to District upon request or audit.

Contractor further agrees and acknowledges that all new personnel hired after the effective date of this Agreement are subject to the tuberculosis certification requirements and shall be prohibited from having any contact with District students until the tuberculosis certification requirements have been satisfied and District determines whether any such contact is permissible.

COVID-19 Certification. The Contractor and the Contractor parties shall at all times comply with the Covid-19 certification requirements as set forth below. Contractor hereby represents and warrants to District the following:

I acknowledge and am aware of all applicable requirements and recommendations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K–12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning for the School Year](#) and [San José Unified's COVID Health and Safety Information](#).

Contractor further agrees and acknowledges that District may at its sole discretion modify the requirements of this COVID-19 certification to ensure the health and safety of students.

Lobbyist Certification. The Contractor and the Contractor parties shall at all times comply with the lobbyist certification requirements as set forth below. Specifically, by checking the one applicable option below, Contractor hereby represents and warrants to District the following:

- Contractor and/or Contractor parties are not a "Lobbying Coalition," "Lobbying Firm," "Lobbyist" or "Lobbyist Employer" as those terms are defined in the Political Reform Act of 1974 (Gov. Code §§ 81000) (collectively "Lobbyist") and are not performing Services hereunder that would require registering as a Lobbyist.
- Contractor and/or Contractor parties Services hereunder shall or may include lobbying. Contractor and/or Contractor parties shall comply with all applicable District, local, state and/or federal policies, rules, regulations, statutes and requirements governing Lobbyists. In addition, the Contractor shall maintain on file registering and reporting records for Lobbyists. These records shall be regularly maintained and updated by Contractor and shall be available to District upon request or audit.

Conflict of Interest Certification. The Contractor and the Contractor parties shall at all times comply with the conflict of interest certification requirements as set forth below. Specifically, by checking the one applicable option below, Contractor hereby represents and warrants to District the following:

- Contractor and/or Contractor parties have read and understand the District's Conflict of Interest Code (Board Bylaw 9270) and, to the best of Contractor's knowledge, there are no conflicts of interest that must be disclosed pursuant to the Conflict of Interest Code.
 - Contractor and/or Contractor parties have read and understand the District's Conflict of Interest Code and, Contractor knows or has reason to believe that Contractor has a conflict of interest that requires disclosure and Contractor and/or Contractor parties shall comply with the applicable disclosure requirements of the District's Conflict of Interest Code. In addition, the Contractor shall maintain on file statements of economic interests in accordance with applicable disclosure requirements. These records shall be regularly maintained and updated by Contractor and shall be available to District upon request or audit.
-

I acknowledge and certify under penalty of perjury that I am duly authorized to legally bind the Contractor to all provisions and items included in this certification, that the contents of this certification are true, and that this certification is made under the laws of the State of California.

THE STEPPING STONES GROUP, LLC

Date: 6/21/2024

Signature:

DocuSigned by:

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Joseph "Jay" TotterJoseph "Jay" Totter

Vice-President of Client Services