



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 05, 2022 - Workshop Meeting
Category	8. Consent Agenda
Subject	8.14 Renewal of RFP 17-02 Internal Accounts Auditing Services Contract and the Letter of Engagement to Audit School Internal funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2022, presented by Julie Perry, Interim Chief Financial Officer/Budgeting Director, and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
Access	Public
Type	Action (Consent)
Fiscal Impact	Yes
Dollar Amount	70,000.00
Budgeted	Yes
Budget Source	General Funds – Fixed Charges – Project 9015
Recommended Action	Motion to approve the renewal of RFP 17-02 Internal Accounts Auditing Services contract awarded to Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC., for two additional years per the terms of the current contract the Letter of Engagement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC., to audit School Internal Funds for Year Ended June 30, 2022.

Public Content

On May 22, 2017, the School Board approved the award of RFP 17-02 Internal Accounts Auditing Services to Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC. The contract awarded was for the performance of the School Internal Funds Audit for fiscal years 2016-2017 through 2020-2021 with the option to renew the contract for two additional years.

The purpose of this agenda item is to request approval to renew the professional auditing services contract with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC., to perform the School Internal Funds Audit for two additional years and to request approval of the Letter of Engagement for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022. The fee remains at \$70,000, consistent with previous years and will be delivered to the School Board no later than October 31, 2022.

[Okaloosa School District Internal Funds 2022 Engagement Letter.pdf \(301 KB\)](#)

[DOC_20220419154153.pdf \(171 KB\)](#)

Administrative Content

Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Robert's Rules, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. Documentation concerning these items have been provided to all Board members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY
Purchasing Department

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
MARCUS D. CHAMBERS

ATTORNEY TO THE BOARD
C. JEFFREY McINNIS, ESQ.

PGM. DIRECTOR - PURCHASING
VINCE WINDHAM, CPPB



BOARD MEMBERS
TIM BRYANT
MARTI GARDNER
LINDA EVANCHYK
DIANE KELLEY
LAMAR WHITE

April 19, 2022

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC
Attn: Mr. Alan Jowers, CPA
189 Eglin Parkway NE, 2nd Floor
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Dear Mr. Jowers,

On May 22, 2017, the School Board of Okaloosa County, Florida approved the award of RFP 17-02 Internal Accounts Auditing Services to your firm. The original contract term was for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022.

Contract terms state that the term of this contract, upon mutual agreement of the parties, may be extended for two (2) additional one (1) year periods provided all terms and conditions remain unchanged and in full force and effect. We would like to request that this contract be extended for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

Please check one of the responses below indicating your decision regarding this request. Please sign and return this letter, along with a completed copy of the enclosed Federal Debarment Certification and Scrutinized Company Certification to my attention. Feel free to fax your response to (850) 833-6327, or email to windhamv@okaloosaschools.com.

Please fax a current Certificate of Insurance form for your business to the Risk Management Department at (850) 833-3195. All contractors must continue to comply with the insurance requirements as provided in the original RFP documents. If your Certificate of Insurance is current, or was not a requirement in the original RFP documents, please disregard.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to doing business with you for another year.

Handwritten signature of Vince Windham.

Vince Windham
Program Director of Purchasing

I agree to renew the contract adhering to the original terms and conditions, including pricing for two additional one-year periods - July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, and July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

I decline to renew the contract for two additional one-year periods.

Signature*:

Handwritten signature of K. Alan Jowers.

Title:

Partner

Print Name:

K. Alan Jowers

Date:

4/19/22

*Note: Must be signed by an officer or employee having the authority to bind the company or firm.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION – LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Executive Order 12689, and 31 U.S.C. 6101; Debarment and Suspension, 2 CFR Part 417, Subpart C, Responsibilities of Participants Regarding Transactions Doing Business with Other Persons.

(Please read instructions below before completing Certification)

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

Carr, Riggs + Ingram, LLC

ORGANIZATION NAME

SPONSOR AGREEMENT NUMBER OR PROJECT NAME

K. Alan Jowers, Partner

NAME(S) AND TITLE(S) OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE(S)

K. Alan Jowers 4/19/22

SIGNATURE(S)

DATE

1. By signing and submitting this form, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification above in accordance with these instructions.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this form that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this form that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the Nonprocurement List.
8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

SCRUTINIZED COMPANY CERTIFICATION

I hereby swear and affirm that as of the date below this company is not listed on a Scrutinized Companies list created pursuant to 215.4725, 215.473, or 287.135, Florida Statutes. Pursuant to 287.135, Florida Statutes. I further affirm that:

1. This Company does not appear on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List. This company is not participating in a boycott of Israel such that it is not refusing to deal, terminating business activities, or taking other actions to limit commercial relations with Israel, or persons or entities doing business in Israel or in Israeli-controlled territories, in a discriminatory manner.
2. This Company does not appear on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List where the State Board of Administration has established the following criteria:
 - a. Have a material business relationship with the government of Sudan or a government-created project involving oil related, mineral extraction, or power generation activities, or
 - b. Have a material business relationship involving the supply of military equipment, or
 - c. Impart minimal benefit to disadvantaged citizens that are typically located in the geographic periphery of Sudan, or
 - d. Have been complicit in the genocidal campaign in Darfur.
3. This Company does not appear on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List where the State Board of Administration has established the following criteria:
 - a. Have a material business relationship with the government of Iran or a government-created project involving oil related or mineral extraction activities, or
 - b. Have made material investments with the effect of significantly enhancing Iran's petroleum sector.
4. This Company is not engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria.

Carr, Riggs + Ingram, LLC
Vendor / Company Name

K. Alan Jowers
Signature of Contractor's Authorized Official

K. Alan Jowers
Name and Title of Contractor's Authorized Official

4/19/22
Date



Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC
Certified Public Accountants
500 Grand Boulevard
Suite 210
Miramar Beach, Florida 32550

(850) 837-3141
(850) 654-4619 (fax)
CRICpa.com

April 19, 2022

Ms. Julie Perry, Interim Chief Financial Officer
The School Board of Okaloosa County, Florida
120 Lowery Place, SE
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for The School Board of Okaloosa County, Florida ("the District") for the year ended June 30, 2022.

Audit Scope and Objectives

We will audit the financial statements related to the school internal funds for the 37 schools located within the District's boundaries, including the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic fiduciary fund financial statements of the District's School Internal Funds as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022. We will also perform tests of each school's compliance with applicable laws and regulations (i.e. State of Florida Redbook) and the provisions of contracts and agreements. The audit will not address issues or areas outside the internal funds.

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than required supplementary information (RSI) that accompanies the District's fiduciary fund financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements:

- 1) Supplemental schedules of cash receipts and disbursements by school.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and issue an auditor's report that includes opinions about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting standards generally accepted in the United States (GAAP) and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements.

The objective also includes reporting on internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulation, contracts and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance *Government Auditing Standards*.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements and Single Audit

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of the District's accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the District or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the District. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry.

Our audit of financial statements does not relieve you of your responsibilities.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

We will obtain an understanding of the government and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the District's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes of the District in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements and Single Audit

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge your responsibility for (1) designing, implementing, establishing and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including internal controls over federal awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (2) following laws and regulations;

(3) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (4) ensuring that management is reliable and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and all accompanying information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes) and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

You are also responsible for making drafts of financial statements, all financial records, and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, including identification of all related parties and related-party relationships and transactions, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. Management is also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that we report.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with GAAP. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

We will provide copies of our reports to the District; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to the Florida Auditor General or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend or decide to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the Department of Education. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

K. Alan Jowers is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. We expect to begin our audit on approximately July 15, 2022 and to issue our reports no later than October 31, 2022.

Each school will have its own supplementary schedule of cash receipts and disbursements, and one report will be issued to include all schools. An exit conference will be held with each school's principal to review all findings, at which time we will deliver a memorandum to each school's Principal. Each Principal will have a minimum of 10 working days to respond to any audit findings once the final draft has been prepared, and said responses will be provided to the Board. Prior to the issuance of the initial reports, a summary exit conference will be held with the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer. The final report and the Principals' responses will be issued with six copies being delivered to the members of the Board and the Superintendent of Schools.

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC will coordinate our schedule and requests for information through each School Principal. If necessary, we will consult with the Chief Financial Officer for the School District, of federal

and state auditors. We will directly contact the Chairman of the Board with any unresolved question of access, authority, or jurisdiction. The Chief Financial Officer, the Principal of each school and other responsible personnel will be available to Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC during normal business hours. The Superintendent of Schools will provide Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC with reasonable work space, desks, and chairs and access to telephone lines, photocopying facilities and fax machines at each school and at the School District offices, if necessary. Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC is responsible for report preparation, editing and printing.

We will provide training to Bookkeepers, Principals and Finance Department staff, as necessary.

Our fee for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses, will not exceed \$70,000. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will keep you informed of any problems we encounter and our fees will be adjusted accordingly.

Reporting

We will issue written reports upon completion of our audit of the District's financial statements. Our reports will be addressed to the Board of Directors of the District. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter paragraph to our auditors' report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions on the financial statements are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports or may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states that (1) the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control compliance. The report will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the District is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

Dispute Resolution

In the event of a dispute between the parties which arises out of or relates to this contract or engagement letter, the breach thereof or the services provided or to be provided hereunder, if the dispute cannot be settled through negotiation, the parties agree that before initiating arbitration, litigation or other dispute resolution procedure, they will first try, in good faith, to resolve the dispute through non-binding mediation. All parties agree that an alternative form of dispute resolution shall not be undertaken by either party until the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days following notice being provided to the other party indicating that the dispute cannot be settled through mediation. The mediation will be administered by the American Arbitration Association under its *Dispute Resolution Rules for Professional Accounting and Related Services Disputes*. The costs of any mediation proceedings shall be shared equally by all parties.

Limitation of Liability

EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT, CRI SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, EXEMPLARY, SPECIAL, PUNITIVE OR ANCILLARY DAMAGES OF ANY KIND ALLEGED AS A RESULT OF ANY CAUSE OF ACTION FROM THIS AGREEMENT, WHETHER ARISING OUT OF BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE. UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED IN THIS AGREEMENT, BOTH CRI AND YOU AGREE THAT THE TOTAL CUMULATIVE LIABILITY OF CRI (INCLUDING ITS EMPLOYEES, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS OR AGENTS), SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF FEES EARNED BY CRI RELATED TO THIS ENGAGEMENT DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS PRECEDING THE EVENT GIVING RISE TO THE CLAIM, AS SUCH AMOUNT SHALL SERVE AS A REASONABLE PROSPECTIVE ESTIMATE OF ANY DAMAGES WHICH YOU MAY SUFFER THROUGH ANY BREACH BY CRI OF THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT, AS SUCH DAMAGES MAY BE SPECULATIVE OR IMPOSSIBLE TO CALCULATE. IF THERE ARE UNPAID FEES OWED TO CRI, THIS CUMULATIVE LIABILITY WILL BE REDUCED BY THE VALUE OF THE UNPAID FEES WITH NO ADDITIONAL INTEREST OR CHARGES, AS CRI RETAINS THE RIGHT TO OFFSET ANY SUMS CLAIMED AS DUE AND OWED BY YOU, BY ANY SUMS TO WHICH IT IS LEGALLY ENTITLED. THIS LIMITATION SHALL APPLY WHETHER OR NOT FURTHER DAMAGES ARE FORESEEABLE, OR WHETHER EITHER PARTY (OR ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, OFFICERS OR DIRECTORS) HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

Governing Law; Venue

This agreement and performance hereunder shall be governed by the laws of the State of Alabama, without reference to any conflict of laws rules or principles. Any action or proceeding arising from or relating to this agreement must be brought in a state or federal court having jurisdiction in Coffee County, Alabama, and each party irrevocably submits to the jurisdiction and venue of any such court in any such action or proceeding and agrees to waive any defenses to venue and jurisdiction including *forum non conveniens*.

Statute of Limitations

The parties agree that there shall be a one-year statute of limitation (from the delivery of the service or termination of the contract) for the filing of any requests for arbitration, lawsuit, or proceeding related to this agreement. If such a claim is filed more than one year, or the minimum durational period having been determined as permissible by applicable statutory law or by a court of competent jurisdiction, subsequent to the delivery of the service or termination of the contract, whichever occurs first in time, then it shall be precluded by this provision, regardless of whether or not the claim has accrued at that time.

Disclosure

We may, from time to time and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account including service providers located outside of the United States. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers. By signing this letter, you consent to allow us to disclose your financial information, if applicable, or other information to our service providers located abroad. If you want to limit the amount of information that may be disclosed to any third-party service provider, please notify us in writing as an attachment to this letter.

Electronic Data Communication and Storage and Use of Third Party Service Provider

In the interest of facilitating our services to your company, we may send data over the Internet, securely store electronic data via computer software applications hosted remotely on the Internet, or allow access to data through third-party vendors' secured portals or clouds. Electronic data that is confidential to your company may be transmitted or stored using these methods. We may use third-party service providers to store or transmit this data, such as, but not limited to, providers of tax return preparation software. In using these data communication and storage methods, our firm employs measures designed to maintain data security. We use reasonable efforts to keep such communications and data access secure in accordance with our obligations under applicable laws and professional standards. We also require our third-party vendors to do the same.

You recognize and accept that we have no control over, and shall not be responsible for, the unauthorized interception or breach of any communications or data once it has been sent or has been subject to unauthorized access, notwithstanding all reasonable security measures employed by us or our third-party vendors. You consent to our use of these electronic devices and applications and submission of confidential client information to third-party service providers during this engagement.

To enhance our services to you, we will use a combination of remote access, secure file transfer, virtual private network or other collaborative, virtual workspace or other online tools or environments. Access through any combination of these tools allows for on-demand and/or real-time collaboration across geographic boundaries and time zones and allows CRI and you to share data, engagement information, knowledge, and deliverables in a protected environment. In order to use certain of these tools and in addition to execution of this acknowledgement and engagement letter, you may be required to execute a separate client acknowledgement or agreement and agree to be bound by the terms, conditions and limitations of such agreement. You agree that CRI has no responsibility for the activities of its third-party vendors supplying these tools and agree to indemnify and hold CRI harmless with respect to any and all claims arising from or related to the operation of these tools. While we may back up your files to facilitate our services, you are solely responsible for the backup of your files and records; therefore, we recommend that you also maintain your own backup files of these records. In the event you suffer a loss of any files or records due to accident, inadvertent mistake, or Act of God, copies of which you have provided to us pursuant to this agreement, we shall not be responsible or obligated to provide you a copy of any such file or record which we may retain in our possession.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the School Board's Internal Funds and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the attached copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C.

CARR, RIGGS & INGRAM, LLC

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Okaloosa County District School Board.

Signature: _____

Title: _____