

**DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
REGARDING THE A-F ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM LAWSUIT**

September 21, 2023

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of a Legal Services Agreement to engage the law firm of O’Hanlon, Demerath, & Castillo to join Denton ISD as a plaintiff in the A-F Accountability System lawsuit by the Board of Trustees.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency intends to release ratings for the 2022-23 school year on September 28, 2023, retroactively changing accountability standards in the accountability system that would lower the rating of thousands of schools. Several Texas school districts have filed a lawsuit seeking an injunction to prevent the Commissioner from issuing new ratings using the retroactively applied, yet-to-be finalized, measures, methods, and procedures in determining accountability ratings for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Maximum fees of \$10,000.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

Adoption of this Legal Services Agreement would engage the law firm of O’Hanlon, Demerath, & Castillo as outside council to join Denton ISD as a plaintiff in the A-F Accountability System lawsuit on behalf of Denton ISD parents, students and taxpayers to challenge the Commissioner’s failure to comply with Texas law and provide Texas school districts advanced notice of the measures, methods, and procedures to be used in the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years prior to the start of each of those school years in violation of state law.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board can decide not to pass the Legal Services Agreement and not become a party to the lawsuit.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends approval of the Legal Services Agreement regarding the A-F Accountability System

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Dr. Jamie Wilson, Superintendent
Deron Robinson, General Counsel

ATTACHMENT:

Legal Services Agreement Regarding the A-F Accountability System
Original Petition – Kingsville ISD et al. v. Morath
A-F Accountability Lawsuit District Participation List

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____