



WALSH GALLEGOS
TREVIÑO RUSSO & KYLE P.C.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
FOR ECTOR COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Ector County Independent School District (hereinafter "District"), acting by and through the authorized Trustee or Employee whose signature appears below, hereby retains the law firm of Walsh Gallegos Treviño Russo & Kyle P.C. (hereinafter "Law Firm"), to provide the services to the District set forth below.

1. Telephone Consultation: The Law Firm shall provide telephone consultation at no charge to the District's Board President, Superintendent, Special Education Director, or designee pertaining to questions arising out of the general operation of the District. The District shall have access to a statewide toll-free telephone number for calls to the Law Firm.
2. Additional Legal Work: The District shall be entitled to reduced hourly rates for additional legal work over and above general telephone consultation. Examples of such additional legal work are research, opinion letters, and legal advice or representation in adversarial matters. Expenses incurred by the Law Firm in providing such additional legal work shall be charged.
3. Publications: The Law Firm shall provide at no charge the monthly publication This Just In, dealing with special education law issues, and the bi-monthly general school law publication Time Out with Walsh Gallegos, both published by the Law Firm.
4. E-mail Updates: The Law Firm shall send periodic e-mail updates to designated District personnel and trustees relating to developments in school law. The content and publication schedule of such updates shall be determined solely by the Law Firm.
5. Retainer Term and Cost: There shall be a fee of \$1,000.00 for this Retainer Agreement due upon execution and annually thereafter on the anniversary of the execution date below. This Retainer Agreement shall remain in effect until notice of cancellation is received.
6. Compliance with HB 89: The Law Firm does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of this contract.

7. Scope of Attorney-Client Relationship: This Retainer Agreement establishes a limited attorney-client relationship only between the Law Firm and the District. The relationship exists only as to the consultations and additional legal work that are initiated by the District and accepted by the Law Firm pursuant to this Agreement. The Retainer Agreement does not impose any duty upon the Law Firm to provide advice or work to the District regarding legal matters absent a request by the District's Board President, Superintendent, Special Education Director, or designee for such advice or work on a matter. The Law Firm and the District acknowledge and represent that this Agreement does not establish an attorney-client relationship between the Law Firm and any individual Trustees or Employees of the District. If a lawsuit or other adversarial matter is brought against the District and/or any Trustee or Employee of the District, the Law Firm may require the execution of one or more separate Letters of Engagement prior to undertaking an attorney-client relationship in the matter.

ECTOR COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: _____

(Signature)

Delma Abalos

(Print Name)

Board President

(Title)

(Date)

WALSH GALLEGOS TREVIÑO RUSSO & KYLE P.C.



By: _____

Joe A. De Los Santos
Managing Shareholder

11/1/2020

(Date)



WALSH GALLEGOS
TREVIÑO RUSSO & KYLE P.C.

Program for EFT/ACH Payments

Walsh Gallegos Trevino Russo & Kyle P.C. is working to improve our services to you and assist you in saving time and money. To that end, we now offer our clients the option to pay their invoices electronically by either Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Automated Clearing House (ACH) payment--instead of the traditional paper, check-by-mail method.

An EFT/ACH payment authorizes the client's bank to move funds from its bank account to the bank account of the authorized merchant (Walsh, Gallegos). This movement of funds is done between banks electronically—thus the term Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Automated Clearing House (ACH). This electronic movement of funds between banks is more convenient, efficient, secure, and far less costly than the handling of paper checks.

If your district is interested in participating in our EFT/ACH payment program, please e-mail a request to WA-EFT@wabsa.com or call Lisa González at (800) 252-3405 to receive our bank account information for EFT/ACH payments.

We are excited to be able to extend this opportunity to our clients. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.



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FEE SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 16, 2019
LEGAL SERVICES RETAINER AGREEMENT

For Retainer Program Clients

Annual retainer fee is \$1,000 billed each year on the anniversary of the client joining the program.

Telephone consultation with school officials in this program regarding general routine legal matters is free of charge. The firm has toll-free telephone numbers that are made available to these clients.

An hourly rate of \$230/hour for associates licensed less than one year, \$240/hour for associates licensed one to two years, \$295/hour for associates licensed over two years, or \$315/hour for shareholders is charged for time spent on research, opinion letters, office visits, board meetings, and other work of a general nature.

For matters requiring more in-depth work, such as document review, negotiation of a contract, grievance, nonrenewal, review of constructions documents, litigation, administrative appeals, and the like, all time, including telephone calls, is charged at the current hourly retainer rates shown above, plus expenses. A new file is set up so that the billings show legal fees attributable to that particular matter.

For Non-retainer Program Clients

An hourly rate of \$230/hour for associates licensed less than one year, \$240/hour for associates licensed one to two years, \$315/hour for associates licensed over two years, or \$335/hour for shareholders is charged for time spent on any work, including all telephone calls, office visits, litigation, research, opinion letters, hearings, and the like.

The above rates are subject to change at any time.



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BENEFITS OF THE RETAINER PROGRAM

1. **FREE TELEPHONE CONSULTATION:** The law firm provides telephone consultation at no charge to the District's Board President, Superintendent, Special Education Director or any designee pertaining to questions arising out of the general operation of the District. Last year, our member clients received an average of 12 free hours of telephone consultation. That is a \$3,060 value in telephone calls alone!

As a retainer client, the District has exclusive access to the statewide toll-free telephone numbers for calls to the law firm. Before making decisions with legal consequences, use our exclusive toll-free number to reach any Walsh Gallegos attorney:

- Austin (800) 252-3405
- San Antonio (800) 232-9169
- Irving (800) 231-4207
- Houston (888) 565-6864
- Rio Grande Valley (866) 770-6864
- Amarillo (800) 622-6864
- Albuquerque (800) 771-6864

2. **REDUCED RATES FOR ADDITIONAL LEGAL WORK:** The District receives reduced hourly rates for additional works that goes beyond the initial general telephone consultations, such as analyzing documents, writing opinion letters, attending school board meetings, or follow up phone consultations. Though the hourly rates are reduced for retainer clients, any actual expenses (copy costs or mileage, for example) incurred by the law firm in providing such additional work are charged.
3. **FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO FIRM PUBLICATIONS:** Membership in the Walsh Gallegos Retainer Program also entitles the District to receive free subscriptions to both of the firm's newsletters:
 - (1) the informative bi-monthly newsletter "*Time Out with Walsh Gallegos*" that provides timely reminders and practical suggestions about general education law issues arising throughout the school year, and
 - (2) the monthly publication "*This Just In*" which addresses legal issues specific to the special needs of students with disabilities
4. **E-MAIL UPDATES:** As another benefit of the Retainer Program, Walsh Gallegos sends periodic e-mail updates to you (and to any other District personnel or trustees you designate) to help

keep the District abreast of the latest developments in school law. These updates, averaging more than one per month, address a broad range of timely topics and are designed to keep you informed and better prepared in your work for the District. Examples of the topics of our updates include:

- New Rules for Public Comment
- New Legislation Regarding PIA Requests and Retention of Information
- Thinking of alternatives to TRS-ActiveCare for your District's employees?
- Planning Ahead for FEMA
- Potential Forms of COVID-19 Related District Funding
- Best Practices on Addressing and Preventing Cyberbullying in a Time of COVID-19 Closures
- Staying Current With FERPA As Virtual Instruction Expands
- Final Title IX Sexual Harassment Regulations Released
- Graduation Ceremonies During the Pandemic
- The Digital Millennium Copyright Act, Copyright Infringement, & Your School District
- Time Flies! Has Your District Completed the Required Cybersecurity Training Yet?

Don't let your District personnel miss our next update!

5. **REDUCED RATES ON ALL WALSH GALLEGOS INSERVICES:** Our Retainer Program members also receive reduced rates on all inservices presented at the District. Our up-to-date training programs are presented by attorneys with firsthand experience and knowledge about the current legal issues confronting Texas school districts. Our retainer clients also receive priority scheduling for inservice training.
6. **REDUCED RATES ON ALL WALSH GALLEGOS PRODUCTS:** To assist clients in their day-to-day operations, we have developed several practical products to save you time and head off potential problems during the school year. These products are easy to navigate, written in plain language, and are full of useful suggestions. As a member of the Retainer Program, clients receive reduced rates on these helpful tools, including:
 - Interactive Student Code of Conduct
 - Discipline Guide for DAEP & Expulsion
 - Administrator's Anti-Bullying Toolkit
 - Sexual Harassment Investigation Guide
 - Operating Guidelines for Cameras in Special Education Settings
7. **ONE FREE ON-DEMAND WEBINAR:** Our retainer clients are also eligible for one free On-Demand webinar of the District's choice, to be selected from our published webinar schedule. Our On-Demand webinars provide excellent training for school administrators without having to leave the district.