

**INTERLOCAL COOPERATION CONTRACT
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
CONTRACT NO. HHS00**

THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ("System Agency" or "Facility") and Terrell Independent School District ("District" or "Local Government"), each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties," enter into the following contract for educational services (the "Contract") pursuant to the provisions of the "Interlocal Cooperation Act," Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code.

I. PARTIES

System Agency

Name -Terrell State Hospital
Address: 1200 East Brin Street
City and Zip: Terrell, Texas 75160
Contact Person: Stephany VanBolden
Telephone: 972-551-8563
Fax number: 972-551-8502
E-Mail Address: stephany.vanbolden@hhs.texas.gov
Agency Number: 529

Local Government

Name: Terrell Independent School District
Address: 700 Catherine Street
City and Zip: Terrell, Texas 75160
Contact Person: Jammie Hayes
Telephone: 972-563-7580
Fax number:
E-Mail Address: jammie.hayes@terrellisd.org
Agency Number:

II. STATEMENT OF SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

The Parties agree to cooperate to provide necessary and authorized services and resources in accordance with the terms of this Contract. Specific services provided are described in **Attachment A – Statement of Work.**

III. CONTRACT PERIOD AND RENEWAL

The Contract is effective on the signature date of the latter of the Parties to sign this agreement and terminates on May 29, 2028, unless renewed, extended, or terminated pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Contract.

IV. AMENDMENT

The Parties to this Contract may modify this contract only through the execution of a written amendment signed by both parties.

V. CONTRACT AMOUNT AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

The total amount of this Contract shall not exceed \$150,000.00 per state fiscal year, with a total not-to-exceed amount of \$450,000.00, as provided for in **Attachment B – Budget.**

VI. LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices under this Contract shall be deemed delivered when deposited either in the United States mail, postage paid, certified, return receipt requested; or with a common carrier, overnight, signature required, to the appropriate address below:

System Agency

Health and Human Services Commission
Attention: Office of Chief Counsel
4601 W. Guadalupe, Mail Code 1100
Austin, Texas 78751

Local Government

Terrell Independent School District
700 Catherine Street
Terrell, Texas 75160
Attention: Jammie Hayes

Notice given in any other manner shall be deemed effective only if and when received by the Party to be notified. Either Party may change its address for receiving legal notice by notifying the other Party in writing.

VII. CERTIFICATIONS

The undersigned contracting parties certify that:

- (1) the services specified above are necessary and essential for activities that are properly within the statutory functions and programs of the affected agencies of state government;
- (2) Each Party executing this Contract on its behalf has full power and authority to enter into this Contract.
- (3) the proposed arrangements serve the interest of efficient and economical administration of state government; and
- (4) the services contracted for are not required by Section 21, Article XVI of the Constitution of Texas to be supplied under a contract awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

The System Agency further certifies that it has statutory authority to contract for the services described in this contract under *Texas Health and Safety Code*, Titles 7 and 12.

The Local Government further certifies that it has statutory authority to contract for the services described in this Contract in accordance with Texas Education Code Section 25.001.

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR SYSTEM AGENCY CONTRACT NO. **HHS00**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

TERRELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Signature

Authorized Signature-Board President

Dr. Mark Messer
Printed Name

Printed Name

Superintendent
Title

Title

Date of Signature

Date of Signature

Terrell ISD Superintendent

Name

Date of Signature

THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENTS TO SYSTEM AGENCY CONTRACT NO. **HHS00** ARE HEREBY
INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

ATTACHMENT A	STATEMENT OF WORK
ATTACHMENT B	BUDGET
ATTACHMENT B1	TERRELL ISD 2024-2025 NEW HIRE GUIDE FOR TEACHERS
ATTACHMENT C	UNIFORM TERMS AND CONDITIONS – GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY V.3.3
ATTACHMENT D	DATA USE AGREEMENT – GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY V.8.5
ATTACHMENT E	BOARD POLICY FFG

**ATTACHMENT B
BUDGET**

I. INVOICING

Terrell Independent School District shall invoice Terrell State Hospital for two teacher salaries with an amount of \$150,000.00 per State Fiscal Year for educational services rendered to the patients of Terrell State Hospital in accordance with the requirements of Attachment B1, Terrell ISD 2024-2025 New Hire Guide for Teachers.

One-time payment of above-referenced amount for the notated school year term in the Contract and for any future years permitted by amendments when and if executed by both Parties.

Invoices shall be submitted to the following email address: dshs.tshbusinessoffice@dshs.texas.gov

It is recommended that the Terrell Independent School District use the following naming convention for the subject line of invoice submission emails: "Invoice Submission. [Legal Entity Name of Vendor]. Invoice [Number]. [Invoice Amount]. Purchase Order (PO) [Number] (if applicable). [Service Date or Month of Services]."

In addition, Contractor invoices must comply with the standards set forth in 34 Texas Administrative Code § 20.487.

If mailing the invoices, please send to:

**Terrell State Hospital
Attention: Accounting
P.O. Box 70
Terrell, Texas 75160
Mail Code: 5030**

Invoices must include the following information:

1. Service Date or month of service
2. Invoice Number
3. Invoice Amount
4. Legal Name of Entity
5. Contract Number
6. Due By Date

II. PAYMENTS

Terrell State Hospital shall pay for services rendered in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Contract.

Payment for Services rendered and invoiced shall be paid net 30 days in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 2251 and all payment guidelines established by Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

**ATTACHMENT A
STATEMENT OF WORK**

I. PURPOSE

The Parties agree to provide education services to eligible students residing at the Facility during the Contract term. Pursuant to Texas Education Code 25.001(b)(7) and 29.012(c), an eligible person who resides in a residential facility is considered a resident of the school district in which the facility is located.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

A. Joint Responsibilities. The Parties agree to:

1. Cooperate in providing eligible students ("participants") education services under the direct supervision of personnel who are qualified to supervise.
2. Comply with all applicable federal and state law, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to Texas Education Code Title 2, Chapter 29.
3. In order to promote open communication between the District and the Facility, that representatives of the District's Programs and Facility will meet at least once annually to discuss implementation of this Agreement, to prevent misunderstandings, and to ensure the educational program (the "Special Education Program" or the "Program") is consistent with District curriculum requirements.
4. Ensure that the services covered by this Agreement will be performed and rendered in a competent, efficient, and satisfactory manner.
5. Protect the participants' educational records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 USC§ 1232g, any applicable policy of the Parties, and **Attachment D, Data Use Agreement**. To the extent permitted by law, the Parties may share information from participants' educational records with each other so that each can perform its respective responsibilities under this Agreement but will not disclose or share education records with any third party.

B. Facility Responsibilities.

1. The Facility will provide to the District, subject to parental or guardian consent, psychological, medical, and social data necessary for the District to consider in determining appropriate education services to be offered to the Student.
2. The Facility agrees to take reasonable precautions to ensure the safety and welfare of the Students.
3. Pursuant to Texas Education Code Section 22.0834, the Facility shall require that all employees in continuing or direct contact with students be fingerprinted and background checked, and pass said background check in compliance with Texas Education Code Chapter 22, prior to participating in the Program. Fingerprinting must be administered by an independent company approved by System Agency. If the results of any criminal background check show an employee has been convicted of or received deferred adjudication for any of the criminal offenses listed in Texas Health and Safety Code § 250.006 or other applicable laws, the participant will be barred from System Agency premises and from participating in the Program. The District shall notify System Agency within two business days of the District's receipt of notice of any action, complaint, claim, investigation, or lawsuit involving a participant that would disqualify the participant from participating in the Program.
4. The District shall provide the Facility with Child Find outreach materials each year that the Facility shall put on display.

5. When handling student information and records, the Facility shall comply with District policy, and state and federal law, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and its implementing federal regulations found in 34 CFR Part 99, and not disclose student information or records to any third party except as in accordance with the law.
6. The Facility shall timely notify the parents or guardian of residents who are eligible to receive education services from the District.
7. The Facility shall provide a consent form to parents or guardians authorizing the District to communicate with the Student's health care provider(s) regarding the Student. Such form shall then be provided to the District.
8. The Facility shall notify the District of any eligible residents within three (3) days or seventy-two (72) hours of admission. At the time of the referral, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the Facility will assist, to the extent practicable, the District in obtaining the following records and information:
 - a. The resident's current educational status including available records from schools previously attended;
 - b. Documentation indicating court-ordered or voluntary Facility placement;
 - c. A record of any previous educational and/or residential placements;
 - d. Documentation of recent vision and hearing screening and immunization records if any;
 - e. A current intake psychological and/or psychiatric report;
 - f. A current intake psychological and/or psychiatric report;
 - g. Current Full Individual Evaluation ("FIE") and annual Individualized Education Programs ("IEPs") if the student has already qualified for special education; and
 - h. Any other relevant information, which is lawfully requested by the District to which the Facility has access.
9. The Facility will provide classrooms sufficient to care for the number of persons included in the Special Education Program classrooms.
10. The Facility will collaborate with the District to ensure that the space provided by the Facility for instruction is a safe and appropriate classroom space.
11. The Facility will maintain appropriate school records, including but not limited to students' cumulative records, required by the District and the Texas Education Agency ("TEA").
12. The Facility will keep the District informed of all changes to policies and procedures concerning abuse, neglect, and exploitation of persons served by the Facility.
13. The Facility will orient the District employees to Facility's facilities and provide information and orientation sessions on Facility's policies.
14. The Facility will not be responsible for student or faculty transportation to and from the Facility's facilities.
15. The Facility will designate a member of the personnel as Facility Liaison and give written notice of the name of the Facility Liaison to the District's designated representative.

16. Pursuant to Chapter 2259 of the Texas Government Code entitled, "Self-Insurance by Governmental Units," the System Agency is self-insured and, therefore, is not required to purchase insurance.

C. **District Responsibilities.**

1. The District will assign employees who meet the Texas Education Agency certification requirements to deliver classroom instruction at Facility to residents of Facility who are eligible for enrollment at the District, as determined by Texas Education Code Section 25.001. Such teachers and teacher aides are to be members of the Terrell Independent School District staff assigned for duty to facilities of Terrell State Hospital.
2. The District will provide education services and contact hours to students in accordance with Texas Education Agency ("TEA") guidelines and the currently adopted Student Attendance Accounting Handbook. Education services shall comply with the requirements of the Texas Education Code, TEA, Commissioner of Education rules, as set forth in Title 19, Part 2, Chapter 89 of the Texas Administrative Code, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), FERPA, other applicable legal requirements, and District Board Policy.
2. The District will provide the Terrell State Hospital Education Department educational materials, supplies, and equipment as determined by the Superintendent of Schools.
3. The District will make available to the Terrell State Hospital program state-adopted textbooks and materials for use by eligible students.
4. District employees will comply with Texas Family Code Chapter 261 as well as Board Policy FFG (LEGAL) and (LOCAL), attached as Attachment E regarding reporting requirements of child abuse and neglect.
5. The District will provide qualified instructors as required by TEA who have appropriate credentials for the courses that they teach.
6. District employees will comply with Facility policies and procedures.
7. The District will be responsible for administrative functions related to student experience, such as records of rotation, attendance, and proficiency.
8. Residents of Facility who are eligible for enrollment at the District will receive instruction in the general curriculum of the District. Determinations as to whether such students are eligible for special education services will be made on an individual basis. Such determinations shall comply with all state and federal laws regarding providing special education services to students. The District will provide either general education services or special education services to students as follows:
 - a. General Education Students – General education students will receive general education services at the Facility. The campus principal shall review the student's information after it is received from the Facility.
 - b. Special Education Students – In accordance with state and federal law, the District will provide special education services to Students who are eligible for such services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"). The student's admission, review, and dismissal ("ARD") committee will determine the special education services needed for the student to receive a free, appropriate Public Education. The committee will determine the type and amount of such

services in accordance with applicable laws. The ARD committee may also determine the length of the transition period to the school-based setting, if applicable.

- c. **Documentation** – The District shall maintain full documentation about all students receiving education services in accordance with administrative procedures and the student's individualized education program ("IEP"), if applicable.

III. **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. **References to Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) or System Agency.** All references to HHSC or System Agency will include Texas Health and Human Services Commission or any successor agency to HHSC.
2. **Meetings.** Both Parties will ensure that appropriate representatives attend meetings relevant to this Agreement, as reasonably required by the System Agency. The cost of attending the meetings will be the sole responsibility of each Party.
3. **Reports and Records.** The Parties will complete and file in a timely manner any reports, records, or documentation required by System Agency in a format specified by System Agency.
4. **Confidentiality.**
 - a. In addition to the requirements of **Attachment C, Uniform Terms and Conditions, Attachment D, Data Use Agreement**, and as required by state or federal law, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and its implementing regulations ("FERPA") and Texas Health and Safety Code Chapters 595 and 611 and § 85.115, the Parties will maintain the confidentiality of information received during the performance of this Agreement, including information which discloses confidential personal information or identifies any consumer served by System Agency or student served by District. Each Party shall notify the other upon learning of a breach of confidentiality of any of the students served under this Agreement in accordance with **Attachment D, Data Use Agreement**.
5. **Public Disclosures.** The Parties will not provide information generated or otherwise obtained in the performance of its responsibilities under this Agreement to any party except as may be required by law or after receiving written consent from the other party.
6. **Public Information Act.** This Agreement and all data and other information developed pursuant to this Agreement will be subject to the Texas Public Information Act.
7. **Assignability.** This Agreement may be assigned to the System Agency's successor state agency or agencies. No other assignment of this Agreement or the rights and obligations hereunder will be valid without the written consent of the non-assigning party.
8. **Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Investigating and Reporting Requirements.**
 - a. **Reporting of Child Abuse.** In addition to the provisions of this Section, both Parties will comply with child abuse and neglect reporting requirements in Texas Family Code Chapter 261.
 - b. **DSHS Child Abuse Reporting Form.** Both Parties will use the DSHS Child Abuse Reporting Form located at www.dshs.state.tx.us/childabusereporting and maintain a copy of it in their records.
 - c. **Reporting to the Department of Family and Protective Services.** District employees will comply with Board Policy FFG (LEGAL) and (LOCAL), as noted above.

- d. **Reporting Abuse to System Agency.** District will report to the appropriate System Agency personnel located at the Facility at which the alleged abuse occurred any allegation that a person has committed abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any Facility consumer.
- e. **Reporting Abuse to District:** System Agency will report to the appropriate District personnel any allegation that a person has committed abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any District student served pursuant to this Agreement.
- f. **Ensuring the Safety and Protection of Consumers Served.** If any employee, officer, volunteer, or director of either Party who is in direct contact with Facility consumers has been accused of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, that employee, officer, volunteer, or director will be removed from direct contact with Facility consumers until an investigation is completed, and the investigation results in the employee, officer, volunteer, or director being cleared of all allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

9. Investigations.

- a. **Against a District employee** - If an allegation of mistreatment or abuse arises against a District employee arises, the District will complete an investigation pursuant to Board Policy and shall take appropriate action. Facility shall cooperate with such investigation unless prohibited by DFPS or law enforcement. Any action against District personnel shall be in the sole discretion of the District. Facility may also conduct an investigation into the conduct and may make a recommendation to the District based on the investigation.
- b. **Against a Facility Employee** – If an allegation of mistreatment or abuse arises against a Facility employee, Facility will conduct an investigation and shall take all actions necessary to support its independent investigation, unless prohibited by law, DFPS, or law enforcement. Any action against Facility personnel shall be in the sole discretion of the Facility. The District may also conduct an investigation and may make a recommendation to the Facility based on the investigation.



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Health and Human Services (HHS)

Uniform Terms and Conditions - Governmental Entity

Version 3.3

Published and Effective - November 2023

Responsible Office: Chief Counsel

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ARTICLE I. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETIVE PROVISIONS

1.1 DEFINITIONS

As used in this Contract, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms and conditions have the meanings assigned below:

“Amendment” means a written agreement, signed by the Parties, which documents changes to the Contract.

“Contract” means the Signature Document, these Uniform Terms and Conditions, along with any attachments, and any Amendments, purchase orders, and Work Orders that may be issued by the System Agency.

“Deliverables” means the goods, services, Work, and Work Product to be provided to System Agency under the Contract.

“DSHS” means the Department of State Health Services.

“Effective Date” means the date on which the Contract takes effect.

“Federal Fiscal Year” means the period beginning October 1 and ending September 30 each year, which is the annual accounting period for the United States government.

“GAAP” means Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

“GASB” means the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

“HHSC” means the Health and Human Services Commission.

“Health and Human Services” or “HHS” includes HHSC and DSHS.

“HUB” means Historically Underutilized Business, as defined by Chapter 2161 of the Texas Government Code.

“Intellectual Property Rights” means the worldwide proprietary rights or interests, including patent, copyright, trade secret, and trademark rights, as such rights may be evidenced by or embodied in:

- i. any idea, design, concept, personality right, method, process, technique, apparatus, invention, discovery, or improvement;
- ii. any work of authorship, including any compilation, computer code, website or web page design, literary work, pictorial work, or graphic work;
- iii. any trademark, service mark, trade dress, trade name, branding, or other indicia of source or origin;
- iv. domain name registrations; and
- v. any other proprietary or similar rights. The Intellectual Property Rights of a Party include all worldwide proprietary rights or interests that the Party may have acquired by assignment, by exclusive license, or by license with the right to grant sublicenses.

“Local Government” means a Texas governmental unit defined under and authorized to enter this contract by Texas Government Code, Chapter 791.

“Parties” means the System Agency and Performing Agency, collectively.

“Party” means either the System Agency or Performing Agency, individually.

“Performing Agency” means the State Agency or Local Government providing the goods or

services defined in this Contract.

“Receiving Agency” means HHSC or DSHS, as applicable, Agency receiving the benefit of the goods or services provided under this Contract.

“Signature Document” means the document executed by both Parties that sets forth all the documents that constitute the Contract.

“Solicitation” means the document, if any, issued by the System Agency (including any published addenda, exhibits, and attachments) under which the goods or services provided under the Contract were initially requested, which is incorporated by reference for all purposes in its entirety.

“Solicitation Response” means Performing Agency’s full and complete response (including any attachments and addenda) to the Solicitation, which is incorporated by reference for all purposes in its entirety.

“State Agency” means a Texas “Agency” as defined under Texas Government Code, Chapter 771.

“State Fiscal Year” means the period beginning September 1 and ending August 31 each year, which is the annual accounting period for the State of Texas.

“State of Texas Textravel” means the information maintained on the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts’ website relative to travel reimbursements under this Contract, if any.

“System Agency” means HHSC or DSHS, as applicable.

“Third Party IP” means the Intellectual Property Rights of any third party that is not a party to this Contract, and that is not a subcontractor.

“Work” means all services to be performed, goods to be delivered, and any appurtenant actions performed, and items produced, conceived, or developed, including Deliverables.

“Work Order” means an individually negotiated document that is executed by both Parties and which authorizes a Project, if any, in an indefinite quantity Contract.

“Work Product” means any and all works, including work papers, notes, materials, approaches, designs, specifications, systems, innovations, improvements, inventions, software, programs, source code, documentation, training materials, audio or audiovisual recordings, methodologies, concepts, studies, reports, whether finished or unfinished, and whether or not included in the Deliverables, that are developed, produced, generated, or provided by Performing Agency in connection with Performing Agency’s performance of its duties under the Contract or through use of any funding provided under this Contract.

1.2 INTERPRETIVE PROVISIONS

- A. The meanings of defined terms include the singular and plural forms.
- B. The words “hereof,” “herein,” “hereunder,” and similar words refer to this Contract as a whole and not to any particular provision, section, attachment, or schedule of this Contract unless otherwise specified.
- C. The term “including” is not limiting and means “including without limitation” and, unless otherwise expressly provided in this Contract, (i) references to contracts (including this Contract) and other contractual instruments shall be deemed to include all subsequent Amendments and other modifications, but only to the extent that such Amendments and other

modifications are not prohibited by the terms of this Contract, and (ii) references to any statute, rule, or regulation are to be construed as including all statutory and regulatory provisions consolidating, amending, replacing, or supplementing the statute or regulation.

- D. The captions and headings of this Contract are for convenience of reference only and do not affect the interpretation of this Contract.
- E. All attachments, including those incorporated by reference, and any Amendments are considered part of the terms of this Contract.
- F. This Contract may use several different limitations, regulations, or policies to regulate the same or similar matters. All such limitations, regulations, and policies are cumulative.
- G. Unless otherwise expressly provided, reference to any action of the System Agency or by the System Agency by way of consent, approval, or waiver will be deemed modified by the phrase "in its sole discretion."
- H. Time is of the essence in this Contract.

ARTICLE II. PAYMENT PROVISIONS

2.1 PAYMENT

Payment shall be made in accordance with Government Code, Chapter 771, Government Code, Chapter 791, or Government Code, Chapter 2251.051, as applicable.

2.2 ANCILLARY AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

- A. Except as otherwise provided in the Contract, no ancillary expenses incurred by the Performing Agency in connection with its provision of the services or Deliverables will be reimbursed by the System Agency. Ancillary expenses include, but are not limited to costs associated with transportation, delivery, and insurance for each Deliverable.
- B. When the reimbursement of travel expenses is authorized by the Contract, all such expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the rates set by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' *Texttravel* guidelines which can currently be accessed at:
<https://fmx.cpa.texas.gov/fmx/travel/texttravel/>

2.3 NO QUANTITY GUARANTEES

The System Agency makes no guarantee of volume or usage of Work under this Contract. All Work requested may be on an irregular and as needed basis throughout the Contract term.

2.4 TAXES

Purchases made for State of Texas use are exempt from the State Sales Tax and Federal Excise Tax. Performing Agency represents and warrants that it shall pay all taxes or similar amounts resulting from the Contract, including, but not limited to, any federal, State, or local income, sales or excise taxes of Performing Agency or its employees. System Agency shall not be liable for any taxes resulting from the contract.

ARTICLE III. STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING

3.1 EXCESS OBLIGATIONS PROHIBITED

The Contract is subject to termination or cancellation, without penalty to the System Agency, either in whole or in part, subject to the availability of state funds. System Agency is a state agency whose authority and appropriations are subject to actions of the Texas Legislature. If System Agency

becomes subject to a legislative change, revocation of statutory authority, or lack of appropriated funds that would render either System Agency's or Performing Agency's delivery or performance under the Contract impossible or unnecessary, the Contract will be terminated or cancelled and be deemed null and void. In the event of a termination or cancellation under this Section, System Agency will not be liable to Performing Agency for any damages that are caused or associated with such termination, or cancellation, and System Agency will not be required to give prior notice.

3.2 NO DEBT AGAINST THE STATE

This Contract will not be construed as creating any debt by or on behalf of the State of Texas.

3.3 DEBT AND DELINQUENCIES

Performing Agency agrees that any payments due under the Contract shall be directly applied towards eliminating any debt or delinquency it has to the State of Texas including, but not limited to, delinquent taxes, delinquent student loan payments, and delinquent child support.

3.4 REFUNDS AND OVERPAYMENTS

- A. At its sole discretion, the System Agency may:
 - i. withhold all or part of any payments to Performing Agency to offset overpayments, unallowable or ineligible costs made to the Performing Agency, or if any required financial status report(s) is not submitted by the due date(s); or,
 - ii. require Performing Agency to promptly refund or credit - within thirty (30) calendar days of written notice - any funds erroneously paid by System Agency which are not expressly authorized under the Contract.
- B. "Overpayments," as used in this Section, include payments:
 - i. made by the System Agency that exceed the maximum allowable rates;
 - ii. that are not allowed under applicable laws, rules, or regulations; or,
 - iii. that are otherwise inconsistent with this Contract, including any unapproved expenditures.

Performing Agency understands and agrees that it will be liable to the System Agency for any costs disallowed pursuant to financial and compliance audit(s) of funds received under this Contract. Performing Agency further understands and agrees that reimbursement of such disallowed costs shall be paid by Performing Agency from funds which were not provided or otherwise made available to Performing Agency under this Contract.

ARTICLE IV. WARRANTY, AFFIRMATIONS, ASSURANCES, AND CERTIFICATIONS

4.1 WARRANTY

Performing Agency warrants that all Work under this Contract shall be completed in a manner consistent with standards under the terms of this Contract, in the applicable trade, profession, or industry; shall conform to or exceed the specifications set forth in the Contract; and all Deliverables shall be fit for ordinary use, of good quality, and with no material defects. If System Agency, in its sole discretion, determines Performing Agency has failed to complete Work timely or to perform satisfactorily under conditions required by this Contract, the System Agency may require Performing Agency, at its sole expense, to:

- i. Repair or replace all defective or damaged Work;
- ii. Refund any payment Performing Agency received from System Agency for all defective or damaged Work and, in conjunction therewith, require Performing Agency to accept the return of such Work; and,

- iii. Take necessary action to ensure that Performing Agency's future performance and Work conform to the Contract requirements.

4.2 CONTRACT AFFIRMATIONS

Performing Agency certifies that, to the extent Contract Affirmations are incorporated into the Contract under the Signature Document, the Performing Agency has reviewed the Contract Affirmations and that Performing Agency is in compliance with all requirements.

4.3 FEDERAL ASSURANCES

Performing Agency certifies that, to the extent federal assurances are incorporated into the Contract under the Signature Document, the Performing Agency has reviewed the federal assurances and that Performing Agency is in compliance with all requirements.

4.4 FEDERAL CERTIFICATIONS

Performing Agency certifies that, to the extent federal certifications are incorporated into the Contract under the Signature Document, the Performing Agency has reviewed the federal certifications and that Performing Agency is in compliance with all requirements. In addition, Performing Agency certifies that it is and shall remain in compliance with all applicable federal laws, rules, and regulations, as they may pertain to this Contract.

ARTICLE V. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1 OWNERSHIP OF WORK PRODUCT

- A. All right, title, and interest in the Work Product, including all Intellectual Property Rights therein, is exclusively owned by System Agency. Performing Agency and Performing Agency's employees will have no rights in or ownership of the Work Product or any other property of System Agency.
- B. Any and all Work Product that is copyrightable under United States copyright law is deemed to be "work made for hire" owned by System Agency, as provided by Title 17 of the United States Code. To the extent that Work Product does not qualify as a "work made for hire" under applicable federal law, Performing Agency hereby irrevocably assigns and transfers to System Agency, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest in and to the Work Product, including any and all Intellectual Property Rights embodied therein or associated therewith, and in and to all works based upon, derived from, or incorporating the Work Product, and in and to all income, royalties, damages, claims and payments now or hereafter due or payable with respect thereto, and in and to all causes of action, either in law or in equity for past, present or future infringement based on the copyrights, and in and to all rights corresponding to the foregoing.
- C. Performing Agency agrees to execute all papers and to perform such other acts as System Agency may deem necessary to secure for System Agency or its designee the rights herein assigned.
- D. In the event that Performing Agency has any rights in and to the Work Product that cannot be assigned to System Agency, Performing Agency hereby grants to System Agency an exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, transferable, irrevocable, and perpetual license, with the right to sublicense, to reproduce, distribute, modify, create derivative works of, publicly perform and publicly display, make, have made, use, sell and offer for sale the Work Product and any products developed by practicing such rights.

- E. The foregoing does not apply to Incorporated Pre-existing Works or Third Party IP that are incorporated in the Work Product by Performing Agency. Performing Agency shall provide System Agency access during normal business hours to all Vendor materials, premises, and computer files containing the Work Product.

5.2 PERFORMING AGENCY'S PRE-EXISTING WORKS

- A. To the extent that Performing Agency incorporates into the Work Product any works of Performing Agency that were created by Performing Agency or that Performing Agency acquired rights in prior to the Effective Date of this Contract ("**Incorporated Pre-existing Works**"), Performing Agency retains ownership of such Incorporated Pre-existing Works.
- B. Performing Agency hereby grants to System Agency an irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free, transferable, worldwide right and license, with the right to sublicense, to use, reproduce, modify, copy, create derivative works of, publish, publicly perform and display, sell, offer to sell, make and have made, the Incorporated Pre-existing Works, in any medium, with or without the associated Work Product.
- C. Performing Agency represents, warrants, and covenants to System Agency that Performing Agency has all necessary right and authority to grant the foregoing license in the Incorporated Pre-existing Works to System Agency.

5.3 THIRD PARTY IP

- A. To the extent that any Third Party IP is included or incorporated in the Work Product by Performing Agency, Performing Agency hereby grants to System Agency, or shall obtain from the applicable third party for System Agency's benefit, the irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free right and license, for System Agency's internal business purposes only,
 - i. to use, reproduce, display, perform, distribute copies of, and prepare derivative works based upon such Third Party IP and any derivative works thereof embodied in or delivered to System Agency in conjunction with the Work Product, and
 - ii. to authorize others to do any or all of the foregoing.
- B. Performing Agency shall obtain System Agency's advance written approval prior to incorporating any Third Party IP into the Work Product, and Performing Agency shall notify System Agency on delivery of the Work Product if such materials include any Third Party IP.
- C. Performing Agency shall provide System Agency all supporting documentation demonstrating Performing Agency's compliance with this **Section 5.3**, including without limitation documentation indicating a third party's written approval for Performing Agency to use any Third Party IP that may be incorporated in the Work Product.

5.4 AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS

Performing Agency shall have written, binding agreements with its employees and subcontractors that include provisions sufficient to give effect to and enable Performing Agency's compliance with Performing Agency's obligations under this **Article V**.

5.5 DELIVERY UPON TERMINATION OR EXPIRATION

No later than the first calendar day after the termination or expiration of the Contract or upon System Agency's request, Performing Agency shall deliver to System Agency all completed, or partially completed, Work Product, including any Incorporated Pre-existing Works, and any and all versions thereof. Performing Agency's failure to timely deliver such Work Product is a material breach of the Contract. Performing Agency will not retain any copies of the Work Product or any

documentation or other products or results of Performing Agency's activities under the Contract without the prior written consent of System Agency.

5.6 SURVIVAL

The provisions and obligations of this **Article V** survive any termination or expiration of the Contract.

5.7 SYSTEM AGENCY DATA

- A. As between the Parties, all data and information acquired, accessed, or made available to Performing Agency by, through, or on behalf of System Agency or System Agency contractors, including all electronic data generated, processed, transmitted, or stored by Performing Agency in the course of providing data processing services in connection with Performing Agency's performance hereunder (the "**System Agency Data**"), is owned solely by System Agency.
- B. Performing Agency has no right or license to use, analyze, aggregate, transmit, create derivatives of, copy, disclose, or process the System Agency Data except as required for Performing Agency to fulfill its obligations under the Contract or as authorized in advance in writing by System Agency.
- C. For the avoidance of doubt, Performing Agency is expressly prohibited from using, and from permitting any third party to use, System Agency Data for marketing, research, or other non-governmental or commercial purposes, without the prior written consent of System Agency.
- D. Performing Agency shall make System Agency Data available to System Agency, including to System Agency's designated vendors, as directed in writing by System Agency. The foregoing shall be at no cost to System Agency.
- E. Furthermore, the proprietary nature of Performing Agency's systems that process, store, collect, and/or transmit the System Agency Data shall not excuse Performing Agency's performance of its obligations hereunder.

ARTICLE VI. PROPERTY

6.1 USE OF STATE PROPERTY

- A. Performing Agency is prohibited from using State Property for any purpose other than performing services authorized under the Contract.
- B. State Property includes, but is not limited to, System Agency's office space, identification badges, System Agency information technology equipment and networks (e.g., laptops, portable printers, cell phones, iPads or tablets, external hard drives, data storage devices, any System Agency-issued software, and the System Agency Virtual Private Network (VPN client)), and any other resources of System Agency.
- C. Performing Agency shall not remove State Property from the continental United States. In addition, Performing Agency may not use any computing device to access System Agency's network or e-mail while outside of the continental United States.
- D. Performing Agency shall not perform any maintenance services on State Property unless the Contract expressly authorizes such services.
- E. During the time that State Property is in the possession of Performing Agency, Performing Agency shall be responsible for:
 - i. all repair and replacement charges incurred by State Agency that are associated with loss of State Property or damage beyond normal wear and tear, and

- ii. all charges attributable to Performing Agency's use of State Property that exceeds the Contract scope. Performing Agency shall fully reimburse such charges to System Agency within ten (10) calendar days of Performing Agency's receipt of System Agency's notice of amount due. Use of State Property for a purpose not authorized by the Contract shall constitute breach of contract and may result in termination of the Contract and the pursuit of other remedies available to System Agency under contract, at law, or in equity.

6.2 DAMAGE TO GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

- A. In the event of loss, destruction, or damage to any System Agency or State of Texas owned, leased, or occupied property or equipment by Performing Agency or Performing Agency's employees, agents, Subcontractors, and suppliers, Performing Agency shall be liable to System Agency and the State of Texas for the full cost of repair, reconstruction, or replacement of the lost, destroyed, or damaged property.
- B. Performing Agency shall notify System Agency of the loss, destruction, or damage of equipment or property within one (1) business day. Performing Agency shall reimburse System Agency and the State of Texas for such property damage within 10 calendar days after Performing Agency's receipt of System Agency's notice of amount due.

6.3 PROPERTY RIGHTS UPON TERMINATION OR EXPIRATION OF CONTRACT

In the event the Contract is terminated for any reason, or upon its expiration State Property remains the property of the System Agency and must be returned to the System Agency by the end date of the Contract or upon System Agency's request.

ARTICLE VII. RECORD RETENTION, AUDIT, AND CONFIDENTIALITY

7.1 RECORD MAINTENANCE AND RETENTION

- A. Performing Agency shall keep and maintain under GAAP or GASB, as applicable, full, true, and complete records necessary to fully disclose to the System Agency, the Texas State Auditor's Office, the United States Government, and their authorized representatives all information required to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of this Contract and all state and federal rules, regulations, and statutes. Performing Agency shall ensure these same requirements are included in all subcontracts.
- B. Performing Agency shall maintain and retain legible copies of this Contract and all records relating to the performance of the Contract including supporting fiscal documents adequate to ensure that claims for contract funds are in accordance with applicable State of Texas requirements. These records shall be maintained and retained by Performing Agency for a minimum of seven (7) years after the Contract expiration date or seven (7) years after the completion of all audits, claim, litigation, or dispute matters involving the Contract are resolved, whichever is later. Performing Agency shall ensure these same requirements are included in all subcontracts.

7.2 AGENCY'S RIGHT TO AUDIT

- A. Performing Agency shall make available at reasonable times and upon reasonable notice, and for reasonable periods, work papers, reports, books, records, supporting documents kept current by Performing Agency pertaining to the Contract for purposes of inspecting, monitoring, auditing, or evaluating by System Agency and the State of Texas. Performing Agency shall ensure these same requirements are included in all subcontracts.
- B. In addition to any right of access arising by operation of law, Performing Agency and any of

Performing Agency's affiliate or subsidiary organizations, or subcontractors shall permit the System Agency or any of its duly authorized representatives, as well as duly authorized federal, state or local authorities, unrestricted access to and the right to examine any site where business is conducted or services are performed, and all records, which includes but is not limited to financial, client and patient records, books, papers or documents related to this Contract. Performing Agency shall permit the System Agency or any of its duly authorized federal, state, or local authorities unrestricted access to and the right to examine all external contracts and/or pricing models or methodologies related to the Contract. Performing Agency shall ensure these same requirements are included in all subcontracts.

- C. If the Contract includes federal funds, federal agencies that shall have a right of access to records as described in this section include: the federal agency providing the funds, the Comptroller General of the United States, the General Accounting Office, the Office of the Inspector General, and any of their authorized representatives. In addition, agencies of the State of Texas that shall have a right of access to records as described in this section include: the System Agency, HHSC, HHSC's contracted examiners, the State Auditor's Office, the Texas Attorney General's Office, and any successor agencies. Each of these entities may be a duly authorized authority.
- D. If deemed necessary by the System Agency or any duly authorized authority, for the purpose of oversight, including, but not limited to, reviews, inspections, audits and investigations, Performing Agency shall produce original documents related to this Contract.
- E. The System Agency and any duly authorized authority shall have the right to audit billings both before and after payment, and all documentation that substantiates the billings and payments related to the Contract, including those related to a Subcontractor.
- F. Performing Agency shall include the System Agency's and any of its duly authorized representatives', as well as duly authorized federal, state, or local authorities, unrestricted right of access to, and examination of, sites and information related to this Contract in any subcontract it awards.

7.3 RESPONSE/COMPLIANCE WITH AUDIT OR INSPECTION FINDINGS

- A. Performing Agency must act to ensure its and its subcontractors' compliance with all corrections necessary to address any finding of noncompliance with any law, regulation, audit requirement, or generally accepted accounting principle, or any other deficiency identified in any audit, review, inspection or investigation of the Contract and the services and Deliverables provided. Any such correction will be at Performing Agency's or its Subcontractor's sole expense. Whether Performing Agency's action corrects the noncompliance shall be solely the decision of the System Agency.
- B. As part of the services, Performing Agency must provide to System Agency upon request a copy of those portions of Performing Agency's and its subcontractors' internal audit reports relating to the services and Deliverables provided to the State under the Contract.
- C. Performing Agency shall include the requirement to provide to System Agency (and any of its duly authorized federal, state or local authorities) internal audit reports related to this Contract in any Subcontract it awards. Upon request by System Agency, Performing Agency shall enforce this requirement against its Subcontractor. Further, Performing Agency shall include in any Subcontract it awards a requirement that all Subcontractor Subcontracts must also include these provisions.

7.4 STATE AUDITOR'S RIGHT TO AUDIT

- A. The state auditor may conduct an audit or investigation of any entity receiving funds from the state directly under the Contract or indirectly through a subcontract under the Contract. The acceptance of funds directly under the Contract or indirectly through a subcontract under the Contract acts as acceptance of the authority of the state auditor, under the direction of the legislative audit committee, to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Under the direction of the legislative audit committee, an entity that is the subject of an audit or investigation by the state auditor must provide the state auditor with access to any information the state auditor considers relevant to the investigation or audit.
- B. The Performing Agency shall comply with any rules and procedures of the state auditor in the implementation and enforcement of Section 2262.154 of the Texas Government Code.
- C. Performing Agency shall ensure the authority to audit funds received indirectly by subcontractors through the contract and the requirement to cooperate is included in any subcontract it awards.

7.5 CONFIDENTIALITY

Performing Agency shall maintain as confidential and shall not disclose to third parties without System Agency's prior written consent, any System Agency information including but not limited to System Agency Data, System Agency's business activities, practices, systems, conditions, and services. This Article VII will survive termination or expiration of this Contract. Further, the obligations of Performing Agency under this Article VII will survive termination or expiration of this Contract. This requirement must be included in all subcontracts awarded by Performing Agency.

ARTICLE VIII. CONTRACT REMEDIES AND EARLY TERMINATION

8.1 CONTRACT REMEDIES

To ensure Performing Agency's full performance of the Contract and compliance with applicable law, the System Agency reserves the right to hold Performing Agency accountable for breach of contract or substandard performance and may take remedial or corrective actions, including, but not limited to:

- i. suspending all or part of the Contract;
- ii. requiring the Performing Agency to take specific actions in order to remain in compliance with the Contract;
- iii. recouping payments made by the System Agency to the Performing Agency found to be in error;
- iv. suspending, limiting, or placing conditions on the Performing Agency's continued performance of Work; or
- v. imposing any other remedies, sanctions, or penalties authorized under this Contract or permitted by federal or state law.

8.2 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

The System Agency may terminate the Contract, in whole or in part, at any time when, in its sole discretion, the System Agency determines that termination is in the best interests of the State of Texas. The termination will be effective on the date specified in the System Agency's notice of termination.

8.3 TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

Except as otherwise provided by the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, or any successor law, the System Agency may terminate the Contract, in whole or in part, upon either of the following conditions:

i. Material Breach

The System Agency will have the right to terminate the Contract in whole or in part if the System Agency determines, in its sole discretion, that Performing Agency has materially breached the Contract or has failed to adhere to any laws, ordinances, rules, regulations or orders of any public authority having jurisdiction and such violation prevents or substantially impairs performance of Performing Agency's duties under the Contract. Performing Agency's misrepresentation in any aspect of Performing Agency's Solicitation Response, if any, or Performing Agency's addition to the System for Award Management (SAM) exclusion list will also constitute a material breach of the Contract.

ii. Failure to Maintain Financial Viability

The System Agency may terminate the Contract if, in its sole discretion, the System Agency has a good faith belief that Performing Agency no longer maintains the financial viability required to complete the Work, or otherwise fully perform its responsibilities under the Contract.

8.4 PERFORMING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SYSTEM AGENCY'S TERMINATION COSTS

If the System Agency terminates the Contract for cause, the Performing Agency shall be responsible to the System Agency for all costs incurred by the System Agency and the State of Texas to replace the Performing Agency. These costs include, but are not limited to, the costs of procuring a substitute vendor and the cost of any claim or litigation attributable to Performing Agency's failure to perform any Work in accordance with the terms of the Contract.

ARTICLE IX. GENERAL PROVISIONS

9.1 AMENDMENT

The Contract may only be amended by an Amendment executed by both Parties.

9.2 INSURANCE

- A. Unless otherwise specified in this Contract, Performing Agency shall acquire and maintain, for the duration of this Contract, insurance coverage necessary to ensure proper fulfillment of this Contract and potential liabilities thereunder with financially sound and reputable insurers licensed by the Texas Department of Insurance, in the type and amount customarily carried within the industry as determined by the System Agency. Performing Agency shall provide evidence of insurance as required under this Contract, including a schedule of coverage or underwriter's schedules establishing to the satisfaction of the System Agency the nature and extent of coverage granted by each such policy, upon request by the System Agency. In the event that any policy is determined by the System Agency to be deficient to comply with the terms of this Contract, Performing Agency shall secure such additional policies or coverage as the System Agency may reasonably request or that are required by law or regulation. If coverage expires during the term of this Contract, Performing Agency must produce renewal certificates for each type of coverage.
- B. These and all other insurance requirements under the Contract apply to both Performing Agency and its subcontractors, if any. Performing Agency is responsible for ensuring its subcontractors'

compliance with all requirements.

9.3 LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY

- A. The authority granted to Performing Agency by the System Agency is limited to the terms of the Contract.
- B. Performing Agency shall not have any authority to act for or on behalf of the System Agency or the State of Texas except as expressly provided for in the Contract; no other authority, power, or use is granted or implied. Performing Agency may not incur any debt, obligation, expense, or liability of any kind on behalf of System Agency or the State of Texas.
- C. Performing Agency may not rely upon implied authority and is not granted authority under the Contract to:
 - i. Make public policy on behalf of the System Agency;
 - ii. Promulgate, amend, or disregard administrative regulations or program policy decisions made by State and federal agencies responsible for administration of a System Agency program; or
 - iii. Unilaterally communicate or negotiate with any federal or state agency or the Texas Legislature on behalf of the System Agency regarding System Agency programs or the Contract. However, upon System Agency request and with reasonable notice from System Agency to the Performing Agency, the Performing Agency shall assist the System Agency in communications and negotiations regarding the Work under the Contract with state and federal governments.

9.4 LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Performing Agency shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations, including all federal and state accessibility laws relating to direct and indirect use of information and communication technology. Performing Agency shall be deemed to have knowledge of all applicable laws and regulations and be deemed to understand them.

9.5 CHANGE IN LAWS AND COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

Performing Agency shall comply with all laws, regulations, requirements, and guidelines applicable to a vendor providing services and products required by the Contract to the State of Texas, as these laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines currently exist and as amended throughout the term of the Contract. System Agency reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to unilaterally amend the Contract to incorporate any modifications necessary for System Agency's compliance, as an agency of the State of Texas, with all applicable state and federal laws, regulations, requirements and guidelines.

9.6 E-VERIFY PROGRAM

Performing Agency certifies that for contracts for services, Performing Agency shall utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system during the term of the Contract to determine the eligibility of:

- i. all persons employed by Performing Agency to perform duties within Texas; and
- ii. all persons, including subcontractors, assigned by the Performing Agency to perform Work pursuant to the Contract within the United States of America.

9.7 PERMITTING AND LICENSURE

At Performing Agency's sole expense, Performing Agency shall procure and maintain for the duration of this Contract any state, county, city, or federal license, authorization, insurance, waiver, permit, qualification, or certification required by statute, ordinance, law, or regulation to be held by Performing Agency to provide the goods or services required by this Contract. Performing Agency shall be responsible for payment of all taxes, assessments, fees, premiums, permits, and licenses required by law. Performing Agency shall be responsible for payment of any such government obligations not paid by its subcontractors during performance of this Contract.

9.8 SUBCONTRACTORS

Performing Agency may not subcontract any or all of the Work and/or obligations under the Contract without prior written approval of the System Agency. Subcontracts, if any, entered into by the Performing Agency shall be in writing and be subject to the requirements of the Contract. Should Performing Agency subcontract any of the services required in the Contract, Performing Agency expressly understands and acknowledges that in entering into such subcontract(s), System Agency is in no manner liable to any subcontractor(s) of Performing Agency. In no event shall this provision relieve Performing Agency of the responsibility for ensuring that the services performed under all subcontracts are rendered in compliance with the Contract.

9.9 INDEPENDENT PERFORMING AGENCY

Performing Agency and Performing Agency's employees, representatives, agents, subcontractors, suppliers, and third-party service providers shall serve as independent contractors in providing the services under the Contract. Neither Performing Agency nor System Agency is an agent of the other and neither may make any commitments on the other party's behalf. Performing Agency shall have no claim against System Agency for vacation pay, sick leave, retirement benefits, social security, worker's compensation, health or disability benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, or employee benefits of any kind. The Contract shall not create any joint venture, partnership, agency, or employment relationship between Performing Agency and System Agency.

9.10 GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE

This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to the conflicts of law provisions. The venue of any suit arising under the Contract is fixed in any court of competent jurisdiction of Travis County, Texas, unless the specific venue is otherwise identified in a statute which directly names or otherwise identifies its applicability to the System Agency.

9.11 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of the Contract is held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable by a court of law or equity, such construction will not affect the legality, validity or enforceability of any other provision or provisions of this Contract. It is the intent and agreement of the Parties this Contract shall be deemed amended by modifying such provision to the extent necessary to render it valid, legal and enforceable while preserving its intent or, if such modification is not possible, by substituting another provision that is valid, legal and enforceable and that achieves the same objective. All other provisions of this Contract will continue in full force and effect.

9.12 SURVIVABILITY

Expiration or termination of the Contract for any reason does not release Performing Agency from any liability or obligation set forth in the Contract that is expressly stated to survive any such expiration or termination, that by its nature would be intended to be applicable following any such expiration or termination, or that is necessary to fulfill the essential purpose of the Contract, including without limitation the provisions regarding warranty, indemnification, confidentiality, and rights and remedies upon termination.

9.13 FORCE MAJEURE

Neither Party shall be liable to the other for any delay in, or failure of performance of, any requirement included in the Contract caused by force majeure. The existence of such causes of delay or failure shall extend the period of performance until after the causes of delay or failure have been removed provided the non-performing party exercises all reasonable due diligence to perform. Force majeure is defined as acts of God, war, fires, explosions, hurricanes, floods, failure of transportation, or other causes that are beyond the reasonable control of either party and that by exercise of due foresight such party could not reasonably have been expected to avoid, and which, by the exercise of all reasonable due diligence, such party is unable to overcome.

9.14 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- A. The dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 of the Texas Government Code must be used to attempt to resolve any dispute arising under the Contract. If the Performing Agency's claim for breach of contract cannot be resolved informally with the System Agency, the claim shall be submitted to the negotiation process provided in Chapter 2260. To initiate the process, the Performing Agency shall submit written notice, as required by Chapter 2260, to the individual identified in the Contract for receipt of notices. Any informal resolution efforts shall in no way modify the requirements or toll the timing of the formal written notice of a claim for breach of contract required under §2260.051 of the Texas Government Code. Compliance by the Performing Agency with Chapter 2260 is a condition precedent to the filing of a contested case proceeding under Chapter 2260.
- B. The contested case process provided in Chapter 2260 is the Performing Agency's sole and exclusive process for seeking a remedy for an alleged breach of contract by the System Agency if the Parties are unable to resolve their disputes as described above.
- C. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Contract to the contrary, unless otherwise requested or approved in writing by the System Agency, the Performing Agency shall continue performance and shall not be excused from performance during the period of any breach of contract claim or while the dispute is pending. However, the Performing Agency may suspend performance during the pendency of such claim or dispute if the Performing Agency has complied with all provisions of Section 2251.051, Texas Government Code, and such suspension of performance is expressly applicable and authorized under that law.

9.15 NO IMPLIED WAIVER OF PROVISIONS

The failure of the System Agency to object to or to take affirmative action with respect to any conduct of the Performing Agency which is in violation or breach of the terms of the Contract shall not be construed as a waiver of the violation or breach, or of any future violation or breach.

9.16 MEDIA RELEASES

- A. Performing Agency shall not use System Agency's name, logo, or other likeness in any press release, marketing material, or other announcement without System Agency's prior written

approval. System Agency does not endorse any vendor, commodity, or service. Performing Agency is not authorized to make or participate in any media releases or public announcements pertaining to this Contract or the services to which they relate without System Agency's prior written consent, and then only in accordance with explicit written instruction from System Agency.

- B. Performing Agency may publish, at its sole expense, results of Performing Agency performance under the Contract with the System Agency's prior review and approval, which the System Agency may exercise at its sole discretion. Any publication (written, visual, or sound) will acknowledge the support received from the System Agency and any Federal agency, as appropriate.

9.17 NO MARKETING ACTIVITIES

Performing Agency is prohibited from using the Work for any Performing Agency or third-party marketing, advertising, or promotional activities, without the prior written consent of System Agency. The foregoing prohibition includes, without limitation, the placement of banners, pop-up ads, or other advertisements promoting Performing Agency's or a third party's products, services, workshops, trainings, or other commercial offerings on any website portal or internet-based service or software application hosted or managed by Performing Agency as part of the Work.

9.18 PROHIBITION ON NON-COMPETE RESTRICTIONS

Performing Agency shall not require any employees or subcontractors to agree to any conditions, such as non-compete clauses or other contractual arrangements that would limit or restrict such persons or entities from employment or contracting with the State of Texas.

9.19 SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

Nothing in the Contract shall be construed as a waiver of the System Agency's or the State's sovereign immunity. This Contract shall not constitute or be construed as a waiver of any of the privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities available to the System Agency or the State of Texas. The failure to enforce, or any delay in the enforcement of, any privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities available to the System Agency or the State of Texas under the Contract or under applicable law shall not constitute a waiver of such privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities or be considered as a basis for estoppel. System Agency does not waive any privileges, rights, defenses, or immunities available to System Agency by entering into the Contract or by its conduct prior to or subsequent to entering into the Contract.

9.20 ENTIRE CONTRACT AND MODIFICATION

This Contract constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties and is intended as a complete and exclusive statement of the promises, representations, negotiations, discussions, and other agreements that may have been made in connection with the subject matter hereof. Any additional or conflicting terms in any future document incorporated into the Contract will be harmonized with this Contract to the extent possible.

9.21 COUNTERPARTS

This Contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which will be an original, and all such counterparts will together constitute but one and the same Contract.

9.22 CIVIL RIGHTS

- A. Performing Agency shall comply with all applicable state and federal anti-discrimination laws, including:
 - i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000d, *et seq.*);
 - ii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §794);
 - iii. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12101, *et seq.*);
 - iv. Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. §6101, *et seq.*);
 - v. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681, *et seq.*);
 - vi. Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. §2011, *et seq.*); and
 - vii. The System Agency's administrative rules, as set forth in the Texas Administrative Code, to the extent applicable to this Agreement.
- B. Performing Agency shall comply with all amendments to these laws, and all requirements imposed by the regulations issued pursuant to these laws. These laws provide in part that no persons in the United States may, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, or religion, be excluded from participation in or denied any service or other benefit provided by Federal or State funding, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination.
- C. Performing Agency shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and its implementing regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 80 or 7 C.F.R. Part 15, prohibiting a Performing Agency from adopting and implementing policies and procedures that exclude or have the effect of excluding or limiting the participation of clients in its programs, benefits, or activities on the basis of national origin. Civil rights laws require Performing Agency to provide alternative methods for ensuring access to services for applicants and recipients who cannot express themselves fluently in English. Performing Agency shall take reasonable steps to provide services and information, both orally and in writing and electronically, in appropriate languages other than English, to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency are effectively informed and can have meaningful access to programs, benefits, and activities.
- D. Performing Agency shall post applicable civil rights posters in areas open to the public informing clients of their civil rights and including contact information for the HHS Civil Rights Office. The posters are available on the HHS website at:
<http://hhscx.hhsc.texas.gov/system-support-services/civil-rights/publications>
- E. Performing Agency shall comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations at 28 CFR Subpart G § 42.503, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and its implementing regulations at 28 CFR Subpart B §35.130 which includes requiring Performing Agency to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the Performing Agency can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity.
- F. Performing Agency shall comply with federal regulations regarding equal treatment for faith-based organizations under 45 C.F.R. Part 87 or 7 C.F.R. Part 16, as applicable. Performing Agency shall not discriminate against clients or prospective clients on the basis of religion or religious belief and shall provide written notice to beneficiaries of their rights.
- G. Upon request, Performing Agency shall provide the HHSC Civil Rights Office with copies of the Performing Agency's civil rights policies and procedures.
- H. Performing Agency must notify HHSC's Civil Rights Office of any civil rights complaints received relating to its performance under this Contract. This notice must be delivered no more than ten (10) calendar days after receipt of a complaint. This notice must be directed to:

HHSC Civil Rights Office
701 W. 51st Street, Mail Code W206
Austin, Texas 78751
Phone Toll Free: (888) 388-6332
Phone: (512) 438-4313
Fax: (512) 438-5885.

9.23 ENTERPRISE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

Performing Agency shall conform to HHS standards for data management as described by the policies of the HHS Chief Data and Analytics Officer. These include, but are not limited to, standards for documentation and communication of data models, metadata, and other data definition methods that are required by HHS for ongoing data governance, strategic portfolio analysis, interoperability planning, and valuation of HHS System data assets.

9.24 DISCLOSURE OF LITIGATION

- A. The Performing Agency must disclose in writing to the contract manager assigned to this Contract any material civil or criminal litigation or indictment either threatened or pending involving the Performing Agency. "Threatened litigation" as used herein shall include governmental investigations and civil investigative demands. "Litigation" as used herein shall include administrative enforcement actions brought by governmental agencies. The Performing Agency must also disclose any material litigation threatened or pending involving subcontractors, consultants, and/or lobbyists. For purposes of this section, "material" refers, but is not limited, to any action or pending action that a reasonable person knowledgeable in the applicable industry would consider relevant to the Work under the Contract or any development such a person would want to be aware of in order to stay fully apprised of the total mix of information relevant to the Work, together with any litigation threatened or pending that may result in a substantial change in the Performing Agency's financial condition.
- B. This is a continuing disclosure requirement; any litigation commencing after Contract Award must be disclosed in a written statement to the assigned contract manager within seven calendar days of its occurrence.

9.25 NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES

The Contract is made solely and specifically among and for the benefit of the Parties named herein and their respective successors and assigns, and no other person shall have any right, interest, or claims hereunder or be entitled to any benefits pursuant to or on account of the Contract as a third-party beneficiary or otherwise.

9.26 BINDING EFFECT

The Contract shall inure to the benefit of, be binding upon, and be enforceable against, each Party and their respective permitted successors, assigns, transferees, and delegates.

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ATTACHMENT 1. SUBCONTRACTOR AGREEMENT FORM

HHS CONTRACT NUMBER

The DUA between HHS and Contractor establishes the permitted and required uses and disclosures of Confidential Information by Contractor.

Contractor has subcontracted with _____ (Subcontractor) for performance of duties on behalf of CONTRACTOR which are subject to the DUA. Subcontractor acknowledges, understands and agrees to be bound by the same terms and conditions applicable to Contractor under the DUA, incorporated by reference in this Agreement, with respect to HHS Confidential Information. Contractor and Subcontractor agree that HHS is a third-party beneficiary to applicable provisions of the subcontract.

HHS has the right, but not the obligation, to review or approve the terms and conditions of the subcontract by virtue of this Subcontractor Agreement Form.

Contractor and Subcontractor assure HHS that any Breach as defined by the DUA that Subcontractor Discovers shall be reported to HHS by Contractor in the time, manner and content required by the DUA.

If Contractor knows or should have known in the exercise of reasonable diligence of a pattern of activity or practice by Subcontractor that constitutes a material breach or violation of the DUA or the Subcontractor's obligations, Contractor shall:

1. Take reasonable steps to cure the violation or end the violation, as applicable;
2. If the steps are unsuccessful, terminate the contract or arrangement with Subcontractor, if feasible;
3. Notify HHS immediately upon Discovery of the pattern of activity or practice of Subcontractor that constitutes a material breach or violation of the DUA and keep HHS reasonably and regularly informed about steps Contractor is taking to cure or end the violation or terminate Subcontractor's contract or arrangement.

This Subcontractor Agreement Form is executed by the parties in their capacities indicated below.

CONTRACTOR

SUBCONTRACTOR

BY: _____

BY: _____

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE _____, **202** .

DATE: _____

**Attachment 2-
Security and Privacy Initial Inquiry
[Attach Completed SPI Here]**

**DATA USE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE
TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM
AND
CONTRACTOR**

This Data Use Agreement ("DUA") is effective as of the date of the Base Contract into which it is incorporated ("Effective Date"), by and between the Texas Health and Human Services System, which includes the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and the Department of State Health Services ("HHS") and Contractor (the "Base Contract").

ARTICLE 1. PURPOSE; APPLICABILITY; ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

The purpose of this DUA is to facilitate access to, creation, receipt, maintenance, use, disclosure or transmission of Confidential Information with Contractor, and describe Contractor's rights and obligations with respect to the Confidential Information and the limited purposes for which the Contractor may create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to Confidential Information. This DUA also describes HHS's remedies in the event of Contractor's noncompliance with its obligations under this DUA. This DUA applies to both HHS business associates, as "business associate" is defined in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and contractors who are not business associates, who create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to Confidential Information on behalf of HHS, its programs or clients as described in the Base Contract. As a best practice, HHS requires its contractors to comply with the terms of this DUA to safeguard all types of Confidential Information.

As of the Effective Date of this DUA, if any provision of the Base Contract conflicts with this DUA, this DUA controls.

ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this DUA, capitalized, underlined terms have the following meanings:

"Authorized Purpose" means the specific purpose or purposes described in the Base Contract for Contractor to fulfill its obligations under the Base Contract, or any other purpose expressly authorized by HHS in writing in advance.

"Authorized User" means a person:

- (1) Who is authorized to create, receive, maintain, have access to, process, view, handle, examine, interpret, or analyze Confidential Information pursuant to this DUA;
- (2) For whom Contractor warrants and represents has a demonstrable need to create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to the Confidential Information; and
- (3) Who has agreed in writing to be bound by the disclosure and use limitations pertaining to the Confidential Information as required by this DUA.

"Breach" means an impermissible use or disclosure of electronic or non-electronic sensitive personal information by an unauthorized person or for an unauthorized purpose that compromises the security or

privacy of Confidential Information such that the use or disclosure poses a risk of reputational harm, theft of financial information, identity theft, or medical identity theft. Any acquisition, access, use, disclosure or loss of Confidential Information other than as permitted by this DUA shall be presumed to be a Breach unless Contractor demonstrates, based on a risk assessment, that there is a low probability that the Confidential Information has been compromised.

“Confidential Information” means any communication or record (whether oral, written, electronically stored or transmitted, or in any other form) provided to or made available to Contractor or that Contractor may create, receive, maintain, use, disclose or have access to on behalf of HHS that consists of or includes any or all of the following:

- (1) Education records as defined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99
- (2) Federal Tax Information as defined in Internal Revenue Code §6103 and Internal Revenue Service Publication 1075;
- (3) Personal Identifying Information (PII) as defined in Texas Business and Commerce Code, Chapter 521;
- (4) Protected Health Information (PHI) in any form including without limitation, Electronic Protected Health Information or Unsecured Protected Health Information as defined in 45 C.F.R. §160.103;
- (5) Sensitive Personal Information (SPI) as defined in Texas Business and Commerce Code, Chapter 521;
- (6) Social Security Administration Data, including, without limitation, Medicaid information means disclosures of information made by the Social Security Administration or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services from a federal system of records for administration of federally funded benefit programs under the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C., Chapter 7;
- (7) All privileged work product;
- (8) All information designated as confidential under the constitution and laws of the State of Texas and of the United States, including the Texas Health & Safety Code and the Texas Public Information Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 552.

“Destroy”, “Destruction”, for Confidential Information, means:

(1) Paper, film, or other hard copy media have been shredded or destroyed such that the Confidential Information cannot be read or otherwise cannot be reconstructed. Redaction is specifically excluded as a means of data destruction.

(2) Electronic media have been cleared, purged, or destroyed consistent with NIST Special Publication 800-88, "Guidelines for Media Sanitization," such that the Confidential Information cannot be retrieved.

“Discover, Discovery” means the first day on which a Breach becomes known to Contractor, or, by exercising reasonable diligence would have been known to Contractor.

“Legally Authorized Representative” of an individual, including as provided in 45 CFR 435.923 (authorized representative); 45 CFR 164.502(g)(1) (personal representative); Tex. Occ. Code § 151.002(6); Tex. H. & S. Code § 166.164 (medical power of attorney); and Texas Estates Code § 22.031 (representative).

“Required by Law” means a mandate contained in law that compels an entity to use or disclose Confidential Information that is enforceable in a court of law, including court orders, warrants, subpoenas or investigative demands.

“Subcontractor” means a person who contracts with a prime contractor to work, to supply commodities, or to contribute toward completing work for a governmental entity.

“Workforce” means employees, volunteers, trainees or other persons whose performance of work is under the direct control of a party, whether or not they are paid by that party.

ARTICLE 3. CONTRACTOR'S DUTIES REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Section 3.01 Obligations of Contractor

Contractor agrees that:

(A) With respect to PHI, Contractor shall:

(1) Make PHI available in a designated record set if requested by HHS, if Contractor maintains PHI in a designated record set, as defined in HIPAA.

(2) Provide to HHS data aggregation services related to the healthcare operations Contractor performs for HHS pursuant to the Base Contract, if requested by HHS, if Contractor provides data aggregation services as defined in HIPAA.

(3) Provide access to PHI to an individual who is requesting his or her own PHI, or such individual's Legally Authorized Representative, in compliance with the requirements of HIPAA.

(4) Make PHI available to HHS for amendment, and incorporate any amendments to PHI that HHS directs, in compliance with HIPAA.

(5) Document and make available to HHS, an accounting of disclosures in compliance with the requirements of HIPAA.

(6) If Contractor receives a request for access, amendment or accounting of PHI by any individual, promptly forward the request to HHS or, if forwarding the request would violate HIPAA, promptly notify HHS of the request and of Contractor's response. HHS will respond to all such requests, unless Contractor is Required by Law to respond or HHS has given prior written consent for Contractor to respond to and account for all such requests.

(B) With respect to ALL Confidential Information, Contractor shall:

(1) Exercise reasonable care and no less than the same degree of care Contractor uses to protect its own confidential, proprietary and trade secret information to prevent Confidential Information from being used in a manner that is not expressly an Authorized Purpose or as Required by Law. Contractor will access, create, maintain, receive, use, disclose, transmit or Destroy Confidential Information in a secure fashion that protects against any reasonably anticipated threats or hazards to the security or integrity of such information or unauthorized uses.

(2) Establish, implement and maintain appropriate procedural, administrative, physical and technical safeguards to preserve and maintain the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the Confidential Information, in accordance with applicable laws or regulations relating to Confidential Information, to prevent any unauthorized use or disclosure of Confidential Information as long as Contractor has such Confidential Information in its actual or constructive possession.

(3) Implement, update as necessary, and document privacy, security and Breach notice policies and procedures and an incident response plan to address a Breach, to comply with the privacy, security and breach notice requirements of this DUA prior to conducting work under the Base Contract. Contractor shall produce, within three business days of a request by HHS, copies of its policies and procedures and records relating to the use or disclosure of Confidential Information.

(4) Obtain HHS's prior written consent to disclose or allow access to any portion of the Confidential Information to any person, other than Authorized Users, Workforce or Subcontractors of Contractor who have completed training in confidentiality, privacy, security and the importance of promptly reporting any Breach to Contractor's management and as permitted in Section 3.01(A)(3), above. Contractor shall produce evidence of completed training to HHS upon request. HHS, at its election, may assist Contractor in training and education on specific or unique HHS processes, systems and/or requirements. All of Contractor's Authorized Users, Workforce and Subcontractors with access to a state computer system or database will complete a cybersecurity training program certified under Texas Government Code Section 2054.519 by the Texas Department of Information Resources.

(5) Establish, implement and maintain appropriate sanctions against any member of its Workforce or Subcontractor who fails to comply with this DUA, the Base Contract or applicable law. Contractor shall maintain evidence of sanctions and produce it to HHS upon request.

(6) Obtain prior written approval of HHS, to disclose or provide access to any Confidential Information on the basis that such act is Required by Law, so that HHS may have the opportunity to object to the disclosure or access and seek appropriate relief. If HHS objects to such disclosure or access, Contractor shall refrain from disclosing or providing access to the Confidential Information until HHS has exhausted all alternatives for relief.

(7) Certify that its Authorized Users each have a demonstrated need to know and have access to Confidential Information solely to the minimum extent necessary to accomplish the Authorized Purpose and that each has agreed in writing to be bound by the disclosure and use limitations pertaining to the Confidential Information contained in this DUA. Contractor and its Subcontractors shall maintain at all times an updated, complete, accurate list of Authorized Users and supply it to HHS upon request.

(8) Provide, and shall cause its Subcontractors and agents to provide, to HHS periodic written confirmation of compliance with controls and the terms and conditions of this DUA.

(9) Return to HHS or Destroy, at HHS's election and at Contractor's expense, all Confidential Information received from HHS or created or maintained by Contractor or any of Contractor's agents or Subcontractors on HHS's behalf upon the termination or expiration of this DUA, if reasonably feasible and permitted by law. Contractor shall certify in writing to HHS that all such Confidential Information has been Destroyed or returned to HHS, and that Contractor and its agents and Subcontractors have retained no copies thereof. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Contractor acknowledges and agrees that it may not Destroy any Confidential Information if federal or state law, or HHS record retention policy or a litigation hold notice prohibits such Destruction. If such return or Destruction is not reasonably feasible, or is

impermissible by law, Contractor shall immediately notify HHS of the reasons such return or Destruction is not feasible and agree to extend the protections of this DUA to the Confidential Information for as long as Contractor maintains such Confidential Information.

(10) Complete and return with the Base Contract to HHS, attached as Attachment 2 to this DUA, the HHS Security and Privacy Initial Inquiry (SPI) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/forms/miscellaneous/hhs-information-security-privacy-initial-inquiry-spi>. The SPI identifies basic privacy and security controls with which Contractor must comply to protect Confidential Information. Contractor shall comply with periodic security controls compliance assessment and monitoring by HHS as required by state and federal law, based on the type of Confidential Information Contractor creates, receives, maintains, uses, discloses or has access to and the Authorized Purpose and level of risk. Contractor's security controls shall be based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-53. Contractor shall update its security controls assessment whenever there are significant changes in security controls for HHS Confidential Information and shall provide the updated document to HHS. HHS also reserves the right to request updates as needed to satisfy state and federal monitoring requirements.

(11) Comply with the HHS Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and require each Subcontractor and Workforce member who has direct access to HHS Information Resources, as defined in the AUP, to execute an HHS Acceptable Use Agreement.

(12) Only conduct secure transmissions of Confidential Information whether in paper, oral or electronic form. A secure transmission of electronic Confidential Information in motion includes secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) or encryption at an appropriate level as required by rule, regulation or law. Confidential Information at rest requires encryption unless there is adequate administrative, technical, and physical security as required by rule, regulation or law. All electronic data transfer and communications of Confidential Information shall be through secure systems. Contractor shall provide proof of system, media or device security and/or encryption to HHS no later than 48 hours after HHS's written request in response to a compliance investigation, audit, or the Discovery of a Breach. HHS may also request production of proof of security at other times as necessary to satisfy state and federal monitoring requirements. Deidentification of Confidential Information in accordance with HIPAA de-identification standards is deemed secure.

(13) Designate and identify a person or persons, as Privacy Official and Information Security Official, each of whom is authorized to act on behalf of Contractor and is responsible for the development and implementation of the privacy and security requirements in this DUA. Contractor shall provide name and current address, phone number and e-mail address for such designated officials to HHS upon execution of this DUA and prior to any change. Upon written notice from HHS, Contractor shall promptly remove and replace such official(s) if such official(s) is not performing the required functions.

(14) Make available to HHS any information HHS requires to fulfill HHS's obligations to provide access to, or copies of, Confidential Information in accordance with applicable laws, regulations or demands of a regulatory authority relating to Confidential Information. Contractor shall provide such information in a time and manner reasonably agreed upon or as designated by the applicable law or regulatory authority.

(15) Comply with the following laws and standards *if applicable to the type of Confidential Information and Contractor's Authorized Purpose*:

- Title 1, Part 10, Chapter 202, Subchapter B, Texas Administrative Code;
- The Privacy Act of 1974;
- OMB Memorandum 17-12;
- The Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA);
- The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA);
- Internal Revenue Publication 1075 – Tax Information Security Guidelines for Federal, State and Local Agencies;
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-66 Revision 1 – An Introductory Resource Guide for Implementing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule;
- NIST Special Publications 800-53 and 800-53A – Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations, as currently revised;
- NIST Special Publication 800-47 – Security Guide for Interconnecting Information Technology Systems;
- NIST Special Publication 800-88, Guidelines for Media Sanitization;
- NIST Special Publication 800-111, Guide to Storage of Encryption Technologies for End User Devices containing PHI;
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
- Texas Business and Commerce Code Chapter 521
- Any other State or Federal law, regulation, or administrative rule relating to the specific HHS program area that Contractor supports on behalf of HHS.

(16) Be permitted to use or disclose Confidential Information for the proper management and administration of Contractor or to carry out Contractor's legal responsibilities, except as otherwise limited by this DUA, the Base Contract, or law applicable to the Confidential Information, if:

- (a) Disclosure is Required by Law;
- (b) Contractor obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the information is disclosed that the person shall:
 1. Maintain the confidentiality of the Confidential Information in accordance with this DUA;
 2. Use or further disclose the information only as Required by Law or for the Authorized Purpose for which it was disclosed to the person; and
 3. Notify Contractor in accordance with Section 4.01 of a Breach of Confidential Information that the person Discovers or should have Discovered with the exercise of reasonable diligence.

(C) With respect to ALL Confidential Information, Contractor shall NOT:

- (1) Attempt to re-identify or further identify Confidential Information that has been deidentified or attempt to contact any persons whose records are contained in the Confidential Information, except for an Authorized Purpose, without express written authorization from HHS.
- (2) Engage in prohibited marketing or sale of Confidential Information.
- (3) Permit, or enter into any agreement with a Subcontractor to, create, receive, maintain, use, disclose, have access to or transmit Confidential Information, on behalf of HHS without requiring that Subcontractor first execute either the Form Subcontractor Agreement, Attachment 1, or Contractor's own Subcontractor agreement that ensures that the Subcontractor shall comply with the same safeguards and restrictions contained in this DUA for Confidential Information. Contractor is directly responsible for its Subcontractors' compliance with, and enforcement of, this DUA.

ARTICLE 4. BREACH NOTICE, REPORTING AND CORRECTION REQUIREMENTS

Section 4.01. Cooperation and Financial Responsibility.

(A) Contractor shall, at Contractor's expense, cooperate fully with HHS in investigating, mitigating to the extent practicable, and issuing notifications as directed by HHS, for any Breach of Confidential Information.

(B) Contractor shall make Confidential Information in Contractor's possession available pursuant to the requirements of HIPAA or other applicable law upon a determination of a Breach.

(C) Contractor's obligation begins at the Discovery of a Breach and continues as long as related activity continues, until all effects of the Breach are mitigated to HHS's satisfaction (the "incident response period").

Section 4.02. Initial Breach Notice.

For federal information *obtained from a federal system of records*, including Federal Tax Information and Social Security Administration Data (which includes Medicaid and other governmental benefit program Confidential Information), Contractor shall notify HHS of the Breach within the first consecutive clock hour of Discovery. The Base Contract shall specify whether Confidential Information is obtained from a federal system of records. For all other types of Confidential Information Contractor shall notify HHS of the Breach not more than 24 hours after Discovery, *or in a timeframe otherwise approved by HHS in writing*. Contractor shall initially report to HHS's Privacy and Security Officers via email at: privacy@HHSC.state.tx.us and to the HHS division responsible for the Base Contract.

Contractor shall report all information reasonably available to Contractor about the Breach.

Contractor shall provide contact information to HHS for Contractor's single point of contact who will communicate with HHS both on and off business hours during the incident response period.

Section 4.03 Third Business Day Notice: No later than 5 p.m. on the third business day after Discovery, or a time within which Discovery reasonably should have been made by Contractor of a Breach of Confidential Information, Contractor shall provide written notification to HHS of all reasonably available information about the Breach, and Contractor's investigation, including, to the extent known to Contractor:

- a. The date the Breach occurred;

- b. The date of Contractor's and, if applicable, Subcontractor's Discovery;
- c. A brief description of the Breach, including how it occurred and who is responsible (or hypotheses, if not yet determined);
- d. A brief description of Contractor's investigation and the status of the investigation;
- e. A description of the types and amount of Confidential Information involved;
- f. Identification of and number of all individuals reasonably believed to be affected, including first and last name of the individual and if applicable, the Legally authorized representative, last known address, age, telephone number, and email address if it is a preferred contact method;
- g. Contractor's initial risk assessment of the Breach demonstrating whether individual or other notices are required by applicable law or this DUA for HHS approval, including an analysis of whether there is a low probability of compromise of the Confidential Information or whether any legal exceptions to notification apply;
- h. Contractor's recommendation for HHS's approval as to the steps individuals and/or Contractor on behalf of individuals, should take to protect the individuals from potential harm, including Contractor's provision of notifications, credit protection, claims monitoring, and any specific protections for a Legally Authorized Representative to take on behalf of an individual with special capacity or circumstances;
- i. The steps Contractor has taken to mitigate the harm or potential harm caused (including without limitation the provision of sufficient resources to mitigate);
- j. The steps Contractor has taken, or will take, to prevent or reduce the likelihood of recurrence of a similar Breach;
- k. Identify, describe or estimate of the persons, Workforce, Subcontractor, or individuals and any law enforcement that may be involved in the Breach;
- l. A reasonable schedule for Contractor to provide regular updates regarding response to the Breach, but no less than every three (3) business days, or as otherwise directed by HHS in writing, including information about risk estimations, reporting, notification, if any, mitigation, corrective action, root cause analysis and when such activities are expected to be completed; and
- m. Any reasonably available, pertinent information, documents or reports related to a Breach that HHS requests following Discovery.

Section 4.04. Investigation, Response and Mitigation.

(A) Contractor shall immediately conduct a full and complete investigation, respond to the Breach, commit necessary and appropriate staff and resources to expeditiously respond, and report as required to HHS for incident response purposes and for purposes of HHS's compliance with report and notification requirements, to the satisfaction of HHS.

(B) Contractor shall complete or participate in a risk assessment as directed by HHS following a Breach, and provide the final assessment, corrective actions and mitigations to HHS for review and approval.

(C) Contractor shall fully cooperate with HHS to respond to inquiries and/or proceedings by state and federal authorities, persons and/or individuals about the Breach.

(D) Contractor shall fully cooperate with HHS's efforts to seek appropriate injunctive relief or otherwise prevent or curtail such Breach, or to recover or protect any Confidential Information, including complying with reasonable corrective action or measures, as specified by HHS in a Corrective Action Plan if directed by HHS under the Base Contract.

Section 4.05. Breach Notification to Individuals and Reporting to Authorities.

(A) HHS may direct Contractor to provide Breach notification to individuals, regulators or third-parties, as specified by HHS following a Breach.

(B) Contractor must comply with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements in the time, manner and content of any notification to individuals, regulators or third-parties, or any notice required by other state or federal authorities, including without limitation, notifications required by Texas Business and Commerce Code, Chapter 521.053(b) and HIPAA. Notice letters will be in Contractor's name and on Contractor's letterhead, unless otherwise directed by HHS, and will contain contact information, including the name and title of Contractor's representative, an email address and a toll-free telephone number, for the individual to obtain additional information.

(C) Contractor shall provide HHS with draft notifications for HHS approval prior to distribution and copies of distributed and approved communications.

(D) Contractor shall have the burden of demonstrating to the satisfaction of HHS that any required notification was timely made. If there are delays outside of Contractor's control, Contractor shall provide written documentation to HHS of the reasons for the delay.

(E) If HHS directs Contractor to provide notifications, HHS shall, in the time and manner reasonably requested by Contractor, cooperate and assist with Contractor's information requests in order to make such notifications.

ARTICLE 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 5.01 Ownership of Confidential Information

Contractor acknowledges and agrees that the Confidential Information is and shall remain the property of HHS. Contractor agrees it acquires no title or rights to the Confidential Information.

Section 5.02 HHS Commitment and Obligations

HHS will not request Contractor to create, maintain, transmit, use or disclose PHI in any manner that would not be permissible under applicable law if done by HHS.

Section 5.03 HHS Right to Inspection

At any time upon reasonable notice to Contractor, or if HHS determines that Contractor has violated this DUA, HHS, directly or through its agent, will have the right to inspect the facilities, systems, books and records of Contractor to monitor compliance with this DUA. For purposes of this subsection, HHS's agent(s) include, without limitation, the HHS Office of the Inspector General, the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, the State Auditor's Office, outside consultants, legal counsel or other designee.

Section 5.04 **Term; Termination of DUA; Survival**

This DUA will be effective on the date on which Contractor executes the Base Contract and will terminate upon termination of the Base Contract and as set forth herein. If the Base Contract is extended, this DUA is extended to run concurrent with the Base Contract.

(A) If HHS determines that Contractor has violated a material term of this DUA; HHS may in its sole discretion:

- (1) Exercise any of its rights including but not limited to reports, access and inspection under this DUA and/or the Base Contract; or
- (2) Require Contractor to submit to a corrective action plan, including a plan for monitoring and plan for reporting as HHS may determine necessary to maintain compliance with this DUA; or
- (3) Provide Contractor with a reasonable period to cure the violation as determined by HHS; or
- (4) Terminate the DUA and Base Contract immediately and seek relief in a court of competent jurisdiction in Travis County, Texas.

Before exercising any of these options, HHS will provide written notice to Contractor describing the violation and the action it intends to take.

(B) If neither termination nor cure is feasible, HHS shall report the violation to the applicable regulatory authorities.

(C) The duties of Contractor or its Subcontractor under this DUA survive the expiration or termination of this DUA until all the Confidential Information is Destroyed or returned to HHS, as required by this DUA.

Section 5.05 **Injunctive Relief**

(A) Contractor acknowledges and agrees that HHS may suffer irreparable injury if Contractor or its Subcontractor fails to comply with any of the terms of this DUA with respect to the Confidential Information or a provision of HIPAA or other laws or regulations applicable to Confidential Information.

(B) Contractor further agrees that monetary damages may be inadequate to compensate HHS for Contractor's or its Subcontractor's failure to comply. Accordingly, Contractor agrees that HHS will, in addition to any other remedies available to it at law or in equity, be entitled to seek injunctive relief without posting a bond and without the necessity of demonstrating actual damages, to enforce the terms of this DUA.

Section 5.06 **Indemnification**

To the extent permitted by the Texas Constitution, laws and rules, and without waiving any immunities or defenses available to CONTRACTOR as a governmental entity, Contractor shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless HHS and its respective Executive Commissioner, employees, Subcontractors, agents (including other state agencies acting on behalf of HHS) or other members of HHS' Workforce (each of the foregoing hereinafter referred to as "Indemnified Party") against all actual and direct losses suffered by the Indemnified Party and all liability to third parties arising from or in connection with any breach of this DUA or from any acts or omissions related to this DUA by Contractor or its employees, directors, officers,

Subcontractors, or agents or other members of Contractor's Workforce. The duty to indemnify, defend and hold harmless is independent of the duty to insure. Upon demand, Contractor shall reimburse HHS for any and all losses, liabilities, lost profits, fines, penalties, costs or expenses (including costs of required notices, investigation, and mitigation of a Breach, fines or penalties imposed on an Indemnified Party by a regulatory authority, and reasonable attorneys' fees) which may be imposed upon any Indemnified Party to the extent caused by and which results from the Contractor's failure to meet any of its obligations under this DUA. Contractor's obligation to defend, indemnify and hold harmless any Indemnified Party will survive the expiration or termination of this DUA.

Section 5.07 Insurance

(A) As a governmental entity, CONTRACTOR either maintains commercial insurance or self-insures with policy limits in an amount sufficient to cover CONTRACTOR's liability arising under this DUA. CONTRACTOR will either require that the policy name HHS as an additional insured or assign any payments from the insurer related to CONTRACTOR's liability arising under this DUA directly to HHS. HHSC reserves the right to consider alternative means for CONTRACTOR to satisfy CONTRACTOR's financial responsibility under this DUA. Nothing herein shall relieve CONTRACTOR of its financial obligations set forth in this DUA if CONTRACTOR fails to maintain insurance.

(B) Contractor shall provide HHS with written proof that required insurance coverage is in effect, at the request of HHS.

Section 5.08 Entirety of the Contract

This DUA is incorporated by reference into the Base Contract and, together with the Base Contract, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties. No change, waiver, or discharge of obligations arising under those documents will be valid unless in writing and executed by the party against whom such change, waiver, or discharge is sought to be enforced.

Section 5.09 Automatic Amendment and Interpretation

Upon the effective date of any amendment or issuance of additional regulations to any law applicable to Confidential Information, this DUA will automatically be amended so that the obligations imposed on HHS and/or Contractor remain in compliance with such requirements. Any ambiguity in this DUA will be resolved in favor of a meaning that permits HHS and Contractor to comply with laws applicable to Confidential Information.

Section 5.10 Notices; Requests for Approval

All notices and requests for approval related to this DUA must be directed to the HHS Chief Privacy Officer at privacy@hhsc.state.tx.us.

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**Program to Address
Child Sexual Abuse,
Trafficking, and
Maltreatment**

The District's program to address child sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, as included in the District improvement plan and the student handbook, shall include:

1. Methods for increasing staff, student, and parent awareness regarding these issues, including prevention techniques and knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim;
2. Age-appropriate, research-based antivictimization programs for students;
3. Actions that a child who is a victim should take to obtain assistance and intervention; and
4. Available counseling options for affected students.

Training

The District shall provide training to employees as required by law and District policy. Training shall address techniques to prevent and recognize sexual abuse, trafficking, and all other maltreatment of children, including children with significant cognitive disabilities. [See DMA]

[See BBD for Board member training requirements and BJCB for Superintendent continuing education requirements.]

**Reporting Child
Abuse and Neglect**

Any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect has a legal responsibility, under state law, to immediately report the suspected abuse or neglect to an appropriate authority.

As defined in state law, child abuse and neglect include both sex and labor trafficking of a child.

The following individuals have an additional legal obligation to submit a written or oral report within 48 hours of learning of the facts giving rise to the suspicion of abuse or neglect:

1. Any District employee, agent, or contractor who suspects a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect.
2. A professional who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected or may have been a victim of indecency with a child. A professional is anyone licensed or certified by the state who has direct contact with children in the normal course of duties for which the individual is licensed or certified.

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A person is required to make a report if the person has reasonable cause to believe that an adult was a victim of abuse or neglect as a child and the person determines in good faith that disclosure of the information is necessary to protect the health and safety of another child or an elderly or disabled person.

[For parental notification requirements regarding an allegation of educator misconduct with a student, see FFF.]

Restrictions on Reporting

In accordance with law, an employee is prohibited from using or threatening to use a parent's refusal to consent to administration of a psychotropic drug or to any other psychiatric or psychological testing or treatment of a child as the sole basis for making a report of neglect, unless the employee has cause to believe that the refusal:

1. Presents a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or bodily injury to the child; or
2. Has resulted in an observable and material impairment to the growth, development, or functioning of the child.

Making a Report

Reports may be made to any of the following:

1. A state or local law enforcement agency;
2. The Child Protective Services (CPS) division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) at (800) 252-5400 or the [Texas Abuse Hotline Website](#)¹;
3. A local CPS office; or
4. If applicable, the state agency operating, licensing, certifying, or registering the facility in which the suspected abuse or neglect occurred.

However, if the suspected abuse or neglect involves a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child, the report must be made to DFPS, unless the report is to the state agency that operates, licenses, certifies, or registers the facility where the suspected abuse or neglect took place; or the report is to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department as a report of suspected abuse or neglect in a juvenile justice program or facility. As defined by law, a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of a child includes school personnel and volunteers and day-care workers. [See FFG(LEGAL)]

An individual does not fulfill his or her responsibilities under the law by only reporting suspicion of abuse or neglect to a campus principal, school counselor, or another District staff member. Further-

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more, the District is prohibited from requiring an employee to first report his or her suspicion to a District or campus administrator.

Confidentiality

In accordance with state law, the identity of a person making a report of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be kept confidential and disclosed only in accordance with the rules of the investigating agency.

Immunity

A person who in good faith reports or assists in the investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect is immune from civil or criminal liability.

**Failing to Report
Suspected Child
Abuse or Neglect**

By failing to report suspicion of child abuse or neglect, an employee:

1. May be placing a child at risk of continued abuse or neglect;
2. Violates the law and may be subject to legal penalties, including criminal sanctions for knowingly failing to make a required report;
3. Violates Board policy and may be subject to disciplinary action, including possible termination of employment; and
4. May have his or her certification from the State Board for Educator Certification suspended, revoked, or canceled in accordance with 19 Administrative Code Chapter 249.

It is a criminal offense to coerce someone into suppressing or failing to report child abuse or neglect.

**Responsibilities
Regarding
Investigations**

In accordance with law, District officials shall be prohibited from:

1. Denying an investigator's request to interview a child at school in connection with an investigation of child abuse or neglect;
2. Requiring that a parent or school employee be present during the interview; or
3. Coercing someone into suppressing or failing to report child abuse or neglect.

District personnel shall cooperate fully and without parental consent, if necessary, with an investigation of reported child abuse or neglect. [See GKA]

¹ Texas Abuse Hotline Website: <http://www.txabusehotline.org>

Terrell ISD-Kaufman County
129906

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**Policy and Program
to Address Sexual
Abuse, Trafficking,
and Maltreatment**

A district shall provide child abuse antivictimization programs in elementary and secondary schools. *Education Code 38.004*

A district shall adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, to be included in the district improvement plan [see BQ] and any information handbook provided to students and parents. *Education Code 38.0041(a)*

The policy included in any informational handbook provided to students and parents must address the following:

1. Methods for increasing staff, student, and parent awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse, trafficking, and other forms of maltreatment of children, including prevention techniques and knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim;
2. Actions a child who is a victim of sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment should take to obtain assistance and intervention; and
3. Available counseling options for students affected by sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment.

19 TAC 61.1051(b)(3)

Definitions

Child Abuse or
Neglect

The definition of child abuse or neglect includes the trafficking of a child in accordance with Education Code 38.004.

Other Maltreatment

This term has the meaning assigned by Human Resources Code 42.002.

Trafficking of a
Child

This term has the meaning assigned by Penal Code 20A.02(a)(5), (6), (7), or (8).

19 TAC 61.1051(a)

Duty to Report

Report by Any
Person

Any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect by any person shall immediately make a report as required by law. *Family Code 261.101(a)*

Report by Any
Professional

Any professional who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected shall make a report as required by law. The report must be made within 48 hours after the professional first has reasonable cause to believe that the child has been or may be abused or neglected or is the victim of an offense of indecency with a child.

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A professional may not delegate to or rely on another person to make the report.

A "professional" is a person who is licensed or certified by the state or who is an employee of a facility licensed, certified, or operated by the state and who, in the normal course of official duties or duties for which a license or certification is required, has direct contact with children. The term includes teachers, nurses, doctors, day-care employees, juvenile probation officers, and juvenile detention or correctional officers.

Family Code 261.101(b)

Abuse of Persons
with Disabilities

A person having cause to believe that a person with a disability is in a state of abuse, neglect, or exploitation shall report the information immediately to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

A person commits a Class A misdemeanor if the person has cause to believe that a person with a disability has been abused, neglected, or exploited or is in a state of abuse, neglect, or exploitation and knowingly fails to report.

A person filing a report or testifying or otherwise participating in any judicial proceeding arising from a petition, report, or investigation is immune from civil or criminal liability on account of his or her petition, report, testimony, or participation, unless the person acted in bad faith or with a malicious purpose.

Human Resources Code 48.051, .052, .054

Adult Victims of
Abuse

A person or professional shall make a report in the manner required above if the person or professional has reasonable cause to believe that an adult was a victim of abuse or neglect as a child and the person or professional determines in good faith that disclosure of the information is necessary to protect the health and safety of another child or an elderly person or person with a disability. *Family Code 261.101(b-1)*

**Restrictions on
Reporting**

Psychotropic Drugs
and Psychological
Testing

An employee may not use or threaten to use the refusal of a parent, guardian, or managing or possessory conservator to administer or consent to the administration of a psychotropic drug to a child, or to consent to any other psychiatric or psychological testing or treatment of the child, as the sole basis for making a report of neglect, unless the employee has cause to believe that the refusal:

1. Presents a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or bodily injury to the child; or

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2. Has resulted in an observable and material impairment to the growth, development, or functioning of the child.

Education Code 26.0091; Family Code 261.111(a) [See FFEB]

Contents of Report

The report should reflect the reporter's belief that a child has been or may be abused or neglected or has died of abuse or neglect. The individual making the report shall identify, if known:

1. The name and address of the child;
2. The name and address of the person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child;
3. The facts that caused the individual to believe the child has been abused or neglected and the source of the information;
4. The individual's name and telephone number;
5. The individual's:
 - a. Home address; or
 - b. If the individual is a professional as defined by Family Code 261.101(b) [see Report by Any Professional, above], the individual's business address and profession; and
6. Any other pertinent information concerning the alleged or suspected abuse or neglect.

Family Code 261.102, .104

Confidentiality of Report

A report of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect and the identity of the person making the report is confidential and not subject to release under Government Code Chapter 552 (Public Information Act) and may be disclosed only for purposes consistent with the Family Code and applicable federal or state law or under rules adopted by an investigating agency. *Family Code 261.201(a)-(a)(1)*

Unless waived in writing by the person making the report, the identity of an individual making a report under this chapter is confidential and may be disclosed only to a law enforcement officer for the purposes of a criminal investigation of the report, or as ordered by a court under Family Code 261.201. *Family Code 261.101(d)*

Abuse and Neglect Involving School Personnel and Those Responsible for Care

If the alleged or suspected abuse or neglect involves a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child, the report must be made to DFPS, unless the report is made to a state agency under item 4, below, or the report involves a juvenile justice program or facility [see JJAEPS, below].

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All other reports shall be made to:

1. Any local or state law enforcement agency;
2. DFPS, Child Protective Services (CPS) Division;
3. A local office of CPS, where available; or
4. The state agency that operates, licenses, certifies, or registers the facility in which the alleged abuse or neglect occurred.

Family Code 261.103(a); 19 TAC 61.1051(b)(1)-(2)

"Person responsible for a child's care, custody, or welfare" means a person who traditionally is responsible for a child's care, custody, or welfare, including:

1. A parent, guardian, managing or possessory conservator, or foster parent of the child;
2. A member of the child's family or household as defined by Family Code Chapter 71;
3. A person with whom the child's parent cohabits;
4. School personnel or a volunteer at the child's school;
5. Personnel or a volunteer at a public or private child-care facility that provides services for the child or at a public or private residential institution or facility where the child resides; or
6. An employee, volunteer, or other person working under the supervision of a licensed or unlicensed child-care facility, including a family home, residential child-care facility, employer-based day-care facility, or shelter day-care facility, as those terms are defined in Human Resources Code Chapter 42.

Family Code 261.001(5)

**Reporting Abuse,
Neglect, or
Exploitation in a
JJAEP**

Any report of alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation, as those terms are defined in Family Code 261.405, in a juvenile justice program or facility shall be made to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department and a local law enforcement agency for investigation. The term "juvenile justice program" includes a juvenile justice alternative education program. *Family Code 261.405(a)(4)(A), (b)*

**Immunity from
Liability**

A person acting in good faith who reports or assists in the investigation of a report of alleged child abuse or neglect or who testifies or otherwise participates in a judicial proceeding arising from a report, petition, or investigation of alleged child abuse or neglect is

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immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. *Family Code 261.106*

A district may not suspend or terminate the employment of, or otherwise discriminate against, or take any other adverse employment action against a professional who makes a good faith report of abuse or neglect. *Family Code 261.110(b)* [See DG]

Criminal Offenses

Failure to Report

A person commits a Class A misdemeanor if he or she is required to make a report under Family Code 261.101(a) [see Duty to Report, above] and knowingly fails to make a report as provided by law.

A person who is a professional commits a Class A misdemeanor if the person is required to make a report under Family Code 261.101(b) [see Duty to Report] and knowingly fails to make a report as provided by law. The professional commits a state jail felony if he or she intended to conceal the abuse or neglect.

Family Code 261.109

False Report

A person commits an offense if, with the intent to deceive, the person knowingly makes a report of abuse and neglect that is false. The offense is a state jail felony, except that it is a felony of the third degree if the person has previously been convicted of the offense. *Family Code 261.107(a)*

Coercion

A public servant, including as a school administrator, who coerces another into suppressing or failing to report child abuse or neglect to a law enforcement agency commits a Class C misdemeanor offense. *Penal Code 39.06*

**SBEC Disciplinary
Action**

The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) may take any of the actions listed in 19 Administrative Code 249.15(a) (impositions, including revocation of a certificate and administrative penalties) based on satisfactory evidence that the person has failed to report or has hindered the reporting of child abuse pursuant to Family Code 261.001, or has failed to notify the SBEC, the commissioner of education, or the school superintendent or director under the circumstances and in the manner required by Education Code 21.006, 21.0062, 22.093, and 19 Administrative Code 249.14(d)-(f). *19 TAC 249.15(b)(4)*

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Note: The following legal provisions address child abuse and neglect investigations generally. See GRA for additional legal provisions addressing notification requirements and right of access to students when DFPS investigates reports of abuse and neglect at school. See 40 Administrative Code Chapter 707, Subchapter B for more information regarding investigations of abuse or neglect in a school setting.

Investigations

Reports to District

If DFPS initiates an investigation and determines that the abuse or neglect involves an employee of a public elementary or secondary school, and that the child is a student at the school, the department shall orally notify the superintendent of the district in which the employee is employed. *Family Code 261.105(d)*

On request, DFPS shall provide a copy of the completed report of its investigation to the board, the superintendent, and the school principal, unless the principal is alleged to have committed the abuse or neglect. The report shall be edited to protect the identity of the person who made the report. *Family Code 261.406(b)*

Interview of Student

The investigating agency shall be permitted to interview the child at any reasonable time and place, including at the child's school. *Family Code 261.302(b)* [See GRA]

Interference with
Investigation

A person may not interfere with an investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect conducted by DFPS. *Family Code 261.303(a)*

Confidentiality

A photograph, videotape, audiotape, or other audio or visual recording, depiction, or documentation of a child that is made by DFPS in the course of an inspection or investigation is confidential, is not subject to release under the Public Information Act, and may be released only as required by state or federal law or rules adopted by the DFPS. *Human Resources Code 42.004*

Reporting Policy

A board shall adopt and annually review policies for reporting child abuse and neglect. The policies shall follow the requirements of Family Code Chapter 261. *19 TAC 61.1051(b)*

The policies must require every school employee, agent, or contractor who suspects a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect to submit a written or oral report to at least one of the authorities listed above [see To Whom Reported, above] within 48 hours or less, as determined by the board, after learning of facts giving rise to the suspicion. *19 TAC 61.1051(b)(1)*

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The policies must be consistent with the Family Code Chapter 261 and 40 Administrative Code Chapter 700 (CPS) regarding investigations by DFPS, including regulations governing investigation of abuse by school personnel and volunteers. [See GRA]

The policies must require a report to DFPS if the alleged abuse or neglect involves a person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child and must notify school personnel of the following:

1. Penalties under Penal Code 39.06 (misuse of official information), Family Code 261.109 (failure to report), and 19 Administrative Code Chapter 249 (actions against educator's certificate) for failure to submit a required report of child abuse or neglect;
2. Applicable prohibitions against interference with an investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect, including:
 - a. Family Code 261.302 and 261.303, prohibiting school officials from denying an investigator's request to interview a student at school; and
 - b. Family Code 261.302, prohibiting school officials from requiring the presence of a parent or school administrator during an interview by an investigator.
3. Immunity provisions applicable to a person who reports child abuse or neglect or otherwise assists an investigation in good faith;
4. Confidentiality provisions relating to a report of suspected child abuse or neglect;
5. Any disciplinary action that may result from noncompliance with a district's reporting policy; and
6. The prohibition under Education Code 26.0091 [see Psychotropic Drugs and Psychological Testing, above].

19 TAC 61.1051(b)(2)

The policies may not require that school personnel report suspicions of child abuse or neglect to a school administrator before making a report to one of the agencies listed above.

The policies must:

1. Include the current toll-free number for DFPS;
2. Provide for cooperation with law enforcement child abuse investigations without the consent of the child's parent, if necessary, including investigations by DFPS; and

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3. Include child abuse anti-victimization programs in elementary and secondary schools consisting of age-appropriate, research-based prevention designed to promote self-protection and prevent sexual abuse and trafficking.

19 TAC 61.1051(b)(5)-(b)(8)

Annual Distribution
and Staff
Development

The policies required by these provisions and adopted by the board shall be distributed to all personnel at the beginning of each school year. The policies shall be addressed in staff development programs at regular intervals determined by a board. *19 TAC 61.1051(c)* [See also DH and GRA]

[For training requirements under these provisions, see DMA.]

Required Poster

Using a format and language that is clear, simple, and understandable to students, each public school shall post, in English and in Spanish:

1. The current toll-free DFPS Abuse Hotline telephone number;
2. Instructions to call 911 for emergencies; and
3. Directions for accessing the DFPS [Texas Abuse Hotline website](https://www.txabusehotline.org/)¹ for more information on reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

A district shall post the information specified above at each school campus in at least one high-traffic, highly and clearly visible public area that is readily accessible to and widely used by students. The information must be on a poster (11x17 inches or larger) in large print and placed at eye-level to the student for easy viewing. Additionally, the current toll-free Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Abuse Hotline telephone number should be in bold print.

Education Code 38.0042; 19 TAC 61.1051(e)-(f)

¹ Texas Abuse Hotline website: <https://www.txabusehotline.org/>