

TASB RISK MANAGEMENT FUND INTERLOCAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, this Interlocal Participation Agreement (Agreement) is entered into by and between the Texas Association of School Boards Risk Management Fund (Fund) and the undersigned local government of the State of Texas (Fund Member). The Fund is an administrative agency of local governments (Fund Members) that cooperate in performing administrative services and governmental functions relative to risk management.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

In consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions contained in this Agreement and other good and valuable consideration, including, without limitation, the agreement of the Fund and Fund Members to provide risk management programs as detailed in this Agreement, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Fund Member and the Fund, intending to be legally bound, and subject to the terms, conditions, and provisions of this Agreement, agree as follows:

1. **Authority.** Fund Member hereby approves and adopts the Restatement of Interlocal Agreement, dated May 20, 1997, which restated the Interlocal Agreement dated July 2, 1974, establishing the predecessor of the Fund. The Restatement of Interlocal Agreement is incorporated into this Agreement by reference and is available from the Fund upon request. This Agreement serves to outline the relationship between the Fund and Fund Member. While the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act provides the overarching basis for the Fund, certain Fund programs are further authorized pursuant to various statutes, such as Chapter 504 of the Texas Labor Code, pertaining to workers' compensation; and Chapter 2259, Subchapter B, of the Texas Government Code, pertaining to other risks or hazards.
2. **Program Participation.** This Agreement enables Fund Member to participate in one or more of the Fund's available programs. Because this is an enabling Agreement, Fund Member must also execute a separate Contribution and Coverage Summary (CCS) for each Fund program from which it seeks coverage and/or administrative services. Only a valid CCS will confer the right to participate in a specific program and each CCS shall be incorporated into this Agreement. Through participation in any Fund program, Fund Member waives none of its immunities and authorizes the Fund, or its designee, to assert such immunities on its behalf and on behalf of the Fund or its designee.
3. **Term of Agreement.** This Agreement shall be effective from the date of the last signature below and shall remain in effect unless terminated as provided in this Agreement. This Agreement will automatically terminate if Fund Member ceases to participate in at least one of the Fund's programs (due to the expiration of a CCS participation term or the valid termination of same) or fails to meet the membership qualifications of the Fund as provided in this Agreement and as determined by the Fund in writing.
4. **Termination.** Unless this Agreement is automatically terminated as described above, this Agreement, and/or any component CCS applicable to Fund Member, can be terminated as set forth below. However, unless specifically required in a CCS, the termination of any single Fund program under a CCS shall not also result in the automatic termination of another pending CCS, or this enabling Agreement if any other CCS is still in force for Fund Member. Rather, each Fund program can only be terminated as provided in this Agreement.
 - a. **By Either Party with 30 Days Notice before Renewal.** Any CCS may be terminated by either party with termination to be effective on any successive renewal date by giving written notice to the other party no later than 30 days prior to automatic renewal.
 - b. **By Fund Member upon Payment of Late Notice Fee.** If Fund Member fails to terminate a CCS as provided above, it may still terminate participation in any Fund program prior to the renewal date by paying a late notice fee as herein provided. If Fund Member terminates the CCS before the renewal date, but with fewer than 30 days' advance written notice, Fund Member agrees to pay the Fund a late notice fee in the amount of 25% of the annual contribution for the expiring participation term. Fund Member expressly acknowledges that the late notice fee is not a penalty, but a reasonable approximation of the Fund's damages for the Fund Member's untimely withdrawal from the program identified in the CCS. However, once the renewal term of a CCS commences, Fund Member can no longer terminate the CCS by paying a late notice fee; the CCS shall renew and Fund Member must pay 100% of the annual contribution for the renewal period.
 - c. **By the Fund upon Breach by Fund Member.** The Fund may terminate this Agreement or any CCS based on breach of any of the following obligations, by giving 10 days' written notice to Fund Member of the breach; and Fund Member's failure to cure the breach within said 10 days (or other time period allowed by the Fund):
 - 1) Fund Member fails or refuses to make the payments or contributions required by this Agreement;
 - 2) Fund Member fails to cooperate and comply with any reasonable requests for information and/or records made by the Fund;

- 3) Fund Member fails or refuses to follow loss prevention or statutory compliance requirements of the Fund, as provided in this Agreement; or
- 4) Fund Member otherwise breaches this Agreement.

If the Fund terminates this Agreement, or any CCS, based on breach as described above, Fund Member agrees that the Fund will have no responsibility of any kind or nature to provide coverage on the terminated Fund program post-termination. Further, Fund Member shall bear the full financial responsibility for any unpaid open claim and expense related to any claim, asserted or unasserted and reported or unreported, against the Fund or Fund Member, or incurred by the agents or representatives of Fund Member.

In addition to the foregoing, if termination is due to Fund Member's failure to make required payments or contributions, Fund Member agrees that it shall pay the Fund liquidated damages in the amount of 50% of the annual contribution for the participation term identified in the terminated CCS.

5. Contributions.

- a. **Agreement to Pay Contribution.** Fund Member agrees to pay its contribution for each Fund program in which it participates based on a plan developed by the Fund. The amount of contribution will be stated in the relevant CCS and will be payable upon receipt of an invoice from the Fund. Late fees amounting to the maximum interest allowed by law, but not less than the rate of interest authorized under Chapter 2251, Texas Government Code, shall begin to accrue daily on the first day following the due date and continue until the contribution and late fees are paid in full. If Fund Member fails to pay the amounts due under this Agreement, including any CCS, the Fund may redirect other amounts due to the Fund Member, payments received from Fund Member, or amounts held by the Fund for Fund Member's benefit, to offset the amount owed. Any offset will not extinguish Fund Member's obligation for any and all payments due under this Agreement, including any CCS.
- b. **Other Payments Due to the Fund.** In addition to contributions, if the Fund Member owes other payments to the Fund, such as deductibles or claim overpayments, and Fund Member fails to timely pay the amounts due, the Fund may redirect other amounts due to the Fund Member, payments received from Fund Member, or amounts held by the Fund for the Fund Member's benefit to offset the amounts owed.
- c. **Estimated Contribution and Contribution Adjustment.** In specified situations, the amount of contribution shown in the CCS will be identified as an estimate. The Fund reserves the right to request an audit of updated exposure information at the end of the CCS participation term and adjust contributions if Fund Member's exposure changes during the CCS participation term. As a result of the exposure review, any additional contribution payable to the Fund shall be paid by Fund Member, and any overpayment of contribution by Fund Member shall be returned or credited by the Fund. The Fund reserves the right to audit the relevant records of Fund Member in order to conduct this exposure review.

Upon expiration of each participation period, Fund Member may request a contribution adjustment due to exposure changes. Such request must be made in writing within 60 days after the end of the participation period. Fund Member must provide documentation as requested by the Fund to demonstrate that the exposure change warrants a contribution adjustment.

The annual contribution may be adjusted due to an exposure change or audit as presented in the CCS. The Fund may also request a contribution adjustment should the Fund's underwriting income for any program within a given program year be inadequate to pay the ultimate cost of claims incurred for that year, the Fund may collect an adjusted contribution from any current or former Fund Member if that Fund Member's contribution is inadequate to pay the Fund Member's claims incurred during that year.

6. **Contribution and Coverage Summary.** Fund Member agrees to abide by each CCS that governs its participation. A CCS will incorporate the program specific coverage document, if any, which sets forth the scope of coverage and/or services from the Fund. This Agreement will be construed to incorporate the CCS, Coverage Agreements, Endorsements, and Addenda, if any, whether or not physically attached. A CCS for a Fund program will state the participation term. After Fund Member's execution of a CCS, the CCS will automatically renew annually, unless terminated in accordance with this Agreement. Any renewal containing a change in the amount of contribution or other terms will be subject to the Amendment by Notice process described in this Agreement.
7. **Loss Prevention.** The Fund may provide loss prevention services to Fund Member. Fund Member agrees to adopt the Fund's reasonable and customary standards for loss prevention and to cooperate in implementing any and all reasonable loss prevention and statutory compliance recommendations or requirements. The Fund makes no warranty on Fund loss prevention recommendations.

8. **Other Duties of Fund Member.**

- a. **Standards of Performance.** Time shall be of the essence in Fund Member's reporting of any and all claims to the Fund, payment of any contributions or monies due to the Fund, and delivery of any written notices under this Agreement.
- b. **Claims Reporting.** Notice of any claim must be provided to the Fund as required by law or the applicable Coverage Agreement. Failure by Fund Member to timely report a claim may result in denial of coverage or payment of fines or penalties imposed by law or regulatory agencies. If the Fund advances payment of any fine or penalty arising from Fund Member's late claim reporting, Fund Member will reimburse the Fund for all such costs.
- c. **Cooperation and Access.** Fund Member agrees to cooperate and to comply in a timely manner with all reasonable requests for access, information and/or records made by the Fund or by a third-party acting for the Fund. Fund Member further agrees to provide complete and accurate statements of material facts, to not misrepresent or omit such facts, or make false statements to the Fund. The Fund Member agrees that any information held by the Fund's Administrator, or its' affiliated entities may be provided to the Fund. The Fund reserves the right to audit the relevant records of Fund Member to determine compliance with this Agreement.

9. **Administration of Claims.** The Fund or its designee agrees to administer all claims for which Fund Member has coverage after Fund Member provides timely written notice to the Fund. Fund Member hereby authorizes the Fund or its designee to act in all matters pertaining to handling of claims for which Fund Member has coverage pursuant to this Agreement. Fund Member expressly agrees that the Fund has sole authority in all matters pertaining to the administration of claims and grants the Fund or its designee full decision-making authority in all matters, including without limitation, discussions with claimants and their attorneys or other duly authorized representatives. Fund Member further agrees to be fully cooperative in supplying any information reasonably requested by the Fund in the handling of claims. All decisions on individual claims shall be made by the Fund or its designee, including, without limitation, decisions concerning claim values, payment due on the claim, settlement, subrogation, litigation, or appeals.

10. **Excess Coverage/Reinsurance.** The Fund, in its sole discretion, may purchase excess coverage or reinsurance for any or all Fund programs. In the event of a substantial change in terms or cost of such coverage, the Fund reserves the right to make adjustments to the terms and conditions of a CCS as allowed by the Amendment by Notice process under this Agreement. If any reinsurer, stop loss carrier, and/or excess coverage provider fails to meet its obligations to the Fund or any Fund Member, the Fund is not responsible for any payment or any obligations to Fund Member from any reinsurer, stop loss carrier, or excess coverage provider.

11. **Subrogation and Assignment of Rights.**

- a. Fund Member, on its own behalf and on behalf of any person entitled to benefits under this Agreement, assigns all subrogation rights to the Fund. The Fund has the right, in its sole discretion, without notice to Fund Member, to bring all claims and lawsuits in the name of Fund Member or the Fund. Fund Member agrees that all subrogation rights and recoveries belong first to the Fund, up to the amount of benefits, expenses, and attorneys' fees incurred by the Fund, with the balance, if any, being paid to Fund Member, unless otherwise specifically stated in the Agreement. Award of funds to any person entitled to coverage, whether by judgment or settlement, shall be conclusive proof that the injured party has been made whole. Fund Member's right to be made whole is expressly superseded by the Fund's subrogation rights. If Fund Member procures alternate coverage for a risk covered by the Fund, the latter acquired coverage shall be deemed primary coverage concerning that risk.
- b. Fund Member shall do nothing to prejudice or waive the Fund's existing or prospective subrogation rights under this Agreement. If Fund Member has waived any subrogation right without first obtaining the Fund's written approval, the Fund shall be entitled to recover from Fund Member any sums that it would have been able to recover absent such waiver. Recoverable amounts include attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses.

12. **Appeals.** Fund Member shall have the right to appeal any written decision or recommendation to the Fund's Board of Trustees, and the Board's determination will be final. Any appeal shall be made in writing to the Board Chair within 30 days of the decision or recommendation.

13. **Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures.** Fund Member agrees to abide by the Bylaws of the Fund, as they may be amended from time to time, and any and all written policies and procedures established by the Fund (which are available from the Fund upon written request). If a change is made to the Fund's Bylaws, written policies or procedures which conflicts with or impairs a CCS, such change will not apply to Fund Member until the renewal of such CCS, unless Fund Member specifically agrees otherwise.

14. **Payments.** Fund Member represents and warrants that all payments required under this Agreement of Fund Member shall be made from its available current revenues.

15. **Fund Member's Designation of Coordinator.** Fund Member agrees to designate an employee with appropriate authority as coordinator (Program Coordinator) for Fund Member on this Agreement or any CCS executed by Fund Member. Fund Member's Program Coordinator shall have express authority to represent and to bind Fund Member, shall fully communicate with the Fund regarding Fund business, and shall not delegate this communication to a third party. The Fund will not be required to contact any other individual regarding matters arising from or related to this Agreement. Fund Member reserves the right to change its Program Coordinator as needed, by giving written notice to the Fund; such notice is not effective until actually received by the Fund. Notice provided to the Chief Executive Officer of Fund Member shall also serve as notice to the Program Coordinator.
16. **Risk Sharing Agreement.** This Agreement is a risk sharing and risk participation agreement and should not be construed to be a contract of insurance. If any ambiguity exists in this Agreement, including any CCS or specific coverage document, the provision shall not be construed against the Fund as drafter of this Agreement. The Fund is not an insurance company nor is any member an insured. The Fund is a self-insured risk pool through which its members agree to share risk and actively participate in their contractual obligations to lessen risk and cost for all members. Any reference in this Agreement to an insurance term or concept is coincidental, is not intended to characterize the Fund as "insurance" as defined by law, shall be deemed to apply to self-insurance, and is not to be construed as being contrary to the self-insurance concept.
17. **Representation.** Fund Member authorizes the Fund to represent Fund Member in any lawsuit, dispute, or proceeding arising under or relating to any Fund program and/or coverage in which Fund Member participates. The Fund may exercise this right in its sole discretion and to the fullest extent permitted or authorized by law. Fund Member shall fully cooperate with the Fund, its designee, and the Fund's chosen counsel, including, without limitation, supplying any information necessary or relevant to the lawsuit, dispute, or proceeding in a timely fashion. Subject to specific revocation, Fund Member designates the Fund to act as a class representative on its behalf in matters arising out of this Agreement.
18. **Members' Equity.** The Fund Board, in its sole discretion, may declare a distribution of the Fund's members' equity to Fund Members. Members' equity belongs to the Fund. No current or former individual Fund Member is entitled to an individual allocation or portion of members' equity.
19. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, together with the Restated Interlocal Agreement, Bylaws, CCSs, and Coverage Agreements that are in effect as to Fund Member from time to time, represent and contain the complete understanding and agreement of the Fund and Fund Member, and there are no representations, agreements, arrangements, or undertakings, oral or written, between the Fund and Fund Member other than those set forth in this Agreement duly executed in writing. In the event of conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the Restated Interlocal Agreement, Bylaws, CCS, or any Coverage Agreement, the specific terms of the later adopted agreement shall prevail to the extent necessary to resolve the conflict. This Agreement replaces all previous Interlocal Participation Agreements between the Fund and Fund Member. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Agreement does not supersede any unexpired participation term or pending claim under an existing agreement between Fund Member and Fund.
20. **Amendment by Notice.** This Agreement, including any of its component CCSs or coverage documents, may be amended by the Fund, in writing, by providing Fund Member with written notice before the earlier of (i) the effective date of the amendment or (ii) the date by which Fund Member can terminate without payment of late notice fees or liquidated damages. Unless this Agreement expressly provides otherwise, an amendment shall only apply prospectively and Fund Member shall have the right to terminate this Agreement, or a component CCS to which the amendment applies, before the amendment becomes effective, as provided in this Agreement. If Fund Member fails to give the Fund timely written notice of termination, Fund Member shall be deemed to have consented to the Fund's amendment and agrees to abide by and be bound by the amendment, without necessity of obtaining Fund Member's signature.

The Fund may amend this Agreement or any CCS effective upon renewal. Amendments may be for any reason including changes to the terms or contribution amount.

The Fund may also amend this Agreement or any CCS, effective during the term of a CCS, for any reason including but not limited to the following:

- a. State or federal governments, including any court, regulatory body, or agency thereof, adopt a statute, rule, decision, or take any action that would substantially impact the rights or financial obligations of the Fund as it pertains to this Agreement, or any Fund program or CCS.
- b. The terms of the Fund's stop-loss or excess coverage or reinsurance change substantially.

If the Fund exercises the option to amend the Agreement or any CCS during the term of a CCS and prior to renewal, the Fund shall give Fund Member 30 days advance written notice. Fund Member will then have the right during the 30-day period to give the Fund written notice of termination of the applicable Fund program, effective upon the expiration of the 30-day notice period (or longer period if so provided by the Fund in writing).

21. **Severability; Interpretation.** If any portion of this Agreement shall be declared illegal or held unenforceable for any reason, the remaining portions shall continue in full force and effect. Any questions of particular interpretation shall not be interpreted against the drafter of this Agreement, but rather in accordance with the fair meaning thereof.
22. **Dispute Resolution.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to conflict of law principles that would require the application of the laws of another state. The Fund retains its governmental immunity except to the extent it is waived by the legislature. The parties agree that the following adjudication procedures apply to any legal dispute, and that the Fund Member's right to file suit against the Fund is contingent upon compliance with these procedures pursuant to Texas Local Government Code section 271.154:
- Prior to filing suit, the Fund Member must comply with all of its obligations under this Agreement and any specific Coverage Agreement including an appeal to the Fund Board as described by Section 12 of this Agreement. A good-faith appeal to the Fund Board is a pre-suit adjudication procedure that is required before litigation by a Fund Member against the Fund.
 - Prior to filing suit, the Fund Member will participate in good faith in mediation in Travis County, Texas before a mediator approved by both parties; and
 - Any suit against the Fund must be brought in Travis County, Texas.

In the event of a lawsuit or formal adjudication between Fund Member and the Fund, the prevailing party is entitled to recover reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and expenses, including expert fees, that are equitable and just.

Waiver and Estoppel. No provision of this Agreement will be deemed waived by either party unless expressly waived in writing by the waiving party. No waiver shall be implied by delay or any other act or omission. No waiver by either party of any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver of such provision with respect to any subsequent matter relating to such provision. Estoppel may not be asserted against either party so as to prevent that party from enforcing or insisting on the other party's compliance with any provision of this Agreement.

Assignment. This Agreement or any duties or obligations imposed by this Agreement shall not be assignable by Fund Member without the prior written consent of the Fund. Fund Member shall not transfer any interest in Fund claim related payments to any third party, including, but not limited to litigation finance companies, attorneys, banks, public adjusters, architects, engineers, or contractors. Any action by the Fund Member which grants or attempts to grant to any third party an interest in or control over any claim payment, including, but not limited to, the Member's entry into a contingent fee contract, will immediately suspend any obligation by the Fund to make any claim payment under this Agreement. The obligation of the Fund to make any such claim payments shall not be restored unless and until the Fund Member provides the Fund with evidence reasonably satisfactory to the Fund that any such transfer or attempt to transfer an interest in or control over such claim payment to a third party has effectively been terminated.

23. **Authorization.** By the execution of this Agreement, the undersigned individuals warrant that they have been authorized by all requisite governance action to enter into and to perform the terms and conditions of this Agreement and that the Fund Member authorizes the Program Coordinator or Chief Executive Officer to approve and bind the Fund Member to any current or future CCS entered into under this Agreement
24. **Notice.** Unless expressly stated otherwise in this Agreement, any notice required or provided under this Agreement by either party to the other party shall be in writing and shall be sent by first class mail, postage prepaid or by a carrier for overnight service or by electronic means typically used in commerce. Notice to the Fund shall be sufficient if made or addressed as follows: TASB Risk Management Fund, P.O. Box 301, Austin, Texas 78767-0301, or tasbrmf@tasbrmf.org. The Fund's required notice address may be updated through explicit written or electronic notice to Fund Members. Notice to a Fund Member shall be sufficient if addressed to the Program Coordinator or Fund Member's Chief Executive Officer and mailed to Fund Member's physical or electronic address of record on file with the Fund.
25. **Miscellaneous.** These provisions apply throughout this Agreement:
- Fund reference.** Any reference to the Fund in this Agreement includes reference to its designees.
 - CCS reference.** References to a Contribution and Coverage Summary (CCS) includes a reference to all separate coverage portions of a CCS and/or any similar service agreement between the Fund and a Fund Member.
 - "Including."** Unless the context requires otherwise, the term "including" means "including but not limited to."
 - Successors.** This Agreement binds and inures to the benefit of the parties and their successors.
 - Headings.** The headings are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this Agreement.

26. **Signatures/Counterparts.** The failure of a party to provide an original, manually executed signature to the other party shall not affect the validity or enforceability of this Agreement. Either party may rely upon a facsimile or imaged signature as if it were an original. This Agreement may be executed in several separate counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

WHEREFORE, the parties agree to be bound by this Agreement by signing below.

For FUND MEMBER: **Ferris ISD**

By: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Fund Member's Authorized Representative

Printed Name of Fund Member's Authorized Representative

Date approved by Fund Member's Board of Trustees: _____

For TASB Risk Management Fund Use Only

For TASB RISK MANAGEMENT FUND:

By: _____

Date: _____

Chair, TASB Risk Management Fund Board of Trustees