

WALSH, ANDERSON,
GALLEGOS, GREEN
and TREVIÑO, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

May 1, 2012

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. David G. Foote
Superintendent
Dalhart ISD
701 East 10th Street
Dalhart, Texas 79022

RE: Renewal of Membership in Walsh Anderson's Retainer Program

Dear Mr. Foote:

It's hard to believe another year has gone by but once again it is time to renew Dalhart Independent School District's membership in the Walsh Anderson Retainer Program. To that end, enclosed with your monthly statement, you will find our Legal Services Retainer Agreement and our invoice for membership in our Retainer Program. As you know, this valuable program includes the following benefits for just \$1,000.00 per year:

- Unlimited free telephone consultation with attorneys in any of our offices,
- Reduced rates for legal work,
- Reduced fees for inservices,
- Reduced rates for practical Walsh Anderson products such as The Legal Guide to DAEP & Expulsion, Extracurricular Code of Conduct, and A Campus Guide to Response to Intervention,
- A free subscription to our bi-monthly general education newsletter "Time Out with Walsh Anderson,"
- A free subscription to our monthly special education newsletter "This Just In," and
- Email updates about the latest developments in education law.

More information about these services and other advantages of the retainer program are included in the attached description.

We enjoy working with Dalhart Independent School District and hope the district will continue its membership in our retainer program. Many districts have adopted the Texas Association of

Centennial Towers, 505 E. Huntland Dr., #600, Austin, TX 78752 MAIL : P.O. Box 2156, Austin, TX 78768

T : 512.454.6864 F : 512.467.9318 www.WalshAnderson.com

School Boards' policy BDD (local) which requires approval of the agreement by the Board of Trustees; check your policy to see who is authorized to approve and sign the Agreement.

We look forward to receiving your signed contract. In the meantime, please remember that you can call any of our offices and speak with the attorney of your choice to get the advice you need, when you need it. Should you have any questions about the Retainer Agreement or wish to reach me directly, please feel free to contact me at (800) 771-6864.

Sincerely,



Elena M. Gallegos

EMG/mk

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jeff Lloyd, Board President
Ms. Diane Cody, Director of Special Education
(not including billing statement
or email update form)

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
LEGAL SERVICES RETAINER AGREEMENT
FOR
DALHART
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

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

President, Superintendent, Special Education Director, or designee for such advice or work on a matter. The Law Firm and the District acknowledge and represent that this Agreement does not establish an attorney-client relationship between the Law Firm and any individual Trustees or Employees of the District. If a lawsuit or other adversarial matter is brought against the District and/or any Trustee or Employee of the District, the Law Firm may require the execution of one or more separate Letters of Engagement prior to undertaking an attorney-client relationship in the matter.

Executed this _____ day of _____, 2012.

DALHART INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: _____
(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Title)

WALSH, ANDERSON, GALLEGOS, GREEN & TREVIÑO, P.C.

By: _____
Oscar G. Treviño
Managing Shareholder

WALSH, ANDERSON,
GALLEGOS, GREEN
and TREVIÑO, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BENEFITS OF THE WALSH ANDERSON RETAINER PROGRAM

1. **FREE TELEPHONE CONSULTATION:** The law firm provides unlimited telephone consultation at no charge to the District's Board President, Superintendent, Special Education Director or any designee pertaining to questions arising out of the general operation of the District. Last year, our member clients received an average of 10 free hours of telephone consultation. That is over a \$2,300 value in telephone calls alone!

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

- Austin (800) 252-3405
- San Antonio (800) 232-9169
- Irving (800) 231-4207
- Houston (888) 565-6864
- McAllen (866) 770-6864
- Albuquerque (800) 771-6864

2. **REDUCED RATES FOR ADDITIONAL LEGAL WORK:** The District receives reduced hourly rates for additional work that goes beyond general telephone consultations, such as analyzing documents, writing opinion letters, or attending school board meetings. Though the hourly rates are reduced for retainer clients, any actual expenses (copy costs or mileage, for example) incurred by the law firm in providing such additional work are charged.

3. **FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO FIRM PUBLICATIONS:** Membership in the Walsh Anderson Retainer Program also entitles the District to receive free subscriptions to both of the firm's newsletters:

- (1) the informative bi-monthly newsletter "*Time Out with Walsh Anderson*" that provides timely reminders and practical suggestions about general education law issues arising throughout the school year, and
- (2) the monthly publication "*This Just In*" which addresses legal issues specific to the special needs of students with disabilities

4. **E-MAIL UPDATES:** As another benefit of the Retainer Program, Walsh Anderson sends periodic e-mail updates to you (and to any other District personnel or trustees you designate) to help keep the District abreast of the latest developments in school law. These updates, averaging more than one per month, address a broad range of timely topics and are

designed to keep you informed and better prepared in your work for the District. In 2011 we sent over 12 updates, including:

- A summary of HB 2380 regarding new options for contracts when promoting employees
- Highlights of the 82nd Legislative Session
- Detailed summaries of new election laws
- Changes in the law regarding charity and fundraiser efforts
- Information on student and employee issues brought on by the summer and fall wildfires across the state
- Changes in the law regarding truancy and measures districts need to take
- How to avoid an automatic exemption of goods in transit within a district
- How to retain the authority of eminent domain
- Board Policies regarding the new STAAR exam
- Impact of health care reform on health benefits for Superintendents and other administrators
- Mandatory Open Government Training for New Board Members
- Requirements for posting board meeting information on-line

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

5. REDUCED RATES ON ALL WALSH ANDERSON INSERVICES: Our Retainer Program members also receive reduced rates on all inservices presented at the District. Our up-to-date training programs are presented by attorneys with firsthand experience and knowledge about the current legal issues confronting Texas school districts. Our retainer clients also receive priority scheduling for inservice training.

6. REDUCED RATES ON ALL WALSH ANDERSON PRODUCTS: To assist clients in their day-to-day operations, we have developed several practical products to save you time and head off potential problems during the school year. These products are easy to navigate, written in plain language, and are full of useful suggestions. As a member of the Retainer Program, clients receive reduced rates on these helpful tools, including:

- Interactive Student Code of Conduct
- Discipline Guide for DAEP & Expulsion
- Student Dress Code
- Student Activities Guide
- A School District's Guide to Section 504 and the ADA
- A Campus Guide to Response to Intervention
- Extracurricular Code of Conduct
- School District Bond Elections: The Roles & Responsibilities of Board Members & Employees
- Tax Ratification Elections: The Roles & Responsibilities of Board Members & Employees

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**CURRENT FEE SCHEDULE – SEPTEMBER 2011
(RATES LAST CHANGED JULY 16, 2010)
LEGAL SERVICES RETAINER AGREEMENT**

For Retainer Program Clients

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

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

An hourly rate of \$190/hour for associates licensed less than one year, \$200/hour for associates licensed one to two years, \$235/hour for associates licensed over two years, or \$255/hour for shareholders is charged for time spent on research, opinion letters, office visits, board meetings, and other work of a general nature.

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

For Non-retainer Program Clients

An hourly rate of \$190/hour for associates licensed less than one year, \$200/hour for associates licensed one to two years, \$255/hour for associates licensed over two years, or \$275/hour for shareholders is charged for time spent on any work, including all telephone calls, office visits, litigation, research, opinion letters, hearings, and the like.

The above rates are subject to change at any time.