

Prepared by:

Josh Shugart, CPA

josh@kebcpa.com

217.789.0960



PROPOSAL TO

Illini Central CUSD #189

Contents

TRANSMITTAL LETTER	3
---------------------------	----------

BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

About KEB	5
------------------	----------

Your KEB Team	8
----------------------	----------

PROPOSAL

Understanding of Services to be Provided	9
---	----------

Audit Approach	9
-----------------------	----------

Timeline	11
-----------------	-----------

PROFESSIONAL FEES	12
--------------------------	-----------

APPENDIX

Resumes	13
----------------	-----------

References	15
-------------------	-----------

Peer Review Letter	16
---------------------------	-----------



Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP
3200 Robbins Road
Suite 200A
Springfield, IL 62704

P 217.789.0960
F 217.789.2822

April 17, 2025

Jennifer Durbin, Superintendent
Illini Central CUSD #189
208 North West Avenue
Mason City, IL 62664

Dear Jennifer,

Thank you for inviting Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP to submit a proposal to serve the audit needs of Illini Central CUSD #189 (the District). We appreciate the opportunity to submit our qualifications and would welcome the opportunity to continue to provide our services to the District.

This proposal identifies the services you requested and describes Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP's qualifications to satisfy your needs. After you have reviewed this proposal, we believe you will share our confidence that we have a blend of technical knowledge, experience and personal interest that will best serve the District.

WHY KERBER, ECK & BRAECKEL?

EXPERIENCE. Our experience includes many governmental entities that are similar to the District with the same characteristics. We have extensive experience with governmental entities and school districts, both from an attest standpoint as well as from a consulting standpoint.

SERVICE. This includes not only responding to your questions, but also making recommendations and discussing new ideas. There is a dedication on the part of our people to provide a service that is more than a mechanical function.

ACCESSIBILITY. As a KEB client, you will have direct access to the partner assigned to the engagement. I will be directly involved in all aspects of the audits and will proactively contact you during the year. Partners working personally and regularly with your organization should indicate to you just how important your organization really is to us.

CONTINUITY OF PERSONNEL. We maintain a continuity of people assigned to provide service to you. This enables us to maintain a working knowledge of the District and to better serve your needs. This continuity also results in more efficiency on our part which reduces audit interruption, on-the-job training, time, and costs.

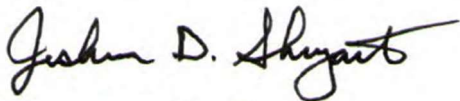
CONFIDENTIALITY. KEB offers discreet specialized service. Confidentiality is an important characteristic of our service. We constantly emphasize the importance of confidentiality to our staff, and we are very sensitive to the privacy of our clients' activities.

You would be a valued client of KEB. We promise to provide personal attention and service. You will receive unequalled service, the support of our firm as one of your professional advisors, and the complete involvement of some of our best people in meeting your needs. We are enthusiastic about providing our services to you and know we can deliver on the commitments made in this proposal. We look forward to that opportunity.

If we can provide more information or answer any questions, we will of course be happy to do so at your convenience.

Sincerely,

KERBER, ECK & BRAECKEL LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Josh D. Shugart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Josh Shugart, Partner

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amanda Wells". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Amanda Wells, Senior Manager

About KEB

KEB is a leading Midwestern accounting, consulting, and advisory firm. With offices in Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin, we bring the expertise of a national firm with the culture and understanding of a local team.

ESTABLISHED

1931

Working with KEB guarantees a multi-level commitment to quality and client service. Clients regularly work with partners on an individual basis and, year after year, have access to a consistent KEB team (while still recognizing any regulations). This fosters and maintains a strong working knowledge of the client's challenges and needs.



COMPLEXITY SOLVED

Our team is your resource for any questions, ready to step in and lend a hand when complexities arise.



INSIGHT THROUGH UNDERSTANDING

Success comes with seeing the big picture of who you are, how you work, and what you hope to achieve.



POWERED BY PEOPLE

Our people-first approach to serving clients starts with a team who genuinely enjoys getting to know their clients.

Guiding Success

We engage and empower our clients with answers, understanding, and a people-first approach.

About KEB

KERBER, ECK & BRAECKEL LLP (KEB) formed as a partnership in 1931. Service to non-profit entities has been an important part of the firm's fabric. We began as a public accounting firm in Springfield, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri. We have grown to a mid-sized firm with offices in three Midwestern states and offer a full range of consulting, audit, tax and accounting services to a variety of clients. We have 25 partners and over 150 employees in the firm. Our Springfield office, which would service your organization, has 14 partners and over 90 employees.

KEB is governed by a Managing Partner who works under the direction of a three-member Executive Committee. The Managing Partner and all members of the Executive Committee are active practice partners and principals. KEB's current Managing Partner is Phil Capps, partner and certified public accountant.

We are a member of the American Institute of CPAs Center for Audit Quality (CAQ) and American Institute of CPAs Private Companies Practice Section (PCPS). Our firm meets the highest standards of the profession and has received unqualified opinions from the AICPA Peer Review since its inception. In these reviews, the firm was assured that our system of quality control met the quality control standards established by the AICPA.

Our audit and assurance department provides attestation services to clients in many industries, including governmental and non-profit industries. Our audit teams work with school districts, units of local government, social service organizations, associations, religious organizations and union entities, just to name a few. All management personnel within the department attend continuing education courses focusing on current practices and upcoming accounting pronouncements.

Our accounting services department provides all levels of accounting support to our clients. This support ranges from month-end close assistance to day-to-day processing and reconciliation procedures. We also provide payroll processing support, including quarterly reporting as well as year-end reporting. Our accounting services department is available to all clients at any point in time to assist when the need may present.

About KEB

Rounding out our full-service capabilities is our firm's management consulting group. With a carefully chosen blend of hands-on operational and financial management experience, our consulting team is able to provide a wide range of management advisory services. Specializing in strategic planning, cost analysis, and organizational projects, our consulting services are oriented towards the practical results of improved structure and planning.

KEB has a significant practice with local governments. KEB government clients include school districts, townships, villages, cities and state agencies.

Our firm's Public Accountant License number, which permits the practice of Public Accounting in the state of Illinois, is 66-003124. We are independent of the District. The firm, including any of its partners, has not been subject to disciplinary action of the State of Illinois, the Illinois CPA Society, or the AICPA. Our most recent peer review letter is included at page 16.

Your KEB Team



Joshua Shugart, CPA, Partner

Josh Shugart, CPA, is a partner of KEB's financial practice based in Springfield, Illinois. Josh has over 15 years of financial practice management and consulting experience, with a concentration in the governmental and non-profit arena. Josh's work with clients includes audit, review and compilation services. Josh will be the lead partner on the engagement.



Amanda Wells, CPA, Senior Manager

Amanda Wells, CPA, is a senior audit manager in KEB's Springfield office. She has over 10 years of experience in public accounting. She has a concentration in audit work, with a focus in non-profit and governmental entities. Additionally, Amanda provides tax support and consulting to many entities, including non-profit organizations.

In addition to Josh and Amanda, an audit senior and staff accountant will be assigned to the engagement. These individuals will be responsible for the daily fieldwork of the audit and completion of the detailed testing.

See Appendix for full resumes of Josh and Amanda.

Proposal

UNDERSTANDING OF SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

We understand the District seeks a proposal for the following:

- Audit for the financial statements (regulatory basis as prescribed by the Illinois State Board of Education) and the supplementary information that accompanies the basic financial statements. This will also include assistance with the preparation of the Annual Financial Report and maintenance of depreciation schedules.
- Report on compliance for major program(s) and on internal control over compliance required by the Uniform Guidance (if required).
- Opinion on the Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Consolidated Year-End Financial Report (CYEFR).

AUDIT APPROACH

We will plan and perform the engagement to satisfy your needs while keeping fees to a minimum. The following presents an overview of our approach.

We believe front-end planning is vitally important to an effective and efficient audit process. KEB views the planning stage as the foundation for successful performance of the engagement. For this reason, the partner in charge of the audit will be actively involved in all aspects of the planning process, including determination of the audit scopes and planning of the audit procedures to be performed.

We will prepare and communicate our request for client-prepared documents during the planning stage. Prior to the start of fieldwork, we will also communicate to management and those charged with governance an overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit and incorporate any areas of concern of management into our audit process. This communication may be done as part of the engagement letter or a conference call.

Proposal

Our planning discussions with key individuals will help us to select the best strategy for conducting the audit, and more importantly, to begin to identify the areas of risk and special concern. Our work will be in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and will include:

- An examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements,
- An assessment of the accounting principles used, and significant estimates made by management, and
- An evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

Auditing standards require us to plan our audit procedures based on our assessment of the risk of material misstatement to the consolidated and standalone financial statements. We must document the risks for all significant audit areas at the account balance assertion level. Audit procedures are then designed to best mitigate audit risk of material misstatements to the financial statements, based on the assessment of those risks. We utilize software to assist us in documentation of the risk assessments and to generate audit programs that specifically address the identified risks.

This proposal is based on the understanding your staff will prepare the necessary workpapers for our review and all confirmations. Additionally, we will prepare the financial statements for the District. We will have an exit conversation with management and other designated personnel at the end of our audit fieldwork. We will provide the draft of any management letters for your review before they are issued in final form. Once approved, we will then finalize the audit documents. These will then be presented at a Board of Education meeting.

Proposal

TIMELINE

If we are chosen to provide audit services, we would continue our communications and meet with you at your earliest convenience to plan the timetable of the engagement. At that time, we will also submit to you a definitive engagement letter.

Based on our understanding of the services desired, we would propose the following timeline:

- Initial conversations would take place in June of 2025.
- Field work will take place in late summer/early fall depending on scheduling. We will work with the District to determine a mutually agreeable date.
- Draft of the audit reports submitted for management review in late November or early December of 2025. Final issuance will occur once all necessary parties have reviewed and approved.

Professional Fees

Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP is extremely aware of the need to control professional fees. Our objective in serving the District will be to request as much assistance as possible from your personnel during the engagement and thereby minimize your total fee. Our interest is in providing effective service which meets your requirements, at a fair price.

In minimizing our fee, we have taken into consideration your accounting staff's ability to provide assistance, such as obtaining review documentation and preparing workpapers.

Following are our basic billing policies:

1. We bill on the actual time spent times our standard hourly rates; plus direct, out-of-pocket expenses, if any, on a monthly basis. The fee for our services will not exceed the amount in this proposal. Should the actual time be less than our proposed fees, we will bill the lower amount.
2. We do not bill for phone calls or brief meetings to discuss routine matters. We believe they improve communication with you which enables us to provide better service.

Based on our experience, we propose the following maximum fee:

Report on financial statements (including AFR)	\$ 27,250
Report on compliance for major program(s) and on internal control over compliance required by the Uniform Guidance, if needed	9,000*
Report on CYEFR	<u>2,250</u>
Total	<u>\$ 38,500</u>

**Fee assumes only one major program; any additional major programs would be a maximum of an additional \$ 3,500 each.*



Joshua D. Shugart CPA | Partner

Joshua joined the Springfield, Illinois office of Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP in 2008. Prior to his employment at Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, he spent three years as an accountant at McCullough, Rossi & Co., Ltd. in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

JOSHUA HAS EXPERIENCE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Government entities
- School districts
- Non-profit organizations
- Financial institutions
- OMB Uniform Guidance audits
- Privately-held businesses
- Corporate and individual tax returns

EDUCATION

- Master of Professional Accountancy from Illinois State University
- Bachelor of Science in accounting from Illinois State University

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

- Member of Illinois CPA Society
- Member of AICPA
- Graduate of Leadership Springfield
- Past Treasurer, Elijah Iles House Foundation
- Past Committee Member, Denim and Diamonds Fundraiser for Simmons Cancer Institute
- Treasurer, The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Resumes



AMANDA WELLS CPA | Senior Manager

Amanda has been employed by the Springfield office of Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP since August 2011. Her services to clients include attest and tax services to non-profit and government clients.

AMANDA HAS SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE IN THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES:

- Audit and attest services for non-profit entities
- School districts
- Audit and attest services for closely-held commercial entities
- State government
- Preparation of non-profit, corporate and partnership tax returns.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS:

Amanda received her Master of Arts degree in Accountancy from the University of Illinois at Springfield in 2012.

SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

- Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Member, Illinois CPA Society
- Member, Springfield Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Illinois Women in Leadership
- Former Board member and President, Pregnancy Care Center

Amanda regularly attends continuing education courses and seminars specific to accounting updates and non-profit industry and governmental practices.

References

See below for our similar accounts and references:

- Sangamon Valley Community School District No. 9
Dr. Jonathan Field, Superintendent
398 N. Illinois St.
Niantic, IL 62551
217-668-2338
- Creve Coeur School District No. 76
Steve Johnson, Superintendent
400 N. Highland St.
Creve Coeur, IL 61610
309-698-3600