

December 9, 2019

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CRIcpa.com

To the School Board of Santa Rosa County  
5086 Canal Street  
Milton, Florida 32570

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide the Santa Rosa County School District School Board (School Board) for the year ended June 30, 2020. We will audit the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position of The School Board's Internal Funds for the 33 schools within Santa Rosa County School District, including the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the School Board as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020. We will also perform tests of each school's compliance with applicable laws and regulations (i.e. State of Florida Redbook) and the provisions of contracts and agreements. The audit will not address issues or areas outside of the internal funds.

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies the School Board's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole:

1) Supplemental Schedules of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

**Audit Objectives**

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of the accounting records of the School Board and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the School Board's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the School Board of Santa Rosa County. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the School Board is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

### **Audit Procedures—General**

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation



of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

#### **Audit Procedures—Internal Control**

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the government and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

#### **Audit Procedures—Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the School Board's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

#### **Other Services**

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes of the School Board in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

We will also examine the School Board's compliance with the requirements of Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, *Local Government Investment Policies*, as of June 30, 2020. Our examination will be

conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Accordingly, it will include examining, on a test basis, your records and other procedures to obtain evidence necessary to enable us to express our opinion. Our report will be addressed to the School Board of Santa Rosa County. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion. If our opinion is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the examination or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or may withdraw from this engagement.

### **Management Responsibilities**

Management is responsible for designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and all accompanying information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we report.



You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. You also agree to [include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon OR make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon]. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

#### **Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other**

We will have the authority to review any and all records, books, internal working papers, bank accounts, and other documents of the School Board of Santa Rosa County, Florida pertaining to each school, including all financial transaction of each school's organizations or organizations operating in the name of each school in order to independently determine whether:

1. The school is acquiring, protecting, safeguarding, controlling and using its internally generated funds for activities and programs which have been authorized by the Board and in accordance with "Financial and Program Cost Accounting and Reporting for Florida Schools". Chapter 8, "School Internal Finds", the Board's policies, directives of the Superintendent of

Schools and his staff, and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles applicable to public schools;

2. Financial statements for each school's internal accounts present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of each school.

We will also have the authority to interview and receive full cooperation from any and all employees of the Board or other persons who may have knowledge of financial transactions made by or in the name of each school.

We anticipate our fieldwork will include site visits to at least all high schools, all schools with significant findings in the past two year and additional schools to obtain a total of 18 schools. In addition, we will perform spot audit procedures at all 33 of the schools in the District.

We will provide copies of our reports to the School Board; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to the Florida Auditor General or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the Florida Auditor General. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

We expect to conduct our spot audits in April 2020, begin our year-end audit on approximately July 27, 2020 and to issue our reports no later than October 30, 2020. Katie Sidrony is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. One report will be issued which will include supplemental schedules of cash receipts and disbursements for each school. An exit conference will be held at selected schools with that school's Principal to review all findings. Each Principal will have a minimum of 10 working days to respond to any audit findings once the final draft has been prepared, and said responses will be provided to the Board. Prior to the issuance of the final report, a summary exit conference will be held with the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer. The final report and the Principal's responses will be issued with six copies being delivered to members of the Board and the Superintendent of Schools.



Our fee for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses, will not exceed \$46,250. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

### **Dispute Resolution**

In the event of a dispute between the parties which arises out of or relates to this contract or engagement letter, the breach thereof or the services provided or to be provided hereunder, if the dispute cannot be settled through negotiation, the parties agree that before initiating arbitration, litigation or other dispute resolution procedure, they will first try, in good faith, to resolve the dispute through non-binding mediation. All parties agree that an alternative form of dispute resolution shall not be undertaken by either party until the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days following notice being provided to the other party indicating that the dispute cannot be settled through mediation. The mediation will be administered by the American Arbitration Association under its *Dispute Resolution Rules for Professional Accounting and Related Services Disputes*. The costs of any mediation proceedings shall be shared equally by all parties.

### **Limitation of Liability**

Except as provided in this agreement, CRI shall not be liable for incidental, consequential, exemplary, special, punitive or ancillary damages of any kind alleged as a result of any cause of action from this agreement, whether arising out of breach of contract, tort or otherwise. Unless otherwise stated in this agreement, both CRI and you agree that the total cumulative liability of CRI (including its employees, directors, officers or agents), shall not exceed the amount of fees earned by CRI related to this engagement during the twelve months preceding the event giving rise to the claim, as such amount shall serve as a reasonable prospective estimate of any damages which you may suffer through any breach by CRI of the terms of this agreement, as such damages may be speculative or impossible to calculate. If there are unpaid fees owed to CRI, this cumulative liability will be reduced by the value of the unpaid fees with no additional interest or charges, as CRI retains the right to offset any sums claimed as due and owed by you, by any sums to which it is legally entitled. This limitation shall apply whether or not further damages are foreseeable, or whether either party (or its employees, agents, officers or directors) have been advised of the possibility of such damages.

**Governing Law; Venue**

This agreement and performance hereunder shall be governed by the laws of the State of Alabama, without reference to any conflict of laws rules or principles. Any action or proceeding arising from or relating to this agreement must be brought in a state or federal court having jurisdiction in Coffee County, Alabama, and each party irrevocably submits to the jurisdiction and venue of any such court in any such action or proceeding and agrees to waive any defenses to venue and jurisdiction including *forum non conveniens*.

**Statute of Limitations**

The parties agree that there shall be a one-year statute of limitation (from the delivery of the service or termination of the contract) for the filing of any requests for arbitration, lawsuit, or proceeding related to this agreement. If such a claim is filed more than one year, or the minimum durational period having been determined as permissible by applicable statutory law or by a court of competent jurisdiction, subsequent to the delivery of the service or termination of the contract, whichever occurs first in time, then it shall be precluded by this provision, regardless of whether or not the claim has accrued at that time.

**Electronic Data Communication and Storage and Use of Third Party Service Provider**

In the interest of facilitating our services to your company, we may send data over the Internet, securely store electronic data via computer software applications hosted remotely on the Internet, or allow access to data through third-party vendors' secured portals or clouds. Electronic data that is confidential to your company may be transmitted or stored using these methods. We may use third-party service providers to store or transmit this data, such as, but not limited to, providers of tax return preparation software. In using these data communication and storage methods, our firm employs measures designed to maintain data security. We use reasonable efforts to keep such communications and data access secure in accordance with our obligations under applicable laws and professional standards. We also require our third-party vendors to do the same.

You recognize and accept that we have no control over, and shall not be responsible for, the unauthorized interception or breach of any communications or data once it has been sent or has been subject to unauthorized access, notwithstanding all reasonable security measures employed by us or our third-party vendors. You consent to our use of these electronic devices and applications and submission of confidential client information to third-party service providers during this engagement.

To enhance our services to you, we will use a combination of remote access, secure file transfer, virtual private network or other collaborative, virtual workspace or other online tools or environments. Access through any combination of these tools allows for on-demand and/or real-time collaboration across geographic boundaries and time zones and allows CRI and you to share data, engagement information, knowledge, and deliverables in a protected environment. In order to use certain of these tools and in addition to execution of this acknowledgement and engagement letter, you may be required to execute a separate client acknowledgement or agreement and agree to be bound by the terms, conditions and limitations of such agreement. You agree that CRI has no responsibility for the activities of its third-party vendors supplying these tools and agree to indemnify



and hold CRI harmless with respect to any and all claims arising from or related to the operation of these tools. While we may back up your files to facilitate our services, you are solely responsible for the backup of your files and records; therefore, we recommend that you also maintain your own backup files of these records. In the event you suffer a loss of any files or records due to accident, inadvertent mistake, or Act of God, copies of which you have provided to us pursuant to this agreement, we shall not be responsible or obligated to provide you a copy of any such file or record which we may retain in our possession.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the School Board and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,

*Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C.*

**CARR, RIGGS & INGRAM, LLC**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**RESPONSE:**

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the Santa Rosa County District School Board.

Management signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Governance signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_