

#### **RSM US LLP**

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October 29, 2019

Board of Education School District U-46 as a Fiscal Agent for Northern Kane County Regional Career and Technical Education System 355 E. Chicago Street Elgin, Illinois 60120

Attention: Ms. Sue Kerr, Board of Education President

Mr. Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

## The Objective and Scope of the Audit of the Financial Statements

You have requested that we audit School District U-46 as a Fiscal Agent for Northern Kane County Regional Career and Technical Education System's (the System) governmental activities and the major fund as of and for the year ending June 30, 2019, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements. We will also report on the Annual Financial Report, Form ISBE SD 50-35/JA50-60, prescribed by the Illinois State Board of Education. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

Our audit will be conducted with the objective of our expressing an opinion on the financial statements.

#### The Responsibilities of the Auditor

We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (GAS). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. 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.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS. Also, an audit is not designed to detect errors or fraud that are immaterial to the financial statements. The determination of abuse is subjective; therefore, GAS does not expect us to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the System's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.

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We will also communicate to the Board of Education (a) any fraud involving senior management and fraud (whether caused by senior management or other employees) that causes a material misstatement of the financial statements that becomes known to us during the audit, and (b) any instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations that we become aware of during the audit (unless they are clearly inconsequential).

The funds that you have told us are maintained by the System and that are to be included as part of our audit are the Governmental Activities and the General Fund.

# The Responsibilities of Management and Identification of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- 1. For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- To evaluate subsequent events through the date the financial statements are issued or available to be issued, and to disclose the date through which subsequent events were evaluated in the financial statements. Management also agrees that it will not conclude on subsequent events earlier than the date of the management representation letter referred to below;
- 3. For the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error:
- 4. For establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for informing us of all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of such controls of which it has knowledge;
- 5. For report distribution; and
- 6. To provide us with:
  - a. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
  - b. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
  - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the System from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence:

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit, including among other items:

- 1. That management has fulfilled its responsibilities as set out in the terms of this letter; and
- 2. That it believes 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.

Management is responsible for identifying and ensuring that the System complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities, and for informing us about all known material violations of such laws or regulations. In addition, management is responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud or abuse, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud or abuse affecting the entity involving management, employees who have significant roles in internal control, and others where the fraud or abuse could have a material effect on the financial statements or compliance. Management is also responsible for informing us of its knowledge of any allegations of fraud or abuse, or suspected fraud or abuse, affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

The Board of Education is responsible for informing us of its views about the risks of fraud or abuse within the entity, and its knowledge of any fraud or abuse or suspected fraud or abuse affecting the entity.

Our association with an official statement is a matter for which separate arrangements will be necessary. The System agrees to provide us with printer's proofs or masters of such offering documents for our review and approval before printing, and with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed. In the event our auditor/client relationship has been terminated when the System seeks such consent, we will be under no obligation to grant such consent or approval.

The System agrees that it will not associate us with any public or private securities offering without first obtaining our consent. Therefore, the System agrees to contact us before it includes our reports, or otherwise makes reference to us, in any public or private securities offering.

We agree that our association with any proposed offering is not necessary, providing the System agrees to clearly indicate that we are not associated with the contents of any such official statement or memorandum. The System agrees that the following disclosure will be prominently displayed in any such official statement or memorandum:

RSM US LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform, and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. RSM US LLP also has not performed any procedures relating to this official statement.

Because RSM US LLP will rely on the System and its management and the Board of Education to discharge the foregoing responsibilities, the System holds harmless and releases RSM US LLP and its partners and employees from all claims, liabilities, losses and costs arising in circumstances where there has been a knowing misrepresentation by a member of the System's management that has caused, in any respect, RSM US LLP's breach of contract or negligence. This provision shall survive the termination of this arrangement for services.

### **Records and Assistance**

If circumstances arise relating to the condition of the System's records, the availability of appropriate audit evidence or indications of a significant risk of material misstatement of the financial statements because of error, fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets which, in our professional judgment, prevent us from completing the audit or forming an opinion, we retain the unilateral right to take any course of action permitted by professional standards, including declining to express an opinion or issue a report, or withdrawing from the engagement.

During the course of our engagement, we may accumulate records containing data that should be reflected in the System's books and records. The System will determine that all such data, if necessary, will be so reflected. Accordingly, the System will not expect us to maintain copies of such records in our possession.

The assistance to be supplied by System personnel, including the preparation of schedules and analyses of accounts, has been discussed and coordinated with Dale Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations. The timely and accurate completion of this work is an essential condition to our completion of the audit and issuance of our audit report.

In connection with our audit, you have requested us to perform certain non-audit services necessary for the preparation of the financial statements, including the following:

- Preparation of the financial statements and other reports based on financial information in the trial balance.
- Posting of management-approved entries to the System's trial balances.
- Posting of proposed standard, adjusting, or reclassification entries or other changes to the
  financial statements and trial balances provided that a member of management reviews the
  entries and that management understands and agrees with the proposed entries and the impact
  the entries have on the financial statements.

The GAS independence standards require that the auditor maintain independence so that opinions, findings, conclusions, judgments and recommendations will be impartial and viewed as impartial by reasonable and informed third parties. Before we agree to provide a non-audit service to the System, we determine whether providing such a service would create a significant threat to our independence for GAS audit purposes, either by itself or in aggregate with other non-audit services provided. A critical component of our determination is consideration of management's ability to effectively oversee the non-audit services to be performed. The System has agreed that Dale Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations possesses suitable skill, knowledge or experience and that the individual understands the non-audit services to be performed sufficiently to oversee them. Accordingly, the management of the System agrees to the following:

- 1. The System has designated Dale Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations as a senior member of management who possesses suitable skill, knowledge and experience to oversee the services;
- 2. Dale Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations will assume all management responsibilities for subject matter and scope of the non-audit services described above;
- 3. The System will evaluate the adequacy and results of the services performed; and
- 4. The System accepts responsibility for the results and ultimate use of the services.

GAS further requires that we establish an understanding with the System's management and those charged with governance of the objectives of the non-audit services, the services to be performed, the entity's acceptance of its responsibilities, the auditor's responsibilities and any limitations of the non-audit services. We believe this letter documents that understanding.

## **Other Relevant Information**

RSM US LLP may mention the System's name and provide a general description of the engagement in RSM US LLP's client lists and marketing materials.

From time to time and depending upon the circumstances, we may use third-party service providers to assist us in providing professional services to you. In such circumstances, it may be necessary for us to disclose confidential client information to them. We enter into confidentiality agreements with all third-party service providers and we are satisfied that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In addition, we may utilize financial information you have provided to us in connection with this engagement for purposes of creating benchmarking data to be used by RSM US LLP professionals and other clients. This benchmarking data is aggregated with data from a minimum of five other entities so that users of the data are unable to associate the data with any single entity in the database.

In accordance with GAS, a copy of our most recent peer review report is enclosed for your information.

## Fees, Costs, and Access to Workpapers

Our fees for the services described above are based upon the value of the services performed and the time required by the individuals assigned to the engagement. The fee quoted below includes a charge of 5 percent of fees for all other expenses, including indirect administrative expenses such as technology, research and library databases, communications, photocopying, postage and clerical assistance. Our fee estimate and completion of our work are based upon the following criteria:

- 1. Anticipated cooperation from System personnel
- 2. Timely responses to our inquiries
- 3. Timely completion and delivery of client assistance requests
- 4. Timely communication of all significant accounting and financial reporting matters
- 5. The assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the engagement

If any of the aforementioned criteria are not met, then fees may increase. Interim billings will be submitted as work progresses and as expenses are incurred. Billings are due upon submission. The fee estimate quoted below will be subject to adjustments based on unanticipated changes in the scope of our work and/or the incomplete or untimely receipt by us of the information on the client participation list. All other provisions of this letter will survive any fee adjustment.

Financial Statement Audit \$4,450

\* Additional time for the financial statement preparation will be discussed with management prior to final billing.

In the event you terminate this engagement, you will pay RSM US LLP for all services rendered (including deliverables), expenses incurred and commitments made by RSM US LLP through the effective date of termination.

When an engagement has been suspended at the request of management or those charged with governance and work on that engagement has not recommenced within 120 days of the request to suspend our work, RSM US LLP may, at its sole discretion, terminate this arrangement letter without further obligation to the System. Resumption of audit work following termination may be subject to our client acceptance procedures and, if resumed, will necessitate additional procedures not contemplated in this arrangement letter. Accordingly, the scope, timing and fee arrangement discussed in this arrangement letter will no longer apply. In order for RSM US LLP to recommence work, a new arrangement letter would need to be mutually agreed upon and executed.

Our professional standards require that we perform certain additional procedures, on current and previous years' engagements, whenever a partner or professional employee leaves the firm and is subsequently employed by or associated with a client in a key position. Accordingly, the System agrees it will compensate RSM US LLP for any additional costs incurred as a result of the System's employment of a partner or professional employee of RSM US LLP.

Review of audit documentation by a successor auditor or as part of due diligence will be agreed to, accounted for and billed separately.

In the event we are requested or authorized by the System or are required by government regulation, subpoena or other legal process to produce our documents or our personnel as witnesses with respect to our engagement for the System, the System will, so long as we are not a party to the proceeding in which the information is sought, reimburse us for our professional time and expenses, as well as the fees and expenses of our counsel, incurred in responding to such requests.

The documentation for this engagement is the property of RSM US LLP. However, you acknowledge and grant your assent that representatives of the cognizant or oversight agency or their designee, other government audit staffs, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office shall have access to the audit documentation upon their request and that we shall maintain the audit documentation for a period of at least three years after the date of the report, or for a longer period if we are requested to do so by the cognizant or oversight agency. Access to requested documentation will be provided under the supervision of RSM US LLP audit personnel and at a location designated by our firm.

#### **Claim Resolution**

The System and RSM US LLP agree that no claim arising out of services rendered pursuant to this arrangement letter shall be filed more than the earlier of two years after the date of the audit report issued by RSM US LLP or the date of this arrangement letter if no report has been issued. In no event shall either party be liable to the other for claims of punitive, consequential, special, or indirect damages. RSM US LLP's liability for all claims, damages and costs of the System arising from this engagement is limited to the amount of fees paid by the System to RSM US LLP for the services rendered under this arrangement letter.

## Information Security - Miscellaneous Terms

RSM US LLP is committed to the safe and confidential treatment of the System's proprietary information. RSM US LLP is required to maintain the confidential treatment of client information in accordance with relevant industry professional standards which govern the provision of services described herein. The System agrees that it will not provide RSM US LLP with any unencrypted electronic confidential or proprietary information, and the parties agree to utilize commercially reasonable measures to maintain the confidentiality of the System information, including the use of collaborate sites to ensure the safe transfer of data between the parties.

RSM US LLP may terminate this relationship immediately in its sole discretion if RSM US LLP determines that continued performance would result in a violation of law, regulatory requirements, applicable professional standards or RSM US LLP's client acceptance or retention standards, or if the System is placed on a verified sanctioned entity list or if any director or executive of, or other person closely associated with, the System or its affiliates is placed on a verified sanctioned person list, in each case, including but not limited to lists promulgated by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. State Department, the United Nations Security Council, the European Union or any other relevant sanctioning authority.

If any term or provision of this arrangement letter is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, such term or provision will be deemed stricken and all other terms and provisions will remain in full force and effect.

## Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the System's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Board of Education of the System. 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, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement.

In addition to our report on the System's financial statements, we will also issue the following types of reports:

- 1. An Annual Financial Report for the submission to the Illinois State Board of Education (Form ISBE SD 50-35/JA50-60). The responsibility we are to take for the material included in this report will be the same as that we assume for other supplementary information accompanying the financial statements.
- 2. A report on Consolidated Year-End Financial Report (CYEFR) for the submission to the Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal. The responsibility we are to take for the material included in this report will be the same as that we assume for other supplementary information accompanying the financial statements.

This letter constitutes the complete and exclusive statement of agreement between RSM US LLP and the System, superseding all proposals, oral or written, and all other communications with respect to the terms of the engagement between the parties.

## **Electronic Signatures and Counterparts**

Each party hereto agrees that any electronic signature of a party to this agreement or any electronic signature to a document contemplated hereby (including any representation letter) is intended to authenticate such writing and shall be as valid, and have the same force and effect, as a manual signature. Any such electronically signed document shall be deemed (i) to be "written" or "in writing," (ii) to have been signed and (iii) to constitute a record established and maintained in the ordinary course of business and an original written record when printed from electronic files. Each party hereto also agrees that electronic delivery of a signature to any such document (via email or otherwise) shall be as effective as manual delivery of a manual signature. For purposes hereof, "electronic signature" includes, but is not limited to, (i) a scanned copy (as a "pdf" (portable document format) or other replicating image) of a manual ink signature. (ii) an electronic copy of a traditional signature affixed to a document. (iii) a signature incorporated into a document utilizing touchscreen capabilities or (iv) a digital signature. This agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original instrument, but all of which shall be considered one and the same agreement. Paper copies or "printouts," of such documents if introduced as evidence in any judicial, arbitral, mediation or administrative proceeding, will be admissible as between the parties to the same extent and under the same conditions as other original business records created and maintained in documentary form. Neither party shall contest the admissibility of true and accurate copies of electronically signed documents on the basis of the best evidence rule or as not satisfying the business records exception to the hearsay rule.

Please sign and return a copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements, including our respective responsibilities.

**RSM US LLP** 

Katie Barry, Senior Manager

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Confirmed on behalf of the System:	
Ms. Sue Kerr, Board of Education President	Date
Mr. Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer	Date
Mr. Dale Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations	Date