

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into as of this ____ day of _____, 2017, by and between

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

(hereinafter referred to as "SBBC"),
a body corporate and political subdivision of the State of Florida,
whose principal place of business is
600 Southeast Third Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

and

MERRIMAN RESEARCH GROUP LLC

(hereinafter referred to as "VENDOR"),
whose principal place of business is
74 Old York Road
Ringo, NJ 08551

WHEREAS, SBBC issued a Request for Proposal identified as RFP 15-044-1V Research and Program Evaluation Consultant Services (hereinafter referred to as "RFP"), and dated October 10, 2016 and amended by Addendum No. 2, dated November 4, 2016, and Addendum No. 1 dated October 26, 2016 all of which are incorporated by reference herein, for the purpose of receiving proposals for Research and Program Evaluation Consultant Services; and,

WHEREAS, VENDOR offered a proposal dated October 31, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as "Proposal") which is incorporated by reference herein, in response to this RFP; and

WHEREAS, VENDOR is willing to provide research and program evaluation consultant services that will include, but not be limited to, needs assessment, development of evaluation plans and research designs, data collection (e.g., surveys, focus groups), data analysis, instrument or test development, policy review and interpretation of results and preparation of recommended reports.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the mutual covenants contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 - RECITALS

1.01 **Recitals.** The parties agree that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and that such recitals are incorporated herein by reference.

ARTICLE 2 – SPECIAL CONDITIONS

2.01 **Term of Agreement.** Unless terminated earlier pursuant to Section 3.05 of this Agreement, the term of this Agreement shall commence upon execution of both parties and conclude on **June 30, 2018**. The term of the contract may, by mutual agreement between SBBC and VENDOR be extended for two additional one-year periods and, if needed, 180 days beyond the expiration date of the renewal period. SBBC's Procurement & Warehousing Services Department, will, if considering renewing,

request a letter consenting to renewal from VENDOR, prior to the end of the term. Any renewal period shall be approved by an Amendment to this Agreement executed by both parties.

2.02 **Priority of Documents.** In the event of a conflict between documents, the following priority of documents shall govern.

- First: This Agreement, then;
- Second: Addendum No. 2, then;
- Third: Addendum No. 1, then;
- Fourth: RFP 15-044-1V – Research and Program Evaluation Consultant Services
- Fifth: Proposal submitted in response to the RFP by VENDOR

2.03 **Cost of Services.** SBBC will pay VENDOR for services rendered under this Agreement in accordance with the following schedule. For all projects, the daily rate is \$600.00 per day, and VENDOR will provide a project proposal for their consultant services to SBBC's requesting department. If the project proposal is approved by SBBC requesting department, this project proposal will be the process by which services will be paid. An SBBC department may request progress payments based on the services performed. SBBC does not pay, in advance, for services performed. VENDOR will be required to pay SBBC \$100/hr. for data requested from the District's Data Warehouse. SBBC shall pay VENDOR for services rendered under this Agreement in accordance with the following schedule:

2.04 **Services.** VENDOR shall provide services in compliance with this Agreement, the RFP and its Addenda, the submitted Proposal and Project Proposal.

2.05 **M/WBE Commitment.** Throughout the term of the Agreement, VENDOR shall take commercially reasonable steps and use commercially reasonable resources to identify SBBC-certified M/WBE vendors who may be engaged to fulfill various aspects of the Agreement, including, for instance, without limitation, M/WBE vendors to provide office supplies, travel, printing, janitorial supplies/services, consulting services, trade services, installation and repair services, medical supplies, where feasible. VENDOR agrees to provide monthly reports and to conduct quarterly meetings with SBBC to discuss progress in meeting the SBBC's objectives regarding M/WBE participation, including dollars spent on M/WBE vendors for the quarter; and to continue to assess throughout the term of the Agreement new possibilities for M/WBE vendor participation suggested by SBBC. If at any time during the term the parties agree that it is reasonably feasible to include a specific dollar figure for M/WBE participation, the Agreement shall be amended to include the dollar participation objective.

2.06 **Inspection of Vendor's Records by SBBC.** VENDOR shall establish and maintain books, records and documents (including electronic storage media) sufficient to reflect all income and expenditures of funds provided by SBBC under this Agreement. All VENDOR's Records, regardless of the form in which they are kept, shall be open to inspection and subject to audit, inspection, examination, evaluation and/or reproduction, during normal working hours, by SBBC's agent or its authorized representative to permit SBBC to evaluate, analyze and verify the satisfactory performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement and to evaluate, analyze and verify any and all invoices, billings, payments and/or claims submitted by VENDOR or any of VENDOR's payees pursuant to this Agreement. VENDOR's Records subject to examination shall include, without limitation, those records necessary to evaluate and verify direct and indirect costs (including overhead allocations) as they may apply to costs associated with this Agreement. VENDOR's Records subject to this section shall include any and all documents pertinent to the evaluation, analysis, verification and reconciliation of any and all expenditures under this Agreement without regard to funding sources.

(a) VENDOR's Records Defined. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "VENDOR's Records" shall include, without limitation, and any supporting documents that would substantiate, reconcile or refute any charges and/or expenditures related to this Agreement.

(b) Duration of Right to Inspect. For the purpose of such audits, inspections, examinations, evaluations and/or reproductions, SBBC's agent or authorized representative shall have access to VENDOR's Records from the effective date of this Agreement, for the duration of the term of this Agreement, and until the later of five (5) years after the termination of this Agreement or five (5) years after the date of final payment by SBBC to VENDOR pursuant to this Agreement.

(c) Notice of Inspection. SBBC's agent or its authorized representative shall provide VENDOR reasonable advance notice (not to exceed two (2) weeks) of any intended audit, inspection, examination, evaluation and or reproduction.

(d) Audit Site Conditions. SBBC's agent or its authorized representative shall have access to VENDOR's facilities and to any and all records related to this Agreement, and shall be provided adequate and appropriate work space in order to exercise the rights permitted under this section.

(e) Failure to Permit Inspection. Failure by VENDOR to permit audit, inspection, examination, evaluation and/or reproduction as permitted under this Section shall constitute grounds for termination of this Agreement by SBBC for cause and shall be grounds for the denial of some or all of any VENDOR's claims for payment by SBBC.

(f) Overcharges and Unauthorized Charges. If an audit conducted in accordance with this Section discloses overcharges or unauthorized charges to SBBC by VENDOR in excess of two percent (2%) of the total billings under this Agreement, the actual cost of SBBC's audit shall be paid by VENDOR. If the audit discloses billings or charges to which VENDOR is not contractually entitled, VENDOR shall pay said sum to SBBC within twenty (20) days of receipt of written demand under otherwise agreed to in writing by both parties.

(g) Inspection of Subcontractor's Records. VENDOR shall require any and all subcontractors, insurance agents and material suppliers (hereafter referred to as "Payees") providing services or goods with regard to this Agreement to comply with the requirements of this section by insertion of such requirements in any written subcontract. Failure by VENDOR to include such requirements in any subcontract shall constitute grounds for termination of this Agreement by SBBC for cause and shall be grounds for the exclusion of some or all of any Payee's costs from amounts payable by SBBC to VENDOR pursuant to this Agreement and such excluded costs shall become the liability of VENDOR.

(h) Inspector General Audits. VENDOR shall comply and cooperate immediately with any inspections, reviews, investigations, or audits deemed necessary by the Florida Office of the Inspector General or by any other state or federal officials.

2.07 **Notice.** When any of the parties' desire to give notice to the other, such notice must be in writing, sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the party for whom it is intended at the place last specified; the place for giving notice shall remain such until it is changed by written notice in compliance with the provisions of this paragraph. For the present, the Parties designate the following as the respective places for giving notice:

To SBBC: Superintendent of Schools
The School Board of Broward County, Florida
600 Southeast Third Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

With a Copy to: Chief Strategy and Operations
The School Board of Broward County, Florida
600 Southeast Third Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

To VENDOR: Jennifer Merriman Ph.D.
Merriman Research Group LLC
74 Old York Road
Ringoos, NJ 08551

2.08 **Background Screening.** VENDOR agrees to comply with all requirements of Sections 1012.32 and 1012.465, Florida Statutes, and all of its personnel who (1) are to be permitted access to school grounds when students are present, (2) will have direct contact with students, or (3) have access or control of school funds, will successfully complete the background screening required by the referenced statutes and meet the standards established by the statutes. This background screening will be conducted by SBBC in advance of VENDOR or its personnel providing any services under the conditions described in the previous sentence. VENDOR shall bear the cost of acquiring the background screening required by Section 1012.32, Florida Statutes, and any fee imposed by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to maintain the fingerprints provided with respect to VENDOR and its personnel. The parties agree that the failure of VENDOR to perform any of the duties described in this section shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement entitling SBBC to terminate immediately with no further responsibilities or duties to perform under this Agreement. VENDOR agrees to indemnify and hold harmless SBBC, its officers and employees from any liability in the form of physical or mental injury, death or property damage resulting from VENDOR's failure to comply with the requirements of this Section or with Sections 1012.32 and 1012.465, Florida Statutes.

ARTICLE 3 – GENERAL CONDITIONS

3.01 **No Waiver of Sovereign Immunity.** Nothing herein is intended to serve as a waiver of sovereign immunity by any agency or political subdivision to which sovereign immunity may be applicable or of any rights or limits to liability existing under Section 768.28, Florida Statutes. This section shall survive the termination of all performance or obligations under this Agreement and shall be fully binding until such time as any proceeding brought on account of this Agreement is barred by any applicable statute of limitations.

3.02 **No Third Party Beneficiaries.** The parties expressly acknowledge that it is not their intent to create or confer any rights or obligations in or upon any third person or entity under this Agreement. None of the parties intend to directly or substantially benefit a third party by this Agreement. The parties agree that there are no third party beneficiaries to this Agreement and that no third party shall be entitled to assert a claim against any of the parties based upon this Agreement. Nothing herein shall be construed as consent by an agency or political subdivision of the State of Florida to be sued by third parties in any matter arising out of any contract.

3.03 **Independent Contractor.** The parties to this agreement shall at all times be acting in the capacity of independent contractors and not as an officer, employee or agent of one another. Neither party or its respective agents, employees, subcontractors or assignees shall represent to others that it has the authority to bind the other party unless specifically authorized in writing to do so. No right to SBBC retirement, leave benefits or any other benefits of SBBC employees shall exist as a result of the performance of any duties or responsibilities under this Agreement. SBBC shall not be responsible for social security, withholding taxes, contributions to unemployment compensation funds or insurance for the other party or the other party's officers, employees, agents, subcontractors or assignees.

3.04 **Equal Opportunity Provision.** The parties agree that no person shall be subjected to discrimination because of age, race, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression marital status, national origin, religion, sex or sexual orientation in the performance of the parties' respective duties, responsibilities and obligations under this Agreement.

3.05 **Termination.** This Agreement may be canceled with or without cause by SBBC during the term hereof upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other parties of its desire to terminate this Agreement. SBBC shall have no liability for any property left on SBBC's property by any party to this Agreement after the termination of this Agreement. Any party contracting with SBBC under this Agreement agrees that any of its property placed upon SBBC's facilities pursuant to this Agreement shall be removed within ten (10) business days following the termination, conclusion or cancellation of this Agreement and that any such property remaining upon SBBC's facilities after that time shall be deemed to be abandoned, title to such property shall pass to SBBC, and SBBC may use or dispose of such property as SBBC deems fit and appropriate.

3.06 **Default.** The parties agree that, in the event that either party is in default of its obligations under this Agreement, the non-defaulting party shall provide to the defaulting party (30) days written notice to cure the default. However, in the event said default cannot be cured within said thirty (30) day period and the defaulting party is diligently attempting in good faith to cure same, the time period shall be reasonably extended to allow the defaulting party additional cure time. Upon the occurrence of a default that is not cured during the applicable cure period, this Agreement may be terminated by the non-defaulting party upon thirty (30) days' notice. This remedy is not intended to be exclusive of any other remedy, and each and every such remedy shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to every other remedy now or hereafter existing at law or in equity or by statute or otherwise. No single or partial exercise by any party of any right, power, or remedy hereunder shall preclude any other or future exercise thereof. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude termination for convenience pursuant to Section 3.05.

3.07 **Annual Appropriation.** The performance and obligations of SBBC under this Agreement shall be contingent upon an annual budgetary appropriation by its governing body. If SBBC does not allocate funds for the payment of services or products to be provided under this Agreement, this Agreement may be terminated by SBBC at the end of the period for which funds have been allocated. SBBC shall notify the other party at the earliest possible time before such termination. No penalty shall accrue to SBBC in the event this provision is exercised, and SBBC shall not be obligated or liable for any future payments due or any damages as a result of termination under this section.

3.08 **Excess Funds.** Any party receiving funds paid by SBBC under this Agreement agrees to promptly notify SBBC of any funds erroneously received from SBBC upon the discovery of such erroneous payment or overpayment. Any such excess funds shall be refunded to SBBC.

3.09 **Public Records:** The following provisions are required by Section 119.0701, Florida Statutes, and may not be amended. VENDOR shall keep and maintain public records required by SBBC to perform the services required under this Agreement. Upon request from SBBC's custodian of public records, VENDOR shall provide SBBC with a copy of any requested public records or to allow the requested public records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, or as otherwise provided by law. VENDOR shall ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the Agreement's term and following completion of the Agreement if VENDOR does not transfer the public records to SBBC. Upon completion of the Agreement, VENDOR shall transfer, at no cost, to SBBC all public records in possession of VENDOR or keep and maintain public records required by SBBC to perform the services required under the Agreement. If VENDOR transfer all public records to SBBC upon completion of the Agreement, VENDOR shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If VENDOR keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the Agreement, VENDOR shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to SBBC, upon request from SBBC's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with SBBC' s information technology systems.

IF A PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO ITS DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THE AGREEMENT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT 754-321-1900, REQUEL.BELL@BROWARDSCHOOLS.COM, RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC RECORDS DIVISION, 600 SOUTHEAST THIRD AVENUE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301.

3.10 **Student Records.** Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary within this Agreement, any party contracting with SBBC under this Agreement shall fully comply with the requirements of Sections 1002.22 and 1002.221, Florida Statutes; FERPA, and any other state or federal law or regulation regarding the confidentiality of student information and records. Each such party agrees, for itself, its officers, employees, agents, representatives, contractors or subcontractors, to fully indemnify and hold harmless SBBC and its officers and employees for any violation of this section, including, without limitation, defending SBBC and its officers and employees against any complaint, administrative or judicial proceeding, payment of any penalty imposed upon SBBC, or payment of any and all costs, damages, judgments or losses incurred by or imposed upon SBBC arising out of a breach of this covenant by the party, or an officer, employee, agent, representative, contractor, or sub-contractor of the party to the extent that the party or an officer, employee, agent, representative, contractor, or sub-contractor of the party shall either intentionally or negligently violate the provisions of this section or of Sections 1002.22 and/or 1002.221, Florida Statutes.

3.11 **Compliance with Laws.** Each party shall comply with all applicable federal state and local laws, SBBC policies codes, rules and regulations in performing its duties, responsibilities and obligations pursuant to this Agreement.

3.12 **Place of Performance.** All obligations of SBBC under the terms of this Agreement are reasonably susceptible of being performed in Broward County, Florida and shall be payable and performable in Broward County, Florida.

3.13 **Governing Law and Venue.** This Agreement shall be interpreted and construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Florida. Any controversies or legal problems arising out of this Agreement and any action involving the enforcement or interpretation of any rights hereunder shall be submitted exclusively to the jurisdiction of the State courts of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Broward County, Florida.

3.14 **Entirety of Agreement.** This document incorporates and includes all prior negotiations, correspondence, conversations, agreements and understandings applicable to the matters contained herein and the parties agree that there are no commitments, agreements or understandings concerning the subject matter of this Agreement that are not contained in this document. Accordingly, the parties agree that no deviation from the terms hereof shall be predicated upon any prior representations or agreements, whether oral or written.

3.15 **Binding Effect.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.

3.16 **Assignment.** Neither this Agreement nor any interest herein may be assigned, transferred or encumbered by any party without the prior written consent of the other party. There shall be no partial assignments of this Agreement including, without limitation, the partial assignment of any right to receive payments from SBBC.

3.17 **Captions.** The captions, section designations, section numbers, article numbers, titles and headings appearing in this Agreement are inserted only as a matter of convenience, have no substantive meaning, and in no way define, limit, construe or describe the scope or intent of such articles or sections of this Agreement, nor in any way affect this Agreement and shall not be construed to create a conflict with the provisions of this Agreement.

3.18 **Severability.** In the event that any one or more of the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or provisions contained in this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal, unlawful, unenforceable or void in any respect, such shall not affect the remaining portions of this Agreement and the same shall remain in full force and effect as if such invalid, illegal, unlawful, unenforceable or void sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or provisions had never been included herein.

3.19 **Preparation of Agreement.** The parties acknowledge that they have sought and obtained whatever competent advice and counsel as was necessary for them to form a full and complete understanding of all rights and obligations herein and that the preparation of this Agreement has been their joint effort. The language agreed to herein expresses their mutual intent and the resulting document shall not, solely as a matter of judicial construction, be construed more severely against one of the parties than the other.

3.20 **Amendments.** No modification, amendment, or alteration in the terms or conditions contained herein shall be effective unless contained in a written document prepared with the same or similar formality as this Agreement and executed by each party hereto.

3.21 **Waiver.** The parties agree that each requirement, duty and obligation set forth herein is substantial and important to the formation of this Agreement and, therefore, is a material term hereof. Any party's failure to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of such provision or modification of this Agreement unless the waiver is in writing and signed by the party waiving such provision. A written waiver shall only be effective as to the specific instance for which it is obtained and shall not be deemed a continuing or future waiver.

3.22 **Force Majeure.** Neither party shall be obligated to perform any duty, requirement or obligation under this Agreement if such performance is prevented by fire, hurricane, earthquake, explosion, wars, sabotage, accident, flood, acts of God, strikes, or other labor disputes, riot or civil commotions, or by reason of any other matter or condition beyond the control of either party, and which cannot be overcome by reasonable diligence and without unusual expense ("Force Majeure"). In no event shall a lack of funds on the part of either party be deemed Force Majeure.

3.23 **Survival.** All representations and warranties made herein, indemnification obligations, obligations to reimburse SBBC, obligations to maintain and allow inspection and audit of records and property, obligations to maintain the confidentiality of records, reporting requirements, and obligations to return public funds shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

3.24 **Contract Administration.** SBBC has delegated authority to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee to take any actions necessary to implement and administer this Agreement.

3.25 **Liability.** This section shall survive the termination of all performance or obligations under this Agreement and shall be fully binding until such time as any proceeding brought on account of this Agreement is barred by any applicable statute of limitations.

A. By SBBC: SBBC agrees to be fully responsible up to the limits of Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, for its acts of negligence, or its employees' acts of negligence when acting within the scope of their employment and agrees to be liable for any damages resulting from said negligence.

B. By VENDOR: VENDOR agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend SBBC, its agents, servants and employees from any and all claims, judgments, costs, and expenses including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees, reasonable investigative and discovery costs, court costs and all other sums which SBBC, its agents, servants and employees may pay or become obligated to pay on account of any, all and every claim or demand, or assertion of liability, or any claim or action founded thereon, arising or alleged to have arisen out of the products, goods or services furnished by VENDOR, its agents, servants or employees; the equipment of VENDOR, its agents, servants or employees while such equipment is on premises owned or controlled by SBBC; or the negligence of VENDOR or the negligence of VENDOR's agents when acting within the scope of their employment, whether such claims, judgments, costs and expenses be for damages, damage to property including SBBC's property, and injury or death of any person whether employed by VENDOR, SBBC or otherwise.

3.26 **Authority.** Each person signing this Agreement on behalf of either party individually warrants that he or she has full legal power to execute this Agreement on behalf of the party for whom he or she is signing, and to bind and obligate such party with respect to all provisions contained in this Agreement.

THIS SECTION IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have made and executed this Agreement on the date first above written.

FOR SBBC

(Corporate Seal)

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD
COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

By _____
Nora Rupert, Chair

Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools

Approved as to Form and Legal Content:



Digitally signed by Kathelyn Jacques-Adams,
Esq. - kathelyn.jacques-
adams@gbrowardschools.com
Reason: Merriman Research Group LLC
Date: 2017.11.16 11:01:55 -05'00'

Office of the General Counsel

FOR VENDOR

(Corporate Seal)

MERRIMAN RESEARCH GROUP LLC

ATTEST:

By *Jennifer Merriman*

_____, Secretary

-or-

[Signature]
Witness

[Signature]
Witness

The Following Notarization is Required for Every Agreement Without Regard to Whether the Party Chose to Use a Secretary's Attestation or Two (2) Witnesses.

STATE OF New Jersey

COUNTY OF Hunterdon

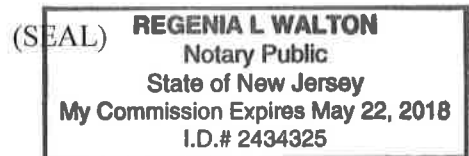
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 10 day of Nov, 2017 by Jennifer Merriman of Merriman Research Group LLC, on behalf of the corporation/agency.

He/She is personally known to me or produced DJ DL as identification and did/did not first take an oath. Type of Identification

My Commission Expires: 5/22/2018

Regenia L Walton
Signature - Notary Public

Regenia L. Walton
Printed Name of Notary



2434325
Notary's Commission No.