

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
(LEGAL SERVICES)

This Professional Services Agreement is entered into between Mark Armijo Academy, a New Mexico public charter school, and Matthews Fox, P.C., a New Mexico professional corporation, this ____ day of _____, 2023. The parties agree as follows:

1. Mark Armijo Academy and its governing body (“School”) hereby retains Matthews Fox, P.C. (hereinafter “Counsel”), when approved by the School’s designee, as legal counsel for the purpose of representing the School in legal matters relating to the charter school’s relationship with its authorizer or such other matters. Counsel is retained on an as-requested, as-assigned basis for particular matters referred to it by the School’s representative, and not as general counsel to the School. Matters to be worked on by Counsel shall be referred by the designated member of the School’s governing body or other designee. Counsel will not be expected to work on any matter not so referred to them, although in an emergency, if issues of importance arise before authorization can be obtained from the School designee, Counsel is authorized to act so as to protect the interests of the School to the extent necessary and reasonable in the circumstances. Counsel reserves the right to decline representation in particular matters beyond Counsel’s area of expertise or experience, or where Counsel’s workload does not permit undertaking additional matters, in the exercise of Counsel’s professional judgment.

2. For their services, Counsel will bill partners at the rate of \$275.00 per hour (Matthews) and \$275.00 per hour (Fox), and associates at \$175.00 per hour for standard legal services and will bill partners at \$375.00 per hour and associates at \$200.00 per hour for services related to real estate financing/private bond transactions, plus applicable gross receipts taxes. To the extent reasonable and necessary, counsel may utilize the services of contract attorneys at \$190.00 per hour and/or paralegals at \$110.00 per hour, plus applicable gross receipts taxes. Monthly statements shall be sent in care of the School’s Accounting Office at the address stated in paragraph 19 or as otherwise directed by the head administrator. In addition to attorney fees, Counsel’s statements may include reasonable and necessary expenses of representation, including but not necessarily limited to extraordinary clerical services and supplies, conference call charges, travel at coach or government rates, on-line research expenses, copying, postage, and express mail service costs. Ordinary overhead of Counsel will not be charged. If Counsel is required to travel to the school’s location or any other out-of-Santa Fe location, the Firm will charge the applicable hourly rate for travel time, plus mileage at the State of New Mexico’s approved rate or air travel at actual coach rates.

3. Counsel will submit a detailed statement accounting for all services performed and expenses incurred. If the School does not dispute the statement within thirty days, client shall make payment in full. If the School finds that the services are not acceptable, within thirty days from receipt of Counsel’s invoice, School shall provide Counsel a letter of exception explaining its objection to the services, and outlining steps Counsel may take to provide remedial action. Thereafter, if the satisfactory correction is made by Counsel to the invoice, then School shall pay Counsel the total amount of the invoice within thirty days after the date of acceptance. If payment is made by mail, the payment shall be deemed tendered on the date it is postmarked. Counsel may charge interest not to exceed 15 percent annually for failure to make payment within the time specified herein.

4. Upon request, Counsel will give a verbal estimate of the fees and costs which may result from the firm’s efforts. It is understood that estimating legal costs is notoriously difficult and, therefore, Counsel may upon request of the School periodically advise of any changes in the initial estimate that may be necessary.

5. The School agrees to make every effort to avoid entering binding contractual or other legal obligations without prior review of Counsel, and is advised to notify Counsel immediately upon any possible claims against the school or any of its personnel for which the School intends to retain Counsel’s services.

6. Counsel shall be empowered to file law suits or administrative claims only upon resolution or prior written approval of the School’s governing body.

7. The term of this agreement shall begin July 1, 2023 and be for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 or a shorter term as agreed to by Counsel and the School. Either party may terminate the agreement

by notifying the other in writing. Counsel shall be entitled to collect unpaid fees and expenses to the date of termination, plus reasonable fees and expenses for winding up and transition costs.

8. This letter agreement is contingent upon sufficient appropriations and authorization being made by the State of New Mexico Legislature for the performance of this agreement. If sufficient appropriations and authorization are not made by the Legislature, this agreement shall terminate upon written notice by the School to Counsel.

9. Counsel's status shall be at all times as an independent contractor performing professional services for the School and shall not be considered an employee of the School. Counsel agrees that the services provided pursuant to this agreement are personal and, consequently, this agreement is not assignable. School authorizes either Matthews or Fox, or in appropriate circumstances, both, to represent School with respect to matters undertaken by the firm. Counsel agrees that the firm may not subcontract any services requested pursuant to this Agreement without prior written consent of the School.

10. Counsel agrees to maintain, for at least three years, detailed time records that indicate the date time and nature of services rendered. These records shall be subject to inspection by the School upon reasonable notice. Counsel will request a written release from the School in the event that such records and documents are to be provided to the School district's auditor, the Public Education Department's auditor, or the New Mexico's State Auditor.

11. Any confidential information provided to or developed by the Counsel in the performance of this Agreement shall be kept confidential and shall not be made available to any individual or organization by the Counsel without the prior written approval of the School.

12. This Agreement shall not be altered, changed or amended except by instrument in writing executed by the parties hereto.

13. The Procurement Code, NMSA 1978, Sections 13-1-28 through 13-1-199, imposes civil and criminal penalties for its violation. In addition, the New Mexico criminal statutes impose felony penalties for illegal bribes, gratuities and kickbacks.

14. Counsel agrees to abide by all applicable federal and state laws and rules and regulations, and executive orders of the Governor of the State of New Mexico, pertaining to equal employment opportunity. In accordance with all federal and New Mexico state laws, Counsel assures that it will not exclude any person from the firm's employment, benefits thereof or subject its employees to discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, physical or mental handicap, serious medical condition, spousal affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other protected classification. If Counsel is found not to be in compliance with these requirements during the life of this Agreement, Counsel agrees to take appropriate steps to correct these deficiencies.

15. The laws of the State of New Mexico shall govern this Agreement, without giving effect to its choice of law provisions. Venue shall be proper only in a New Mexico court of competent jurisdiction in accordance with NMSA 1978, Section 38-3-1 (G). By execution of this Agreement, Counsel acknowledges and agrees to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of New Mexico over any and all lawsuits arising under or out of any term of this Agreement.

16. Counsel agrees to comply with state laws and rules applicable to workers compensation benefits for its employees. If Counsel fails to comply with the New Mexico's workers compensation requirements when required to do so, this Agreement may be terminated by the School.

17. If any term or condition of this Agreement shall be held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected and shall be valid and enforceable.

18. A party's failure to require strict performance of any provision of this Agreement shall not waive or diminish that party's right thereafter to demand strict compliance with that or any other provision. No waiver by a party of any of its rights under this Agreement shall be effective unless express and in writing, and no effective waiver by a party of any of its rights shall be effective to waive any other rights.

19. Any notice required to be given to either party by this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered in person, by express courier service, U.S. mail either first class or certified, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, or by electronic email with verification of delivery, , as follows:

MARK ARMIJO ACADEMY	MATTHEWS FOX, P.C.
c/o	Patricia Matthews or Susan Fox
	1925 Aspen Dr., Suite 301A Santa Fe, NM 87505
Tel:	Tel: 505.473.3020
Email:	Email: pmatthews@matthewsfox.com or sfox@matthewsfox.com
Fax:	Fax: 505.474.3727

20. If Client is other than a natural person, the individual(s) signing this Agreement on behalf of Client represents and warrants that he or she has the power and authority to bind Client, and that no further action, resolution, or approval from Client is necessary to enter into a binding contract.

21. The total compensation under this Agreement shall not exceed \$60,000 excluding gross receipts taxes.

The parties have executed this Agreement as of the date of signature by the School below.

**AGREED:
MATTHEWS FOX, P.C.**

Patricia Matthews or Susan B. Fox

Date: _____

MARK ARMIJO ACADEMY

Governing Council President

Date: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Phone No.: _____

Head Administrator

Date: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Phone No.: _____