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THE E-VERIFY PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR E-VERIFY EMPLOYER AGENTS

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The parties to this Agreement are the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and **DeKalb County Board of Education** (E-Verify Employer Agent). The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth terms by which SSA and DHS will provide information to **DeKalb County Board of Education** (E-Verify Employer Agent) on behalf of the E-Verify Employer Agent's client (the Employer). This MOU explains certain features of the E-Verify program and enumerates specific responsibilities of DHS, SSA, the Employer, and the E-Verify Employer Agent. References to the Employer include the E-Verify Employer Agent when acting on behalf of the Employer. E-Verify is a program that electronically confirms an employee's eligibility to work in the United States after completion of the Employment Eligibility Verification Form (Form I-9). For covered government contractors, E-Verify is used to verify the employment eligibility of all newly hired employees and all existing employees assigned to Federal contracts or to verify the entire workforce if the contractor so chooses.

The Employer is not a party to this MOU. The E-Verify program requires an initial agreement between DHS and the E-Verify Employer Agent as part of the enrollment process. After agreeing to the MOU as set forth herein, completing the tutorial, and obtaining access to E-Verify as a E-Verify Employer Agent, the E-Verify Employer Agent will be given an opportunity to add a client once logged into E-Verify. All parties, including the Employer, will then be required to sign and submit a new MOU. The responsibilities of the parties remain the same in each MOU.

Authority for the E-Verify program is found in Title IV, Subtitle A, of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), Pub. L. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009, as amended (8 U.S.C. § 1324a note). Authority for use of the E-Verify program by Federal contractors and subcontractors covered by the terms of Subpart 22.18, "Employment Eligibility Verification", of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) (hereinafter referred to in this MOU as a "Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause") to verify the employment eligibility of certain employees working on Federal contracts is also found in Subpart 22.18 and in Executive Order 12989, as amended.

ARTICLE II

FUNCTIONS TO BE PERFORMED

A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SSA

1. SSA agrees to provide the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) with available information that will allow the Employer to confirm the accuracy of Social Security Numbers

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provided by all employees verified under this MOU and the employment authorization of U.S. citizens.

2. SSA agrees to provide the Employer and E-Verify Employer Agent appropriate assistance with operational problems that may arise during the Employer's participation in the E-Verify program. SSA agrees to provide the E-Verify Employer Agent with names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of SSA representatives to be contacted during the E-Verify process.

3. SSA agrees to safeguard the information provided by the Employer through the E-Verify program procedures, and to limit access to such information, as is appropriate by law, to individuals responsible for the verification of Social Security Numbers and for evaluation of the E-Verify program or such other persons or entities who may be authorized by SSA as governed by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a), the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1306(a)), and SSA regulations (20 CFR Part 401).

4. SSA agrees to provide a means of automated verification that is designed (in conjunction with DHS's automated system if necessary) to provide confirmation or tentative nonconfirmation of U.S. citizens' employment eligibility within 3 Federal Government work days of the initial inquiry.

5. SSA agrees to provide a means of secondary verification (including updating SSA records as may be necessary) for employees who contest SSA tentative nonconfirmations that is designed to provide final confirmation or nonconfirmation of U.S. citizens' employment eligibility and accuracy of SSA records for both citizens and non-citizens within 10 Federal Government work days of the date of referral to SSA, unless SSA determines that more than 10 days may be necessary. In such cases, SSA will provide additional verification instructions.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF DHS

1. After SSA verifies the accuracy of SSA records for employees through E-Verify, DHS agrees to provide the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) access to selected data from DHS's databases to enable the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) to conduct, to the extent authorized by this MOU:

- Automated verification checks on employees by electronic means, and
- Photo verification checks (when available) on employees.

2. DHS agrees to provide to the Employer and E-Verify Employer Agent appropriate assistance with operational problems that may arise during the Employer's participation in the E-Verify program. DHS agrees to provide the E-Verify Employer Agent names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of DHS representatives to be contacted during the E-Verify process.

3. DHS agrees to make available to the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) at the E-Verify website and on the E-Verify Web browser, instructional materials on E-Verify policies, procedures and requirements for both SSA and DHS, including restrictions on the use of E-Verify. DHS agrees to provide training materials on E-Verify.

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4. DHS agrees to provide to the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) a notice, which indicates the Employer's participation in the E-Verify program. DHS also agrees to provide to the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) anti-discrimination notices issued by the Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices (OSC), Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

5. DHS agrees to issue the E-Verify Employer Agent a user identification number and password that will be used exclusively by the E-Verify Employer Agent, on behalf of the Employer, to verify information provided by employees with DHS's databases.

6. DHS agrees to safeguard the information provided to DHS by the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent), and to limit access to such information to individuals responsible for the verification of employees' employment eligibility and for evaluation of the E-Verify program, or to such other persons or entities as may be authorized by applicable law. Information will be used only to verify the accuracy of Social Security Numbers and employment eligibility, to enforce the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and Federal criminal laws, and to administer Federal contracting requirements.

7. DHS agrees to provide a means of automated verification that is designed (in conjunction with SSA verification procedures) to provide confirmation or tentative nonconfirmation of employees' employment eligibility within 3 Federal Government workdays of the initial inquiry.

8. DHS agrees to provide a means of secondary verification (including updating DHS records as may be necessary) for employees who contest DHS tentative nonconfirmations and photo non-match tentative nonconfirmations that is designed to provide final confirmation or nonconfirmation of the employees' employment eligibility within 10 Federal Government work days of the date of referral to DHS, unless DHS determines that more than 10 days may be necessary. In such cases, DHS will provide additional verification instructions.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EMPLOYER

1. The Employer shall display the notices supplied by DHS (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) in a prominent place that is clearly visible to prospective employees and all employees who are to be verified through the system.

2. The Employer shall provide to the SSA and DHS the names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of the Employer representatives to be contacted regarding E-Verify.

3. The Employer shall become familiar with and comply with the most recent version of the E-Verify User Manual. The Employer will obtain the E-Verify User Manual from the E-Verify Employer Agent.

4. The Employer shall comply with current Form I-9 procedures, with two exceptions:

- If an employee presents a "List B" identity document, the Employer agrees to only

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accept "List B" documents that contain a photo. (List B documents identified in 8 C.F.R. § 274a.2(b)(1)(B)) can be presented during the Form I-9 process to establish identity.) If an employee objects to the photo requirement for religious reasons, the Employer should contact E-Verify at 1-888-464-4218.

- If an employee presents a DHS Form I-551 (Permanent Resident Card) or Form I-766 (Employment Authorization Document) to complete the Form I-9, the Employer agrees to make a photocopy of the document and to retain the photocopy with the employee's Form I-9. The photocopy must be of sufficient quality to allow for verification of the photo and written information. The employer will use the photocopy to verify the photo and to assist DHS with its review of photo non-matches that are contested by employees. Note that employees retain the right to present any List A, or List B and List C, documentation to complete the Form I-9. DHS may in the future designate other documents that activate the photo screening tool.

5. Participation in E-Verify does not exempt the Employer from the responsibility to complete, retain, and make available for inspection Forms I-9 that relate to its employees, or from other requirements of applicable regulations or laws, including the obligation to comply with the antidiscrimination requirements of section 274B of the INA with respect to Form I-9 procedures, except for the following modified requirements applicable by reason of the Employer's participation in E-Verify: (1) identity documents must have photos, as described in paragraph 4 above; (2) a rebuttable presumption is established that the Employer has not violated section 274A(a)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) with respect to the hiring of any individual if it obtains confirmation of the identity and employment eligibility of the individual in good faith compliance with the terms and conditions of E-Verify; (3) the Employer must notify DHS if it continues to employ any employee after receiving a final nonconfirmation, and is subject to a civil money penalty between \$550 and \$1,100 for each failure to notify DHS of continued employment following a final nonconfirmation; (4) the Employer is subject to a rebuttable presumption that it has knowingly employed an unauthorized alien in violation of section 274A(a)(1)(A) if the Employer continues to employ an employee after receiving a final nonconfirmation; and (5) no person or entity participating in E-Verify is civilly or criminally liable under any law for any action taken in good faith based on information provided through the confirmation system. DHS reserves the right to conduct Form I-9 and E-Verify system compliance inspections during the course of E-Verify, as well as to conduct any other enforcement activity authorized by law.

6. The Employer shall initiate E-Verify verification procedures (through the E-Verify Employer Agent), for new employees within 3 Employer business days after each employee has been hired (but after the Form I-9 has been completed), and to complete as many (but only as many) steps of the E-Verify process as are necessary according to the E-Verify User Manual, or in the case of Federal contractors with the FAR E-Verify clause, the E-Verify User Manual for Federal contractors. The Employer is prohibited from initiating verification procedures before the employee has been hired and the Form I-9 completed. If the automated system to be queried is temporarily unavailable, the 3-day time period is extended until it is again operational in order to accommodate the Employer's attempting, in good faith, to make inquiries during the period of unavailability. Employers may initiate verification, through the E-Verify Employer Agent, by notating the Form I-9 in circumstances where the employee has applied for a Social Security Number (SSN) from the SSA and is waiting to receive the SSN, provided that the Employer

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(through the E-Verify Employer Agent) performs an E-Verify employment verification query using the employee's SSN as soon as the SSN becomes available.

7. The Employer may not use E-Verify procedures for pre-employment screening of job applicants, in support of any unlawful employment practice, or for any other use not authorized by this MOU. Employers must use E-Verify (through its E-Verify Employer Agent) for all new employees, unless an Employer is a Federal contractor that qualifies for the exceptions described in Article II.D.1.c. Except as provided in Article II.D, the Employer will not verify selectively and will not verify employees hired before the effective date of this MOU. The Employer understands that if the Employer uses the E-Verify system for any purpose other than as authorized by this MOU, the Employer may be subject to appropriate legal action and termination of its access to SSA and DHS information pursuant to this MOU.

8. The Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) shall follow appropriate procedures (see Article III. below) regarding tentative nonconfirmations, including notifying employees in private of the finding and providing them written notice of the findings, providing written referral instructions to employees, allowing employees to contest the finding, and not taking adverse action against employees if they choose to contest the finding. Further, when employees contest a tentative nonconfirmation based upon a photo non-match, the Employer is required to take affirmative steps (see Article III.B. below) to contact DHS with information necessary to resolve the challenge.

9. The Employer shall not take any adverse action against an employee based upon the employee's perceived employment eligibility status while SSA or DHS is processing the verification request unless the Employer obtains knowledge (as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 274a.1(l)) that the employee is not work authorized. The Employer understands that an initial inability of the SSA or DHS automated verification system to verify work authorization, a tentative nonconfirmation, a case in continuance (indicating the need for additional time for the government to resolve a case), or the finding of a photo non-match, does not establish, and should not be interpreted as evidence, that the employee is not work authorized. In any of the cases listed above, the employee must be provided a full and fair opportunity to contest the finding, and if he or she does so, the employee may not be terminated or suffer any adverse employment consequences based upon the employee's perceived employment eligibility status (including denying, reducing, or extending work hours, delaying or preventing training, requiring an employee to work in poorer conditions, refusing to assign the employee to a Federal contract or other assignment, or otherwise subjecting an employee to any assumption that he or she is unauthorized to work, or otherwise mistreating an employee) until and unless secondary verification by SSA or DHS has been completed and a final nonconfirmation has been issued. If the employee does not choose to contest a tentative nonconfirmation or a photo non-match or if a secondary verification is completed and a final nonconfirmation is issued, then the Employer can find the employee is not work authorized and terminate the employee's employment. Employers or employees with questions about a final nonconfirmation may call E-Verify at 1-888-464-4218 or OSC at 1-800-255-8155 or 1-800-237-2515 (TDD).

10. The Employer shall comply with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and section 274B of the INA, as applicable, by not discriminating unlawfully against any individual in hiring, firing, or

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recruitment or referral practices because of his or her national origin or, in the case of a protected individual as defined in section 274B(a)(3) of the INA, because of his or her citizenship status. The Employer shall not engage in such illegal practices as selective verification or use of E-Verify except as provided in part D below, or discharging or refusing to hire employees because they appear or sound "foreign" or have received tentative nonconfirmations. The Employer further understands that any violation of the unfair immigration-related employment practices provisions in section 274B of the INA could subject the Employer to civil penalties, back pay awards, and other sanctions, and violations of Title VII could subject the Employer to back pay awards, compensatory and punitive damages. Violations of either section 274B of the INA or Title VII may also lead to the termination of its participation in E-Verify. If the Employer has any questions relating to the anti-discrimination provision, it should contact OSC at 1-800-255-8155 or 1-800-237-2515 (TDD).

11. The Employer shall record the case verification number on the employee's Form I-9 or to print the screen containing the case verification number and attach it to the employee's Form I-9.

12. The Employer will use the information it receives from SSA or DHS (through its E-Verify Employer Agent) pursuant to E-Verify and this MOU only to confirm the employment eligibility of employees as authorized by this MOU. The Employer agrees that it will safeguard this information, and means of access to it (such as PINS and passwords) to ensure that it is not used for any other purpose and as necessary to protect its confidentiality, including ensuring that it is not disseminated to any person other than employees of the Employer who are authorized to perform the Employer's responsibilities under this MOU, except for such dissemination as may be authorized in advance by SSA or DHS for legitimate purposes.

13. The information that the Employer receives through the E-Verify Employer Agent from SSA is governed by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a(i)(1) and (3)) and the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1306(a)), and that any person who obtains this information under false pretenses or uses it for any purpose other than as provided for in this MOU may be subject to criminal penalties.

14. The Employer agrees to cooperate with DHS and SSA in their compliance monitoring and evaluation of E-Verify, including by permitting DHS and SSA, upon reasonable notice, to review Forms I-9 and other employment records and to interview it and its employees regarding the Employer's use of E-Verify, and to respond in a timely and accurate manner to DHS requests for information relating to their participation in E-Verify.

D. EMPLOYERS THAT ARE FEDERAL CONTRACTORS WITH THE FAR E-VERIFY CLAUSE

1. If the Employer is a Federal contractor subject to the employment verification terms in Subpart 22.18 of the FAR, it must verify the employment eligibility of any existing employee assigned to the contract and all new hires, as discussed in the Supplemental Guide for Federal Contractors. Once an employee has been verified through E-Verify by the Employer, the Employer may not reverify the employee through E-Verify.

