



## RYLAND STRATEGIC BUSINESS CONSULTING SERVICES CONTRACT

This contract is made by and between STLR Corp, dba RYLAND STRATEGIC BUSINESS CONSULTING (Contractor) and the ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT. Contractor will provide financial and business office services (described more specifically below) as needed and directed by District staff. In consideration of the services provided, the ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT will pay to Contractor hourly fees of \$185 for professional services and for travel time. All charges, including expenses, will be approved by the Superintendent of the ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT. Expenses are defined as actual, out-of-pocket expenses, such as lodging, meals, telephone charges, express or overnight mail charges, etc. The District will be billed on a monthly basis for fees and expenses. The term of this contract is twelve months.

RYLAND STRATEGIC BUSINESS CONSULTING will provide general financial planning and business services to ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT which may include but are not limited to the following: business office assistance and training; budget development; year-end closing of the books; general financial analysis as needed for negotiations; alignment of the budget with the Local Control Accountability Plan; documentation of procedures; development of financial strategies and analysis related to growth or decline; recommendations for board policy; preparation or review of short-term and long-term cash flow schedules; and presentations to the governing board.

It is expressly understood and agreed to by both parties that the Contractor, while carrying out and complying with any of the terms and conditions of this agreement, is a corporation licensed in California and not an employee of the District. This contract may be terminated by either party with 30 days' notice. In the case of early termination, ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT will be entitled to completion of all work in progress at its option, and RYLAND STRATEGIC BUSINESS CONSULTING will be entitled to payment in full of all expenses and fees incurred.

AGREED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Donald Evans, Interim Superintendent  
ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

s/ Teresa R Ryland  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
RYLAND STRATEGIC BUSINESS CONSULTING

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Chris Thomas, Financial Consultant:**

Ms. Thomas has over 27 years of experience in school finance with over 25 years as a Chief Business Official (CBO). Prior to retiring and joining Ryland SBC in 2023, Ms. Thomas was the CBO for Petaluma City Schools (PCS) for 7 years. Ms. Thomas began her career at the Marin County Office of Education, where she developed a strong understanding of the Standardized Account Code Structure (SACS), school finance and accounting, STRS and PERS retirement requirements and reporting, and AB1200 oversight. Over the next 18 years, she served as the CBO for San Rafael City Schools, Novato Unified School District, and Ross Valley School District prior to joining the Petaluma team.

In her CBO roles, Ms. Thomas was responsible for and oversaw the day-to-day operations of all business areas. She served on the District negotiation teams, worked with departments and school sites, completed Federal and State categorical reporting and grant applications, and worked closely with Education Services on preparing and updating the Local Control and Accountability Plan, (LCAP).

During her work in Main County, she served as the President of the Marin Schools Insurance Authority (MSIA) for 10 years, and served as the Chair of the Marin Pupil Transportation Authority (MPTA) for several years. In Sonoma County, she served on the Executive Committee for the Redwood Empire Schools Insurance Group (RESIG) for 2 years. She also served as chair of the District Budget Advisory Committees in all 4 Districts, and facilitated and coordinated agendas and meetings for the Bond Oversight and Parcel Tax Oversight committees in PCS, SRCS, and NUSD.