

SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Branchburg Township Board of Education, with administrative offices at 240 Baird Road, Branchburg, New Jersey ("Branchburg"). and the Readington Township Board of Education, with administrative offices at Holland Brook School, 52 Readington Road, Readington, New Jersey ("Readington"), are desirous of sharing pupil transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq., authorizes local units of government to enter into such arrangements;

NOW, THEREFORE be it agreed as follows:

1. **Duration:** This Agreement shall be in effect for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, subject to extension or renewal by written mutual agreement of the parties.
2. **Transportation Supervisor:** The Transportation Supervisor shall be an employee of Readington as long as Marci Cole is employed in this position and shall exercise general supervisory authority over a combined pupil transportation operation servicing Branchburg and Readington, and all pupil transportation employees of Branchburg and Readington shall be under the Transportation Supervisor's day-to-day supervision and control. The Transportation Supervisor is, and shall remain, supervised by Readington's School Business Administrator, and shall not be considered an employee or agent of Branchburg; provided, that Branchburg's School Business Administrator shall provide input to Readington's School Business Administrator concerning the day-to-day performance of the Transportation Supervisor. The Transportation Supervisor shall return to being an employee of Branchburg when a successor is hired to replace Marci Cole.
3. **Transportation Director:** The Transportation Director shall be an employee of Branchburg and shall generally assist the Transportation Supervisor consistent with this Agreement and perform the duties outlined in the job description for that position. The Transportation Director, and all bus drivers employed by Branchburg, are, and shall remain, supervised by Branchburg's School Business Administrator, and shall not be considered employees or agents of Readington; provided, that the Transportation Supervisor shall provide input to Branchburg's School Business Administrator concerning the day-to-day performance of the Transportation Director and bus drivers employed by Branchburg.

4. **Management and Maintenance Operations:** The combined management and maintenance operations of the Branchburg and Readington pupil transportation systems shall be housed at the facilities used by Branchburg for its own operations. Branchburg and Readington shall equally share all start-up costs of their combined operations. Branchburg shall be responsible to purchase all maintenance supplies, communication equipment or upgrades, required during the term of the Agreement, and shall invoice Readington periodically for half of the costs incurred (accompanied by documentation for such purchases).
5. **Maintenance Employees:** Branchburg will maintain within their employ one Maintenance Employee, and Readington will maintain within their employ one Maintenance Employee. Each shall perform the duties outlined in the job description for that position. Each Maintenance Employee shall be supervised by the Transportation Supervisor and Transportation Director and shall not be considered an employee or agent of the non-employing District; provided that the Transportation Supervisor and Transportation Director shall provide input to both School Business Administrators concerning the day-to-day performance of the Maintenance Employees employed by the other. It is understood that the Readington mechanic will work exclusively on Readington vehicles and the Branchburg mechanics will work exclusively on Branchburg vehicles. In the event that it is necessary for a mechanic to work on the other district's vehicles, that district will be invoiced at the hourly rate of the mechanic for the time spent on servicing that district's vehicles.
6. **Clerk:** The Clerk shall be an employee of Readington and shall assist the Transportation Supervisor and Transportation Director consistent with this Agreement and perform the duties outlined in the job description for that position. The Transportation Clerk shall be supervised by the Transportation Supervisor, and shall not be considered an employee or agent of Branchburg.
7. **Ownership and Housing of Buses:** Readington's buses shall be stored at facilities owned or under the control of Readington; provided that Readington shall be permitted to store at Branchburg's transportation facilities any buses on which maintenance work is currently being performed, plus an additional number of buses to be approved by Branchburg dependent on space limitations and Branchburg's operational needs.
8. **Cost and Payment Procedures:**
 - a. Neither Branchburg nor Readington shall pay any amount to each other for this shared services agreement, unless extenuating circumstances arise as detailed above for maintenance employees outside of normal scope of duties. Therefore, cost is \$0 to both districts

b. Upon the expiration of the Agreement, the parties shall make appropriate adjustments to reflect an equal division of the total cost, over the term of the Agreement, of shared staff as detailed previously within this Agreement. If any leave of absence, termination or vacancy occurs in positions requiring additional workloads beyond norm, the parties agree to meet to mutually and amicably work out costs, if any. Only through written addendum to this contract signed and mutually agreed to by both parties shall costs for Transportation Supervisor, Transportation Director, or Clerk be charged to the other party. Otherwise, cost is \$0.

9. **Indemnification and Insurance:** To the maximum extent permitted by law, Branchburg and Readington will indemnify and hold each other, as well as the respective Townships in which they are located, harmless with respect to any claims for personal injury, property damage or economic loss attributable to the actions or omissions of the other's employees, agents or representatives. Both parties shall maintain full and complete liability insurance, in limits not less than the maximum amounts of liability coverage now maintained by each party throughout the term of this Agreement and cause the other party to be designated on its policy as an additional insured.

10. **Termination:** This Agreement may be terminated during its term by either party on ninety (90) days written notice to the other. In that event, any financial obligations shall be equitably prorated for the period that the relationship remains in force.

11. **Notice:** All notices pertaining to the Agreement shall be in writing, and delivered in person or sent certified mail to the parties at the address below:

<p>For Readington:</p> <p>Jason Bohm School Business Administrator Readington Township Board of Education Holland Brook School 52 Readington Road Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889</p>	<p>For Branchburg:</p> <p>School Business Administrator Branchburg Township Board of Education 240 Baird Road Branchburg, NJ 08876</p>
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12. **Merger:** This Agreement merges and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations and/or agreements between the parties relating to the subject matter of this Agreement and constitutes the entire contract between the parties.

13. **Modification:** This Agreement may only be modified by an instrument in writing signed by both parties to the Agreement.
14. **Waiver:** No waiver by either party of any term or condition of this Agreement shall be deemed or construed to constitute a waiver of any other term or condition or of any subsequent breach, whether of the same or a different provision of this Agreement. Neither party may waive any of its rights or any obligations of the other party or any provision of this Agreement except by an instrument in writing signed by that party.
15. **Severability:** If any of the provisions contained in this Agreement are held illegal, invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.
16. **Governing Law:** This Agreement shall be governed, construed and interpreted in accordance with the law of the State of New Jersey as it applies to contracts made and performed in New Jersey. The Superior Court of the State of New Jersey, in the County of Hunterdon, shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any claim or disputes pertaining directly or in- directly to the Agreement or to any matter arising there from. Each of the parties hereby expressly submits and consents in advance to such jurisdiction in any action or proceeding commenced by the other in such court.
17. **Assignment:** Neither party may transfer or assign any of its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other, and any such transfer or assignment or attempt thereat shall be null and void.
18. **Section Headings:** Section headings are for reference purposes only and shall not in any way affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision of this Agreement.
19. **Counterparts:** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, which, taken together, shall constitute but one instrument. It is not necessary that all parties sign all or any one of the counterparts, but each party must sign at least one counterpart for the Agreement to be effective.
20. **Public Inspection:** A copy of this Agreement shall be available for public inspection at the offices of both parties immediately after passage of a resolution to become a party to the Agreement in accordance with N.J.S.A 40A:65 5(b).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto caused these presents to be signed by their proper corporate officers and caused their proper corporate seals to be hereunto affixed, on this day, _____.

WITNESS:

**BRANCHBURG
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Sally Dolan
Board Secretary

Vincent Carpentier
Board President

WITNESS:

**READINGTON
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Jason Bohm
Board Secretary

Dr. Camille Cerciello
Board President