B.3.2 CONTRACTED SERVICES

Southwest Leadership Academy will contract with qualified providers for five important services: Education Service Provider, Annual Financial Audit, Food Services, Credit Recovery and Special Education. In some instances, SLA will seek out the expertise in these areas through a bid process, however, most of these contractors are known to SLA and the expertise and costs are discussed below.

Education Services Provider

To effectively operate a successful educational program, the Board has contracted the services of a Charter Management Organization (CMO), Rite of Passage, Inc.

- *Professional Qualifications:* Rite of Passage was selected by the SLA Board because of their extensive experience in the education field. Rite of Passage, successfully operates, manages and oversees the operations of schools in several states. Their campuses are accredited by the local school agency, the state department of education, the North Central Association of Colleges and School, and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
- *Costs:* Management Fees paid to Rite of Passage, Inc., as defined in the management agreement and indicated on the budget under the line item "Purchased Services." The budgeted amount is 10% of revenues.

Annual Financial Audit

Beginning August 2013, SLA will solicit bids through an RFP process for its annual financial audit and preparation of its Form 990 tax return. SLA will receive bids through October 2013 and make a decision by December 2013. The first audit performed by the newly selected firm will begin in the fall of 2014 for the fiscal 2013-2014 school year. SLA will re-enter the RFP process for qualified firms every three to five years.

- *Professional Qualifications:* SLA will select a service provider that is a Certified Public Accountant firm, qualified to do business in the State of Arizona and has extensive experience in school finance and accounting.
- *Costs*: Based on historical costs of similar-sized schools, the costs are budgeted at $10,000 for the first year, $15,000 in the second year, and $20,000.00 in the third, when we estimate a single audit will be required.

Food Services

Starting in May 2013, SLA will solicit bids through an RFP process for daily breakfast and lunch meals provided to students. SLA will receive bids through June 2013 and make a decision by July 2013. Selected Food Service Company will bill the National School Breakfast and Lunch program (SBP and NSLP) directly. Meal services will begin on the first day of school and continue for the school year.

- *Professional Qualifications:* Based on a RFP process, SLA will choose a qualified, experienced food service provider that meets the dietary needs of the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs within the proposed SLA

3-Year budget. SLA will re-enter the RFP process for qualified food service providers every three to five years.

- *Costs*: Because the Food Service Company will bill the NSLP and SBP Program directly for reimbursement, there will be no cost to Southwest Leadership Academy.

Credit Recovery Services

Occasionally, students will need to retake a course they were not previously successful in, and Southwest Leadership Academy anticipates the need to provide credit recovery solutions to our students. In utilizing Blueprint Online Education services, SLA will work within the parameters of our vision to ensure all students work to their highest potential and are afforded the opportunity to master concepts through innovative and alternative learning platforms.

- *Professional Qualifications:* Blueprint is a nonprofit organization that began in 1969 in Maricopa County. Blueprint Education's educational courses meet the standards required for all six North American accrediting regions as well as internationally and is a certified Distance Education Provider by the State of Arizona. Blueprint Education Junior and Senior High School faculty are certified or licensed teachers by a State Department of Certification and are experienced in teaching junior and senior high school students.
- *Costs*: The cost for Blueprint Online Education services is approximately $119/month per student, per course based on Blueprint's pricing. SLA will only obtain this service when absolutely necessary for a student to take courses concurrently in order to graduate. As indicated in the budget and based on an estimated 5% of the total student population needing this service, SLA expects a total cost of $8,032.50 in year one, with that amount increasing as our population increases.

Special Education Services

Southwest Leadership Academy will open with a Special Education Teacher who has the background and experience necessary to ensure all students (including those with special needs) learn in an educational environment that meets academic, social and physical needs. The individual will be responsible for ensuring the proper maintenance of records for individual special needs, overseeing the FAPE, Child Find, IEP/MET and Child Study Teams process, and ensuring students with specialized instructional needs receive the proper accommodations and/or modifications within the classroom. SLA will follow the principle of least restrictive environment conducive for individual student learning, as defined by IDEA 2004.

Although Southwest Leadership Academy will utilize Rite of Passage's expertise in many facets of education, we also recognize the need for outside services. When necessary, SLA's Special Education Instructor will work with a provider (Comprehensive Education Solutions, LLC) for specific services outside the abilities and qualifications of the SLA staff.

- *Professional Qualifications:* Comprehensive Education Solutions, LLC (CES) provides school districts and charter schools with quality, professional services in the disciplines of Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Psychological Services. CES employs trained, certified/licensed and supervised professionals. Comprehensive Education Solutions, LLC has been in existence for five years. CES has contracted with rural and urban districts to provide services necessary for Special Education. CES has been the sole service provider for four school districts (1 private, 2 public, and 1 charter) including Maricopa Unified School District, Casa Grande Union High School District, and Stanfield School District.

- *Costs*: Rates for related services are listed below, based on existing CES information. SLA has appropriately budgeted for support services using the hourly fees and projected first-year fees that follow:

Services	**Hourly**	**First Year**
Psychological services	$75	$ 750
Speech/Language Pathologist	$50	$1,550
Occupational/Physical Therapist	$50	$ 400
Counseling	$50	$1,000
Total		$3,700

The projected school budget will be $3,700 for special education services during the first year. SLA plans to increase expenses each year as the student population increases ($8,700 for the second year, and $10,875 for the second year). Also, SLA will increase the budget further if this area should need additional funding to meet the exceptional student service needs.