



Hidalgo County Head Start Program

Policy Council Regular Agenda

DATE: May 16, 2012

SUBJECT: Discussion/Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District and Hidalgo County Head Start Program

RATIONALE/NEED: The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a working arrangement with the Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District to fulfill the partnership commitment as stipulated in the Texas Literacy Initiative (TLI) Grant provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval.

COST:

RELATED INFORMATION INCLUDES: Memorandum of Understanding

INITIATED BY: Teresa Flores, Executive Director

REVIEWED BY: Teresa Flores, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL: *Teresa Flores*



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District

And

Hidalgo County Head Start Edinburg #IV

I. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding (MOU) is to establish a working arrangement between Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District (Edinburg CISD) and the Hidalgo County Head Start to fulfill the partnership commitment as stipulated in the Texas Literacy Initiative (TLI) Grant provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and described herein as the TLI-School **READ**iness Program.

This MOU supports a variety of activities, which aims to assist the Hidalgo County Head Start with its pre-literacy initiatives for 0 to 4 year olds and professional development for teachers that are associated with the pre-literacy initiatives. As indicated in this MOU, The Edinburg CISD and the Hidalgo County Head Start will collaborate on the services that will enable each entity to increase the oral language and pre-literacy skills of participating preschool children.

This MOU represents the intent between the parties to work together to:

1. Increase the oral language and pre-literacy of participating preschool children,
2. Provide instructional services to 0 to 4 year olds,
3. Offer teachers professional development for successful implementation of strategies learned,
4. Provide teachers with the resources and tools needed to accomplish program goals,
5. Administer readiness assessments for preschool children as required by Texas Education Agency – TLI Grant,
6. Implement and manage program activities, efficiently and effectively.

II. Background

The purpose of the Texas Literacy Initiative is to improve school readiness success in the areas of language and literacy for disadvantaged students in targeted school districts, including their associated early childhood educators. Through the use of a Literacy Line model, the Edinburg CISD and Hidalgo County Head Start will collaborate to implement the Texas State Literacy Plan which is intended to provide instructional and programming alignment for language, pre-literacy, and literacy development and ease the transition for children across their entire learning careers. This partnership is necessary because to have a fully articulated Literacy Line, it must include all levels: age zero to school entry, elementary, middle, and high school(s).

III. Collaborative Objectives and Acknowledgements

The Edinburg CISD and the Hidalgo County Head Start will create both prescriptive and customized services that facilitate the needs and primary goals of the grant for birth to preschool children. Specifically, the scope of work and services shall be focused on increasing the oral language and pre-literacy skills of participating preschool children at Hidalgo County Head Start.

Hidalgo County Head Start programs and services that have been authorized by the TEA to facilitate this grant and assist in meeting these goals are the following:

1. Technical assistance and support from TLI leaders of the Texas Education Agency that include Education Service Centers, the Children's Learning Institute and the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, the Institute of Public School Initiatives at the University of Texas at Austin, the Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts at The University of Texas at Austin.
2. Attend state-provided professional development training to support the Texas Literacy Initiative to include: (but not limited to)
 - Texas Literacy Initiative Leadership Summit (face-to-face summit planned for February to outline goals/expectations for period of grant)
 - Participate in online training in Project Share, course facilitation, and building support structures for TLI
 - TLI Summer Institute (summer sessions to support TLI based on data and needs of grantees)
3. Conduct at least three data analysis meetings each year at the campus/site level.
4. Participate in Project Share.
5. Implement a comprehensive literacy program that addresses what is known from evidence about developmental factors and instructional practices critical for all children to become readers and writers.

The specific services and programs which the Hidalgo County Head Start will provide are stipulated in section V.

IV. Responsibilities of Edinburg CISD

Edinburg CISD is establishing this memorandum with Hidalgo County Head Start to implement TLI grant activities to improve the pre-literacy skills of 0-4 year olds and ease their transition into our schools. The Edinburg CISD will allocate \$70,000 to assist Edinburg Head Start in implementing the activities stipulated within this MOU.

1. To ensure equity with Edinburg CISD Pre-K students, we are purchasing the curriculum, Big Day for Pre-K, for the Hidalgo County Head Start. They will receive the training and technical assistance.
2. Provide classroom libraries that are age appropriate.
3. Equip Hidalgo County Head Start with the required technologies and hardware to ensure effective implementation of the curriculum.
 - Media Projector for each Pre-K Teacher
 - Document Camera for each Pre-K Teacher
 - Laptop for each Pre-K Teacher
 - Listening Center with headsets for each Pre-K Teacher
 - CD player for each Pre-K Teacher
 - Language master for each Pre-K Teacher
4. Provide training for all technology hardware and equipment purchased. Teachers will not receive the equipment until after they attend the required trainings.
5. Provide technical assistance and training to increase the use of data and data analysis.
6. To ensure fidelity at the Hidalgo County Head Start, we will verify and review

the relevance and accuracy of the information provided.

7. Offer professional development on best practices recommended by the National Association of Educating Young Children and the Head Start performing standards.
8. Provide "Ensenando la Lectura" that addresses the essential components of early Spanish reading instruction and transferrable skills for English Language Development.

V. Responsibilities of Hidalgo County Head Start

The Hidalgo County Head Start agrees to service the school with its resources, programs, consultative services, and expertise regarding the delivery of a consolidated suite of tools and programs including:

1. Establish and implement a comprehensive literacy development and educating program to advance pre-literacy skills in students from birth through 4 year olds, including limited-English-proficient students and students with disabilities.
2. Use such funds for services and activities using research-based methods that have the characteristics of improving classroom literacy instruction and practice.
3. Prepare all children of the Edinburg CISD community to enter kindergarten on or above grade level and ready to benefit from the full array of public educational services to keep them on grade level in kindergarten and beyond.
4. Participate in Project Share.
5. Provide a professional development plan for educators that are age and developmentally appropriate for the age of the child served by the educator.
6. Monitor outcomes by collecting and reporting applicable data.
 - The percentage of participating four year old children who achieve significant gains on an assessment of letter knowledge, vocabulary, phonological awareness, and oral language skills.
 - Disaggregate data for disadvantaged children, including economically disadvantaged children, limited-English-proficient children, and children with disabilities.
 - To ensure accountability for implementation, teachers will submit adequate documentation that evidences completion of tasks and attainment of academic performance.

VI. Effective Date and Signature

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective upon the signature of Edinburg CISD and Hidalgo County Head Start Edinburg # IV authorized officials.

The services and terms of this MOU will cover the following dates: March 8, 2012– August 31, 2013.

Signature and Dates

Edinburg CISD Superintendent

Hidalgo County Head Start Executive Director

Date _____

Date _____