

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between Lasara Independent School District and the Region One Education Service Center (ESC), each a “party” and collectively “parties”.

Project PATHS (Pathways Aligned To Health Science) is a consortium of local education agencies (LEAs) with Region One ESC (as the lead LEA/fiscal agent), ten LEA/School Districts (Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD, South Texas ISD, La Joya ISD, Hidalgo ISD, Valley View ISD, Lasara ISD, Lyford CISD, Harlingen CISD, Roma ISD, and Vanguard Academy), two Higher Education Institutions (the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and the Health Science Institute at Renaissance), and two Health/Private institutions (Doctor’s Hospital at Renaissance and Performance Therapeutics) formed for the purpose of increasing district capacity to create a culturally diverse healthcare pathway to prepare students for the 21st century workforce and beyond.

- A. **Purpose.** The purpose of this MOU is to establish the roles and responsibilities of each party for participation and support of Pathways Aligned to Health Science (PATHS) and fulfill the purpose of the grant funded by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) through the Perkins Reserve Grant, 2019.

- B. **Roles and Responsibilities.** The roles and responsibilities of Lasara Independent School District and Region One ESC align to the goals and objectives of the project as described in the proposal submitted to the funding agency (TEA).

Goal of the Project: By the end of the project period, 1) PATHS Project students in CTE courses aligned to certificate/dual courses in identified high demand healthcare fields will increase by an average of at least 10% from a baseline established in the first quarter of the project; and 2) PATHS Project identified PATHfinder teachers and counselors will show a 50% increase in their level of understanding of high school healthcare pathways of study leading to certificates, Associate Degrees and Bachelor’s Degrees as determined by pre- and post-surveys, administered during the first and last quarters of the project.

The PATHS Project proposes to:

- 1) align high-wage, in-demand healthcare pathways in high school with transition into higher education institutions;
- 2) link secondary and postsecondary crosswalks of career-focused learning with multiple entry points and work-based experiences; and
- 3) provide academic and career focused post-secondary advising with online resources for sustainable efforts and duplication throughout the region.

To accomplish this, PATHS Project partners will:

- 1) align curricula in targeted areas of study to create seamless paths from high school to college in identified areas via CTE stackable credentials/ certificates, programs of study, and dual enrollment paths;
- 2) provide students with Pathways mentoring and work-based industry experiences, training, and online, live “cybermentoring” by industry and post-secondary professionals in targeted occupations, as well as training and curriculum alignment in post-secondary healthcare entrance exams; and

- 3) provide a "Pathfinder" Academy for teachers and counselors created in collaboration with UTRGV and DHR, that provides educators in each district's healthcare endorsement area a compendium of high school to postsecondary pathways focused on targeted certificates, Associate's, and Bachelor's degrees. All Pathfinder resources will ultimately be housed in an online platform for district, higher education, and partner use.

Responsibilities of DISTRICT. DISTRICT will:

- commit to provision of all activities as designated in the approved Region One Perkins Reserve grant submission attached hereto as Exhibit A ("Exhibit A").
- designate a central contact professional to coordinate all district efforts of the project and to participate on the PATHS Project Working Group and an administrator to participate on the PATHS Project Executive Leadership Committee for the purpose of planning interventions and providing feedback to the project.
- collaborate with Region One ESC and partnering agencies (Doctor's Hospital at Renaissance, Performance Therapeutics and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley) ensure students receive the following:
 - Quarterly health-care PATHS project conferences designed for student awareness and recruitment for healthcare professions
 - At least six cybermentoring sessions with DHR healthcare professionals for students;
 - Certificate courses for students in healthcare-related fields through the Health Science Institute at Renaissance, a newly established credential-granting institution, certified by the Texas Workforce Commission.
 - Access for students and teachers to DHR, a 21st century workforce setting, to allow exposure to work-based learning opportunities.
- provide the expertise of appropriate teaching and learning professionals to the project for the purpose of supporting the alignment of curricula from high school to postsecondary to workforce in high need areas of the healthcare workforce.
- grant permission the Region One ESC Partnership to access individual student assessment and demographic data from the Region One ESC databases, and from applicable partner databases, including those from Institutions of Higher Education, for the purpose of compiling data to inform Partnership practice, and to comply with mandatory reporting as required by the Texas Education Agency. This data may include:
 - Demographics
 - STAAR, SDAA, RPTE
 - Surveys
 - Advanced Placement assessment results
 - College entrance examination results
 - College admissions data, and

- Other data as allowed by law.
- ensure student participation in student conferences and assign staff to participate in the yearly Pathfinder's conference,
- commit to ensure best practices are learned and disseminated across the district
 - Sustain, scale and replicate the PATHS project.

Responsibilities of Region One Education Service Center.

Region One ESC will:

act as lead partner and fiscal agent of the PATHS project.

will ensure that the public disclosure of results, findings, or outcomes of this project must be clear, factual, and accurate as per SACSCOC policy and may only be used for the purpose of knowledge sharing. Public disclosure will occur in compliance with law as designated by FERPA.

C. Reporting Requirements.

- Region One ESC will be the fiscal agent of the grant and will be responsible for collecting, collating, submitting data and completing compliance reports for the funding agency aligned to the PATHS project goals, objectives, and intended outcomes. DISTRICT agrees to provide applicable data for the purpose of accomplishing this goal and for the purpose of informing project stakeholders.

D. Funding.

- Region One ESC will process reimbursements to Lasara ISD for items and services related to the grant for an amount up to \$14,625.00 for the one-year period of the funding cycle, pending receipt of funding from the Texas Education Agency as outlined in the Region One Education Service Center Line Item Budget Summary included in Exhibit A.

E. Timeframe. The MOU will commence and become effective as of October 1, 2019 and will dissolve at the end of the PATHS project grant funding (TEA Perkins Reserve Grant) period on September 30, 2019.

F. Confidentiality. All parties to this MOU agree to maintain Lasara Independent School District's adherence to policy that relates to securing and preventing the disclosure of any public information if the information is exempt from disclosure under any law, including, but not limited to, the Texas Public Information Act; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; or Freedom of Information Act.

G. Terms of the MOU.

- Modifications to this MOU shall be made by mutual consent of the parties and shall maintain adherence to the purpose and scope of the grant funded project. Any such modification shall be in writing and signed and dated by authorized officials of the parties.
- It is understood that no party to this MOU is the agent of the other, and no party is liable for the wrongful acts or negligence of the other. Each party shall be responsible for its negligent acts or omissions and those of its officers, employees, agents or students (if applicable), howsoever caused.
- This MOU must be signed by all parties. Signatories must be officially authorized to sign on behalf of the organization/agency and include title and name of the organization/agency. By signing the MOU, the parties agree to its terms and conditions.

District

Authorized Official: Sara A. Alvarado Sara A. Alvarado- Superintendent
Signature Printed Name and Title

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Region One Education Service Center

Authorized Official: _____
Signature Printed Name and Title

Address: _____

Telephone(s): _____

E-Mail Address: _____