



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL ITEM

TOPIC: Letter of Commitment for the University of Oregon

SUBMITTED BY: Carmen A. Pompa, Director of Bilingual/ESL/DUAL/Foreign Language

OF: Curriculum & Instruction Department

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: May 20, 2015

INFORMATIONAL REPORT:

Presentation of the Letter of Commitment submitted to the University of Oregon to participate in a two year study to evaluate Direct Instruction Spoken English (DISE). It is intended to target ESL Plan teachers servicing Recent Immigrant/Recent Arrivals - ELL students at Beginner or Intermediate levels of language at the Middle School level. All ten middle schools will participate, five will be integrating the DISE curriculum and the other five will continue with the current curriculum.

UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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April 23, 2015

Dr. Erin Chaparro & Dr. Barbara Gunn
c/o Dr. Erin Chapparo, College of Education
1215 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1215

Dear Drs. Chaparro and Gunn,

Please accept this letter of commitment for the United Independent School District to participate in the evaluation of the *Direct Instruction Spoken English* (DISE) curriculum in conjunction with the University of Oregon and the Oregon Research Institute. We have ten schools in our district that serve students in 6th – 8th grades, and request that all eligible schools partake in the planned evaluation.

United Independent School District (UISD) has been a leader in the area of serving non-English speaking students. In 1964, state law prohibited students from speaking Spanish in school. Members of the UISD Board of Trustees and administration met with Texas Education Agency officials and professors in the Foreign Language Department at the University of Texas, to design and implement a pioneer bilingual program for first grade students. UISD was one of the first districts in the nation to teach Spanish speakers English, and to teach English speakers Spanish. Also for the first time Texas students were permitted to use their native language on school grounds and in the classroom.

We continue to have a high number of newly immigrated students each year, and as such we expect to meet the program requirement of at least 15 students per campus. We have an English as a Second Language (ESL) program that provides a supportive environment for our English Learners to acquire a vital new language of instruction. We intend to participate in the study for two years starting in the fall of 2015, and understand that our schools will be randomly assigned to either teach DICE for two years or to teach as they usually do with the current materials and tools available.

We also understand that our teachers who are randomly assigned to teach DISE will attend two days of training in the first year of the program and a half day of training in the second year, and will provide daily instruction with DISE. Dates for the DISE training must not occur during planned UISD professional/staff development dates. We also understand that the DISE teachers will be provided with ongoing remote coaching. We agree to have project data collectors observe the classrooms in all conditions three times throughout the school year with the UISD Curriculum & Instruction Division's prior approval of observation dates. We also agree to work with you to send home letters of consent to all of our eligible students so that the data collectors can assess the students with parent permission in the fall and spring of each school year.

Our history shows that we value bilingualism in our district and we are pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this study.

Sincerely,

Mr. Roberto J. Santos
Superintendent

Mr. David H. Gonzalez
Associate Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction