



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services, Bastrop County

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TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

July 16, 2026

Superintendent Dr. Molley Ealy
Smithville Independent School District
P.O. Box 479
Smithville, TX 78957

RE: Request for Adjunct Faculty Status

Dear Superintendent Ealy:

On behalf of the Bastrop County Extension Staff, I/we hereby respectfully request approval of the attached Adjunct Faculty Agreement with the Smithville Independent School District.

The State Board of Education passed an amendment to 19 TAC§129.21 (u). Requirements for Student Attendance Accounting for State Funding Purposes allows public school students to be considered "in attendance" when participating in off-campus activities with an adjunct staff member of the school district. Section 3 of the Student Attendance Handbook states:

- (1) The student is participating in an activity that is approved by the local board of school trustees and is under the direction of a member of the professional or paraprofessional staff of the school district, or an adjunct staff member who:*
- (A) has a minimum of a bachelor's degree; and*
 - (B) is eligible for participation in the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.*

Bastrop County requests the Extension personnel listed on the enclosed Adjunct Faculty Agreement be awarded adjunct faculty staff member status for the period of time indicated on the agreement. Extension personnel, as ISD adjunct faculty members, will only supervise and be responsible for Texas 4-H members of the district.

I hope Smithville Independent School District will accept this request. Please let me know if you would like to schedule an appointment to discuss the amendment and request or if you need further information.

Thank you and members of the Board of Trustees for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mellanie Mickelson
Bastrop County Extension Agent,
4-H & Youth Development
MLMickelson@ag.tamu.edu

Attachment(s): Adjunct Faculty Request

ADJUNCT FACULTY REQUEST

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF BASTROP

On this date, at a regularly scheduled and posted meeting, came the Board of Trustees of the Smithville Independent School District, hereinafter referred to as "District." A quorum having been established; the Board proceeded to consider the appointment of the herein named individual(s) as an adjunct member of the Smithville Independent School District.

Upon consideration and vote of _____ in favor, Dakota Kempken, Mellanie Mickelson, and Amanda Ortega are hereby named as adjunct faculty member(s) of the Smithville Independent School District subject to the following considerations and provisions of such appointment to wit:

1. This appointment shall commence on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and remain in effect until the _____ day of _____, 20____.
2. This appointment will include the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service employees listed below:

NAME	TITLE	DEGREE(S)	INSTITUTION	DATE
Dakota Kempken	County Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources	B.S. Animal Sciences	Sam Houston State University	May 2018
		Master of Natural Resources Development	Texas A&M University	December, 2024
Mellanie Mickelson	County Extension Agent, 4-H & Youth Development	B.S. Animal Science	Oklahoma State University	May 2009
		M.S. Management & Leadership	Tarleton State University	May 2017
Amanda Ortega	County Extension Agent, Family & Community Health	B.S. Kinesiology (Exercise Science)	Texas A&M University Kingsville	August 2022

3. Adjunct faculty member(s) will receive no compensation, salary, or remuneration from the Smithville Independent School District.
4. Adjunct faculty member(s) is and shall remain an employee, in good standing, of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
5. Adjunct faculty member(s) is and shall remain under the direct supervision of either the District Extension Administrator of District 10 or Mellanie Mickelson, County Extension Director.
6. Adjunct faculty member(s) shall receive all group insurance benefits, workman's compensation insurance benefits, unemployment insurance, and any and all other plans for the benefit of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service employees. District shall have no responsibility for any of such benefits or plans.

Adjunct faculty member(s) shall direct the activities and participation of students of the school district in sponsored and approved activities as designated from time to time by adjunct faculty members for which notice shall be given to School District administrative personnel. Adjunct faculty members' activities and participation with students of the School District are directed, supervised, and controlled by and through supervisory personnel of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service pursuant to the supervisory authority of the District Extension Administrator or County Extension Director. Adjunct faculty member(s) is not the employee of the School District, and School District does not nor shall not supervise, direct or control the activities and/or participation of such Bastrop County Extension Agent(s) who have/has been herein designated as an adjunct faculty member.

This appointment is made by the Independent School District by and through the Board of Trustees of said district for the benefit of allowing voluntary student participation in programs conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in recognition of the educational benefits arising from such participation and activities and/or directed by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. This appointment is made in accordance with the provisions of Section 129.21 (j)(1) of the Texas Administrative Code authorizing the school to deem such participating students in attendance for foundation school program purposes.

This appointment of the herein named Bastrop County Extension Agent(s), Dakota Kempken, Mellanie Mickelson and Amanda Ortega (Extension employees), is/are not intended nor shall be construed as a waiver of any claim or defense of sovereign or governmental immunity from liability now possessed by Smithville Independent School District or any of its employees, agents, officers, and/or board members in the performance of governmental functions.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Smithville Independent School District

By: _____