



Governing Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: October 15, 2026

From: Joshua Bayne, Executive Director of Educational Services

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding with the Arizona Board of Regents for the University of Arizona

Priority: To provide rigorous, relevant, and innovative academics

Consent ☐ Action ☒ Discussion ☐

Background:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a partnership between Marana Unified School District (MUSD) and the University of Arizona's Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities to expand meaningful work-based learning opportunities for students with disabilities. Through the University's Pre-Employment Transition Services Project, Sonoran Center staff will collaborate with MUSD to develop both on and off campus work experiences that help students build employment skills, confidence, and greater independence as they prepare for life beyond high school. The partnership will also build the capacity of MUSD staff through a train-the-trainer model, providing staff with the knowledge and tools needed to coach and support students during these experiences.

This MOU has been approved by MUSD's legal counsel.

Recommended Motion:

I move that the Governing Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Marana Unified School District and the Arizona Board of Regents for the University of Arizona.

Approved for transmittal to the Governing Board: 
Dr. Daniel Streeter, Superintendent

*Questions should be directed to: Joshua Bayne, Executive Director, Educational Services
Phone: (520) 682-4808*

Memorandum of Understanding between
The Arizona Board of Regents for the University of Arizona
and
Marana Unified School District

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between Marana Unified School District, located at 11290 W Grier Rd., Marana, AZ 85653 (“MUSD”), and The Arizona Board of Regents on behalf of the University of Arizona, located at 845 N. Park Ave., Rm 538, Tucson, AZ 85721-0158 (“University”) for its Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities. Collectively, the University and MUSD will be referred to individually as “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.” It is understood and agreed that this MOU contains the entire understanding between the Parties and supersedes any and all prior agreements, and arrangements, or understandings between the Parties relating to the subject matter hereof.

University is a state land grant university that, through its Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities has appropriate personnel and resources to conduct the services described below.

MUSD is a political subdivision of the State of Arizona and a public school district and desires to enter this MOU to improve students with disabilities access to community based work experiences, as further set out in the purpose below.

Accordingly, the Parties agree as follows:

A. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this MOU is to facilitate the University Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities, through its Pre-Employment Transition Services Project, to provide extended Work-Based Learning Experiences (“WBLE”) in partnership with MUSD for youth with disabilities. University Sonoran Center staff (“University SC Staff”) will collaborate with MUSD to develop on- and off-campus WBLE opportunities, aiming to establish a sustainable program managed by the school team. Using a train-the-trainer model, University SC Staff will equip MUSD staff to coach youth throughout the WBLE. In partnership with school staff, the University SC Staff will also offer technical assistance to develop a sustainability plan, ensuring WBLE continues after the University Sonoran Center phases out its direct support.

B. SERVICES.

1. University

- a. University will network job sites on or off campus for WBLE to take place.
- b. University will train MUSD staff in best practices for job coaching, skills assessment, and development of job aids.
- c. University shall provide a school sustainability guide that will support MUSD staff in developing an MUSD WBLE model.
- d. University shall will work with MUSD staff to develop an MUSD WBLE model that can be implemented by the school team to continue after University SC Staff fade.
- e. University shall provide technical assistance after University SC Staff fade direct support.

2. MUSD

- a. MUSD will identify consistent staff who can coordinate the program and serve as the primary point of contact with University SC Staff and community partners.
- b. MUSD will provide student and staff transportation to and from any off-campus sites.
- c. MUSD will provide consistent onsite supervision and job coaching of MUSD students, including an appropriate staff-to-student ratio based on student and worksite needs.
- d. MUSD will be responsible for and provide the liability coverage for students during their WBLE participation on or off campus.
- e. MUSD will coordinate completion of any required WBLE and/or employer student paperwork and documentation.
- f. MUSD will communicate and coordinate with employers regarding MUSD student and MUSD staff expectations.
- g. MUSD will ensure students and MUSD staff follow applicable worksite safety, policies, and procedures.
- h. MUSD will be responsible for students and their actions while they are participating in WBLE during the school day.

C. MODIFICATION. Modifications to this agreement shall be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of written modification, signed and dated by authorized officials, prior to any changes being performed.

D. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This agreement in no way restricts parties from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

E. TERM. The term of this agreement starts on the date of last signature below (“Effective Date”) and will be effective through the two-year anniversary of the Effective Date.

F. TERMINATION. Either party, upon thirty (30) days’ written notice; may terminate the agreement in whole, or part, at any time before the date of expiration. The Parties understand and agree that this MOU is made contingent upon the availability of funds. In the event that the funding for the Pre-Employment Transition Services Project is reduced or terminated, this MOU will be amended or terminated accordingly.

G. CONTACTS. The contacts under this Agreement are as follows:

MUSD

Exceptional Student Services
Sarah Clem
7651 N. Oldfather Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85741
S.L.Clem@maranausd.org

University:

FOR MOU:
Office of Research Contracts
PO Box 210158B
845 N. Park Ave., Room 538
Tucson, AZ 85721-0158
sponsor@arizona.edu

FOR WBLE Program:
Sonoran Center for Excellence in
Disabilities
Loretta Alvarez
1521 E. Helen St.
Tucson, AZ 85721
lbavarez@arizona.edu

- H. FERPA COMPLIANCE.** The parties agree to abide by all applicable Federal and State laws/regulations regarding student confidentiality as applicable.
- I. COMPLIANCE WITH ARIZONA AND FEDERAL LAW.** The Parties will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and court orders in its performance of its obligations under this Agreement. The parties agree to be bound by applicable state and federal rules governing Equal Employment Opportunity, Non Discrimination and Immigration.
- J. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** This Agreement is subject to cancellation under Arizona Revised Statutes section 38-511 regarding conflict of interest on the part of individuals negotiating contracts on behalf of the State of Arizona,
- K. LIABILITY.** To the extent permitted by law, each party will be responsible for damages, costs, or liabilities arising from its own acts or omissions, and not for those arising from the acts or omissions of the other party. MUSD shall be solely responsible for the damages, costs, or liabilities arising from WBLE participating MUSD students' acts or omissions.
- L. INSURANCE.** At all times during the term of this MOU, each party shall obtain and keep in full force and effect, general and professional liability insurance, including coverage for death, bodily or personal injury, and property damage, including products liability, with limits of not less than \$3,000,000 per each occurrence and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate or maintain a program of self- insurance with coverage in sufficient amounts to cover its obligations under this MOU. In addition, MUSD shall obtain and keep in full force and effect all necessary liability insurance pertaining to the coverage of WBLE participating MUSD students during WBLE participation regardless of location, including coverage for death, bodily or personal injury, and property damage, with limits of not less than \$3,000,000 per each occurrence and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate.

[signatures on next page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have each caused this MOU to be executed and delivered by duly authorized representative as of the Effective Date.

**The Arizona Board of Regents on
Behalf of the University of Arizona**

Marana Unified School District

Name: Pamela Frazier, MPA
Title: Manager, Office of Research
Contracts & Agreements
Date: _____

Name: Dr. Daniel Streeter
Title: Superintendent

Date: 10/15/26