



*Keller ISD will **educate** students to achieve, **inspire** them to dream, and **challenge** them to grow, so that they are prepared to be productive members of the community in which they learn, live, and work.*

DATE:	December 19, 2024	
SUBJECT:	<u>APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN KELLER ISD AND HARVARD FOR THE STRATEGIC DATA PROJECT FELLOWSHIP</u>	
DEPARTMENT:	Workforce	
5 OVER 5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impactful Instruction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement for All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Responsibility & Transparency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Efficient Process & Systems <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication that Drives Clarity
FISCAL NOTE:	N/A	

Background Information:

- The Strategic Data Project (“SDP”) has partnered with school districts to bring high quality research methods and data analysis to bear on strategic management and policy decisions.
- Keller ISD applied in the Fall of 2024 to become a partner with Harvard University. It is a highly competitive process, and KISD was granted the opportunity to take part in the SDP Fellowship program.
- The SDP Fellowship program develops and trains talented data strategists who take on important data and analytic projects identified by the district. The program recruits and selects researchers and data strategists to act as an SDP Fellow. Keller ISD will interview and hire this position from the pool of Fellows associated with the University.
- Through this partnership, the district becomes part of a national network of data strategists and researchers making an impact in education reform through research and data.

Administrative Considerations:

- Keller ISD will partner with Harvard to recruit and select a Strategic Data Analyst to act as an SDP Fellow.
- Since excellence is rooted in evidence and data that informs and guides organizational decisions, this Fellow will work on the following projects:
 - Help design the Teacher Incentive Allotment program in Keller ISD which will provide an opportunity for teachers to increase their annual compensation by earning distinctions on their teaching certificates.
 - Evaluate student performance measures, in real time, to guide the District’s instructional practice which will have a direct impact on student outcomes.
 - Program evaluation to measure effectiveness- historically, the district spends money to hire outside vendors for these evaluations. This will guide District leaders in future decision making.
 - The cost of this partnership has been identified in current budgets.
- These improved data insights will enable the district to analyze our return on investment in student learning, ensuring that every dollar spent translates into measurable gains for our students.

Communication Deployment:

- Board Meeting Minutes

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The administration recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the memorandum of understanding for the Strategic Data Project Fellowship between Keller ISD and Harvard for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 academic year.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Somerhalder
Executive Director of Human Resources