



San Elizario ISD
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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Trustees
From: Mrs. Aggie Reyes, Executive Director of Child Nutrition Services
Subject: Consider and possible Board action on approval of Common Threads MOU
Date: August 13, 2025

HISTORY: Founded in 2003 by celebrity chef Art Smith and co-founder Linda Novick O’Keefe, Common Threads began with a simple but powerful idea: to use the art of cooking to teach children the value of healthy eating, cultural diversity, and community. Starting with a few cooking classes, the nonprofit quickly grew into a national organization, now serving schools and community centers in over 10 major U.S. cities.

Over the years, Common Threads has created evidence-based programs such as Small Bites, Cooking Skills & World Cuisine, and Family Cooking Classes, all designed to give children and families hands-on experience with affordable, nutritious meals. These efforts emphasize both nutrition education and cultural appreciation, helping participants see food as a tool for health and connection.

Today, Common Threads has reached over 550,000 students and 103,000 adults, serving more than 4.3 million meals and snacks nationwide. Recognized with a 4 Star Charity Navigator rating, the organization continues to expand its mission—proving that teaching children to cook doesn’t just fill stomachs, it transforms lives and communities.

RATIONALE: Partnering with Common Threads will bring hands-on cooking and nutrition education to San Elizario ISD families. In collaboration with the district’s parent liaisons, the program will offer family cooking classes, demonstrations, and nutrition information at schools throughout the district. These sessions will teach families how to prepare affordable, healthy meals while celebrating cultural traditions. By combining Common Threads’ expertise with trusted school connections, the partnership will strengthen ties between home and school. Ultimately, this initiative will support student well-being and empower families to build lasting healthy habits.

BUDGET IMPACT: No budget impact.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: The Administrative recommendation is for the board to approve the MOU as presented.

For Approval? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, please check one: ☐ Presentation ☐ Report ☐ Information

Please check if applicable: ☒ Attachment Included

The mission of the San Elizario Independent School District is to graduate students with innovative skills for 21st-century careers by focusing on academic and social skills, fostering transformative practices, and building community support through positive relationships between home and school.