



SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: May 17, 2023

Agenda Section: Consent

Agenda Item Title: Service agreement between Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) and SSAISD

From: Millicent Marcha, Chief Academic Officer

Additional Presenters if Applicable: Charlie Gallardo, Director of Guidance and Counseling

Description: Intercultural Development Research Association will implement the Visioncoders program in our three middle schools. The IDRA Visioncoders program has as its major goal the reduction of dropout rates and increasing computational thinking, math skills, and awareness of STEM-CS career pathways.

Historical Data: This will be the second year that SSAISD partners with IDRA Visioncoders. The board approved the same agreement with IDRA on August 1, 2022.

Recommendation: Approve the agreement between Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) and SSAISD.

Purchasing Director and Approval Date:

Funding Budget Code and Amount: No cost



MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING

This memo of understanding (MOU) is entered into between the **Intercultural Development Research Association** (hereinafter referred to as “IDRA”), 5815 Callaghan, Suite 101, San Antonio, Texas 78228 and **South San Antonio Independent School District** (hereinafter referred to as “South San ISD,” 1450 Gillette Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78224.

Purpose of Collaboration

IDRA received a federal Education, Innovation and Research (EIR) grant from the U.S. Department of Education to implement IDRA VisionCoders. The goal of the VisionCoders program is to reduce dropout rates and improve computational thinking, math skills, and awareness of STEM-Computer Science career pathways. There are no costs to South San ISD for participating in VisionCoders.

IDRA and South San ISD agree to collaborate in the planning and implementation of the IDRA VisionCoders program at the following South San ISD Middle Schools and their feeder elementary school campuses.

1. Dwight Middle School
2. Shepard Middle School
3. Zamora Middle School

Period of Agreement

This MOU shall commence on June 1, 2023, and terminate on June 30, 2024.

Roles and Responsibilities

IDRA agrees to:

1. Provide training and technical assistance to South San ISD, which will include:
 - Facilitation of three weeks of summer professional development from July 10-27, 2023, Monday-Thursday from 10 am – 3 pm at Texas A&M University – San Antonio;
 - Monthly virtual technical assistance check-ins from September 2023 – May 2024;
 - Ongoing monitoring of the program, observations, case studies, and faculty orientations at the sending secondary school and receiving elementary schools.
2. Provide the following program materials: online modules and lessons, teacher guides, end-of-year certificates, and other materials associated with training and technical assistance for the program and the End-of-Year Annual Software Exhibition Showcase.
3. Plan and develop the sessions for the program implementation.
4. Conduct an annual, city-wide Software Exhibition with the support of the Alamo STEM Ecosystem to stimulate student self-reflection, help students improve their communication skills, and elevate student voices as part of the program’s asset-based approaches.

5. Maintain the confidentiality of all data provided by the district for the VisionCoders' program evaluation unless IDRA has the express written permission of South San ISD.
6. Retain as consultants, and provide \$1,200 each, to up to three 8th grade teachers per campus, who will assist in refining the VisionCoders program by providing feedback and recommendations for program improvement.

South San ISD agrees to:

1. Select up to six 8th grade VisionCoders teachers.
2. Ensure South San ISD staff participation in summer and school year training and technical assistance provided by IDRA; at different phases of the VisionCoders program, meetings and sessions will include some or all the implementation team members (program administrator, principals, counselor, teacher coordinators, a representative of the receiving elementary teachers, and an evaluation liaison).
3. Secure the enrollment of 20 to 30 8th grade students per campus in the VisionCoders course and ensure all students are identified as at-risk of dropping out of school using state-defined criteria.
4. Ensure VisionCoders students participate in the Annual Software Exhibition at the end of year.
5. Ensure that receiving elementary campus visits take place according to schedule.
6. Collect data, such as program participants' status, achievement scores and grades, absences, and disciplinary action referrals for VisionCoders program evaluation and research.
7. Abide by all district, state, and federal regulations regarding child safety.
8. Ensure all participating VisionCoders students are always supervised by adults during VisionCoders program implementation.

Program Administrator

The South San ISD superintendent or the superintendent's designee agrees to serve as IDRA's district partner. In that capacity, he/she will provide the leadership and supervision necessary for the success of the program.

Program Design

Students who are in at-risk situations at the participating secondary school will serve as mentors at the selected receiving elementary schools. "Buddy campus visits" will take place for one school period per month, each month of the school year. Buddy sessions, together with a fifth-day class in the middle school, will form part of a course offered as elective credit. Throughout the school year, VisionCoders students will learn to become programmers of educational games for their Pre-K-1st grade "buddies" and will create a portfolio to showcase at the end-of-year Annual Software Exhibition (in partnership with the Alamo STEM Ecosystem).

Student Selection

By August 31, 2023, South San ISD will identify 20 to 30 8th grade students in each participating VisionCoders secondary school, according to the following pupil characteristics:

- (1) has a high propensity to drop out of school;
- (2) has been retained in grade at least once;
- (3) reads two or more years below grade level;
- (4) is not active in extra-curricular activities;
- (5) has higher absenteeism than the district average;
- (6) has higher disciplinary referrals than the district average; and/or
- (7) has no specific, set goals for a future career or post-secondary training.

Parent Involvement

Parents of the eighth-grade students will be involved in reviewing the VisionCoders program and learning about the role they can play in their child’s program. South San ISD will collaborate with IDRA to conduct a minimum of two parent meetings per year on such topics as:

- The Key Elements of the VisionCoders program; and
- Supporting Your Child’s Path to College and Career

Program Evaluation Activities

IDRA will conduct evaluation activities with participating schools during the pilot year to learn about the impact of VisionCoders to improve the program. These activities will include:

- End-of-year interviews with teachers implementing the VisionCoders course. IDRA will seek consent from the teachers prior to the interviews.
- End-of-year focus group with students participating in the VisionCoders course. Before conducting student focus groups, IDRA will distribute consent forms to students and their parents/guardians and will share a draft of the consent forms with South San ISD prior to distribution.

Throughout the pilot year, IDRA will collect course information from teachers, such as attendance records and information on the schedule of visits to “buddy” classrooms, as well as information about teachers’ participation in professional development. IDRA and its evaluator, Abt Associates, will comply with any district- or school-based requirements related to completing these program evaluation activities in schools.

Amending the Memo of Understanding

This MOA represents the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior oral and written proposals and communications. This MOU is given and accepted upon the expressed condition that it cannot, in any manner, be changed, altered, varied, or modified unless such modification, change, or alteration shall be in writing and executed by both parties. This MOU may be terminated by either party with a 30-day written notice prior to cancellation.

Intercultural Development Research Association

South San Antonio ISD

By _____
Celina Moreno, J.D.
President & CEO

By _____
Henry Yzaguirre
Superintendent

Date

Date