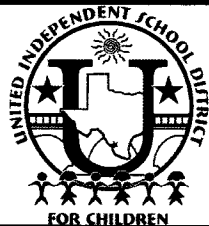


No. _____



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL ITEM

TOPIC Review of Visually Impaired Educational Program and the Sensory Integration Program

SUBMITTED BY: Mrs. Martha Moke **OF:** Director of Special Education Compliance

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: February 20, 2008

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Proposal

Visual Impaired Supplemental Certificate

Purpose/Objectives: To provide quality service to visually impaired students by UISD personnel and as a result be able to monitor the quality and quantity of service provided.

Prerequisites: Current Teacher Certification

Coursework: 24 semester hours

Cost per semester hour (including fees): \$373.17

Description: Candidates would have to take all eight courses and pass the ExCET examination in order to be certified. All courses are web based and therefore current UISD staff members would be able to complete the coursework here in Laredo. Two of the eight courses require a one-weekend visit to Texas Tech University per course for hands-on training. The candidates cannot take the ExCET for Vision Certification until they have completed ALL organized coursework except for the internship course. Candidates also need to pass a Braille ExCET.

Tuition: \$8,956.08

Travel: \$1,200.00

Books: \$800.00

Total costs per candidate: \$10,956.08

Request: Based on the number of students in the district needing services provided by a VI teacher, United ISD needs 3 VI teachers. The total cost to educate three teachers is \$32,868.24.

Funding: Since tuition and books cannot be paid from either federal or state special education funds an alternate funding source would need to be used. The district spent \$91,206.17 for contract services in 07-08. These contract services were provided by one person; consequently, the service our students received was limited. With the amount of money spent in 07-08, UISD could almost cover the salary of two VI teachers. With three teachers our students will have access to the quality and quantity of service they need. Laredo ISD now employs four VI teachers.

Proposal

To Train Staff Members for Sensory Integration Certification

Purpose/Objectives: Train an Occupational Therapist to provide assessment, interpretation, and intervention in the area of sensory needs of students, i.e. Sensory Integration. As a result of this training, the trained OT will be able to "apply sensory integration principles in multiple settings to treat various problems, including learning and behavior disorders, attention deficit, autism spectrum disorders, and developmental delays."

Prerequisites: None

Coursework: Four five-day courses starting March 2008 and ending October 2008.

Description: This training program in sensory integration (SI) is presented by the University of Southern California and Western Psychological Services. It consists of four 5-day courses. It covers sensory integration theory, assessment, interpretation, and intervention. It is based on scientific evidence and clinical reasoning. Upon completion participants will receive their Certificate in Sensory Integration. This certificate, issued by the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and Western Psychological Services, acknowledges basic competency in several areas including theoretical foundations of SI; clinical reasoning strategies for using SI in practice; identifying the contributions of SI to development; administering the SIPT and related measures, including clinical observation; interpreting assessment results; planning intervention strategies; and implementing intervention using SI strategies in various contexts.

Total Cost per candidate: \$7431.91

Tuition: \$2780.00

Travel and Meals: \$2971.41

Books and Materials: \$1680.50

Request: Train our most tenured OT this year and as needed train other OTs on staff.