



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function
Contracts/MOU Board of Education Meeting: 08/05/2025

Item Title: Memorandum of Understanding X Action
Brownsville ISD and ORC Industries, Inc. Information
Discussion

BACKGROUND:

The intent of this MOU is to establish a collaborative partnership between Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) and ORC Industries, Inc. to provide awareness of industrial manufacturing and workforce training to students with disabilities and BISD special education teachers in the areas of sewing, mechanical maintenance, and general labor. In an effort to provide BISD students with disabilities opportunities for enhancing their quality of life through employment opportunities the Special Services department is requesting approval to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BISD and ORC Industries Inc.

The mission of ORC Industries is to advance the independence, productivity and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities through employment opportunities. ORC is an affirmative action employer with at least 75 percent of their employees having a disability, ORC has risen to the challenge of creating jobs, quality, a caring community work environment, self-worth, independence and pride among its employees as a company that competes in the global marketplace.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

At no cost to the district.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval to enter an MOU with ORC Industries Inc. and Brownsville ISD to provide BISD students with disabilities opportunities for awareness of industrial manufacturing, and workforce, training. The MOU will be effective from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 and may be extended thereafter if agreed upon by both parties at no cost to the district.

Adriana Lippa *A. Lippa*
Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Recommended by: Asst. Supt./Exec. Dir.

Miguel Salinas *Miguel Salinas*

Reviewed by: Staff Attorney

Beatriz Hernandez *BAH*

Approved by: Chief Officer

Jesus H. Chavez
Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent

When Necessary, Additional Background May Follow This.

Roxanne Eckstein

From: Priscilla Lozano <plozano@808West.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 9:19 AM
To: Roxanne Eckstein; Lea Ohrstrom
Cc: Miguel Salinas; Minerva Almanza
Subject: Re: MOU ORC Industries, Inc. and BISD

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Brownsville ISD. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Approved as to form.

Sincerely,
Priscilla

From: Roxanne Eckstein <reckstein@bisd.us>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 3:49 PM
To: Kevin O'Hanlon <kohanlon@808West.com>; Lea Ohrstrom <lohrstrom@808West.com>; Priscilla Lozano <plozano@808West.com>
Cc: Miguel Salinas <miguelsalinas@bisd.us>; Minerva Almanza <malmanza1@bisd.us>
Subject: MOU ORC Industries, Inc. and BISD

Ms. Lozano,

Please see the attached for your review and approval.

Thank you! Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (956) 698-6379.

Sincerely,

Roxy Eckstein



AN EARLY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BROWNSVILLE
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Roxanne Eckstein
Paralegal
Staff Attorney Office

1900 E. Price Road, Suite 302 • Brownsville, Texas 78521
Office: (956) 698-6379 • Fax: (956) 714-6400
E-mail: reckstein@bisd.us

**Roxanne Eckstein | Paralegal to Miguel Salinas & Administrative Support | Staff Attorney |
Chief Academic Officer | Chief Operations Officer | Phone: 956.698.6379 | Fax: 956.714.6400
Brownsville Independent School District | 1900 East Price Road, Suite 302 | Brownsville, TX 78521**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) and ORC Industries, Inc.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a collaborative partnership between Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) and ORC Industries, Inc. to provide access to industrial manufacturing tools, expertise, and training with the shared goal of developing the future workforce—particularly individuals with disabilities—in the areas of sewing, mechanical maintenance, and general labor.

2. Goals and Objectives

- To create a sustainable vocational training program for BISD students with an emphasis on serving students with disabilities.
- To equip BISD educators with the tools and training needed to implement and manage a successful industrial sewing skills program. In addition to sewing, provide training for future sewing machine mechanics.
- To inspire career exploration and workforce readiness in manufacturing-related trades.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

ORC Industries, Inc. agrees to:

- Provide sewing machines, fabric, and relevant equipment necessary for BISD to operate a school-based sewing training program.
- Offer technical assistance and "train-the-trainer" sessions for BISD staff.
- Offer industry-specific guidance and potential guest instruction to enhance the curriculum.
- Serve as a potential employment partner for program graduates, particularly those with disabilities.
- Conduct tests to ensure that a potential employee fully understands the functions of the machinery and possesses the skills necessary to operate an industrial sewing machine. ORC reserves the right to consider the candidate for employment based on the results of the test.

Brownsville Independent School District agrees to:

- Identify and support students, especially those with disabilities, who may benefit from the training program.

- Provide feedback on students' progress and identify potential employment candidates.
- Candidates must submit their most recent educational evaluation, signed by an educational diagnostician.
- Designate appropriate facilities and instructional time for the program.
- Support the development of educators receiving training from ORC.
- Maintain and operate the equipment provided responsibly.

4. Term and Termination

This MOU shall become effective upon signature by both parties and will remain in effect for three (3) years unless terminated earlier by either party with thirty (30) days written notice.

5. Insurance

Each party agrees to maintain appropriate insurance coverage for its own operations and personnel. BISD will maintain liability coverage for all student activities and facilities used in connection with this program. ORC Industries will maintain liability insurance covering its personnel who provide onsite training and service during the term of this agreement.

6. Equipment Ownership

All sewing machines and equipment provided by ORC Industries to BISD under this MOU shall remain the property of ORC Industries, Inc. Such equipment is provided on loan for the duration of the program and shall be used solely for educational and training purposes as outlined in this agreement. BISD agrees to maintain the equipment in good working condition and return it to ORC upon termination of the MOU unless otherwise agreed in writing.

7. Non-Binding Agreement

This MOU does not create a legally binding contract between the parties. It is intended as a statement of mutual understanding to facilitate coordination and cooperation.

8. General Provisions

Both parties agree to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, including those related to the education and employment of individuals with disabilities. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to limit or prevent either party from participating in similar activities with other public or private entities.

For Brownsville Independent School District:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

For ORC Industries, Inc.:

Name: Timothy Rieck _____

Title: Vice President _____

Date: May 29, 2025 _____

Signature:

