

Browning Public Schools
Board Agenda Request
Meeting to Be Held: 10/12/21



-
- Recognition:** Students Staff Parents
Information: Building Report Old Business Superintendent's Report
Action: Resignation Hiring Contract Service Agreements
 Travel Out-of-State Travel In State Approvals
 Termination Legal Matters Other:
 This action request pertains to Elementary (only) High School/District Wide
-

Date: 10/6/21

To: **Browning School Board**
 Members

From: Corrina Guardipee-Hall ED.S.
 Title: Superintendent

Subject: Agreement With Browning Public Schools and Office of the Commissioner of Higher Ed (METS) Program

Description: Attached is the Agreement between the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education's Montana Educational Talent Search (METS) Program and the Browning Public School District through the term of the current METS Grant, September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2026.

Financial Impact: N/A

Funding Source (Budget/grant, etc.): N/A

Attachment(s): flyer for the event

Approval: Superintendent's Office/Finance/Personnel as applicable (Initial) _____

Comments: _____

Board Action: N/A (Info) Approved Denied Tabled to: _____

AGREEMENT
Between
The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education Montana Educational Talent Search
(METS) Program and
Browning Public School District
September 1, 2021

This Agreement is entered into between the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education's Montana Educational Talent Search (METS) program and the Browning Public School District (BPS). This Agreement sets forth the terms of the partnership between METS, a TRIO program, and the School District for the implementation of METS in the School District.

WHEREAS, the METS Program seeks to provide academic, college, career, and financial counseling to encourage participants to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete a postsecondary education;

WHEREAS, the School District is committed to fully support and assist in the development, implementation, and evaluation of all aspects of METS in order to achieve the Program's goals, objectives, and mission in said School District;

WHEREAS, METS field agents known as Pre-College Advisors are available to school districts which meet the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) minimum qualification of at least two thirds of the participants served in the school district's proposed Talent Search Program project will be low-income individuals and who are potential first generation college students; and

WHEREAS, the METS Pre-College Advisor advises, counsels, and encourages middle school and high school participants to complete high school and prepare for opportunities in postsecondary education.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises set forth herein, the Parties agree as follows:

Section 1. Term. This Agreement will be in effect from September 1, 2021 through the term of the current METS grant (August 31, 2026). The Pre-College Advisor for the school academic year will ensure provision of the agreed upon services to eligible METS participants.

Section 2. Services and Obligations of METS to School and Students. The METS program agrees to fulfill its program objectives for the school district and provide the following services to METS eligible participants:

- METS Director shall inform Superintendent and Human Resource Director of METS program personnel changes that affect the school district
- Hire METS Pre-College Advisors who meet hiring eligibility requirements, which includes conducting a federal background check
- Ensure selected Pre-College Advisors hired to serve students in BPS are aware of BPS hiring policies and BPS requirements for outside agencies to meet with students in schools.
- Provide connections to tutoring services.

- Advice and assistance in secondary course selection and, if applicable, initial postsecondary course selection.
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance examinations and completing college admission applications.
- Provide financial literacy information at grade appropriate levels, with an emphasis on FAFSA completion in senior year of high school.
- Guidance on and assistance in secondary school reentry, alternative education programs for secondary school diploma, entry into HiSET, or post-secondary education
- Connections to education or counseling of financial literacy or economic literacy services designed to participants or the participants' guardians, including financial planning for postsecondary education.
- Program services to Talent Search 7-11 grade participants, including educational field trips, career exploration, college exploration, counseling, financial aid information, parental services, tutoring, test taking, and study skills.
- With focus on secondary school graduation, assist high school juniors and seniors with college prep, campus tours, college applications, and monthly counseling.
- Support secondary school graduation that meets rigorous core criteria.
- Track and support student persistence throughout postsecondary career to encourage postsecondary degree attainment.
- Provide a current roster of official program to designated school counseling personnel at the beginning of each semester. These same individuals will be notified if any student is placed on probation or dropped from the program, or if any METS participants transfer in from another school or target area.
- Regularly scheduled visits and contact with students as outlined in the program curriculum.
- Copies of all pertinent correspondence to parents and students will be provided to the indicated school personnel as requested or as needed.
- Support participants in participation of Montana University System's college access events.
- Communicate activities with BPS GEAR UP team to ensure no duplication of services.

Section 3. Obligations of Montana School District. Browning Public School District has the following obligations to METS:

- Require the METS Pre-College Advisor prior to the start-date of serving students in BPS to complete additional district requirements, including a tribal background check, urinalysis, and TB testing.
- Provide Pre-College Advisor with student schedules at the beginning of each semester.
- Browning Middle School and Browning High School will provide access to enrolled program students.
- Provide an office/and or meeting space for individual and group sessions with students.
- Provide, with appropriate parental release authorization, copies of quarterly grade reports, annual transcripts, and weekly eligibility status reports, if applicable.
- Provide Pre-College Advisor with school district email
- Provide Pre-College Advisor opportunities to present program information to middle school personnel and high school personnel to ensure purpose and goals of the program are known within the school district.

- Invite Pre-College Advisor to join the district GEAR UP team if applicable.
- Provide timely notification to the METS Director of any issue or problem regarding implementation of METS services and program performance in meeting the state obligations.

Section 4. Intellectual Property. All patent and other legal rights in or to inventions created in whole or in part under this contract must be available to OCHE for royalty-free and nonexclusive licensing. Both parties shall have a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use and authorize others to use, copyrightable property created under this Agreement.

Section 5. Termination of Agreement. OCHE, as lead agency, reserves the right to rescind this Agreement with the School District if, in its discretion, it determines there has been a failure to implement this Agreement with a full-faith effort and as outlined in supporting documents such as the implementation plan or fiscal reports. Similarly, the School District may withdraw from the METS program. Thirty days written notice is required for termination.

MONTANA COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

_____	_____
Brock Tessman, Deputy Commissioner of ARSA	Date
_____	_____
Jeananne Origbo, Director of Educational Talent Search	Date
_____	_____
Ali Bovingdon, Chief Legal Counsel, OCHE	Date

BROWNING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

_____	_____
Corrina Guardipee-Hall, Superintendent	Date