



# Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function  
Contracts/MOU Board of Education Meeting: 09/02/25

Item Title: Oliver Foundation and Brownsville  
Independent School District MOU X Action  
Information  
Discussion

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Oliver Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to the prevention of childhood obesity. It provides grants to schools and organizations across Texas to support initiatives that promote healthy eating habits and physical activity among children. The foundation's framework encourages schools to foster healthier food choices and increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables, often incorporating school gardens as interactive, hands-on learning tools.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend approval of the MOU between BISD and the Oliver Foundation to support the One District, One Community, One Seed vegetable gardening initiative. Participating schools are Breeden, Brite, Burns, Canales, Champion, Garza at Southmost, Gonzalez, Hudson, Keller, Ortiz, Paredes, Pullam, Putegnat, Russell, Sharp, Vermillion, Villa Nueva, and Yturria Elementary Schools. The term of this MOU shall be made effective August 11, 2025 through May 28, 2026 and includes a grant award of up to \$5,000 to be used for the purchase of supplies to implement and maintain school vegetable gardens.

Micaela Escobar

Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

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

Miguel Salinas

Reviewed by: Staff Attorney

Dr Linda Gallegos

Beatriz Hernandez

Approved by: Chief Officers

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent

When Necessary, Additional Background May Follow This.



## **Oliver Foundation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

**Date: July 25, 2025**

**Grantee: Brownsville ISD**

**Grant Reference #07202508**

**Grant Period: 8/11/25 – 5/28/26**

**Grant Amount \$5000**

**Date of Application: June 4, 2025**

**Contact Person: Micaela Escobar**

### **PURPOSE**

Grant funds will be used solely for the program **One District, One Community, One Seed.**

### **BUDGET EXPENDITURES**

Grant funds shall be used only as indicated in the line items of the approved budget. Grantee must obtain advance written approval from the Foundation for disbursements deviating from the approved budget.

**Per grant requirements, the grantee understands that funds are not to be used for any of the following:**

- Contributions to capital campaigns
- Organizations that practice discrimination by race, color, creed, sex, age or national origin
- Operating deficits or retirement of debt
- Endowment programs
- Construction projects or real estate acquisitions
- Political projects of any kind
- Vehicles, such as vans or buses
- Emergency medical services equipment
- Personnel salaries

## **PAYMENT**

Funding will be made available within thirty (30) days upon receipt of your signed acceptance of this Memorandum of Understanding,

### **Please provide the appropriate information**

<b>Name:</b> Micaela Escobar		
<b>Check made payable to:</b> Brownsville Independent School District		
<b>Mailing Address:</b> 1900 East Price Road		
<b>City:</b> Brownsville	<b>State:</b> Texas	<b>Zip</b> 78521

### **Oliver Foundation Participation to include:**

- Grantee agrees to acknowledge the Oliver Foundation on Grantee's website, including logo and link to the website.
- Grantee agrees to allow the Oliver Foundation to post Grantee's name on Oliver Foundation website, including photos, news releases and grant programs.
- Photo opportunity with Grantee to award grant from the Foundation.
- Grantee agrees to participate in press releases, photo opportunities and to provide digital photos of the program in progress.
- As an operating foundation, foundation staff will be onsite to review and assist a minimum of three times on the progress of the grant.
- Permission to share lesson plans developed by grantee on the Foundation website.
- Foundation may provide educational resources, which the foundation has developed.

## **PROGRAM EVALUATION AND REPORTING**

### **Mid Term Report**

A copy of the program, **One District, One Community, One Seed.**

plan for sustainability, narrative report and statement of expenses will be provided to the Foundation within thirty (30) days of the end of the first semester or date otherwise agreed upon. Photos and videos to be included.

### **Final Report**

A copy of the program, **One District, One Community, One Seed.**

a copy of the final budget and plan for sustainability will be provided to the Foundation, within thirty (30) days of completion of the program. Photos and videos, as required, to be included.

Any unexpended funds remaining at the end of the grant period must be immediately returned to the Foundation unless an extension of the grant period has been approved in writing by the Foundation. Funds may not be transferred to any other grant.


If this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) correctly sets forth your understanding of the terms of this grant, please indicate your organization's agreement to such terms by signing this document, e-mailing it to Sandy Bristow, and mailing the original for our files. Processing of your payment will continue upon receipt of your acceptance.

Sandy Bristow, Program Director  
The Oliver Foundation  
5535 Memorial Dr., Suite F, #256  
Houston, TX 77007

Cell: 713-202-2973  
E-Mail: [sjbristow@oliverfoundation.org](mailto:sjbristow@oliverfoundation.org)

### GRANTEE'S ACCEPTANCE

We acknowledge that we have received, reviewed, and retained a copy of this Memorandum of Understanding dated July 25, 2025 regarding #07202508 We agree to all of the terms and conditions set forth herein and we will comply with them.

Grantee Organization: Brownsville Independent School District
Authorized Signature:
Printed Name: Dr. Jesus H. Chavez
Title: Superintendent of Schools
Date:
Oliver Representative: 
Title: Executive Director
Date: 7-29-2025

## Micaela Escobar

---

**From:** SANDY BRISTOW <bristow929@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 26, 2025 6:53 AM  
**To:** Micaela Escobar  
**Subject:** Oliver Grant  
**Attachments:** MOU July 2025 Brownsville ISD.docx

**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.

Micaela,

Congratulations! Your grant, One District, Once Community, One Seed, has been selected for funding. Please complete, sign and return the attached MOU to me.

Once we received your signed MOU, we will send your check.

Sandy

Sandy Bristow  
Program Director  
Oliver Foundation  
5535 Memorial Dr. Ste F, #256  
Houston, Texas 77007  
Cell 713-202-2973  
sjbristow@oliverfoundation.org  
www.oliverfoundation.org

# Copy of Grant Application

**Specify the grant you are applying:**

LEVEL 2 - Campus 2 year Campus Grant \$5000

**If you are applying for a \$1000 Individual Teacher Grant please specify the Grade Level:**

n/a

**If you are applying for a \$2000 Campus Grade Level Grant please specify the Grade Level[s]:**

n/a

**Program Start Date:**

08/11/2025

**Program End Date:**

05/28/2026

**Applicant's Position**

Director for Records Management and Recycling (Sustainability)

**Name**

Micaela Escobar

**Email**

[micaela@bisd.us](mailto:micaela@bisd.us)

**Phone**

+19566982159

**Cell Phone**

9564591173

**Grant Facilitator Position**

Director for Records Management and Recycling (Sustainability)

**Facilitator's Name**

**Facilitator's Email**

Micaela Escobar

[micaela@bisd.us](mailto:micaela@bisd.us)

**Facilitator's Phone**

+19566982159

**Facilitator's Cell Phone**

9564591173

**Type of Campus**

Elementary

**School Name**

Several Elementary Schools

**School Address**

1900 East Price Road (Main Office)

**City**

Brownsville

**State**

Texas

**Zipcode**

78521

**Phone**

+19565488000

**Website**

<http://www.bisd.us>

**School District**

Brownsville Independent School District

**Principal's Name**

Several Principals

**Email**

[micaela@bisd.us](mailto:micaela@bisd.us)

**Phone**

+19566982159

**Is your organization an IRS 501 (c) (3)?**

No

**Tax Exempt ID:**

74-6000418

**UIL Rating:**

**Multiple Choice**

Small (1A, 2A 3A)

Urban

**Type of Campus:**

Elementary

**Campus Enrollment:**

37854 (district total )

**African American(%):**

.1

**Hispanic(%):**

98.3

**White(%):**

1.3

**Native American(%):**

0

**Asian Pacific Islander(%):**

.2

**Economically Disadvantaged(%):**

89.1

**Program Name:**

One District, One Community, One Seed

**Number of Students:**

540 (minimum)

**Please describe the program, projected outcomes and plans for sustainability that you anticipate being able to achieve with this grant.**

The One District, One Community, One Seed district initiative provides a unified approach to promoting healthy living, environmental awareness, and student engagement through vegetable gardening. During the 2025–2026 school year, eighteen elementary schools will offer hands-on learning through outdoor gardening and physical activities. Students will participate in planting, tending, and harvesting vegetables while gaining valuable knowledge about where food comes from, why healthy eating matters, how physical activity supports wellness, and the importance of environmental responsibility. Teachers will implement the Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! curriculum to guide these lessons.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Increased student understanding of nutrition and healthy habits
- More physical activity through outdoor garden work
- Enhanced academic engagement in science, health, math, language arts, art, and more
- Greater awareness of sustainability from a young age



To ensure long-term success and ensure sustainability, the gardening initiative is being integrated into the school curriculum (science, health, math, language arts, etc.). Schools have also established student garden clubs and actively encourage family and community volunteers to help maintain the gardens. Furthermore, BISD is working with Texas A&M AgriLife (Cameron County) to receive expert guidance and support.

**Program Equipment & Supplies(\$):**

5000

**Meeting/Event Costs(\$):**

0

**Incentives & Awards(\$):**

0

**Printing and Copying(\$):**

0

**Other(\$):**

0

**Total Amount to Support Projects(\$):**

5000

**Please provide an itemized list of your equipment, supplies, incentives, awards, meeting/event costs, printing/copying and other expenses. A detailed narrative is required.**

This grant application is to request funding for supplies to support vegetable gardening at eighteen elementary schools. This opportunity will ensure all eighteen schools are equipped to fully participate in the One District, One Community, One Seed initiative and deliver consistent, hands-on garden-based learning experiences to their students.

**Details:**

- Twelve schools already have existing garden beds. For these campuses, the grant will be used to purchase essential materials such as topsoil, compost, and seeds.
- The remaining six schools are new to the program. For these campuses, the grant will provide the necessary supplies to build one new garden bed per school, including wood, screws, topsoil, compost, and seeds.