

UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COUNCIL
FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (CEE) INSTITUTIONS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION
COLLEGE PREP MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
COURSES

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into as of the 12th day of August 2024 (the "Effective Date") between the United Independent School District ("ISD"), a Texas independent school district located at 201 Lindenwood Dr. Laredo, TX, 78045 and Laredo College and Texas A&M International University (herein referred to as LC and TAMIU).

WHEREAS The State of Texas mandated via House Bill 5, Section 10 and Section 28.014 of the Texas Education Code that each school district shall partner with at least one institution of higher education to develop and provide courses in College Preparatory Mathematics and English Language Arts;

WHEREAS the parties have agreed to enter into a collaborative agreement where students who are deemed to not be college ready per House Bill 5, Section 10 and Section 28.014(a) of the Texas Education Code may enroll in a College Preparatory course;

WHEREAS, United Independent School district, LC, and TAMIU jointly recognized an opportunity to create seamless pathways for students to enter into college level work in Mathematics and English Language Arts without further remediation;

WHEREAS, per House Bill 5, Section 10 and Section 28.014(b) of the Texas Education Code, College Preparatory course must be provided on the campus of the high school offering the course, or through distance learning or an online course provided by LC or TAMIU;

WHEREAS, per House Bill 5, Section 10 and Section 28.014(c) of the Texas Education Code, the appropriate faculty of each United Independent School District high school offering College Preparatory courses and appropriate faculty from LC and TAMIU shall meet regularly as necessary to ensure that each course is aligned with college readiness expectations.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the conditions contained in this MOU, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, United ISD, LC, and TAMIU, intending to be legally bound, agree as follows:

1. Scope of Services. United ISD, LC, and TAMIU agree to collaborate to develop and maintain College Preparatory Mathematics and English Language Arts courses that meet the terms of this agreement as outlined below in the Support and Services section of this MOU. United ISD, LC, and TAMIU will meet regularly to maintain the integrity and evaluate the program's effectiveness.

2. Term. The initial term of this MOU shall begin on August 12, 2024, and continue for a period of one (1) year. Thereafter, LC and TAMIU may renew this MOU for a one (1) year term by delivering written notice to United ISD. The initial term and any renewal term(s) are collectively referred to in this MOU as "Term." Either party may terminate this MOU, without cause, upon at least thirty (30) calendar days prior written notice to the other party, with termination effective upon the expiration of the thirty (30) days or as mutually agreed to by the parties.

3. Support and Services. United ISD, LC, and TAMIU agree to the following conditions:

A. LC and TAMIU agree to the following for both the Mathematics and English Language Arts courses:

- i. To share data and provide feedback regarding student success on applicable entry-level college courses for students who completed College Preparatory courses;
- ii. To recognize and honor course(s) on school district transcripts for up to two years after high school graduation;
- iii. To ensure that students are advised directly into eligible college level coursework;
- iv. Pursuant to Section 28.014(t) of the Texas Education Code, a College Preparatory course may be offered for dual credit at the discretion of LC and TAMIU.

B. LC and TAMIU agree to the following for the College Preparatory Mathematics course:

- i. To provide the Student Learning Outcomes that are based on the Academic Course Guide Manual.
- ii. To provide the syllabi for the courses being offered;
- iii. To create an end-of-course assessment for the Mathematics Preparatory Course in partnership with United ISD to maintain the course's rigor. This assessment will account for 25% of the final average;
- iv. To collaborate and provide professional development required to teach the Mathematics courses;
- v. To provide administrative support for TSIA 2 testing as needed.

C. LC and TAMIU agree to the following for the College Preparatory English Language Arts course:

- i. To create an end-of-course assessment for the English Language Arts Preparatory course in partnership with United ISD to maintain the courses' rigor. This assessment will account for 25% of the final average.
- ii. To provide the Student Learning Outcomes that are based on the Academic Course Guide Manual;

- iii. To provide evaluative criteria and tools for student work;
- iv. To provide the syllabi for courses being offered;
- v. To collaborate and provide professional development required to teach the English Language Arts courses;
- vi. To provide administrative support for TSIA2 testing as needed.

D. United ISD agrees to the following for both the Mathematics and English Language Arts courses:

- i. To provide highly qualified instructors for the courses being taught (Math and ELA Secondary Certification);
- ii. To identify students who are eligible for the College Preparatory course at the end of the 11th grade as stated in HB 5, Section 10 and Section 28.014 of the Texas Education Code
- iii. To collaborate and provide professional development required to teach the Mathematics and English Language Arts courses;
- iv. To identify successful completion of the course(s) on the student transcripts as determined by the State of Texas PEIMS number for English Language Arts and Mathematics (CPI 10100, CPI 11200, respectively);
- v. To provide syllabi for the courses that are consistent with LC and TAMIU Student Learning Outcomes;
- vi. To provide rigorous instructional lessons aligned to the personalized needs of the students and college readiness outcomes, and to implement the model with fidelity;
- vii. To deny students enrolled in these course exemptions from final exams in the College Preparatory courses;
- viii. To administer the LC and TAMIU agreed upon final exam worth 25% as per discipline and award credit upon agreed criteria;
- ix. Pursuant to Section 28.014(d) of the Texas Education Code, United ISD shall provide notice to each district student that is not deemed college-ready and the student's parent or guardian regarding the benefits of enrolling in a College Preparatory course;
- x. Pursuant to Section 28.014(g) of the Texas Education Code, United ISD, in consultation with LC and TAMIU, shall develop or purchase instructional materials for a College Preparatory course consistent with Chapter 31 of the Texas Education Code. The instructional materials must include technology resources that enhance the effectiveness of the course and draw on established best practices;

xi. Pursuant to Section 28.014(e) of the Texas Education Code, a student who successfully completes a College Preparatory English Language Arts may use the credit earned in the course toward satisfying the advanced English Language Arts curriculum requirement for the foundation high school program under Section 28.025(b-1)(2) of the Texas Education Code;

xii. Pursuant to Section 28.014(e) of the Texas Education Code, a student who successfully completes a College Preparatory Mathematics course may use the credit earned in the course toward satisfying an advanced Mathematics curriculum requirement under Section 28.025 of the Texas Education Code after completion of the Mathematics curriculum requirements for the foundation high school program under Section 28.025(b-1)(2) of the Texas Education Code.

Students will be supported by school district personnel trained by the IHE's to help guide students to demonstrate agreed-upon learning outcomes. The Parties agree to use any curriculum prepared in conjunction with the IHE's deemed appropriate by the district.

E. United ISD agrees to the following for the college preparatory Mathematics course:

- i. To award high school course credit if a student's grade is at least 70% in the course.
- ii. To administer the Texas Success Initiative Mathematics Assessment 2.0 (TSIA2) if the final course grade falls below 70%

F. United ISD agrees to the following for the college preparatory English language arts course:

- i. To award high school course credit if a student's grade is at least 70% in the course.
- ii. To administer the Texas Success Initiative English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) Assessment 2.0 (TSIA2) if the course grade falls below 70%

G. LC and TAMIU agree to place students in entry college-level Math courses if the student enrolls at LC or TAMIU within two years of their high school graduation date **and** meets any of the following conditions (See also Appendix A):

- i. The college preparatory Math course grade is 70 % or higher.

H. LC and TAMIU agree to place students in ENGL 1301 if the student enrolls at LC or TAMIU within two years of their high school graduation date **and** meets any of the following conditions (See also Appendix A):

- i. The college preparatory English Language Arts course grade is 70 % or higher

- I. Individual High Schools or School Districts may be approached by LC and TAMIU with the option of using alternative course designs for the College Preparatory sequence. This will be done with the intent of innovating and ultimately making improvements to the common course design.

4. Non-Compliance. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, if any party does not comply with any part of this MOU, and the failure to comply is not corrected within ninety (90) calendar days after written notice or by the end of the College Preparatory course for that academic term, whichever is shorter, this MOU may be terminated immediately by the non-defaulting party upon written notice.
5. Liability. Neither United ISD or its trustees, officers, employees or agents shall have any liability or responsibility for any claim or cause or action of any person or group arising from (a) the use of district property and/or equipment by LC or TAMIU and LC or TAMIU officers, volunteers, employees, contractors, agents, invitees, licensees, participants, and visitors, or (b) noncompliance with this MOU by LC or TAMIU and LC or TAMIU officers, volunteers, employees, contractors, agents, invitees, licensees, participants, and visitors, or (c) any act, omission, or negligence of LC or TAMIU, or any of its officers, agents, employees, contractors, invitees, licensees, volunteers, participants or visitors.

Except as may otherwise be provided herein, United ISD makes no express or implied warranties of any kind. To the fullest extent permissible under applicable law, ISD disclaims all warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, warranties of performance, merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, accuracy, omissions, completeness, and delays. Except as expressly provided herein or as required by law, under no circumstances shall United ISD be liable for exemplary, special punitive, consequential or incidental damages, including, without limitation, lost profits, business revenue, or goodwill due to any cause whatsoever, even if United ISD has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

6. Indemnification and Hold Harmless. United ISD shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the State of Texas, its officers, and employees, and LC/TAMIU, and their officers and employees, from and against all claims, actions, suits, demands, proceedings, costs, damages, and liabilities, including without limitation attorney's fees and court costs, to the extent arising out of, connected with, or resulting from any negligent acts or omissions of ISO or any agent, employee, subcontractor, or supplier of ISD in the execution of performance of this MOU. ISD shall coordinate its defense with the Texas attorney general as requested by LC and TAMIU.

This paragraph is not intended to and shall not be construed to require ISD to indemnify or hold harmless the state, LC, or TAMIU for any claims or liabilities resulting from the negligent acts or omissions of LC, TAMIU, or their employees.

7. Notice. All notices or other communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing, and shall be personally delivered or sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt

request, courier delivery, electronic mail, facsimile or receipted overnight mail, and shall be deemed received upon the earlier of (a) the date of delivery, if personally delivered, or (b) three business days after the date of posting by the U.S. postal service, if mailed or (c) if facsimile or email upon the date of the receipt all such notices or communications shall be addressed as follows:

If to UNITED ISD:

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| Name: Ms. Rebecca C. Morales |
| Position: Assistant Superintendent Administration and Policies |
| Physical Address: 201 Lindenwood Dr. Laredo, TX 78045 |
| Phone: 956-473-6465 |
| Email address: rmorales@uisd.net |

If to LC and TAMIU:

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| LC Designee |
| Name: Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina |
| Position: Provost/Vice-President of Academic Affairs |
| Physical Address: 1 West End Washington St. Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Phone: (956) 721-5820 |
| Email address: marisela.rodriguez@laredo.edu |

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| TAMIU Designee |
| Name: Dr. Claudia San Miguel |
| Position: Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs |
| Physical Address: 5201 University Boulevard Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Phone: (956) 326-2240 |
| Email address: csanmiguel@tamiu.edu |

Either party may change such address for notice for the party designated to receive such notice by giving advance written notice to the other party as provided in this paragraph.

8. Relationship to Parties. It is understood and agreed that LC and TAMIU are separate legal entities from United ISD and LC and TAMIU are not employees, agents, joint ventures, or partners of United ISD. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted or construed as creating or establishing the relationship of employer and employee between United ISO and either the LC and TAMIU or any employees or agents of LC and TAMIU.
9. No Waiver of United ISD, LC, or TAMIU Immunity. The execution of this MOU and the performance by United ISD, LC, TAMIU, or of any of its obligations hereunder are not, and are not intended to waive or relinquish, and United ISD, LC, or TAMIU shall not waive or relinquish, any governmental, sovereign immunity or defense from or to liability or prosecution available to United ISD, LC, TAMIU, its trustees, officers, employees, or agents under federal or Texas laws.
10. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this MOU shall be deemed or construed to create any third party beneficiaries or otherwise give any third party any claim or right of action against any party to this MOU.
11. Governing Law and Venue. This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to its conflicts of laws provisions. The mandatory and exclusive venue for the adjudication or resolution of any dispute arising out of this Agreement shall be in Webb County, Texas.
12. Entire Agreement. This MOU and the attached and incorporated addendum or exhibits, if any, contain the entire agreement of the parties relative to the purpose(s) of the MOU and supersede any other representations, agreements, arrangements, negotiations, or understanding, oral or written, between the parties to this MOU.
13. Severability In the event that any one or more of the provisions contained in this MOU shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions, and the MOU shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained in it.
14. Interpretation. The parties agree that the normal rules of construction that require that any ambiguities in this MOU are to be construed against the drafter shall not be employed in the interpretation of this MOU.
15. Changes and Amendments. This MOU may be amended, modified, and/or supplemented only by the mutual agreement of the parties, in writing, to be attached to and incorporated in this MOU.
16. Assignment. Neither this MOU nor any rights, duties, or obligations under it shall be assignable by LC and TAMIU without the prior written acknowledgment and authorization of United ISD. Any attempted assignment by LC and TAMIU without United ISD's prior written consent shall be void.
17. No Waiver. No failure on the part of either party at any time to require the performance by the other party of any term hereof shall be taken or held to be a waiver of such term or in any way affect such party's right to enforce such term, and no waiver on the part of either party of any term hereof shall be taken or held to be a waiver of

any other term hereof or the breach thereof. No waiver, alteration, or modification of any of the provisions of this MOU shall be binding unless in writing and signed by duly authorized representatives of the parties hereto.

18. Captions. The captions herein are for convenience and identification purposes only, are not an integral part hereof and are not to be considered in the interpretation of any part hereof.
19. Counterparts. This MOU may be executed in separate counterparts. Each of which when so executed shall be an original, but all of such counterparts shall together constitute but one and the same instrument.

Executed this 12th Day of August 2024

UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rebecca C. Morales, Assistant Superintendent

LAREDO COLLEGE

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Dr. Claudia San Miguel, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

It is the policy of the Independent School Districts and the institutions of Higher Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its education programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

APPENDIX A
LC and TAMIU HB5 College Level Course
Placement Guide

To be considered for placement into ENGL 1301, a student must

- Enroll at LC or TAMIU within 2 years or 24 months from their date of graduation
- Agree to enroll in ENGL 1301 within their first year of enrollment
- Earned a final grade of 70 or higher in the college preparatory English Language Arts course

To be considered for placement into an entry college-level Math course, a student must:

- Enroll at LC or TAMIU within 2 years or 24 months from their date of graduation
- Agree to enroll in a college-level Math course within their first year of enrollment.
- Earned a final grade of 70 or higher in the college preparatory Math course

In summary, upon successful completion of a college prep course, a student will be awarded a TSI exemption for two years for the issued date in the content area from the partnering Institution(s) of Higher Education (IHE(s)) (Tex. Educ. Code § 28.014; Tex. Educ. Code § 51.338(e)). A student will be reported in PEIMS as successfully completing a college prep course if they have met the TSI exemption requirements agreed upon by the LEA and IHE(s) as set forth in this MOU.

¹ Students enrolling at LC and TAMIU may also be placed in entry level HIST, PSYC and GOVT courses including any other courses that have a pre-requisite of college readiness in Reading and Writing. For more information, consult an LC/TAMIU advisor.

² Entry College-level Math courses at LC and TAMIU include the following: MATH 1314, MATH 1316, 1324, 1332 and 1342.