



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL ITEM

**TOPIC:** Cooperative Program Agreement between UISD and UT Austin Office of Strategy and Policy  
OnRamps Program

---

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mario Rosales, Director of Advanced Academics

---

**OF:** Curriculum & Instruction Department

---

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** June 22, 2016

---

## INFORMATIONAL REPORT:

The University of Texas at Austin, on behalf of the Office of Strategy and Policy, and the United Independent School District enter into this agreement to co-develop and implement OnRamps, a cooperative program of dual-enrollment courses and high school teacher training and professional learning. The program allows high school students to earn high school credit from their District and the opportunity to earn college credits from The University of Texas at Austin ("Project"). The funds collected from the Texas Education Agency to the Office of Strategy and Policy will cover all district costs of the Project services and materials. The Project will be overseen by Dr. Julie Schell of the University.

A comprehensive summary describing the OnRamps program, its goals, objectives and elements is contained in Exhibit A to the Agreement.

## **COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AGREEMENT**

This Cooperative Program Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the Contracting Parties shown below.

### **1. Contracting Parties:**

The School District:

United Independent School District

201 Lindenwood Drive

Laredo, TX 78045

(956) 473-6201

The University:

The University of Texas at Austin ("University" or "UT Austin") on behalf of the

Office of Strategy and Policy

OnRamps Program ("OnRamps")

405 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street

Austin, TX 78705

Attention: Jennifer Saenz

512-475-7877

### **2. Nature of the Cooperative Program**

The University of Texas at Austin, on behalf of the Office of Strategy and Policy, and the Independent School District enter into this agreement to co-develop and implement OnRamps, a cooperative program of dual-enrollment courses and high school teacher training and professional learning. The program allows high school students to earn high school credit from their District and the opportunity to earn college credits from The University of Texas at Austin ("Project"). The funds collected from the Texas Education Agency to the Office of Strategy and Policy will cover all district costs of the Project services and materials. The Project will be overseen by Dr. Julie Schell of the University. A comprehensive summary describing the OnRamps program, its goals, objectives and elements is contained in Exhibit A to this Agreement.

### **3. Agreement Amount**

The amount paid by the District during each contract year to the University will be equal to the costs per student and teacher training needed by the District as set forth in Section 4.2F. hereof. (The 84<sup>th</sup> legislature provided a state appropriation that reimburses all partnering districts 100% of the cost per student and teacher training fees for participating in OnRamps. Districts are responsible for lodging, transportation, and substitute costs during professional development.)

#### **4. Program Responsibilities**

Responsibilities to implement the OnRamps initiative will be shared between the District and UT Austin.

##### **4.1. Responsibilities of UT Austin**

UT Austin will:

- A. Develop and define college-level course materials and curriculum that provide
  - 1) Yearlong, in-depth college readiness experiences for all students, regardless if they earn credit from the University;
  - 2) Clear and transparent expectations for postsecondary success in Texas;
  - 3) An authentic entry point to university-level learning experiences that expose students to postsecondary versus high school performance expectations; and
  - 4) Opportunity for students to take responsibility for their own learning.
- B. Provide access to the Canvas Learning Management System ("LMS") for every OnRamps student and teacher.
- C. Maintain servers operated by or hosted on UT Austin's web-based Canvas LMS.
- D. Provide technology support. UT Austin will make its curriculum available to participating teachers through Canvas LMS. UT Austin will provide online and phone-based technical support for OnRamps teachers utilizing the curriculum when that support is not provided through Canvas LMS.
- E. Register high school students for OnRamps courses through University Extension at UT Austin. In order to officially enroll in OnRamps dual-enrollment courses, students must acquire an official, permanent UT EID via the university web site. Once a UT EID has been acquired, students must complete the required registration and enrollment form that will be available during the registration process for high school courses. This process will occur no later than the beginning of the fall semester in which the course is offered.
- F. As part of routine educational procedures at the University, OnRamps will maintain OnRamps student registration, enrollment, orientation and course and course evaluation data for purposes of administering, implementing, and improving the program, and providing feedback to the District (see 4.1.M below).

- G. Deliver instructional materials. All course-related materials will be available from the course website, the Canvas LMS, and/or the UT Austin OnRamps course staff unless otherwise specified.
- H. Administer the OnRamps program. Students enroll in a year-long course taught by their high school teacher for high school credit. Throughout the year, the high school teacher uses OnRamps curriculum, pedagogy, and online learning tools developed by UT Austin to teach the high school course. During the spring semester, students may be eligible to enroll in an undergraduate course for college credit.
- 1) Fall semester: A student must complete a series of required assignments and summative assessments that are designed, designated, and evaluated by the UT Austin OnRamps course staff and UT Instructor of Record. A student must earn a passing grade determined by the Instructor of Record on the required assignments to be eligible to be dual enrolled in the UT undergraduate course during the spring semester. A student who does not meet this eligibility requirement may appeal in writing to the OnRamps program if the student already meets Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements for that course, to be eligible for dual credit or based on criteria determined by the UT Austin Instructor of Record. Other appeal processes are determined by individual Instructors of Record.
  - 2) Spring semester: A student must complete a series of additional required assignments that are designed, designated, and evaluated by the UT Austin OnRamps course staff and UT Instructor of Record to determine successful completion of the college course. The Instructor of Record will award the student the appropriate grade based on the student's performance. (Grades for the high school and college courses may differ, as the assignments that determine each grade may differ.)
- I. Award UT Austin credit. All OnRamps courses are Texas Core Curriculum courses at UT Austin. This means courses are guaranteed to transfer to any state public higher education institution in Texas. A student who is eligible for, and successfully completes, the spring semester undergraduate course will have her/his course grade recorded in the Office of the Registrar at UT Austin. A student may request an official copy of her/his transcript from the Registrar at the end of the Spring term. Students may not request electronic transcripts. Each student is advised to check with her/his planned collegiate program, even if she/he plans to attend UT Austin, before registering for an OnRamps course, to determine exact course applicability.
- J. Support documentation of course credit. OnRamps will assist students with the process of securing documentation of their participation in OnRamps as well as non-enrollment letters if they do not enroll in the spring undergraduate course.
- K. Deliver professional learning to participating District teachers assigned to teach the OnRamps course in the District.
- 1) A summer professional learning institute for participating District teachers will be held at UT Austin. Each course offered through the OnRamps Program will have an associated summer professional learning institute. The participating District teacher assigned to the course must complete

the summer professional learning institute at least once, in its entirety, before teaching their first OnRamps course through the District. If the teacher continues to offer the course in subsequent years, she/he will be **required** to attend the returning teacher track at the institute. UT Austin will be responsible for the following at the summer institute:

- i) Scheduling the necessary facilities to conduct the institute;
  - ii) Facilitating lodging, parking, and food for the participants;
  - iii) Conducting the summer institute; and
  - iv) Crediting participating District teachers with professional development hours.
- 2) Academic year professional development workshops: One-day professional development workshops for participating, both new and returning, District teachers will be held at UT Austin during the fall and spring semesters. District teachers will be **required** to attend the one-day workshop during each semester in which the teacher delivers an OnRamps course, regardless of whether the course will be offered in the subsequent year.
- L. Provide a Course Coordinator. UT Austin will hire and assign a qualified course coordinator for each course. Approved by the Sponsoring UT Department (e.g. Computer Science, Mathematics, etc), the coordinator will serve as an instructional coach and content expert.

The Course Coordinator will:

- 1) Conduct or Co-conduct the summer professional learning workshops;
  - 2) Assist the District in implementing the course by providing the necessary training before and during implementation;
  - 3) Provide on-going, one-on-one feedback and guidance to support quality implementation; and
  - 4) Deliver and maintain the course for students in the District, including distribution of lectures, homework assignments, quizzes, projects and exams to participating teachers and provision of ongoing support in implementing the curriculum.
- M. Provide feedback regarding course implementation to teachers, school, and District administration. To ensure OnRamps is implemented and facilitated with quality and fidelity, OnRamps staff will provide updates at the end of the fall and spring semesters and, as needed, throughout the year regarding the status of OnRamps implementation, based on communication with the OnRamps high school instructor and classroom observations.
- 1) OnRamps staff will alert school and district administration of any serious concerns regarding the District or school implementation of the course pertaining to quality and fidelity of implementation. If, after multiple opportunities, the school or District implementation of OnRamps is deemed unsatisfactory, UT Austin reserves the right to deny the opportunity to offer the OnRamps course in the future.

- 2) OnRamps staff will alert school and District administration of any concerns regarding the high school instructor's ongoing ability or willingness to implement the course with quality and fidelity.
  - 3) A UT Austin OnRamps high school instructor deemed by UT Austin to be unsatisfactorily implementing the course will be given opportunities to bring implementation of the course into alignment with expectations set out by the University through coaching and support of the Course Coordinator, through OnRamps professional development, and ongoing communication. If, however, the high school instructor's implementation of OnRamps continues to be unsatisfactory, OnRamps will notify the District, the District will use its best efforts to identify an alternate instructor, and the District will work with UT Austin to continue the course through an alternate instructor. OnRamps reserves the right to deny any teacher the opportunity to offer the course in the future.
- O. Appoint OnRamps Instructors as UT Austin Affiliates. As a Texas OnRamps Affiliate, OnRamps Instructors receive ID cards, university e-mail addresses, library access, Wi-Fi-access on campus, the opportunity to purchase gym passes, and other benefits. While appointed by the University, OnRamps Instructors receive the designation "treat like an employee."

#### 4.2. Responsibilities of the District

The District will:

- A. Implement one or more OnRamps courses.

The District must:

- 1) Complete the Implementation Plan in Appendix B to provide detailed information to ensure effective implementation.
- 2) Follow OnRamps recommendations for effective implementation:
  - i. OnRamps courses do not replace AP curriculum or prepare students for AP exams. Unless otherwise stated, OnRamps courses and AP courses should be taught as separate sections with separate instructors. In the case of RHE 306 and RHE 309, see subsection A.2.iii.1.
  - ii. Based on the rigor of the course for students and the substantial training required for teacher participation, OnRamps strongly requests a weighting of 1.0 for the high school version of the course. Not weighting OnRamps courses the same as AP courses may be detrimental to students' college applicant processes.
  - iii. In the case of Reading and Writing the Rhetoric of American Identity: The Department of Rhetoric and Writing specifically:
    - (1) Prohibits the OnRamps course from being offered as an AP English course.
    - (2) Requires a cap of 25 students per section with a limit of two (2) sections per teacher

B. Recruit, hire, and compensate an instructor with appropriate qualifications to teach the OnRamps class.

- 1) **Minimum requirements for new teachers include:**
  - i) **Bachelor's degree** in the discipline or a related field;
  - ii) **One (1) or more** years of teaching experience in the relevant course or a higher-level course (e.g. calculus for pre-calculus);
  - iii) **Completed teacher application;**
  - iv) **Successful completion of required tasks before the start of the summer institute.** Tasks will be determined and shared by the faculty lead or course coordinator in advance of the summer institute. Teachers who do not complete the required pre-institute tasks may not be eligible to attend the institute. If District teachers do not complete pre-institute tasks before the start of the required summer institute, the decision to admit or deny such admission will be determined by the UT Austin faculty lead in his or her sole discretion; and
  - v) **Successful completion of the summer professional learning institute.** New OnRamps instructors are required to participate in the entire summer institute. In the event of an emergency, of which OnRamps staff and the teacher's principal are notified, a teacher may make arrangements to make up as much as 20% of the institute and still be eligible to offer the OnRamps course. Instructors who miss more than 20% of the institute, regardless of their reason, will be on probationary status and their approval to serve as an OnRamps Instructor will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. See Section D (4) below for additional information. Returning OnRamps instructors are expected to participate in the required summer institute dates.
- 2) Minimum requirements for returning teachers include:
  - i) Successful implementation of OnRamps course during the previous academic year according to the requirements specified under subsection D below;
  - ii) Completion of required tasks before the start of the summer institute; and
  - iii) Attendance at and completion of all required professional development sessions.

C. Ensure OnRamps high school instructors and students have the necessary resources to implement the program with fidelity, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) Access to the Canvas LMS. Participating schools will work with the OnRamps support team to ensure that the schools and students can fully access the OnRamps curriculum that is managed in the web-based Canvas LMS;
- 2) Access to computer and Internet, as specified by UT Austin, to the students. (See Exhibit C for detailed technology requirements.) The

District must ensure that students in the OnRamps course have daily, scheduled access to lectures and computers that meet the specifications defined by OnRamps. This includes regular in-class and out-of-class, one-to-one (1:1) access to computers and the Internet to view materials and complete and submit assignments, quizzes, tests and exams;

- 3) Calculators;
- 4) Audio/Visual projection and/or whiteboard; and
- 5) Copy/scanning services to duplicate some course materials and distribute to students throughout the OnRamps course and upload assignments.
- 6) For Earth, Wind, and Fire: An Introduction to Geoscience only, please see Exhibit D for required laboratory equipment.

D. Ensure that OnRamps high school instructors implement the program with fidelity including the following:

- 1) Administer pre-identified OnRamps-required assignments and assessments without alteration;
- 2) Have students register for UT EID and enroll in OnRamps registration system; No student may enroll in an OnRamps course six weeks after the start of the school year.
- 3) Use Canvas LMS to assign and grade student work as specified by OnRamps course staff;
- 4) Participate in professional learning, including the summer institute, one-day workshops, and on-going opportunities during each semester in which they deliver the OnRamps course. To facilitate teacher participation in the one-day workshops, the District agrees to pay the cost of substitute teachers for the days the teacher will be in attendance at the workshops; and
- 5) Maintain regular communication via email, phone, video web conferencing, etc. with OnRamps course coordinator and other staff regarding success and challenges of implementation, responding in a timely manner to requests for information, including turning in any requested documentation to evaluate student progress or success by specified deadlines.

E. Ensure students enrolled in an OnRamps program meet the following minimum academic requirements:

- 1) Only students with adequate academic preparation, having completed the necessary prerequisite coursework, will be allowed to enroll in an OnRamps course. The District will be responsible for verifying that students wishing to enroll have met the minimum prerequisites as follows:
  - i) Project Engage: Thriving in Our Digital World:
    - credit for Algebra I (Credit or concurrent enrollment in Algebra II is preferred); and
    - recommendation of a Computer Science teacher
  - ii) Research and Writing and Rhetoric of American Identity:



District annual program fees for each student enrolled in an OnRamps course for the 2016-2017 academic year will be reimbursed in line with the 84<sup>th</sup> legislature appropriation (HB 1, Article III, 59). During the 2016-2017 school year the fee of \$295 per student enrolled in an OnRamps course will be reimbursable.

- (ii) For districts that implemented an OnRamps course during 2014-2015 school year are grandfathered into the cost of the OnRamps course materials, technical support and course implementation support, excluding the summer institute and academic year workshops, outlined in this Agreement to the District, and will be defined on a per-student basis. The District will be responsible for paying annual program fees for each student enrolled in an OnRamps course. During the 2016-2017 school year, the District will be reimbursed for a fee of \$200 per student enrolled in an OnRamps course according to the 84<sup>th</sup> legislature appropriation (HB 1, Article III, 59).
- 2) Districts will be sent an invoice that itemizes the annual OnRamps program fee for each student enrolled. The invoice will highlight a program credit for those fees. There will be no exchange of money between UT Austin and the District. Texas Education Agency will directly reimburse UT Austin for the annual per student cost in line with the 84<sup>th</sup> legislature appropriation (HB 1, Article III, 59).
- 3) Timing of payment: The OnRamps annual fee is assessed at the beginning of the fall semester for the academic year.
- 4) Within the first six weeks of the course implementation students can decide to drop out of the OnRamps program. This means that the student is no longer enrolled in the OnRamps program, even for the opportunity to earn high school credit, and is placed in a non-OnRamps course. The OnRamps team will run a census report at the end of the first six weeks and invoice the district based on enrollment at that time. Refunds will not be given at the end of the fall semester if a student is not eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit in the spring semester. The program fee covers access to course materials and technology tools, and credit eligibility evaluation, which occur during the fall semester. Additionally, the student who is not eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit may continue to be enrolled in the OnRamps course during the spring semester for the opportunity to earn high school credit. During the spring semester, the course will continue to use the university's materials and technology tools.
- 5) Cost of Professional Learning
  - i) The cost of the OnRamps summer institute and academic year workshops to the District will be defined on a per-teacher basis. Professional development costs are evaluated and adjusted annually. The District annual professional learning fees for each participating teacher for the 2016-2017 academic year will be reimbursed in line with the 84<sup>th</sup> legislature appropriation (HB 1,

Article III, 59). During the 2016-2017 school year, (the District will be reimbursed for fees per teacher as follows:)

(1) \$1750 for new teachers, and;

(2) \$750 for returning teachers.

- ii) Districts will be sent an invoice that itemizes the annual professional learning fees for each participating teacher. The invoice will highlight a program credit for those fees. There will be no exchange of money between UT Austin and the District. Texas Education Agency will directly reimburse UT Austin for annual professional learning fees in line with the 84<sup>th</sup> legislature appropriation (HB 1, Article III, 59).
- iii) The District is responsible for paying for and/or reimbursing all transportation and lodging expenses, to and from Austin, for all days of required professional learning institutes held at the University.
- iv) OnRamps strongly recommends the District provide a daily stipend to teachers participating in required professional learning institute days on campus at the University.

## 5. Data Sharing and University Duties

- A. OnRamps requires a range of data for effective program implementation, including ensuring pre-requisites of students are met, invoicing, and following UT Austin early alert procedures to provide student success support and interventions.
- B. To the extent the District allows data sharing, the District will provide the following to UT Austin for all participating students. OnRamps will provide the District with a computer file listing the students' name, instructor name, course title, and OnRamps student ID (UT EID) in the fall of implementing year and again in late spring. The District will return the file in CSV or Excel format providing the following fields for each OnRamps student:
  - 1) Race/ethnicity;
  - 2) Gender;
  - 3) Free- or reduced-price lunch status;
  - 4) Zip code;
  - 5) First generation college student (if available);
  - 6) Aggregate attendance records;
  - 7) OnRamps course attendance records;
  - 8) Student transcript/Course History;
  - 9) Report card grades for all reporting periods;
  - 10) Class rank;
  - 11) Special program information (ELL, Special ED, Dyslecia, etc.);

- 12) Beginning- and end-of-year cumulative GPA;
  - 13) High school graduation completion;
  - 14) Credit hours completed;
  - 15) STAAR and End-of-Course exam scores;
  - 16) TSI- met or not met;
  - 17) ACT/SAT Scores;
  - 18) Prior dual-credit enrollment (if available);
  - 19) Prior dual-credit grades (if available);
  - 20) AP enrollment: number and detail; and
  - 21) AP grades by course.
- C. To the extent the District allows data collection, , UT Austin's OnRamps program may obtain additional data and/or feedback about student and teacher experiences with the program for the purpose of understanding outcomes and program improvement.
- D. For legitimate educational interests, OnRamps will facilitate the exchange of information among institutions, OnRamps Instructors, OnRamps course staff, and district contacts pertaining to: 1) students' progress toward the opportunity to earn college credit ; 2) to facilitate early intervention to support student success and; 3) whether the college credit is earned; 4) to facilitate accurate recordkeeping; 5) and for use in UT Austin outreach and recruitment. If the District obtains access to University records or record systems protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the District agrees to strictly adhere to the provisions of FERPA and its implementing regulations designated in Section 6 hereof.

## **6. Confidentiality Provision**

Both parties to this Agreement are required by law to adhere to the confidentiality of student information according to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and the implementing regulations found in 34 CFR Part 99. FERPA is specifically referenced in the Texas Public Information Act as an exception to records that are subject to disclosure to the public (Texas Govt. code 552.001 et seq.). While in possession of FERPA records and data, only persons authorized to access the student data of the OnRamps Initiative will be granted access as required by FERPA. All persons authorized to have access to student data understand that under FERPA they can be held individually liable for any and all applicable criminal and civil penalties imposed for breach of confidentiality.

## **7. Agreement to Hold Harmless**

To the extent authorized by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, each party will save and hold harmless the other party and its officers and employees from all claims, demands, causes of action, and judgments for taxes, license fees, excises, fines, and penalties; for supplies, services, or merchandise purchased by the other party; for wages and fringe benefits of the other party's employees; and for injury or death of any person or damage to property that results directly or indirectly from the negligent acts or omissions of the other party or its officers, agents, employees or students in the performance of this Agreement.

## **8. Term of the Agreement**

This Agreement has been approved by Executive Vice Chancellor, Pedro Reyes. This Agreement is effective as of the date fully executed by both parties (Effective Date), and it covers a period of one (1) academic year, beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017. All parties must sign this Agreement. This Agreement may be renewed, contingent upon resources being available to the OnRamps Program, by a writing signed by both parties. The District agrees that all amounts owed to the University pursuant to Section 4.2 (F) will be paid upon notice of termination.

## **9. Ownership of Intellectual Property**

The University shall own all Intellectual Property Rights in or relating to the Project. Intellectual Property Rights means any rights or titles to inventions, discoveries, concepts, methods, processes, data, trade secrets, branding, trademarks, copyrights, computer programs and related documentation, works of authorship fixed in a medium of expression, or mask works, whether or not patentable, copyrightable, eligible for registration as a trademark, or subject to mask work rights or other similar statutory rights, as well as applications for any such rights.

## **10. Independent Contractor**

For all purposes, including but not limited to the federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations, each party hereto, including its officers, agents and employees, shall be at all times an independent contractor relative to the other party. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to make or render either way, including any of its officers, agents or employees, an agent, servant or employee of, or a joint venture of or with the other.

## **11. Breach of Contract Claims**

To the extent that Chapter 2260, Texas Government Code, is applicable to this Agreement and is not preempted by other applicable law, the dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 and the related rules adopted by the Texas Attorney General pursuant to Chapter 2260, will be used to attempt to resolve any claim for

breach of contract that cannot be resolved in the ordinary course of business. The parties specifically agree that (i) neither the execution of this Agreement by University nor any other conduct, action, or inaction of any representative of University relating to this Agreement, constitutes, or is intended to constitute, a waiver of University's or the state's sovereign immunity to suit; and (ii) University has not waived its right to seek redress in the courts.

## **12. Termination**

In the event of a material failure by a Contracting Party to perform its duties and obligations in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, the other party may terminate this Agreement upon thirty (30) days' advance written notice of termination setting forth the nature of the material failure; provided that, the material failure is through no fault of the terminating party. The termination will not be effective if the material failure is fully cured prior to the end of the 30-day period.

The University may terminate this Agreement without cause upon thirty (30) days' advance written notice of termination to the District and will refund to the District any portion of the annual contribution that has not been expended towards fulfillment of the purposes of the Agreement

## **13. Venue; Governing Law**

Webb County, Texas, will be the proper place of venue for suit on or in respect of the Agreement. The Agreement and all of the rights and obligations of the parties hereto, and all of the terms and conditions hereof will be construed, interpreted, and applied in accordance with, and governed by, and enforced under the laws of the State of Texas.

## **14. Indemnification**

To the extent provided by the Texas, Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas, the District will indemnify and hold harmless the University and its officers and employees from all claims, demands, causes of action, and judgments for taxes, license fees, excises, fines, and penalties; for supplies, services, or merchandise purchased by the District; for wages and fringe benefits of the District's students and employees; and for injury or death of any person or damage to property that results directly or indirectly from the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of the District or its officers, agents, or employees in the performance of this Agreement.

The representative of the District, in signing this Agreement, warrants that he or she signs as a properly authorized representative of the District and does not assume any personal liability for meeting the terms of this Agreement.

AGREED and ACCEPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

United Independent School District

The University of Texas at Austin

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Roberto J. Santos

Name: Linda Shaunessy

Title: Superintendent

Title: Business Contracts Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Exhibit A**

### **Cooperative Program Summary**

#### **Section 1. Program Objective**

The principal purpose of the Agreement is to implement one or more UT Austin OnRamps courses.

#### **Section 2. Program Description**

OnRamps is a pioneering dual-enrollment program coordinated by The University of Texas at Austin. Combining pedagogy, curriculum, and technology, OnRamps provides a University of Texas at Austin quality experience for high school and community college students throughout the state of Texas. OnRamps courses feature face-to-face classroom instruction coupled with online materials and activities that support learning in and outside of the classroom. Each OnRamps course aligns with an existing equivalent course at The University of Texas at Austin, using innovative pedagogies that train students for higher-order cognitive activities, such as problem-solving and application that post-secondary success requires. OnRamps also prepares teachers from across the state of Texas to facilitate UT-designed learning experiences in their classrooms that are designed to accelerate students' success. Teachers are paired with staff at the University for one-to-one support.

#### **Section 3. OnRamps Courses**

Each OnRamps course satisfies part of the core curriculum requirements of The University of Texas at Austin. The OnRamps' courses are:

- 1) Project Engage: Thriving in Our Digital World (Computer Science), UT Austin course equivalent: CS 302 Computer Fluency;
- 2) Research and Writing (ELA), Texas Common Course Number (TCCN): English 1301, UT Austin course equivalent: Research and Writing 306K;
- 3) Reading and Writing the Rhetoric of American Identity (ELA), Texas Common Course Number (TCCN): English 1302, UT Austin course equivalent: Rhetoric 309K Topics in Writing;
- 4) Discovery PreCalculus: A Creative and Connected Approach (PreCalculus), TCCN: Mathematics 2312, UT Austin course equivalent: M 305G Preparation for Calculus;
- 5) Statistics, TCCN: Mathematics 1342, UT Austin course equivalent: SDS 302 Data Analysis for the Health Sciences;
- 6) Earth, Wind, and Fire: An Introduction to Geoscience, (GEO) UT Austin course equivalent: GEO 302E, Earth, Wind, and Fire; and

- 7) Physics: Mechanics, Heat, and Sound (Phys), Texas Common Course Number (TCCN): Phys 1301, UT Austin course equivalent: Physics 302K General Physics.

#### Section 4. Program objectives and goals

##### Program Objectives

- **Expand Access:** To provide an authentic entry point to college expectations and extend the reach of the University to students, parents, teachers, districts and the State of Texas at a dramatically reduced cost.
- **Engage Students with Innovative Pedagogy:** To provide the opportunity for students to experience student-centered, innovative, evidence-based pedagogies designed to develop active learners who take responsibility for their own academic success.
- **Diffuse University-Level Curriculum:** To deliver university-level content and assessments designed to expose students to postsecondary versus high school expectations, to help students transfer their knowledge across contexts, and to pique their interest in key subject areas important to Texas and the nation.
- **Cultivate Digital Teaching and Learning:** To provide opportunities for students and teachers to use learning tools that develop 21<sup>st</sup> century digital literacies required for college success, including using data to monitor progress and regulate learning.
- **Professional Learning:** To train the next generation of Texas secondary teachers to accelerate postsecondary student success through innovative pedagogy, curriculum, and technology-based learning.

##### Program Goals

- 1) Deliver scalable courses and course materials designed to increase the number and diversity of high school and community-college students who experience college-level coursework that is:
  - a) High quality;
  - b) Rigorous;
  - c) Engaging;
  - d) Motivating; and
  - e) Aligned with the expectations of a leading research university.
- 2) Deliver courses and course materials designed to enhance all OnRamps students' content knowledge, and cross-disciplinary knowledge and skill, by incorporating best-in-class learning technologies and advances in the learning sciences.
- 3) Deliver a model of professional development for OnRamps teachers that can be scaled and replicated and that supports teacher implementation of OnRamps courses and course materials with fidelity.



- 4) Collaborate with a variety of institutions, organizations, government agencies, corporations and individuals to facilitate wide-scale implementation and delivery of OnRamps courses and course materials in a variety of educational settings across the state of Texas.
- 5) Facilitate educator innovation through flexible design of coursework and curriculum that provides opportunities for further authoring and development of OnRamps course materials and learning assets.
- 6) Continuously enhance all existing OnRamps offerings for long-term sustainability of the initiative.

## **Section 5. Program Elements**

- 1) Yearlong dual-enrollment courses for high school and/or community college students to increase the number and diversity of students who experience college-level work aligned with expectations of a leading research university.
  - a) Students are officially enrolled in the college course in the spring semester after eligibility is determined based on student work from the fall semester. Credit is awarded by The University of Texas at Austin, University Extension, or affiliated college in the spring semester;
  - b) Courses can be offered as letter grade or pass/fail per student option;
  - c) Courses align with the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards and/or Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, and the expectations of leading research universities;
  - e) Courses are delivered in the Canvas LMS and related technical support;
  - f) Courses feature student-centered, evidence-based pedagogies that require students to take responsibility for their own learning; and
  - g) Course implementation is directed by the OnRamps team at UT Austin.
- 2) One UT Austin Faculty Lead per course
  - a) In collaboration with the Course Coordinator(s), the Faculty Lead advises the OnRamps team as needed and contributes to curriculum delivery, development, and enhancements, and the delivery of professional development for OnRamps teachers. The Faculty Lead also collaborates with the Course Coordinator(s) and OnRamps executive leadership to implement programmatic policies and procedures.
  - b) One UT Austin Course Coordinator per course in collaboration with the Faculty Lead. The Course Coordinator contributes to curriculum enhancements, creates and delivers professional development, and leads yearlong implementation support to participating OnRamps teachers. The Course Coordinator also designs, executes, and manages the grading process for the District credit, in close collaboration with the Course Instructor of Record (if they are not the same person), including grading student work to ensure alignment with college-level expectations.

- c) The Course Coordinator works in collaboration with the Faculty Lead to implement programmatic policies and procedures on the advice of OnRamps executive leadership.
- d) One course Instructor of Record approved by OnRamps and UT Austin to evaluate college-level work and award college credit; this may be the Faculty Lead, Course Coordinator, or another instructor approved by OnRamps and the University to award undergraduate credit. The Instructor of Record is responsible for working with the Course Coordinator (if they are not the same person) to ensure student work qualifies for the awarding of college credit.
- e) A two-week residential summer professional development institute (with CPE credit offered) for OnRamps teachers held on the UT Austin campus, including:
  - i. Course-specific sessions: Training in course-specific content, pedagogy, and technology are organized and delivered by the Faculty Lead and/or Course Coordinator
  - ii. General sessions: Additional hours of training on implementation best practices, college readiness and success, and pedagogy
- f) Two one-day professional development workshops (with CPE credit offered) for OnRamps teachers held on the UT Austin campus (one workshop per semester).
  - i. Course-specific sessions: Training in course-specific content, pedagogy, and technology are organized and delivered by the Faculty Lead and/or Course Coordinator
  - ii. General sessions: Additional hours of training on implementation of best practices, college readiness and success, and pedagogy.
  - iii. Yearlong professional development activities coordinated by the UT Austin Professional Development Coordinator, Faculty Lead and the Course Coordinators for OnRamps teachers.
  - iv. A professional learning community. A community network of teachers qualified to teach dual-enrollment, blended courses aligned with the expectations of leading research universities facilitated by the Faculty Lead, Course Coordinators, Instructor of Record and OnRamps staff.
  - v. A program of evaluation to facilitate continuous improvement of Onramps at the programmatic level, including external evaluators.
  - vi. A core team of OnRamps staff that provides expertise in the following areas:
    - a. Communications and Marketing;
    - b. Course Development and Enhancement;
    - c. Dual-Enrollment Management and Compliance;
    - d. Executive Leadership;
    - e. Partnerships and outreach

- f. Product Management;
- g. Professional Learning;
- h. Research and Evaluation;
- i. Technology Integration;
- j. Texas Education Policy Advising; and
- k. Vendor Management.

**Exhibit B: Implementation Plan**

District: United ISD

Superintendent: Mr. Roberto J. Santos

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Contact	Title	Phone	Email
Mario Rosales	Director of Advanced Academics	956-473-5247	mrosales@uisd.net
Christina Uribe-Flores	Director of Guidance & Counseling	956-473-5248	curibeflores@uisd.net
Christina Casanova	Director of Student Assessment	956-473-2020	ccasanova@uisd.net
Laida Benavides	Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance	956-473-6222	lbenavides@uisd.net

**CAMPUS INFORMATION:**

Campus	Course Offering(s)	# of Sections	Teacher	
J.B. Alexander H.S. 3600 E. Del Mar Blvd Laredo, Texas 78041 956-473-5800	CS		Mrs. Elvira Gaona, Magnet Dean egaona@uisd.net 956-473-5865	
	ELA			
	Geoscience			
	PreCalculus	1		1
	Statistics			
	Physics			
L.B. Johnson H.S. 5626 Cielito Lindo Laredo, Texas 78046 956-473-5100 Armando Salazar,	CS		Mr. Jose E. Iznaola, Assistant Principal jiznaola@uisd.net 956-473-5343	
	ELA			
	Geoscience			
	PreCalculus	1		1 (Blanca Lopez)
	Statistics			
	Physics			
United H.S. 2811 United Ave Laredo, Texas 78045 956-473-5600 Alberto Aleman, Jr.	CS		Mr. Gilbert Moreno, Assistant Principal gmoren82@uisd.net 956-473-5605	
	ELA			
	Geoscience			
	PreCalculus	1		1 (Maria Teresa Lopez)
	Statistics			
	Physics			

**CAMPUS INFORMATION:**

Campus	Course Offering(s)	# of Semesters		
United South H.S. 4001 Ave. Los Presidentes Laredo, Texas 78046 956-473-5400	CS		Sinneh J. Koroma, Jr. Magnet Dean skoroma@uisd.net 956-473-5441	
	ELA			
	Geoscience			
	PreCalculus	1		1 (Christina Dovalina Arrellano)
	Statistics			
	Physics			

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:**

OnRamps courses feature an on-line curriculum delivered through a Canvas Learning Management System (LMS). Please work with your IT department to help you identify from your current inventory the best workstations for your students and select the following that apply:

1:1 laptops or IPADS <input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Lab <input type="checkbox"/>	Computers on Wheels
Classroom set of computers <input type="checkbox"/>	Most, if not all, students have access to technology <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Chromebooks

## Exhibit C

### Onramps Technical Requirements

#### Hardware

Students must have one-to-one access to an internet-connected computer or tablet\* during out-of-class time in order to complete assignments. This access can be on campus, such as a lab or in the library, or off campus. OnRamps will provide a checklist to ensure compatibility.

\*The OnRamps Statistics course requires use of a web browser on a desktop or laptop operating system to access R-Studio (free statistical analysis software). See below for a list of compatible browsers. R-Studio is incompatible with tablet and phone device browsers.

\*The OnRamps Computer Science course, Project Engage: Thriving in Our Digital World, requires use of Scratch and Processing (free programming environments), which also requires desktop or laptop operating systems. It is incompatible with tablet and phone device browsers.

Since the courses contain audio/video components, devices should have audio capabilities or the option to be connected to speakers or headphones.

#### Browsers

One of the following browsers is required to access the Canvas learning management system and tools associated with the OnRamps courses.

- 1) Internet Explorer 10 or 11
- 2) Chrome 36 or 37
- 3) Safari 6 or 7
- 4) Firefox 31 or 32 (Extended Releases are not supported)
- 5) Flash 14 and 15 (for recording or viewing audio/video and uploading files)
- 6) Respondus Lockdown Browser (supporting the latest system requirements)

\*See above for exceptions regarding mobile versus desktop browsers.

#### Software and Email Addresses

OnRamps courses are built in the learning management system ("LMS") Canvas LMS. Canvas LMS must be used as the LMS for this course. All course resources, materials, and tools are housed in the Canvas LMS, including the grade book.

Students must have an email address to register for an account in Canvas LMS. Students should use their formal school email address to register in Canvas LMS. Personal email accounts should only be used if the school/district does not provide students with email addresses.

## **Plugins**

- 1) Flash Player 10, 11, or 12 is required for audio/video recording and file uploading within Canvas LMS.
- 2) The Java plugin is required to use the screen sharing functionality within Canvas LMS Conferences.

## **Internet Access**

A high-speed Internet connection is required. School networks must be configured to allow access to the following domains:

- [utexas.edu](http://utexas.edu)
- [instructure.com](http://instructure.com)
- [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) (teacher access required)
- [vimeo.com](http://vimeo.com) (student and teacher access required)
- [amazonaws.com](http://amazonaws.com)
- [www.learningcatalytics.com](http://www.learningcatalytics.com)

## **Onramps Course-Specific Technical Requirements**

### **Project Engage: Thriving in Our Digital World**

Requires access to:

Scratch.mat.edu –operates in the browser

Processing.org –needs to be downloaded and installed

### **Reading and Writing the Rhetoric of American Identity**

No requirements in addition to the general requirements.

## **Discovery PreCalculus: A Creative and Connected Approach**

Quest Homework Service (free) is available through Canvas.

### **Statistics**

RStudio (free statistical software) is available through Canvas LMS, but is incompatible with tablets.

## **Earth, Wind, and Fire: An Introduction to Geoscience**

No requirements in addition to the general requirements.

### **Physics**

No requirements in addition to the general requirements.



**Exhibit D**

**OnRamps Earth, Wind, and Fire: An Introduction to Geoscience  
Laboratory Equipment and Materials for 2016-2017 academic year**

OnRamps Earth, Wind, and Fire: An Introduction to Geoscience will require laboratory equipment and materials to be available to students.