

Memorandum of Understanding

Between
Western Heights Public Schools
And
The Denton Independent School District

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a *collaborative partnership* between Western Heights Public Schools and the Denton Independent School District.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this partnership is to broaden the impact of the exemplary longitudinal data system developed by Western Heights Public Schools, the lead applicant in a U.S. Department of Education, *Investing in Innovation Fund (i3)* grant proposal, to other districts that have reached a stage of readiness for expanding and enhancing their own data systems to a level that meets high standards and results in improved instruction and positive student outcomes. By the end of a five-year period of funding, the Denton Independent School District, with the guidance of Western Heights Public Schools and other mentoring partners, will have made significant strides toward meeting the 10 Essential Elements for Longitudinal Data Systems in Schools, established by the Data Quality Campaign.

Accordingly, Western Heights Public Schools and the Denton Independent School District, operating under this MOU, agree as follows:

II. SCOPE

This collaboration will leverage i3 resources to move each partner's existing data system toward a documented level of innovation in accordance with the standards established by the Data Quality Campaign's 10 Essential Elements of Longitudinal Data Systems in Schools. Western Heights Public Schools and the Denton Independent School District work collaboratively to:

- Establish a protocol for sharing data and document the progress of its development;
- Support the documentation and evaluation of the overall processes involved in carrying out the tasks of the innovation;
- Develop a cross-boundary communication framework that provides for the articulation of student academic progress between diverse service providers and stakeholders located in differing districts and states; and
- Sustain open lines of communication, cooperation, coordination, and collaboration with Western Heights, its technical assistance coordinators, and other partnering districts and organizations engaged in the i3 partnership.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

Each partner organization will identify a contact person from their staff to coordinate and carry out the activities listed in this MOU. The initial appointees of each organization are:

Joe Kitchens
Superintendent
Western Heights Public Schools
8401 Southwest 44th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73179

Dr. Ray Braswell
Superintendent
Denton Independent School District
1307 North Locust Street
Denton, TX 76201

The organizations agree to the following tasks for this MOU:

Western Heights will, if funded:

- Provide resources to an external evaluation team to document improvements in student, teacher, and management performance outcomes;
- Work with the partnering organization to ascertain an equitable distribution of i3 resources in support of the partner's efforts to move their longitudinal data system to the proposed level of quality innovation;
- Provide professional development and technical assistance with the partnering district's IT and administrative staff members;
- Coordinate and provide professional development to the partnering organization's support staff, teachers, and principals to support the data system enhancement;
- Provide an i3 Data Coordinator to support implementation of consortium goals; and
- Provide professional development services that are focused on using data to inform instructional decision-making and classroom management.

Denton Independent School District will:

- Work with project evaluators to document improvements in student, teacher, and management outcomes following implementation of the i3 program;
- Cooperate with the i3 Evaluation Team to document activities of the initiative, including participating in surveys, interviews, and site visits by project evaluators;
- Participate in an inventory of partner organizations' current data systems to identify data elements captured, procedures for entering data, and reports generated by individual partner systems;
- Work collaboratively with technical consultants to identify gaps between their current capacity and targeted levels established for their individual data system;
- Work collaboratively to establish an effective education exchange protocol between organizations and states regarding the communication of student academic success;
- Work in collaboration with Western Heights to identify an i3 Data Coordinator to be based in the partner organization's community; and
- Provide office space for the i3 Data Coordinator assigned to the partner's area.

IV. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

The term of this MOU is for a period 5 years effective upon notification of a grant award by the U.S. Department of Education and continuing throughout the funding cycle. It is an expectation that in the last two years of the grant, the partners will move toward sustainability with transitional support from the i3 partnership.

On behalf of the organization I represent, I wish to sign this MOU and contribute to its further development.

Western Heights Public Schools

Joe Kitchens, Superintendent Date

Denton Independent School District

Ray Braswell, Superintendent Date