

MOU Denton ISD and Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star

June 13, 2017

SUMMARY:

- This item requests approval of a Memorandum of Understanding that serves as an agreement between Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star (referred to as BBBS) and the Denton Independent School District (referred to as Denton ISD). BBBS will continue to combine efforts with Denton ISD in order to serve and to support at-risk youth more effectively, to help them stay in school and to progress positively from grade level to grade level. With the collaboration and support of Denton ISD, BBBS will provide (in addition to our standard Community Based program) School Based Mentoring programs to Denton ISD elementary, middle and high school students as school priorities are identified and volunteer participation permits.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

- Consideration of similar MOU with Big Brothers Big Sister.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- This agreement will be valid for a period of three years, allowing for an annual review as necessary.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

At the center of all of Big Brothers Big Sisters' mentoring programs are one-to-one relationships. In the traditional program, each mentor (a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister") spends time with his/her mentee (a "Little Brother" or "Little Sister") each week—at least twice each month. BBBS has developed an array of program options to best engage volunteer mentors and the students who need them.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- N/A

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

- Provides DISD students with the "classic" mentoring model, where the volunteer Big goes to the child's home and takes the child into the community (to libraries, sporting or cultural events, the mall, the park, etc.) in order to spend time together. In this program, the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) joins the match relationship—participating in the enrollment interview and monthly match support contacts.

- Most volunteers serve as a Community-Based "Big" individually, however our "Big Couple" and "Big Family" expand the experience by involving the volunteer's spouse/partner and/or own children as active participants in the match. Big Couples and Big Families typically are matched with Little Brothers ages 11 and younger.

-Within each of these mentoring programs, each student and mentor has a professional staff member (called a Match Support Specialist) that performs three functions:

- Supervision of the match relationship, including providing activities and ongoing training for the mentors.
- Proactive resource linkage to address the student's/family's needs.
- Function as a liaison between BBBS and school staff at their assigned school locations.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

-See Denton ISD "Roles and Responsibility" section in MOU.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

- None

ALTERNATIVES:

- No alternative actions are proposed ...

OTHER COMMENTS:

- N/A

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: The superintendent recommends the approval of this MOU between Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star and the Denton ISD.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Dr. Jamie Wilson, Superintendent
- Dr. Richard Valenta, Deputy Superintendent

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2017 – 2020 Memorandum of Understanding Agreement
- Parent Permission Form
- Child Application form, and
- FERPA agreement form.

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____