

MOU Approval for Communities in Schools of North Texas (CIS)

July 30, 2024

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of the MOU between Denton ISD and Community in Schools North Texas allowing CIS to support the needs of at-risk students for 2024-2025.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

Annual renewal of the MOU as similar MOUs have been approved annually for many years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Communities in Schools of North Texas has facilitated afterschool programming that includes academic tutorials, enrichment, engaging activities, and snacks for students identified as at risk at targeted campuses within Denton ISD. This Memorandum of Understanding with CIS allows Denton ISD students and families to benefit from case management and academic services. This MOU is a renewal for the upcoming school year.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

N/A

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

All requirements are found in the MOU.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

Students in many of our most needy communities receive afterschool supervision at our campus. The principals work closely with each CIS leader to ensure that all campus regulations and policies are followed. Additionally, many students receive instructional assistance and tutoring during the afterschool program.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

CIS works closely with each campus to ensure reporting data is collected and reported.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

None

ALTERNATIVES:

None

OTHER COMMENTS:

CIS provides a vital service to our students and parents in the schools they serve. The afterschool program gives these students quality time with energetic, trained, quality professionals.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend approval of the MOU between Denton ISD and Community in Schools North Texas.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Jairia Diggs - Director of Federal Programs and School Improvement

ATTACHMENT:

Memorandum of Understanding –AS Partnership Agreement Between Communities in Schools of North Texas, Inc. and Denton Independent School District

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: Jairia Diggs

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____



**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN
COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF NORTH TEXAS, Inc.
AND
DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

This Partnership Agreement, by and between the Denton Independent School District (hereinafter referred to as DISD), and Communities In Schools of North Texas, Inc., (hereinafter referred to as CISNT), sets out to establish the relationships and responsibilities of both parties in the implementation of a CISNT school based, school day, case management dropout prevention program on eighteen (18) campus, including:

Alexander Elementary, Bell Elementary, Borman Elementary, Calhoun Middle, Cross Oaks Elementary, Denton High, Evers Park Elementary, Ginnings Elementary, Hodge Elementary, McMath Middle, McNair Elementary, Myers Middle, Newton Rayzor Elementary, Paloma Creek Elementary, Rivera Elementary, Rodriguez Middle, Ryan High, and Strickland Middle

In addition, this partnership agreement sets out to establish the relationships and responsibilities of both parties in the implementation of the CIS Afterschool Program at:

Borman Elementary, Evers Park Elementary, Rivera Elementary

Dr. Susannah O'Bara, Acting Superintendent of DISD, and Mrs. Tasha Moore, Chief Executive Officer of CISNT, ratify and affirm the provisions, relationships and responsibilities set out herein by their execution of this Agreement.

WHEREAS it is the intent of all parties hereto to bring CISNT resources onto campus settings to facilitate the academic and personal success of students who may be experiencing the effects of at-risk environments by providing the full range of CISNT services to those students; and

WHEREAS it is the intent of all parties hereto to maintain a cooperative, interactive and supportive relationship among and between the parties for the benefit of students served;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties to this Service Delivery Agreement agree to the following:

A. All parties hereto mutually agree as follows:

1. The term of this Service Delivery Agreement shall be from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and, upon annual evaluation and recommendation by both parties, extended for one additional calendar year beginning the first day of July 2025. Either party for any reason may also cancel this Service Delivery Agreement thirty days after written notification is provided to the other party. The decision to continue or terminate this Service Delivery Agreement will be made on or before July 1, of each year of this contract.
2. CISNT will follow national, State and local CIS policies and ethical standards for service provision under applicable Federal, State, and local laws and will, in cases where written DISD or campus policies concerning service delivery are more restrictive than CISNT policies, follow the written DISD or campus policy concerning student service delivery, except as otherwise herein noted or mutually agreed in writing.
3. CISNT maintains and retains case management files on all assigned DISD students. These files contain all relevant data requisite to the case and to program criteria. All DISD policies and procedures addressing student confidentiality will be strictly adhered to by CISNT staff. Case management files and/or information contained within such files will be exchanged among DISD and CISNT professional staff on an "as needed" basis.
4. The CISNT management and staff, and the school principals shall proceed in a joint collaboration to ensure the successful operation of the CISNT program. Communication among these entities will be ongoing, including scheduled meetings to address case management and other programmatic issues.
5. CISNT, in consultation with the principals at each campus site, will develop a Campus Plan for each school year, which will be referenced in the campus improvement plan for respective DISD campus site. The CISNT Campus Plan will provide all parties with an outline of activities to be undertaken during the upcoming semester. DISD agrees to include CISNT in the campus improvement plan.

B. CISNT agrees to undertake the following:

1. CISNT will provide staff and resources to each mutually agreed upon school campus site, for the benefit of students. CISNT staff members and any volunteers or part time staff of CISNT will

constitute a multi-disciplinary team in the provision of all CISNT services.

2. CISNT under its Total Quality and Standards Process and this Agreement, will provide to identified students a program of services which includes: a) Supportive Guidance; b) Academic Enhancement Activities; c) Parental and Family Involvement Activities; d) Health Education and Social Service Referrals; e) Pre-Employment Skills Training and Career Awareness Activities; and f) Educational and Cultural Enrichment Opportunities. CISNT staff should not be engaged in other duties (administrative, clerical, or otherwise) that would normally be assigned to DISD employees, without the approval of the CISNT Chief Executive Officer. The minimum annual caseload for each Site Coordinator will be 100 case management students at elementary and middle schools and 80 case management students at high schools.
3. All CISNT Site Coordinators will be hired by CISNT with the approval of the Campus Principal. All CISNT personnel assigned to school campus sites remain employees of CISNT and will receive direct supervision from the CISNT Program Director who is responsible for their performance and demeanor. However, all CISNT personnel are subject to the rules, regulations and policies of the school site to which they are assigned. All grievances and disciplinary actions involving CISNT employees will be processed in accordance with policies set forth in the CISNT Board approved Personnel Policy manual and in compliance with DISD policies and procedures.
4. CISNT will provide management, administrative, logistical and technical support to each Campus as warranted, ensuring the success of service delivery initiatives. The CISNT Site Coordinator, under the direction of the CISNT Program Director, Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors is responsible for oversight of CISNT Project activities.
5. CISNT will refer to the school Principal and to appropriate legal authorities, cases presented to its staff which involve the following issues: a) Violation of DISD's Student Code of Conduct; b) Suicide threats; c) Violent behavior; d) Child abuse; e) Sexual abuse or harassment. CISNT will assist in the resolution of any such case is requested to do so by the Principal. CISNT will immediately notify the appropriate School Counselor of any student in crisis.
6. CISNT agrees to reserve a position on the CISNT Board of Directors for the Superintendent of DISD or their designee. This position may be advisory or participatory at the discretion of the Superintendent.

7. CISNT agrees to indemnify and hold harmless DISD, its Board of Trustees and representatives of and from any and all claims, damages, and causes of action of any type whatsoever, including attorneys fees, arising out of, or in any way connected to this contract. The parties agree that DISD will be entitled to recover attorneys fees, pursuant to Local Government Code § 271.159.

C. DISD agrees to undertake the following:

1. DISD will assume primary responsibility for all student cases involving violation of DISD's Student Code of Conduct, suicide threats, violent behavior, child abuse, and sexual harassment. The CISNT staff will adhere to DISD's policy in addressing the above cases and will work in tandem with the school staff to address problems of the students.
2. In accordance with established policies of DISD and the Texas Education Agency, CISNT, serving as an agent of DISD, will have access to relevant student data, campus-wide, including but not limited to free and reduced lunch lists and TEA at-risk lists, attendance lists, as well as discipline and behavior information, which may impact or demonstrate the effectiveness of CISNT service delivery. Such information is necessary only to determine CIS eligibility and document funding requirements. This information will remain confidential for all purposes.
3. DISD will inform the CISNT Chief Executive Officer of all policy changes or development that may affect the provisions of this Agreement and/or the effectiveness of CISNT service delivery.
4. DISD agrees to provide on each CISNT-served school campus, Site Coordinator office space and access to a phone, to a dedicated computer, to copy and fax machines, sufficient to facilitate the efficient delivery of services to students.
5. DISD agrees to pay CISNT \$36,000 for services to be rendered at each of the following school campuses between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025: Alexander Elementary, Bell Elementary, Borman Elementary, Calhoun Middle, Cross Oaks Elementary, Denton High, Evers Park Elementary, Ginnings Elementary, Hodge Elementary, McMath Middle, McNair Elementary, Myers Middle, Newton Rayzor Elementary, Paloma Creek Elementary, Rivera Elementary, Rodriguez Middle, Ryan High, and Strickland Middle for a total of \$648,000.

In addition, DISD agrees to pay \$68,000 for the CIS Afterschool Program to be rendered at Borman Elementary, Evers Park Elementary, and Rivera Elementary for a total of \$204,000.

DISD agrees to provide payment to CISNT on or before October 1, 2024.

This Service Delivery Agreement constitutes the full and total understanding and agreement of said parties, and any modifications, amendment or alteration hereof must be agreed in writing by all parties hereto.

Executed this _____ day of _____, 2024.



Dr. Susannah O'Bara,
Acting Superintendent of Schools
Denton Independent School District

Tasha Moore, LMSW. M. Div
Chief Executive Officer
Communities In Schools of North Texas