

I3 Grant Partnership

May 11, 2010

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of the Denton Independent School District to enter into a tri-state consortium involving school systems from Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas to develop a longitudinal data system that will enable the district to

BOARD GOAL:

In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- develop a culture where learning is our first priority
- remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

Trustees were provided background information of this opportunity at the May 3, 2010 agenda setting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The **i3** program will provide grants to schools and school partnerships that can demonstrate they have a successful, innovative model practice that has had an impact on:

- improving student achievement/student growth;
- closing the achievement gap;
- decreasing dropout rates/increasing graduation rates; and
- increasing college enrollment/completion.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

The i3 funds require that a district bring its innovation to scale (more districts implementing the innovation at the state, regional, or national levels). Western Heights needs partners who are willing to strengthen the quality and impact of their data systems to improve teaching, learning, and management. Partners will commit to developing or enhancing their data systems based on Western Heights' innovative model. Partners will also commit to participation in a research design that documents the efforts and activities of all partners relevant to establishing a longitudinal data system and measures programmatic, including student, outcomes during the grant period.

The partnership will include Western Heights Public Schools and other school districts in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas, two major universities, three career/technology centers, three community colleges, a regional education technical assistance center, a regional educational laboratory, community service agencies, and industry partners from the private sector specializing in technological innovations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Expenses will be borne by the grant. Funds available to DISD as a result of the partnership to upgrade our data warehouse, provide professional learning, and employ a coordinator to oversee the project will exceed \$600,000.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

Western Heights school district has a longitudinal data system that provides real-time information for making key decisions by parents, counselors, support staff, administrators, and teachers, which can be adapted or replicated to meet the needs of most districts. The system relies on a common language, will meet the academic content standards of all partners, and has an innovative way to document student mobility. It contains interactive data elements that include family demographics, attendance, disciplinary actions, learning styles, classroom performance, test results, participation in school activities, and classroom schedules.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

The district will be required to participate in the necessary reporting by the US Department of Education as a requirement for the grant. Evaluation of all aspects of the grant will be conducted by the University of Oklahoma, and the Fiscal Agent will be Western Heights Public Schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

NONE

ALTERNATIVES:

No alternative options are provided

OTHER COMMENTS:

NONE

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval of participation in the tri-state consortium for participation in the U.S. Department of Education i3 grant program.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Jamie Wilson, Deputy Superintendent

ATTACHMENT:

Background Information
Tri-State Consortium MOU

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation:

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent:

Signature of Superintendent:
