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Greater Opportunities of The Permian Basin Inc.

Head Start School Readiness Academy

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ECTOR COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND GOPB, INC. HEAD START SCHOOL READINESS ACADEMY

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Head Start Revised Performance Standards [1304.41 (a)(2)(vii)] Community Partnerships

We believe: (1) a child benefits most from a comprehensive, interdisciplinary program designed to meet the needs of the whole child, and, (2) the child's entire family, and the community must be involved in meeting these needs if the program is to have a lasting impact upon the child's total development.

This letter is to confirm the Partnership between G.O.P.B. Inc. Head Start School Readiness Academy and the Ector County Independent School District to identify teen fathers/mothers and address their needs and concerns, as well as engage and educate them. As addressed in our Community Assessment, teen pregnancy is a growing concern in our communities and by forming this partnership, we can assist young parents in obtaining some of the necessary skills to become involved, nurturing parents of their children.

The 12-week curriculum-based workshops known as "Parent Power" will be formatted into an 8-month program designed to provide support, guidance and resources for young men and women facing the challenges of being young parents. This 8-month program is designed for high school-age fathers and mothers in the ECISD program. One of the goals of the program is to assist fathers gain the skills and confidence to be responsible for their own futures, with an emphasis on developing strong, nurturing relationships with their children and families. Another goal of the facilitator is to invite the fathers and mothers to join the Parent Power program as part of the ECISD's Teen Fatherhood Initiative program. The Parent Power program provides meals, child care, workbooks and a graduation ceremony for those who complete the program.

The facilitator will present the once-a-month sessions on campus at Odessa High School, Permian High School or a site designated by ECISD. The Foundations of Fatherhood curriculum used in the program will cover the following topics:

Fatherhood Self-Assessment	Character of a Man
Influence of Character	My Anger – Friend or Foe
My Child’s Life – Part I	My Child’s Life – Part II
Dealing with Guilt & Shame	Improving Communication
Healthy Relationships	Traditions, Culture & Diversity
Developing Your Support System	Fatherhood, The Next Level

The Graduation/Recognition Ceremony for Parent Power graduates attending the evening Parent Power sessions at the Head Start center takes place in early March at the GOPB, Inc.’s Staff Training/Recognition Conference held annually in Odessa at the MCM Grande Fun Dome Hotel. However, those attendees in the high school program attending the once a month sessions and have completed all 8 sessions will be recognized at a ceremony especially set up to recognize them.

This partnership will be reviewed and renewed on a yearly basis by both parties involved.

Mrs. Betty J. Carter – Executive Director
G.O.P.B., Inc.
Head Start School Readiness Academy

E.C.I.S.D. Representative

Date

Date