

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*, Jade Edgar, Ellis County Better Living for Texans (BLT) County Extension Agent, and DeSoto Independent School District's school campus, Frank D. Moates Elementary School (Glenn Heights, TX). The BLT program offers a variety of research-based nutrition education programs and information to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants and program eligible persons in over 200 counties in the State of Texas.

A. Purpose

- I. *Learn, Grow, Eat & Go!* (LGEG) program is the research and evidence-based curriculum project of the Junior Master Gardener® Program that combines academic achievement, gardening, nutrient-dense food experiences, physical activity, & school & family engagement.
- II. Created by teachers, this linear set of hands-on, proven lessons will help students better understand plants and how plants provide for people's needs. The 10-week (two lessons/week) unit of study will step the class through the process of establishing a thriving garden that is easy to create and maintain.
- III. The curriculum features opportunities for fresh vegetable tasting/evaluation, simple recipe demos, and physical activities that research shows can improve on-task behavior and academic performance.

B. Roles and Responsibilities

- I. Agency: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
 - i. Better Living for Texans under the *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service* agrees to deliver the entirety of the LGEG program under the direction of Ellis County Extension Agent, Jade Edgar, to the class at Frank D. Moates Elementary School.
 - ii. Jade Edgar will come twice a week for a minimum of 10 weeks to deliver the LGEG curriculum to the designated classroom. The classroom educator should remain in the classroom while Jade Edgar is present.
 - iii. There is zero cost to the school district by implementing the LGEG program.
 - iv. The LGEG program is TEKS aligned to *health, math, and physical education*.
- II. Agency: DeSoto Independent School District
 - i. Frank D. Moates Elementary School under the DeSoto Independent School District agrees to allow Jade Edgar in the designated classroom to deliver the entirety of the LGEG program.
 - ii. The classroom educator should remain in the classroom while Jade Edgar is present. The educator may be called upon to assist with handing out program-related items such as but not limited to, vegetables, fruits, activity sheets, and other such items that are associated with the program.

C. Reporting Requirements

- I. Jade Edgar will provide any updates regarding the LGEG program.

CI. Timeframe

- I. This MOU will commence in January 2024 (the specific date will be determined between Jade Edgar and the Frank D. Moates Elementary School point-of-contact in writing) and will dissolve 10 weeks after the initial start date.

CII. Confidentiality

- I. To ensure the safety of the agent, school employees, and students, all parties to the Memorandum of Understanding agree to adhere to each agency's confidentiality guidelines. The Ellis County Extension Agent acknowledges that the District is subject to the Texas Public Information Act ("TPIA"). As such, upon receipt of a request under the TPIA, the District may be required to release documents to the requestor. The Ellis County Extension Agent agrees to fully cooperate with the District in responding to public information requests involving this Agreement or the services provided herein. The Ellis County Extension Agent acknowledges that it has the responsibility to brief the Attorney General's Office on why the documents identified as confidential or proprietary fall within an exception to public disclosure.

The Ellis County Extension Agent acknowledges that the District has a legal obligation to maintain the confidentiality and privacy of student records in accordance with applicable law and regulations, specifically the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"). The Ellis County Extension Agent will receive student information from the District in compliance with the requirements and exceptions outlined in FERPA. The Ellis County Extension Agent acknowledges and agrees to comply with said law and safeguard student information. The Ellis County Extension Agent may not redisclose student information to a third party without prior written consent from the parent or eligible student. Furthermore, the Ellis County Extension Agent must destroy any student information received from the District when no longer needed for the purposes listed in the Agreement.

This Memorandum of Understanding is the complete agreement between **Jade Edgar** and DeSoto ISD and may be amended only by written agreement signed by each of the parties involved.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Better Living for Texans County Extension Agent:

Signature

Jade Edgar, Better Living for Texans County Extension Agent

Printed Name and Title

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 701 S. I-35 E., Waxahachie, Texas 75165

Direct Line: (972) 825-5182 | Cell: (501) 960-7326

jade.edgar@ag.tamu.edu

DeSoto Independent School District Agent:

Signature

Dr. Usamah Rodgers, Superintendent of Schools

Printed Name and Title

Address: 200 E. Beltline Rd.

DeSoto, TX 75115

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