



# SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: March 17, 2025

Agenda Section: Consent

Agenda Item Title: New Mexico Highlands University & South San Antonio ISD Partnership Initiative Purpose Statement

From/Presenters: Dr. Saul Hinojosa, Superintendent

Description: South San Antonio ISD (SSAISD), with its strong focus on serving limited-income students, is partnering with NMHU to create a pathway that aligns with these shared goals, increasing access, reducing costs, and improving completion rates for students aspiring to pursue higher education at NMHU.

Historical Data: none

Recommendation: Approve the New Mexico Highlands University & South San Antonio ISD Partnership Initiative Purpose Statement

Purchasing Director and Approval Date:

Funding Budget Code and Amount:

Goal: 1. SSAISD will increase academic achievement for all students and thus closing the gap between student populations in pursuit of advanced performance.



## **New Mexico Highlands University & South San Antonio ISD Partnership Initiative Purpose Statement**

New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU), a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), is deeply committed to student service. Guided by its mission to empower students through accessible education and its vision to be a transformative force for underserved communities, NMHU seeks to increase student enrollment. South San Antonio ISD (SSAISD), with its strong focus on serving limited-income students, is partnering with NMHU to create a pathway that aligns with these shared goals, increasing access, reducing costs, and improving completion rates for students aspiring to pursue higher education at NMHU.

### **Goals**

- **NMHU:** Increase enrollment and graduation of underserved student populations by 5%.
- **District** Improve enrollment of limited-income students into four-year institutions by 5%.

### **Key Initiatives**

#### **Automatic Eligibility for NMHU Admission**

- **Criteria:** Students with a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the end of their junior year are automatically eligible.
- **Process:**
  - Students must opt-in by December 1 using an NMHU-developed form.
  - No application is required for admission.
- **Eligibility:** Includes DACA, undocumented, and VISA students.
- **Scholarship Application:** Students must apply to the NMHU Scholarship Foundation (HSF) by December 31.
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#### **Financial Aid and Costs**

- **Estimated Yearly Costs:** \$20,596 (tuition, room, and board for out-of-state residents).
- **Support Provided:**
  - \$9,920 yearly institutional scholarships.
  - \$7,680 yearly work-study.
  - Pell-eligible students receive \$7,363 for living expenses.
  - Non-Pell students have a net cost of approximately \$3,134 annually.
- **Additional Benefits:**
  - Deposit waivers and deferments for incoming students.
  - Preferential housing in multicultural residence halls.

#### **Admissions and Support Services**

- **Application Deadlines:**
  - FAFSA and NMHU scholarship applications by December 31.
  - Completion of all admissions steps (housing, meal plan, orientation schedules) by March 31st.

#### **Support Structure**

##### **NMHU Support Services**

- **Student Success Coach:** Guides students through enrollment and academic planning.
- **Learning Communities:** Priority admission into Highland Undergraduate Enrichment (HUE) programs.
  - Integrated seminar courses.



- Peer mentors for academic, personal, and social support.
- **Orientation:** Preferential dates for partner cohorts.
- **Advising:** Dedicated student advisor for virtual and indirect support services.

**SSAID Support Services**

- **Assigned Staff Member**
  - Collaborate with NMHU for transcripts
  - Acts as a resource and referral agent.

**Program Evaluation Metrics**

- Enrollment and retention data tracked using a three-year historical average as a baseline.
- Focus on racial and ethnic breakdowns.
- Key indicators:
  - Applications, admissions, enrollments, and withdrawals.
  - Four-year postsecondary enrollment rates.

**Terms and Conditions**

- This agreement may be terminated by either party for convenience with a minimum of 30 days written notice delivered by e-mail, US mail, or in person. This agreement may also be terminated immediately after receipt of a written notice of a party's breach of this agreement and a failure to correct within 10 days or longer as authorized in writing if either party fails to perform services consistent with this agreement, the prescribed requirements of FERPA 34 CFR S Part 99, and/or applicable state or federal law.

**Approval Signature and Date**

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**Neil Woolf, Ed.D.**  
President, New Mexico Highlands University

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**SSAID School District Representative**