



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function
Contracts/MOU Board of Education Meeting: 12/16/2025

Item Title: Grand Canyon University and
Brownsville Independent School
District MOU X Action
Information
Discussion

BACKGROUND:

Grand Canyon University seeks to set out in writing the terms and respective responsibilities for the education and training of graduate students pursuing school counseling practicum/internship hours on BISD school campuses.

Graduate students enrolled in the program, shall have the written consent of the campus principal and the mentor counselor and will collaborate with them to execute the program roles and responsibilities as outlined in the Grand Canyon University program agreement. The graduate students will obtain parental consent to perform supervised counseling of BISD students during school hours.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

No cost to the District.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Brownsville Independent School District and Grand Canyon University to provide graduate students practicum/internship sites on BISD school campuses beginning in the 2025-2026 school year through October 24, 2028. No cost to the District.

Sara M. Garza 
Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Recommended by: Asst. Supt./Exec. Dir.

Mr. Miguel Salinas 
Reviewed by: Staff Attorney


Dr. Jesus Chavez, Superintendent

Mrs. Beatriz Hernandez 
Approved by: Chief Officer

When Necessary, Additional Background May Follow This.

Field Placement Affiliation Agreement Between GCU and Brownsville ISD

1. **PARTIES:** This Agreement (the “Agreement”) is entered into on this 10/24/2025 day by and between Grand Canyon University (“GCU”) and Brownsville ISD located at 1900 E. Price Road, Brownsville, TX 78521 hereafter referred to as the (the “District”).
2. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this non-exclusive Agreement is to establish the terms and conditions under which candidates of GCU may participate in College of Education (“COE”) Practicum/Field Experience, Student Teaching, Educational Administration Internships, or College of Humanities and Social Sciences (“CHSS”) School Counseling (SC) Practicum/Internships at the schools located in the District.
3. **TERM:** The term of this Agreement begins 10/24/2025 and ends 10/24/2028.
4. **Roles & Definitions:**
 - **Candidate:** The Candidate is defined as the student who is actively enrolled in a COE or CHSS program of study who works to fulfill all Practicum/Field experience, Student Teaching, Educational Administration Internships, or SC Practicum/Internships.
 - **Mentor:** The Mentor is defined as the teacher/educator hosting the COE or CHSS candidate in practicum/field experiences or educational administration internships.
 - **Cooperating Teacher:** The COE Cooperating Teacher (the “CT”) is defined as the teacher in whose classroom the candidate is placed to complete the student teaching experience. The CT must be certified, endorsed, and/or licensed as a teacher.
 - **School Counseling (“SC”) Site Supervisor:** The SC Site Supervisor is defined as the clinical site supervisor in whose supervision the Candidate is placed to complete the practicum/internship field experience expectations for school counselors in training (“SCITs”). The SC Site Supervisor must meet the requirements as outlined in the Graduate Field Experience Manual.
 - **GCU Faculty Supervisor:** The GCU Faculty Supervisor is defined as the GCU approved supervisor who has oversight responsibility for the evaluation of the candidate during Student Teaching or SC Practicum/Internships.
 - **Practicum/Field Experience:** Practicum/field experiences are field-based learning opportunities that focus on observation, application, and reflection. Practicum/field experiences require the candidate to observe and interact in diverse, real-life educational settings, and to apply the theories and concepts learned in program coursework.
 - **Student Teaching:** Student teaching is the capstone experience at the end of the initial teacher licensure program that provides candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of knowledge and skills in a classroom setting during the 15/16-week experience, dependent on program of study.
 - **Educational Administration Internships:** Educational Administration Internships are field-based learning opportunities for candidates enrolled in an Educational Administration program leading to principal licensure under the direct supervision of a certified school administrator.
 - **School Counseling (“SC”) Practicum/Internships:** SC Practicum/Internships are field-based learning opportunities for candidates enrolled in school counseling programs leading to initial licensure under the direct supervision of a certified school counselor.
5. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DISTRICT:**
 - 5a. The District shall provide participating candidates with field placement experiences in a school of the District under direct supervision of a host teacher (“Cooperating Teacher”), host mentor (“Mentor”), or SC

Site Supervisor that meets the minimum GCU qualification requirements as outlined in the applicable program manual (See Appendices).

5b. The District shall allow candidates who are current district employees to complete required field experience hours (i.e., practicum/field experience, student teaching, educational administration internships) within their paid positions (e.g., paraprofessional, substitute, teacher of record, etc.) if the setting aligns with program requirements, an appropriately certified mentor is available, and all course expectations can be met, provided the district approves continued employment. If deemed not feasible, the district will provide reasonable written notice to the candidate and Grand Canyon University.

5c. The District shall ensure that the Cooperating Teacher/Mentor/SC Site Supervisor provides oversight, feedback and mentoring to GCU's participating candidates. Cooperating Teacher/Mentor/SC Site Supervisor expectations are outlined in the applicable program manual. (See Appendices.)

5d. The District shall provide the participating candidate prior to the start of the field placement with any District policies and procedures to which the candidate is expected to adhere to during the candidate's field placement while on District premises.

5e. The District shall allow a GCU faculty supervisor (the "GCU Faculty Supervisor") virtual and/or in-person access to the host school and classroom for the specific purpose of observing the participating candidate or consulting with the SC Site Supervisor.

5f. The District shall through the involvement of the Cooperating Teacher/Mentor/SC Site Supervisor, communicate with the GCU Faculty Supervisor and candidate to provide feedback on the candidate's performance which will be used by the GCU Faculty Supervisor for completion of the candidate's formal evaluation.

5g. The District shall have the right to refuse a candidate for field placement or may terminate the field placement of any candidate based upon its good faith determination that the candidate is not meeting performance standards or is otherwise deemed unacceptable to the District. Notices of such decisions shall be provided to GCU in writing and shall state reasons for such decisions.

5h. The District shall provide participating candidates with immediate first aid for work-related injuries or illnesses, such as blood or body fluid exposure.

5i. The District shall promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint by any participating candidate or GCU regarding unlawful discrimination or harassment at the field placement site or involving employees or agents of the field placement site and take prompt and effective remedial action when discrimination or harassment is found to have occurred and to promptly notify GCU of the existence and outcome of any complaint of harassment by, against or involving any participating candidate.

5j. The District shall support the candidate in compliance with all policies of GCU that pertain to this Agreement as outlined in the University Policy Handbook and applicable program manuals. Please refer to the program manuals regarding recording, virtual services, and informed consent requirements(see Appendices).

5k. The District shall comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations applicable to the performance of the Agreement.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF GCU:

6a. GCU shall not provide compensation to Mentors or SC Site Supervisors hosting candidates for Practicum/Field Experiences, Educational Administration Internships, SC Practicum/Internships, or Student Teaching in the instance where the candidate is employed as a full-time teacher of record.

6b. GCU shall pay a \$500 stipend to Cooperating Teachers hosting student teaching candidates per each 15/16-week session of full-time service. Longer or shorter sessions will be paid on a pro-rated basis.

6c. GCU shall pay the stipend upon the completion of the student teaching semester provided all paperwork has been submitted.

6d. GCU shall provide a GCU Faculty Supervisor for candidates completing the student teaching, SC practicum/internships or educational administration internships to evaluate a candidate's performance

through virtual and/or in-person observations. The GCU Faculty Supervisor will meet requirements and expectations as outlined in the applicable program's handbook.

6e. GCU shall require that all candidates who must enter a field placement site provide GCU with a current and clear copy of a background check. GCU will prohibit candidates from moving forward in the field placement process until this document is received.

6f. GCU shall promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint by any participating candidate or the District regarding unlawful discrimination or harassment at the field placement site or involving employees or agents of the field placement site and take prompt and effective remedial action when discrimination or harassment is found to have occurred and to promptly notify the District of the existence and outcome of any complaint of harassment by, against or involving any participating candidate.

6g. GCU shall support the candidate in compliance with all policies of District that pertain to this Agreement as outlined in policy handbook and applicable program manuals.

6h. GCU shall comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations applicable to the performance of the Agreement.

7. CANDIDATE COMPLIANCE WITH GCU AND DISTRICT POLICIES and PROGRAMMATIC HANDBOOKS:

Candidates accepted to the District for field placement shall be subject to all applicable policies and regulations of the District and GCU. Prior to assignment of candidates to the District, GCU will advise candidates of any specific requirements that must be met to participate in the applicable field placement. These specific requirements are outlined in the applicable program manual. (See Appendices.) Failure to complete the requirements will result in non-placement of candidates.

8. PAID POSITIONS/EMPLOYMENT: GCU does not solicit, source, or guarantee paid opportunities or employment for candidates. GCU may allow a candidate to maintain a paid position during Student Teaching or SC Practicum/Internship if deemed appropriate by the District and the role is in alignment to the candidate's university program of study, setting and coursework requirements and desired certification. The candidate must have an appropriately certified mentor/Cooperating Teacher/SC Site Supervisor available at the school site. Candidates requesting to hold a paid position must complete additional documentation that requires written approval from the District. Requests to student teach or SC practicum/internship in a paid position are reviewed by the applicable College on a case-by-case basis and are not guaranteed.

9. INSURANCE AND LIABILITY

9a. College of Education (Practicum/Field Experience, Student Teaching, Educational Administration Internships): GCU will maintain in full force and effect, at its sole expense and written by carriers acceptable to District:

- Commercial General Liability (Minimum Requirements):

Limits of Liability:

\$1,000,000 Each Occurrence

\$2,000,000 General Aggregate

\$2,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate

\$1,000,000 Personal Injury/Advertising Injury

\$5,000 Medical Payments

Coverage:

Premises/Operation Liability

Medical Payments Liability

Contractual Liability

Personal Injury Liability

Independent Contractors

- Professional Liability, as related to Educational Services:

Limits of Liability:

- \$1,000,000 Each wrongful act
- \$1,000,000 Aggregate
- Automobile Liability:
 - Limits of Liability:
 - \$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit
- Sexual Abuse or Molestation Liability:
 - Limits of Liability:
 - \$1,000,000 Each
 - \$1,000,000 Aggregate

9b. College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) School Counseling: Each candidate will be required to provide proof of his/her own professional liability insurance in the amounts of \$1,000,000 per claim/\$3,000,000 aggregate to the GCU field experience office.

- Commercial General Liability (Minimum Requirements):
 - Limits of Liability:
 - \$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit
 - \$2,000,000 General Aggregate
 - \$1,000,000 Products Aggregate
 - \$1,000,000 Personal Injury
 - \$5,000 Medical Payments
 - Coverage:
 - Premises/Operation Liability
 - Medical Payments Liability
 - Contractual Liability
 - Personal Injury Liability

10. FERPA: GCU and the District agree to protect the candidate's and/or student's educational records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g ("FERPA") and any applicable policy of GCU and the District. To the extent permitted by law, GCU and the District may share information from a candidate's and/or student's educational records with each other so that each can perform its respective responsibilities under this Agreement but shall not disclose or share educational records with any third party without the candidate's and/or student's prior written consent.

11. CONFIDENTIALITY: GCU shall inform each participating candidate of Federal law governing the confidentiality of District student information, including FERPA. The District shall inform each participating candidate of any applicable State law governing the confidentiality of student information. The District shall also inform each participating Cooperating Teacher, Mentor, or SC Site Supervisor that they are bound to maintain in confidence, any documents or other confidential information about the participating candidate and GCU to which they might have access. Any breach of confidentiality by a participating candidate, Cooperating Teacher, Mentor, or SC Site Supervisor shall be grounds for immediate termination of the field placement.

12. INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS: Neither party shall be responsible for personal injury or property damage or other loss except that resulting from its own negligence or the negligence of its employees or others for whom the party is legally responsible.

13. USE OF MARKS AND LOGOS; RIGHT OF PUBLICITY: The District hereby grants GCU the right and license to publish and/or use District's logos or trademarks for all purposes connected with the promotion of the Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing license, District shall retain all right, title, and interest in and to

District's logos and trademarks. District shall allow GCU to publicize District, the Agreement and the related programs in all advertising, publicity, and promotion, including GCU websites, and social media. GCU's right to utilize District's logos and trademarks and right of publicity will survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement for a reasonable period of time until GCU is able to revise and update such materials, websites, and social media.

14. ASSIGNMENT: The provisions of this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon the successors of the parties hereto. Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights or obligations here under may be transferred or assigned without prior written consent of the other party.

15. NOTICES: Notices under this Agreement shall be in writing and mailed electronically, or delivered to the parties as follows:

Grand Canyon University

COE/CHSS Affiliations

COEAffiliations@gcu.edu

Subject: Brownsville ISD Affiliation Agreement Notification

School/District Information

Brownsville ISD

1900 E. Price Road

Brownsville, TX 78521

16. MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT: This Agreement may be modified only by written amendment executed by both parties.

17. TERMINATION: Either party, upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party, may terminate this Agreement.

18. PARTNERSHIP/JOINT VENTURE/EMPLOYMENT: Nothing herein shall in any way be construed or intended to create a partnership or joint venture between the parties or to create the relationship of principal and agent between or among any of the parties. Candidates are not employees, independent contractors, or agents of GCU. The relationship between candidates and the District shall be determined by the District according to its policies and agreements with the candidates.

19. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR: The relationship between Cooperating Teachers (hosting College of Education student teachers) and GCU shall be that of an independent contractor and shall not be deemed to be that of an employer-employee relationship, joint venture, or partnership. Cooperating Teachers shall be solely responsible for the payment of their own state and federal income tax and self-employment tax as applicable.

20. NONDISCRIMINATION: The parties shall comply with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 and the regulations related thereto. The parties will not discriminate against any individual including but not limited to employees or applicants for employment and/or candidates because of race, religion, creed, color, sex, age, disability, veteran status, or national origin. This section shall not apply to discrimination in employment on the basis of religion that is specifically exempt under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000 e).

21. GOVERNING LAW: This Agreement shall be governed in all respects, whether as to validity, construction, capacity, performance, or otherwise, by the laws of the State of Texas, without giving effect to its conflict of laws rules.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed and delivered by their respective officials thereunto duly authorized as of the date first above written.

Grand Canyon University

By: 
Signature

Name: Dr. Meredith Critchfield

Title: Dean, College of Education

Date: 11/5/2025

By: 
Signature

Name: Dr. Anna Edgeston

Title: Assistant Dean of College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Date: 11/5/2025

Brownsville ISD

By: _____
Signature

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____



Appendices

GCU University Policy Handbook (UPH)

[University Policy Handbook](#)

College of Education (COE) Appendix

[Clinical Field Experience Handbook](#)

(For candidates in all College of Education programs.)

[Student Teaching Manual](#)

(For candidates enrolled in initial teacher licensure programs.)

[Master of Education in Educational Administration Internship Manual](#)

(For candidates in the Educational Administration program with start dates **prior to May 2, 2024.**)

[Master of Education in Educational Administration Internship Manual](#)

(For candidates in the Educational Administration program with start dates **on or after May 2, 2024.**)

College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) Appendix

[College-of-Humanities-and-Social-Sciences-Graduate-Field-Experience-Manual 9.1.2023.pdf \(gcu.edu\)](#)