

**DATA RESEARCH
PROJECT AUTHORIZATION
UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IN DUNCANVILLE ISD**

This Project Authorization authorizes **COMMIT PARTNERSHIP** (“Commit”) and **DUNCANVILLE ISD** (“the District”) to access and analyze student-level and teacher-level data for the following:

PROJECT TITLE: Understanding and Addressing Chronic Absenteeism in Duncanville ISD

PROJECT DURATION: August 11, 2025 – June 26, 2026

PURPOSE: This request extends the scope of the previously approved project authorization around Commit Partnership’s work with Duncanville ISD to address chronic absenteeism. The expansion maintains the original project’s intent and core focus, adding additional capacity and complementary strategies to strengthen impact. Building on the relationships, system insights, and preliminary data analysis from the initial project phase, this extension leverages existing infrastructure and knowledge to accelerate progress toward reducing chronic absenteeism. This extension incorporates two additional strategies, an internal systems review led by Brenda Payne and a community-based campaign with Groundwork Outreach, that directly align with and enhance the original project’s goals.

SPECIFIC DATA TO BE ACCESSED FOR THIS PROJECT

Data Element*	Years Needed
School Year	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
TEA Campus ID Number	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Campus Name	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Attendance Campus Name	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Student TSDS ID#	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Grade Level	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Pre-K Status (full or half day)	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Ethnicity/Race	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Date of Birth	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
SPED Status	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
ELL/LEP/EB Status	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Gender	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
GT Status	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Student Home Language	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
EcoDis Status	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Student Residence Census Block	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Student Country of Birth	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Retention Status	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Days Absent	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Tardies	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Days Expected	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26

District Entry Date	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
District Withdrawal Date	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Campus Entry Date	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Campus Withdrawal Date	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
ISS Official Days	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
ISS Actual Days	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
OSS Official Days	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
OSS Actual Days	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
DAEP Official Days	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
DAEP Actual Days	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26

**District retains the right to not provide specific metrics or years of data listed in the table above based on the availability of data.*

COMMIT PERSONNEL WITH ACCESS TO AGGREGATE INFORMATION:

Commit Partnership will give access to a secure site for all data transfers.

The following Commit personnel have a legitimate interest in having access to the aggregate information involved in this project and will have such access:

Cameron Hedden, Lead Consultant, EC-12
 Isabelle Nogoy, Consultant, EC-12
 David Rardon, Director of A&I
 Sile Robinson, Interim Chief Regional Impact Officer, EC-12
 Dr. Ben Higgins, Director, Analytics and Insights
 Saumya Seth, Manager, Analytics and Insights
 Blessing Eben, Consultant, EC-12

In addition to the list above, contracted vendors of Commit will also have access to the data. This will include Brenda Payne and staff from Groundwork Outreach (formerly Groundwork DFW).

The Commit Partnership has designated Cameron Hedden, Lead Consultant, EC-12, to be the custodian of personally identifiable information for this project.

**DATA RESEARCH
PROJECT AUTHORIZATION
BEST IN SOUTHWEST & IMPROVING EARLY LEARNING IN DUNCANVILLE ISD**

This Project Authorization authorizes **COMMIT PARTNERSHIP** (“Commit”) and **DUNCANVILLE ISD** (“the District”) to access and analyze student-level and teacher-level data for the following:

PROJECT TITLE: Best in Southwest (BiSW) & Improving Early Learning and Duncanville ISD

PROJECT DURATION: August 11, 2025 – June 26, 2026

PURPOSE: Through the Best in Southwest Community of Practice, the Commit Partnership will support Duncanville ISD in the analysis and application of their early learning data, for grades Pre-K through 3rd grade. This initiative seeks to equip the district with the insights necessary to tailor all-level (district, campus, teacher, student) interventions to improve literacy outcomes in early grades and increase the number of 3rd grade students achieving “Meets” or higher on 3R STAAR.

SPECIFIC DATA TO BE ACCESSED FOR THIS PROJECT

Data Element*	Years Needed
School Year	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
TEA Campus ID Number	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Campus Name	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Student TSDS ID#	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Teacher of Record	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Grade Level	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Pre-K Status (full or half day)	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Ethnicity/Race	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
SPED Status	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
ELL/LEP/EB Status	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Gender	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Student Home Language	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
EcoDis Status	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Pre-K Assessment (CIRCLE) Results: BOY, MOY, EOY	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
TX-KEA (English and Spanish) Student-level Results: BOY, MOY, EOY	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
K-5 MAP Growth Combo Report: BOY, MOY, EOY	2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
K-5 iReady Student level Results: BOY, MOY, EOY	2025-26
3 rd Grade 3R and 3M STAAR Student-level Results: BOY, MOY, EOY	2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26

**District retains the right to not provide specific metrics or years of data listed in the table above based on the availability of data.*

COMMIT PERSONNEL WITH ACCESS TO AGGREGATE INFORMATION:

Commit Partnership will give access to a secure site for all data transfers.

The following Commit personnel have a legitimate interest in having access to the aggregate information involved in this project and will have such access:

Cameron Hedden, Lead Consultant, EC-12
Allison Braley, Senior Manager, Early Learning
Blessing Eben, Consultant, Early Learning
David Rardon, Director of A&I
Amber Shields, Managing Director, Early Learning
Sile Robinson, Interim Chief Regional Impact Officer, EC-12
Dr. Ben Higgins, Director, Analytics and Insights
Saumya Seth, Manager, Analytics and Insights

In addition to the list above, contracted vendors of Commit supporting the Best in Southwest Community of Practice may also have access to the data. Specifically, this may include relevant staff from Instruction Partners.

The Commit Partnership has designated Cameron Hedden, Lead Consultant, EC-12, to be the custodian of personally identifiable information for this project.

ADDENDUM TO PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

DATA SHARING AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE COMMIT PARTNERSHIP

AND

THE DUNCANVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Data Sharing Agreement Addendum (the "Agreement") is made between the Duncanville Independent School District ("District") and Commit Partnership ("Commit"). The District and Commit may be referred to individually as a "Party," and collectively as the "Parties."

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this Agreement is to:

- 2.1.1 Establish a working relationship between the District and Commit to be referred to as "Cradle to Career Partnership";
- 2.1.2 Identify research studies that Commit will perform for, on behalf of, and/or together with the District to improve instruction;
- 2.1.3 Authorize the use of specified student, teacher, and principal information to Commit for use in research studies and as described herein;
- 2.1.4 Protect against unauthorized use, disclosure, and access to personally identifiable student information.

The Parties agree that these activities have a legitimate educational purpose in accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a) and as further described below.

3. Process of Collaboration

- 3.1 Each Party shall ensure that all projects adhere to its respective institutional guidelines and policies. All research projects will be approved by the District through a Project Authorization. A description of data fields and files to be accessed or requested, including but not limited to Personally Identifiable Information, will be provided in each Project Authorization. Any research involving human subjects will be preapproved by the appropriate designee where required.

4. Research Studies to Improve Instruction

- 4.1 The District has a need for research studies to assist in improving instruction in its schools, and wishes to authorize Commit to receive certain data, including education records, from time to time, consisting of individual student-level, teacher-level, and principal-level data concerning its students, teachers, and principals for the purpose of conducting research studies, in conjunction with Commit's Cradle to Career Partnership efforts (the "Research Study or Studies"). The Parties will enter into the Project Authorization for each Research Study to be conducted by Commit using data provided by the District. The terms and conditions of each Project Authorization shall be incorporated into this Agreement and become binding on the Parties.

- 4.2 The Project Authorization(s) will focus primarily on long-term measurements of progress related to student educational outcomes. Commit's research team will use District data, including education records, to understand educational trends across the District. The Research Studies may be used by the District to inform instructional strategies for improving educational instruction and outcomes in the District and may also consist of analyses intended to be useful to the District in informing education policies, strategies and practices. The form of each Research Study will be as agreed to by the Parties in the Project Authorization.
- 4.3 Commit will provide research and analysis to the District that will primarily focus on relative campus progress, relative district progress, county progress, regional progress, and initiative progress related to student educational outcomes and teacher- and principal-level performance and outcomes. Commit will use District data to understand educational trends across various geographies including but not limited to campus, District and county. Commit will use county-wide, aggregated data for policy initiatives focused on supporting the efforts of schools and advocating for best practices to support effective instructional practices. Commit will also provide analyses that are useful to the District in informing education policies and practices, including but not limited to analysis of the District with the county-wide aggregate.

5. Scope of Data to be Disclosed

- 5.1 The District will share data files as listed in each Project Authorization. Any additional data needed will be included in an amended Project Authorization. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the District will not provide (and Commit will not request) any student's, teacher's, or principal's social security number.
- 5.2 **All** Project Authorizations and research activities by Commit must be administered with minimal intrusion on instructional time.
- 5.3 Each Project Authorization shall identify all Commit officers and employees having a legitimate interest, who will have access to Personally Identifiable Information ("PII") as defined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 C.F.R. § 99.3, during the research project described in the Project Authorization, and shall specifically identify the Commit officer or employee whom Commit has designated to be the custodian of the PII obtained from the District for the project. All Commit personnel who have access to PII shall be appropriately trained by Commit to maintain the confidential nature of PII and comply with applicable legal obligations under FERPA, Texas law, this Agreement, and the Project Authorization.

6. Limitations on Use

- 6.1 The Parties acknowledge and agree that certain federal and state laws protect the privacy interests of students and parents with regard to educational records maintained by the District, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and its implementing regulations 34 C.F.R. § 99.1 et seq. The District has determined that Commit has a legitimate educational interest in the educational records, as that term is defined under FERPA, of those students, teachers, and principals included in the research being conducted by Commit under this Agreement, and that Commit is the agent of the District solely for the purpose of conducting research studies under this Agreement and as authorized by FERPA. Commit and any third-party affiliated researchers shall maintain the confidentiality of student, teacher, and principal educational records and comply with the requirements of FERPA and all other applicable laws with respect to the confidentiality of student records. This provision shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

- 6.2 Access by Commit to District data shall be governed by the Project Authorization, and Commit may not use PII for any purpose other than the Research Studies.
- 6.3 Notwithstanding any other restriction contained herein, Commit shall have the right to present, publish, or use District data gained in the course of conducting the Research Studies, subject to the provisions of this Section 6, only if such disclosure does not contain personally identifiable information. Accordingly, any publication or dissemination of data by Commit will be reported in the aggregate and converted to de-identified information. "De-identified information" means data or information that neither identifies nor provides a reasonable basis to identify an individual where, without limitation, the following identifiers have been removed: the student's name; the name of the student's parent or other family members; the address of the student or student's family; a personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record; other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name; other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; or information requested by a person who Commit or the District reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates. Unless a Project Authorization provides otherwise, Commit may present or publish data comparing or listing specific districts and/or school-specific information, so long as any such presentations or publications contain only de-identified information.
- 6.4 Commit will not share, present, or publish District-specific data and results that contain PII with any entity except the District, unless authorized in writing by the District. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Commit shall be permitted to publish a Research Study or reports in aggregate form, provided that any of the District's education records or PII used in connection therewith has been de-identified.
- 6.5 Commit shall cooperate with the District as to any reasonable request to review Commit's compliance with the terms of this Agreement.

7. Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information

- 7.1 Commit agrees to maintain the confidentiality of student, teacher, and principal information throughout all stages of conducting the Research Studies, including the final version of the Research Studies, by implementing reasonable data security procedures, controls, and safeguards to ensure that personally identifiable information is protected in accordance with FERPA and Tex. Bus. & Com. Code Chapter 521 (to the extent applicable).
- 7.2 PII will be collected, stored, transmitted, and disposed using the following guidelines: (i) confidential/sensitive data will be collected only as necessary and in conjunction with this Agreement and any associated Project Authorization; (ii) as provided above, PII will be restricted in its distribution and accessibility such that only researchers and other authorized person who have agreed to the confidentiality terms of this Agreement may access the data; (iii) PII will be properly secured by the use of safeguards such as secure file storage, firewall protection, complex password protection, secure operating systems, anti-virus software, locked physical files and backups, data encryption, and other technology tools; and (iv) when necessary, PII will be disposed through secure means such as shredding paper files and erasing electronic files.
- 7.3 Commit will not bear responsibility for safeguarding information that is publicly available, that is not an education record or PII, that is obtained by Commit from third parties without restrictions on disclosure

and is not obviously PII, or is required to be disclosed by order of a court or other governmental entity.

- 7.4 Nothing in this Agreement may be construed to allow either Party to maintain, use, disclose, or share education records in a manner not allowed under federal or state law or regulation. Except as otherwise permitted by this Agreement, Commit shall not provide any District data obtained under this Agreement to a third party without the prior written authorization of the District.
- 7.5 Commit stipulates that this Agreement does not convey ownership of the District data to Commit. The District retains ownership of the personally identifiable information that it provides pursuant to this Agreement. The District grants Commit a perpetual, non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free license to use, reproduce, modify, create derivative works, and otherwise make use of (to the extent such use, reproduction, modifications, and derivative works comply with the restrictions in this Agreement) the District data contained in the Research Studies in any manner and through any media.
- 7.6 If Commit becomes aware of a disclosure or security breach concerning any District data covered by this Agreement, Commit shall immediately notify the District and take immediate steps to limit and mitigate the damage of such security breach to the greatest extent possible. If there is a "breach of system security" where "sensitive personal information" is breached, both as defined in Tex. Bus. & Com. Code §§ 521.002, 521.053, Commit shall proceed with notification requirements as required therein. The Parties agree that any breach of the privacy and/or confidentiality obligations set forth in this Agreement may, at the District's sole discretion, result in the District's immediately terminating this Agreement.

8. Term and Termination

- 8.1 This Agreement starts on the date that both Parties have signed the agreement below and shall end as described in the project authorization. At any time, this Agreement may be extended by mutual agreement of the Parties in writing.
- 8.2 Either Party may terminate this Agreement with 30 days' written notice of termination to the other Party.
- 8.3 Upon termination, Commit will work without unreasonable delay to securely delete, destroy, or return any and all data files and hard copy records to the District that contain PII and remove any other PII from Commit's computer system. If requested, Commit shall provide the District with an affidavit from an authorized officer of Commit confirming the deletion, destruction or return of data and files containing PII as soon as the action is complete.

9. Financial Arrangements

- 9.1 Commit will not charge the District for the work performed under this Agreement. The District agrees as consideration that Commit will be able to use data collected for and on behalf of the District for Commit's analyses and the Research Studies in a manner consistent with this Agreement.
- 9.2 It is understood that each Party shall be responsible for its own expenses. Neither Party is precluded from independently seeking funding to promote the stated goals and objectives of this Agreement. It is further understood that each Party shall budget and expend such funds in accordance with respect to their institutional policies.

10. Data Breach Notification

- 10.1 If Commit experiences a data breach, it must notify the District immediately and take steps to mitigate any damage. Notifications must comply with Tex. Bus. & Com. Code §§ 521.002 and 521.053.

11. Notices

- 11.1 The following individuals are the contact points for each Party under this Agreement. These individuals are responsible for the management and coordination of the requirements for each respective Party under this Agreement. Copies of correspondence related to the modification, amendment, extension or termination of this Agreement, or any other legal matter pertaining to this Agreement, shall be furnished to these individuals with additional copies to:

For the District:

Name:

Title:

Organization: **The Duncanville Independent School District**

Email:

For The Commit Partnership:

Name: Cameron Hedden

Title: Lead Consultant, EC-12

Organization: **The Commit Partnership**

Email: cameron.hedden@commitpartnership.org

12. Miscellaneous Terms

- 12.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a partnership or joint venture between the Parties, nor authorize either Party to incur any liability on behalf of the other.
- 12.2 Neither the District nor Commit shall use the other Party's name, trademarks or other logos, or the names of any individuals involved in the Agreement in any publication or public presentation without the prior written consent of such other Party.
- 12.3 No alteration, cancellation, variation, or addition to this Agreement shall be of any force or effect unless reduced to writing as an addendum to this Agreement and signed by the Parties or their authorized signatories.
- 12.4 This document contains the entire agreement between the Parties, and neither Party shall be bound by any undertaking, representation or warranty not recorded herein or added hereto without the consent of the Parties.
- 12.5 None of the provisions of this Agreement shall be considered waived by any Party unless such waiver is given in writing to the other Party. The failure of a Party to insist upon strict performance of any of the terms and conditions hereof, or failure to delay to exercise any rights provided herein or by law, shall not

be deemed a waiver of any rights of any Party.

- 12.6 The headings appearing in this Agreement have been used for reference purposes only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement.
- 12.7 If any clause or term of this Agreement should be invalid, unenforceable, or illegal, then the remaining terms and provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed to be severable there from and shall continue in full force and effect.
- 12.8 Neither Party shall assign, cede, or otherwise transfer any of its rights and obligations in terms of this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other Party, whose consent may not be unreasonably withheld.
- 12.9 By signing below, each Party represents that they are authorized to execute this Agreement and that each Party is bound by all terms of the Agreement.
- 12.10 This Agreement shall only become effective and legally binding on the Parties once it has been signed by the Parties.
- 12.11 No Party shall have the right to commit the other Party to any contractual, legal, or financial liability, unless said Party has received the prior agreement from the other Party in writing.
- 12.12 The Parties understand and agree that nothing herein shall be interpreted as establishing any form of exclusive relationship between Commit and the District. The Parties further understand and agree that nothing herein shall be interpreted as precluding either Party from entering into agreements similar to this Agreement with third parties or from conducting educational, research, or other activities that may involve the same or similar subject matter as this Agreement, the conduct of which is outside and independent of this Agreement.
- 12.13 The Parties agree that no individual shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, subjected to discrimination under, or denied employment in the administration of or in connection with any aspects of this Agreement because of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The Parties agree to abide by the standards of responsibility toward the disabled as specified by the Americans with Disabilities Act. In the event that either Party refuses to comply with this provision, this Agreement may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part by the other Party.
- 12.14 Each Party shall maintain at its sole expense adequate insurance or self-insurance coverage to satisfy its obligations under this Agreement.
- 12.15 Any dispute arising under this Agreement shall be resolved in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. Venue shall lie exclusively in Dallas County, Texas.
- 12.16 The terms of this Agreement may be modified only upon a prior written amendment agreement executed by all Parties to this Agreement.
- 12.17 This Agreement constitutes and contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the

subject matter hereof and supersedes any prior and contemporaneous oral or written agreements between the Parties. The Parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives. By signing this Agreement, the District and Commit signify that each Party understands and will comply with the conditions stated above.

SIGNATURE PAGE

INCORPORATION OF PROJECT AUTHORIZATION WITH DATA SHARING AGREEMENT

The District and Commit agree that this Project Authorization and the data sharing addendum will govern the collection, analysis, and FERPA compliant management of data. Commit also agrees to receive written consent from the District prior to publishing or sharing findings with any parties outside of Commit or the District.

Commit Partnership

Name: Abby (Mayer) Eelsen
Title: Chief Operating Officer

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

The Commit Partnership

Duncanville Independent School District

Name: _____
Title: _____

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

Duncanville Independent School District

RETURN THIS SIGNED DOCUMENT TO:

Cameron Hedden, Commit Partnership, 3000 Pegasus Park Drive, STE 900, Dallas, TX 75247 or email to cameron.hedden@commitpartnership.org