

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
GADSDEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY**

A. Partners to the Agreement

This Memorandum of Understanding is established between the Gadsden Independent School District and New Mexico State University ENLACE Program.

B. Statement of Need

The work of the Southern New Mexico ENLACE is to empower participants through three core integrated programs that constitute an institutional pathway. These programs consist of the ENLACE Academic Curriculum for Excellence (A.C.E.) for middle and high school students, Parent Centers, and Exito! (success for university students) program through culturally responsive methods of education in supportive student learning communities.

Parent involvement has been associated with a variety of positive academic outcomes, including high point averages, increased achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics. Other research indicates academic benefits such as lower dropout rates, increased retention, and fewer special education placements. Additionally positive behavioral outcomes associated with parent involvement include increased ability to self regulate behavior and higher levels of social skills.

Educators and teachers want and need specific preparation about the knowledge, attitudes, and skills it takes to enhance the involvement of diverse families in the child's education. ENLACE NMSU recognizes the importance of preparing teachers and parents to work together to enhance student success. ENLACE further recognizes that when families are involved in their child's learning, children do better in school and life. In addition to the benefits of parent involvement, the No Child Left Behind Act has specific requirements for family involvement that require notification and participation for parents in their child's education.

ENLACE NMSU will support schools to build a network through collaboration and coordination that will support students and families in order for students to stay in school and succeed. The overall goal of the ENLACE/GISD Parent Center is to include parents, school personnel, and students to meaningfully engage and have a stronger presence in the academic preparation of their children.

C. Goals of the Agreement

The strategic priorities of ENLACE NMSU are to prepare all students successfully to graduate from high school and prepare them to be college ready when they enroll at

NMSU and/or Dona Ana Community College. ENLACE at New Mexico State University goals are: 1) Ensure access and success into higher education of those students enrolled in the GISD; 2) Foster belief that all students can achieve and graduate from the university; 3) To install a solid foundation for student growth, development, and persistence so that students are retained and graduate; and 4) Students and their parents will have an understanding of leadership and empowered to direct their own school and college learning experience. Each of these programs is contributing to the development of an academic identity among students and an academic commitment within the parents.

D. Organizational Process

ENLACE NMSU will assist with providing the GISD Family Centers with materials associated with training as deemed necessary.

E. Points of Contact

Programmatic/Technical

The NMSU Principal Investigator is responsible for the technical, scientific, and programmatic aspect of the overall project.

The GISD Project Director is responsible for the proper management and conduct of the scope of work as described in Attachment A.

NMSU Principal Investigator

Dr. Eric Lopez
Principal Investigator
New Mexico State University
ENLACE Program NMSU
P.O. Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
Telephone: 575-646-1348
Fax: 575-646-7712

GISD Project Director

Ray Lara
Parent Involvement Coordinator
Gadsden Independent School District
4950 McNutt Rd
Sunland Park, NM 88063
Telephone: 575-882-6283
Fax: 575-882-6727

Administrative Points of Contact:

NMSU

Dr. Eric Lopez
New Mexico State University
ENLACE Program
P.O. Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
Telephone: 575-646-1348
Fax: 575-646-7712

GISD

Efren Yturralde Deputy Superintendent
Gadsden Independent School District
Sunland Park, New Mexico 88063
Telephone: 575-882-6283
Fax: 575-882-6727

F. Modification

Any modification to this Memorandum of Agreement shall be made by written agreement of the authorized representatives of the parties.

G. Period of Performance

This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective August 20, 2009 and terminate June 30, 2010.

H. Scope of Work

The agreed upon Scope of Work for collaborative efforts for the Memorandum of Understanding are outlined in Attachment A hereto appended to this MOU.

I. Termination

It is understood and agreed that this Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days written notice. In the event of termination, NMSU and GISD shall proceed in an orderly fashion to limit or terminated any outstanding commitments and to conclude the work.

J. Publicity

No publicity matter having or containing any reference to NMSU, or in which the name of NMSU is mentioned, shall be made my GISD until written approval has been first obtained by NMSU. No publicity matter having or containing reference to GISD, or in which the name of GISD is mentioned, shall be made by NMSU until written approval has been first obtained by GISD.

K. Progress Reports

GISD Parent Ambassadors shall participate in monthly progress and in-service meeting with NMSU principal investigators and or his designated staff in accordance with the provisions contained in Attachment A.

L. Human Subjects

NMSU and GISD agree that the rights and welfare of human subjects will be protected in accordance with the applicable policies set forth in 45 CRF Part 690. NMSU and GISD shall bear the responsibility for the proper and safer performance of its work and services involving human subjects. Research involving the use of human subjects will not be conducted under the agreement.

M. Non discrimination

NMSU and GISD, in compliance with federal and state laws, shall be committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to program and employment without regard to race, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, status as a disabled or veteran, and sexual orientation.

N. Assignment

This agreement may not be assigned or sub awarded to a third party, in whole or in part without the prior written consent of NMSU and GISD.

O. Applicable Law

This agreement shall be governed and constructed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Mexico. As between the parties, each party will be solely responsible for liability arising from personal injury, including death, or damage to property arising from the act or failure to act of the respective party or of its officials, agents and employees pursuant to this Agreement. The liability of NMSU shall be subject to the immunities and limitations of the New Mexico Tort Claims Act, Section 41-4-1 et seq., NMSA 1978, and of any amendments thereto.

P. Entire Agreement

This Memorandum of Understanding constitutes the entire agreement between NMSU and GISD. Any changes or modifications shall be accomplished by amendment to this agreement executed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding supersedes and replaces any previous arrangement between the parties hereto, oral or written, pertaining to this agreement.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have executed this agreement by their duly authorized officials, in duplicate, on the dates indicated below.

NMSU ENLACE

Gadsden Independent School District

Date

Date

Dr. Eric Lopez
Principal Investigator.

Cynthia Nava
GISD Superintendent

Attachment A Scope of Work

The overall goal of the ENLACE/GISD family center is to include parents, school personnel, and students to meaningfully engage and have a stronger presences in the academic preparation of their children. In order to meet this objective, the following strategies will be used.

- The GISD staff will inform parents and guardians of meetings, functions, and activities relating to parent engagement in the school.
- The GISD Parent Outreach staff will contact parents/guardians through meetings, knock and talks, letters, phone calls, online or other means to inform them of parent involvement activities that may improve student annual yearly performance.
- Parent Outreach staff will provide materials and training to help parents work with their child to improve achievement.
- Parent Outreach staff will provide activities and materials to help parents to academically assist their child at home.
- Parent Outreach staff will facilitate activities which help parents plan with their child post graduation activities.
- Parent Outreach staff will recruit parent volunteers to participate in advisory teams and decision making.
- Parent Outreach staff will keep complete records for each parent, student, and evaluate parent engagement activities and forward this data to ENLACE for program evaluation purposes.

The overall goal of the ENLACE/GISD Parent Center is to include parents, school personnel, and students to meaningfully engage and have a stronger presences in the academic preparation of their children. In order to meet this objective, the following strategies will be used.

- ENLACE in coordination with GISD staff will facilitate training to assist staff and parents in understanding parents right, roles and responsibilities as it pertains to No Child Left Behind.
- ENLACE in coordination with GISD staff will identify training resources such as the Center for Education Studies of Diverse Populations (CESDP) for training of staff and parents in meaningful parent engagement. These also include but not limited to No Child Left Behind, Parent and Family Toolkit, Strengthening Families Initiative, performance of Knock and Talks, communication techniques and strategies, and other needed trainings and activities identified by ENLACE, parent, or center staff.
- ENLACE in coordination with GISD staff will provide training in the delivery of training methods to staff and parents so that they train others and become self sustaining.

- ENLACE will maintain communication with GISD parent outreach staff, principals, teachers, and others to continually evaluate progress and identify future directions.
- ENLACE will assist GISD in the collection of data to assess the effectiveness of activities leading to student achievement and report data to GISD and State ENLACE.