

MEMORANDUM

TO: Estrella C. Burciaga, Director of Early Childhood, Gadsden Independent School District
Silvia Lorenzo, Early Childhood Principle, Gadsden Independent School District
FROM: Marisol Diaz, NM Senior Coordinator, Family Engagement (SCAN)
CC: Ryan Murphy, Director of State and Electoral Campaigns (SCAN)
Date: August 31, 2021
RE: Partnership for Parent Engagement

1. Parties

Established in 2014, the Gadsden Independent School Districts (GISD) Early Childhood Program focuses on quality pre-k programming for three and four-year-old children. The fourth-largest school district in New Mexico, the GISD Early Childhood Program's service area encompasses Chaparral, Anthony, Sunland Park, including the eight unincorporated farmland communities along the I-10 corridor; the most rural and historically marginalized regions in Doña Ana County. Parents of participating children are involved through a series of engagement programs such as Coffee with the Superintendent, Coffee with the Principal, and bring your parent to school day. These events are purposeful in providing parents with an in-person, first-hand experience of their child's learning journey and serve as a platform for connecting them to community partners, provider agencies, and school district staff.

Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) works to ensure that the issues critical to children's lives and futures are given top priority by our elected leaders, building bipartisan support to ensure every child has a strong start in life. Since 2018, SCAN has been working in New Mexico. It has a statewide network of volunteers, two Community Action Teams in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, and a Student Ambassador Program at New Mexico State University and the University of New Mexico. In July of 2021, SCAN officially launched a Parent Engagement program in Doña Ana County.

2. Responsibilities

As a result of this partnership, SCAN will collaborate with GISD Early Childhood Program to build parent and educator voice in policy and advocacy.

Save the Children Action Network is required to:

1. Maintain regular communication throughout the year with GISD Early Childhood Program staff.
2. Assist with GISD family engagement by providing grassroots, non-partisan advocacy training or policy briefings at three parent meetings per year. Given the ongoing spread of COVID-19, this could be done virtually, when determined necessary by either party.
3. Host one (1) community event during the summer for GISD families and Staff Ambassadors.
4. Share community engagement and lawmaker opportunities with GISD families through GISD Early Childhood staff.
5. Assist GISD families and/or educators with costs that otherwise would prevent them from participating in advocacy, possibly including travel, lodging, child care subsidy, food, etc.

GISD Early Childhood Program is required to:

1. Maintain regular communication throughout the year with Save the Children Action Network staff.
2. Assist SCAN with promoting events, meetings, and workshops to families and Staff Ambassadors
3. Identify opportunities and coordinate with SCAN to host three (3) family engagement activities during the school year and one community event over the summer.

3. Areas of Coordination and Cooperation could include:

- Present at, host, or co-host parent engagement opportunities for the GISD community
- Participate in community outreach events co-hosted and co-branded with GISD and SCAN, including but not limited to tabling, panels, and public presentations.
- Arrange and co-host a site visit from a local, state, or federal lawmaker.
- Work together to identify and support family ambassadors with opportunities to meet with or engage lawmakers in the district, at the state capitol, or in Washington, D.C.
- Develop and consult on communication materials and needs that focus on parent narratives, including and not limited to story collection for specific relevant campaigns.

4. Timeframe

This MOU is for one (1) year, from September 15, 2021, through September 14, 2022. At the end of the year, we will re-evaluate the MOU to see if updates or revisions are required.

5. Liability

GISD will share a SCAN photo release form with all staff, parents, alumni, and participating parties and a liability release form participants that hold harmless Save the Children Action Network and/or its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and activity providers from any and all liability for claims, suits, demands, expenses, and damages arising from participation in this program, including travel to and from events or any activities associated with this program.

6. Signatures

Travis L. Dempsey
Superintendent
Gadsden Independent
School District.

Marisol Diaz
Family Engagement Coordinator
Doña Ana County
Save the Children Action Network (SCAN)