

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	27469	Agenda Number	49.
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Meeting Date:	9/26/2013	Department:	Parks and Recreation
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement between the City of Austin and the Austin Independent School District for the ACE Reading and Tutoring Intervention Program to be offered at Allison, Brooke, Govalle, Metz, Ortega and Zavala Elementary Schools.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding for the AISD Reading Intervention Program is allocated annually through the General Fund 1000-8600-5101 and is expected to be \$100,000 in FY 2014.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Kimberly McNeeley 512-974-6722; April Shaw 512-974-6716.
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

Recognizing the importance of early intervention to improve the reading and writing skills of Austin’s youth, the City Council approved a motion on September 11, 2006, to amend the Proposed Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department by increasing appropriations in the amount of \$100,000 to support AISD’s Reading Intervention Program, Metz HOSTS (Helping One Student to Succeed).

Since the Council’s approval, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) has partnered with the Austin Independent School District (AISD) and has provided an annual allocation of \$100,000 to sustain the aforementioned reading intervention/tutoring program. Moreover, provisions for PARD’s continued annual support of the Metz HOSTS program are included in the FY 2013-14 proposed budget.

Prior to drafting a new agreement for the 2013-14 school year, PARD staff met with the Metz principal, Martha Castillo, and other AISD central office administrators to discuss the merits and successes of the Metz HOSTS

program. The discussion revealed that even though there had been much success with the HOSTS program, there was a new program available that had met with much success at other AISD elementary campuses. AISD requested that the City of Austin consider this as an alternative to the current literacy program and continue its current level of funding to provide this program to Metz students, as well as to students at Allison, Brooke, Govalle, Ortega and Zavala elementary schools.

The proposed program, "ACE: A Community for Education", is offered through the University of Texas at Austin's Charles A. Dana Center, and places highly trained AmeriCorps tutors into 22 AISD Title I elementary schools to ensure that children advance to grade level in reading before the third grade. These ACE tutors provide intensive, daily, bilingual, reading tutoring to over 1,800 K-2nd grade students in the AISD and Manor school districts.

AISD's rationale for replacing the Metz HOSTS program with ACE centered on the following:

- ACE utilizes curriculum and methodology, based on current educational standards that are aligned with state and national standards, while the HOSTS curriculum has not been updated in over seven years;
- ACE offers each campus four full-time Americorp tutors that are highly trained rather than volunteers offered in HOSTS;
- The inclusion of ACE at Metz Elementary School, rather than HOSTS, would provide greater consistency in literacy intervention among the eastside elementary school campuses; and
- The City-provided funding would impact a greater number of children by directing it to six campuses rather than one.

Based on these findings, AISD has determined it appropriate to replace the Metz HOSTS program with ACE during the 2013-2014 school year. The City of Austin, through its Parks and Recreation Department, supports the fundamental concept of a reading intervention/tutoring program and finds ACE to be a suitable alternative to Metz HOSTS.

Funding in the amount of \$100,000 would support a K-2nd grade ACE Reading Tutoring Intervention Program offered at Allison, Brooke, Govalle, Metz, Ortega and Zavala elementary schools and would serve an estimated 450 children. The funding, provided by the City of Austin, would be allocated in the following manner:

- Allison Elementary School - \$10,000 to partially fund ACE Tutoring.
- Brooke Elementary School - \$10,000 to partially fund ACE Tutoring.
- Govalle Elementary School - \$10,000 to partially fund ACE Tutoring.
- Metz Elementary School - \$50,000 to provide partial funding for ACE Tutoring and a Parent Support Specialist.
- Ortega Elementary School - \$10,000 to partially fund ACE Tutoring.
- Zavala Elementary School - \$10,000 to partially fund ACE Tutoring.

The proposed utilization of the funding for a Parent Support Specialist at Metz Elementary School would enable the school to conduct parent workshops that would provide parents the necessary tools to support reading at home. In addition, the workshops would serve as a mechanism to recruit mentors and volunteers who can assist the school with one-on-one instruction. Funds previously utilized by the above-listed campuses to support Ace Tutoring would be used to implement programs that develop student literacy and/or mathematical understanding.