



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3536, **Agenda Item #:** 51.

12/9/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Austin Independent School District to support the Literacy First Program and Tutoring Intervention Program for a 12-month term through September 30, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, with four 12-month renewal options in amounts not to exceed \$100,000 per renewal option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$500,000.

Lead Department

Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget. Funding for the agreement is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Prior Council Action:

September 25, 2014 - City Council authorized the negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Austin Independent School District (District).

September 17, 2015 - City Council authorized an amendment to the interlocal agreement with the District.

August 4, 2016 - City Council authorized an amendment to the interlocal agreement with the District.

October 17, 2017 - City Council authorized the negotiation and execution of a new interlocal agreement with the District.

For More Information:

Lucas Massie, Assistant Director, 512-974-6772; David Crabb, Division Manager, 512-965-0943.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

November 30, 2021 - Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board on an 8-0 vote with Board Members Barnard and Taylor absent and one vacancy.

Additional Backup Information:

Recognizing the importance of early intervention to improve the reading and writing skills of Austin's youth, on October 17, 2017, the City Council authorized an interlocal agreement with the Austin Independent School District (District) that would support the Literacy First Reading and Tutoring Intervention Program (intervention/tutoring program) at Allison, Brooke, Govalle, Metz, Ortega and Zavala elementary schools within the Eastside Memorial Vertical Team.

Literacy First is an early childhood literacy program at the Charles Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The Center's mission places highly trained AmeriCorps members in Title I elementary schools that are also economically disadvantaged to deliver intensive tutoring to advance K-2 students to grade level in reading by third grade. These tutors provide intensive, daily, bilingual, reading tutoring to approximately 1,450 K-2nd grade students in the District.

Since 2017, the City, through the Parks and Recreation Department (Department), has partnered with the District and has provided an allocation of \$100,000 to sustain the reading intervention/tutoring program. Moreover, provisions for the Department's continued annual support of the program are included in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget.

For the 2020-2021 school year, Department funding supported the K-2nd grade Literacy First Reading Program offered at Allison, Govalle, Metz, Ortega, Sanchez and Zavala elementary schools. This funding served approximately 113 District students. At least 27% of 113 students were consistently served by Literacy First tutors and were either able to graduate from the program with grade-appropriate reading skills or demonstrated significant, accelerated reading progress and were on-track to graduate. Due to the disruption created by the COVID-19 pandemic, these numbers are significantly lower than the 300 students previously served by the intervention/tutoring program. With the return of "in person" learning for the 2021-2022 schools year, the expectation is that the number of students served will return to the expected 300 students.

While the previous focus was to support elementary schools within the Eastside Memorial Vertical Team, the proposed agreement will expand the program to students attending any District Title I elementary school.

In recognition of City funding, the District will:

- Administer the program and make it available to at least 300-350 students attending District Title I elementary schools.
- Waive rental fees associated with the City's use of District facilities for the City's Creativity Club After-School Program, at Oak Hill Elementary School for the duration of this agreement.
- Waive rental fees and ancillary costs associated with use of an auditorium, a gymnasium, a classroom, a stadium or field for a City public purpose as requested by the City throughout the duration of this agreement. Requests for classrooms, stadiums or fields will be mutually agreed upon by the District and the City.
- Provide transportation for District students, who participate in Department after-school programs, from the schools below to the designated Department facility at the following locations:
 - Zilker Elementary School students to the Daugherty Arts Center for no more than 36 students per trip.
 - Gullett Elementary School students to Northwest Recreation Center for no more than 36 students per trip.
 - Maplewood Elementary School students to Hancock Recreation Center for no more than 36 students per trip.
 - Casey Elementary School students to Dittmar Recreation Center for no more than 24 students per trip.
- Allow and assist with the marketing of Department programs and employment opportunities to its students.
- Provide to the Department a post-program report assessing program success, identifying issues and recommending changes to improve the intervention/tutoring program for the next mentoring year. The report requirements will include:
 - Student assessment data that demonstrates the percentage of students achieving benchmark scores for their grade level;
 - Total number of students tutored and the percent of students who meet criteria for successful completion of the Literacy First program;
 - Detailed annual budget indicating the exact use of City funds in support of the Literacy First program; and
 - Any additional information reflecting student success as a result of enrollment in the program.

If approved, this item will allow the Department to provide the same level of funding to support the intervention/tutoring Program for the 2021-2022 school year and subsequent school years subject to appropriation by the City Council.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Culture and Lifelong Learning, Government that Works for All.