ATTACHMENT B

PROPOSAL TRANSMITTAL FORM
Early Learning Collaborative

Name of Collaborative: Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative

Lead Partner: Clarksdale Municipal School District

Title: Public School

Location of Lead Partner's Principal Place of Business:
Clarksdale, Mississippi

Phone Number: 662.627.8542 **Fax Number:** 662.627.8542

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1088

Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

E-mail Address: tmatthews@cmsd.k12.ms.us

By my signature below, I hereby represent that I am authorized to and do bind the applicant to the provisions of the attached proposal. The undersigned offers and agrees to perform the specified personal and professional services in accordance with provisions set forth in the Request for Proposals (RFP). Furthermore, the undersigned fully understands and assures compliance with the Standard Terms and Conditions contained in the RFP. The undersigned is fully aware of the evaluation criteria to be utilized in awarding the contract.

Tonya Harrell-Matthews 10/28/13

Authorized Signature Date

Part II: Collaborative Abstract

The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative consists of Clarksdale Municipal and Coahoma County School Districts, Head Start, child care centers and private schools. It is committed to promoting and expanding quality learning environments and experiences and improving child outcomes and school readiness for four-year-old children residing in Coahoma County.

Our vision is to design and implement a literacy and language-rich program based on the *Mississippi Early Learning Standards for four year olds* that supports children's individual rates of development and learning. Because child and family well-being are major predictors of positive child outcomes and school success, our program will include: (a) developing strong relationships and engaging parents, (b) setting goals and connecting families to peers and community resources, (c) staff development, (d) on-going child screening/assessments (developmental and health), (e) inclusive environments, (f) use of technology to promote learning and drive decision making, (g) itinerant mentor/reading coach supporting staff & families in language & literacy.

By implementing a mentor/coaching model with a reading specialist focusing on language and literacy, and incorporating technology, staff and families will have opportunities, activities and professional development that will:

- increase the teaching of phonics, and phonological awareness
- provide strategies to develop & expand expressive & receptive language skills
- engage staff and families in age-appropriate strategies that will promote and assist in developing reading skills

Part III – Collaborative Profile

1.0 – Community Partnership

- ***Date of formation***

The Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative was formed on **May 21, 2013** after over a year of planning and collaboration with local and regional agencies. The history of the collaborative formation is one of widespread community support. The timeline is detailed below.

On **March 28,2012**, Jean Duff of the Coahoma County School District, and Dorothy Prestwich, Toya Matthews, and Gina Foster of the Clarksdale Municipal School District came together to meet and discuss our joint concerns for pre-kindergarten achievement, such as how to obtain reliable data to use for closing the achievement gap. Our focus was to discuss ways to utilize our pre-school data over time to improve our programs.

On **April 11, 2012**, Toya Matthews and Dorothy Prestwich were invited to attend a Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK-MS) steering committee meeting. SPARK is an initiative created by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to work with schools, day cares, Head Start, and government agencies to provide a seamless transition into school for vulnerable children ages 3 – 8. SPARK-MS's staff works to provide technical assistance to child care providers to align their curriculums to the state's Early Learning Guidelines as well as sponsoring curriculum alignment workshops between child care programs

Three major priorities were discussed at this meeting.

- Priority 1 focused on a seamless transition from Pre-kindergarten to Kindergarten without a loss of skills over the summer. In order to measure skill retention, a commitment to utilize the same curriculum for both County and City Schools, as well as other providers, was suggested. SPARK also could commit to six home visits throughout the summer for each child.
- Priority 2 addressed best conduct joint professional development. An area of focus would be the Common Core Early Learning Standards. Engaging families in professional development was considered key, as parents need to be made aware of the Common Core Early Learning Standards as it aligns with the Mississippi Department of Education's *Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year Old Children.* In order to ensure that all children in Coahoma County have access to the same high quality curriculum and assessments, SPARK suggested that they continue to go into child care centers on a repeated basis to talk with the proprietors. It was also suggested that Healthy Alliance could go into the daycares. A commitment to work with Head Start was made, as our focus must be to come together to help our children.
- Priority 3 focused on increased parental engagement. Two suggestions were to reach parents through a Health Fair and through an Mississippi Curriculum Test 2 (MCT2) Bash.

The steering committee also discussed pre-kindergarten assessments such as the Ready School Assessment already in use. The eight indicators of a Ready School were discussed and a commitment was made to ensure that our area schools would meet those indicators. A series of meetings was held over the summer and school-year.

On **May 29, 2012**, a prominent attorney in our city, Bill Luckett, now mayor of Clarksdale, asked a group of interested parties to attend a meeting in his offices. Representatives included Clarksdale Municipal School District, Coahoma County School District, Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. (Head Start), Southern Bancorp Community Partners, and renowned early childhood expert, Dr. Cathy Grace. The focus of this meeting was to explore ideas to expand quality pre-kindergarten offerings in our city and to ensure a uniformity of quality across programs.

Informal meetings continued to be held throughout the summer and fall of 2012 and the spring of 2013. **April 28, 2013** a larger group was convened that included representatives from the Clarksdale Municipal School District, Coahoma County School District, Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Representatives from Mississippi First joined the meeting, to provide information about the upcoming pre-kindergarten legislation. The Educational Goals Team of the Delta Bridge as well as the Mississippi Head Start Association and the Head Start Collaboration Office were present. This was an exploratory meeting to decide on the feasibility of formalizing a county-wide pre-kindergarten collaborative and identifying potential partners for the collaborative. On **May 21, 2013**, a second formal pre-kindergarten meeting was held to learn more about the Pre-K legislative requirements for a collaborative and to discuss potential partners of an official Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative. Attendees at this meeting included representatives from Mississippi First, Clarksdale Municipal School District, Educational Goals Team, Delta Bridge, the Governor's Office, The Children's Defense Fund and Coahoma Opportunities Inc. Head Start, and the Coahoma County School District. The directors of Covenant House Christian Day Care Center and Tots for Time Day Care

Center were also part of this meeting. Reporters from The Clarksdale Press Register was invited to join in the meeting.

At this meeting, the formation of the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaboration was discussed. The Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 (Senate Bill No. 2395) and the requirements to meet the law were also discussed. Mississippi First Representatives and the representative from the Governor's Office shared details about the newly passed Pre-K Collaborative Law and what potential partners could start doing before the RFP from the Mississippi Department of Education comes out. The major issue was in determining how many children are currently not being served by Head Start, the public or parochial schools, or private daycares. A Pre-K Round-up was suggested to entice parents to register their children. A common registration form similar to the magnet schools registration form utilized by the CMSD would be developed to allow parents to register for their choice of pre-kindergarten provider.

On **May 22, 2013**, CMSD met with Delta State University (DSU) to discuss ways in which CSMD and DSU could partner to improve the educational achievement of students in the county. Among other topics discussed was Early Childhood. CMSD noted their commitment to Early Childhood education through their efforts to obtain external funding through their partnership with Southern Bancorp Community Partners and Delta Bridge. Through this partnership, two additional pre-kindergarten classrooms have been funded in CMSD for the 2013/14 school-year. It was agreed that CMSD and other educational establishments in Coahoma County need a university partner to provide a seamless program pre-k through college. The facility at DSU has a 4-star rating. It is their intention to utilize this model to provide professional development for

Early Childhood providers in Coahoma County by establishing two demonstration centers in the county. The DSU concept includes self-supporting lab settings that would guarantee that students and teachers would see best practices in action. Leslie Griffin, Dean of the School of Education for DSU, noted that FedEx would be interested in partnering with us. It was also suggested that it would be possible to replicate the training site in Clarksdale and offer undergraduate classes in Early Childhood education if we had a nucleus of at least 10 people who want degrees in Early Childhood education.

On **June 12, 2013,** a meeting was held to reach out to and include local daycare providers. Those in attendance included representatives from St. Elizabeth Catholic School, Covenant House Christian Childcare Center, Tots for Time Childcare Center, Creative Children Childcare Center, CMSD central office personnel and principals, Andrae Sims, (CCSD) and the Educational Goals Team of the Delta Bridge. The purpose of this meeting was to ensure that local private and parochial schools, as well as daycare providers, were invited to join the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative. The goal of the Collaborative is to ensure that all four year olds in Coahoma County have access to quality pre-kindergarten. The discussion centered on the Standards used in National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) and how they could be utilized in our Collaborative model. A universal screening assessment when students leave pre-k to go to kindergarten was discussed as well as the Mississippi Department of Education's *Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year Old Children.* The rating system for childcare centers was discussed, Quality Stars or CLASS were options.

The plan for a Pre-Kindergarten Round-up at the Expo Center on August 3, 2013 in which all schools/daycares would be represented, was discussed. The idea is that we are not serving all the eligible children in Coahoma County. We need to get our children in school. It doesn't matter where. The goal is to bring the community together. To ease the process for parents, registration would be kept uniform across all Collaborative members. There would be one registration form and method for completing/submitting it. This effort can open the door for other things to come into Clarksdale. The group committed to working together whenever possible. For instance, joint professional development is one option.

On **June 14, 2013**, Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative members attended a webinar sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Education.

An Early Childhood Collaborative Conference Call was held on **June 20, 2013.** The purpose of this conference call was to look at the SPARK model and determine if it could be used with our Early Childhood model. This model has learning advocates for students in need of assistance. They work between school settings, students, and parents. They have knowledge of the assessments and curriculum. They are experts in community engagement. Clarksdale has been a SPARK community. We have the structures in place to work with SPARK in the future. Nita Norphlet-Thompson offered to facilitate our collaborative with help in staffing, paper, runners, whatever we need.

On **July 2, 2013,** DSU met with CMSD to discuss pre-kindergarten. Their goal is to work with us to write a grant for a Model Classroom in CMSD. Their purpose is to collaborate with CMSD and CCSD to train pre-kindergarten teachers. DSU is known as one of the top Early Childhood Education centers in Mississippi. DSU proposes having

one of our classrooms mirror the indicators rated in the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECRES) standards. ECRES contains inclusive and culturally sensitive indicators for many items in the Early Childhood environment. This instrument also rates interaction between staff-child, child-child, and discipline, curriculum, health & Safety, and Parents & Staff. ECRES consists of 43 items organized into 7 subscales. DSU's staff will work with our 4-k teachers to enable them to see how the room is set up and the methods and procedures of the classroom. An array of learning is expected with this training. DSU's teacher candidates would come to CMSD to do their internship. CMSD teachers will be invited to tour the center. Mrs. Chestnut, a CMSD pre-kindergarten teacher, was asked to visit Delta State along with Dr. Matthews in July. The goal was that by September, other teachers would have the training and note the problems they are having in their classrooms. Centers would be set up in each classroom. Funding for this initiative would be sought through the Delta Bridge and Southern Bancorp. DSU, CMSD and CCSD will work together to establish course offerings in Early Childhood Education at the Higher Education Center to enable our teachers to become Highly Qualified. Title II funds can be used for that purpose.

On **July 11, 2013**, a planning meeting was held at the Higher Education Center to plan the model classroom and gain input from the pre-kindergarten classroom teachers. In attendance were members of the Early Childhood Education Department, Toya Matthews, Elementary Education Curriculum Director, CMSD, and pre-kindergarten teachers from across the district.

On **July 19, 2013**, another planning meeting was held at the Higher Education to discuss ideas for a Collaborative Pre-K program within the county and to brainstorm

ways to reach families with 4-year children and enroll them in a pre-kindergarten program in the county, whether in private, public, or parochial school. In attendance at this meeting were directors of local day care centers, Southern Bancorp Community Partners, Bill Luckett, Mayor of Clarksdale, representatives from Head Start, The Educational Goals Team, Delta Bridge, CMSD, and CCSD. Bill Luckett offered to promote the pre-kindergarten Collaborative in his radio interview with WROX on **July 21, 2013.**

CMSD kindergarten teachers met on **August 5, 2013,** to plan and prepare for the transition of pre-kindergarten students into their classrooms for the 2013/14 school year.

On **August 7, 2013**, five CMSD pre-kindergarten teachers met at the CMSD Central Office to discuss transition planning for in-coming kindergarten students. On **August 10, 2013**, the Collaborative members attended a multi-church give-away of supplies and uniforms. The purpose was to work with the church coalition and to hand-out applications to parents of four-year children to encourage them to register their 4-year olds in pre-kindergarten in one of the County pre-kindergarten classrooms, whether Head Start, private daycare or private or parochial school or within the City or County public schools.

On **August 15, 2013,** the Collaborative hosted a reception in partnership with Delta State University through the Higher Education Center in Clarksdale. Local parents, educators, public officials, and state legislators attended this informational event. In attendance were Senator Brice Wiggins, co-author of the Pre-K Legislation,

Representative John Moore, Chair of the Education Committee, Representative Chuck Espy, and Mayor Bill Luckett, Mayor of Clarksdale.

Once the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative was established, conference calls have been the preferred method of continuing our on-going collaboration. Conference calls were conducted on **June 20, 2013, September 9, 2013, September 16, 2013**, **October 17**, **October 21, 2013, October 23, October 31, 2013.** Conference calls continue as the work of creating a viable and functioning collaborative is done.

Overall membership chart

Program Partners who provide program services for children	**Partners with an interest in supporting early childhood centers and early childhood education**	**Supporting families attesting to the need for the program and interest in participating in the Early Learning Collaborative**	**Key Community Stakeholders supporting the Early Learning Collaborative**
Headstart – Coahoma County Opportunities Incorporated - Kathy Ann McDougall	Delta State University - Leslie Griffin, Dean of the College of Education - Jan Haynes, Chair & Professor of Family Consumer Sciences - Stephanie Farris, Director of Pre-School Programs & Instructor in Family & Consumer Sciences	Rosie McGee-Brown, grandparent, retired educator	Gray Tollison, Mississippi State Senator, Education Chair

Coahoma County School District - Pauline Rhodes, Superintendent - Andrae Sims, Federal Programs Director	Lois B. Erwin, Senior Community Development Officer, Southern Bancorp Community Partners, Coahoma County Delta Bridge Project	Carmilyn Jackson, Parent	Chuck Espy, Mississippi State Representative, Education Committee
Clarksdale Municipal School District - Dennis J. Dupree, Superintendent - Dorothy L. Prestwich, Assistant Superintendent - Toya Harrell-Matthews, Director of Elementary Education	Shirley H. Fair, Board President, Clarksdale Municipal School District	Teresa Mackey, Parent, Educator	Bill Luckett, Mayor of Clarksdale
Covenant House Christian Daycare Center - Augusta Strong, Director	Valarie Davis, Ed.D, Principal, Myrtle Hall 4 Elementary School	Muriel Jones, Parent	Sarah Ruskey, Director Carnegie Public Library
St. Elizabeth - Jeanne Roberts, principal	Oleta Garrett Fitzgerald, Southern Regional Director, Children's Defense Fund	Cornishee J. Bruce-Sims, Parent, Educator	Sr. Robert Jackson, District 11 - Coahoma, Quitman, Tate, Tunica

Tots for Time Day Care Center - LaShonda Tillis, Director	Peggy Williams, Senior AE Cable One Advertising	Melanie Williams, parent	Vanessa Long, County Director, Department of Human Services
	Josephine P. Rhymes Executive Director, Tri-County Workforce Alliance	Erin Brown, parent	Daniel Vassel, County Administrator, Coahoma County Board of Supervisors
	Courtney Van Cleve, Principal, Booker T. Washington International Studies Magnet School	Jonathan Page, Parent, Assistant Principal, Clarksdale High School	
	LoWanda Tyler Jones, Principal, Heidelberg Elementary Mathematics and Science Magnet School	Nancy Saddler-Newson, Counselor, CMSD, Parent	
	Sharron H. Montgomery, George H. Oliver Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School		
	Wilma H. Wade, Retired Superintendent, Clarksdale Municipal School District		
	Emma Orsby-Jackson, Teacher, Booker T. Washington, International Studies Magnet School		

	Beverly Divers-White, School Improvement Officer, Clarksdale Municipal School District		

With face-to-face, conference calls, and list-serve emails, meetings have been held frequently with Coahoma County Stakeholders. Please note that the conception of these meetings preceded the announcement of the Senate Bill Number 2395, the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013. The dates of the meetings are as follows;

Frequency, Type, & Purpose of Meetings with Attendees

Date	Type of Meeting	Purpose	Attendees
March 28, 2012,	Clarksdale Municipal School District, Title I Room, Exploratory Meeting	To meet and discuss our joint concerns for pre-kindergarten achievement	CCSD CMSD
April 11, 2012	SPARK Steering meeting	To meet & discuss transition from Pre-K to Kindergarten, joint professional development, and increased parental involvement	SPARK CMSD
May 29, 2012	Meeting with Bill Luckett	To meet with county-wide educators to explore ways to expand a quality pre-kindergarten program county-wide	- Bill Luckett, Attorney - Cathy Grace - Dennis Dupree, Superintendent, CMSD - Pauline Rhodes, Superintendent, CCSD - Southern BanCorp Community Partners - Coahoma

			Opportunities, Inc. Head Start - Private schools - CMSD Central Office personnel
May 29, 2012	Meeting with Cathy Grace	Individual district meeting with Cathy Grace to discuss ways to infuse common curriculum and assessments county-wide	- Cathy Grace - Dorothy Prestwich, Assistant Superintendent, CMSD - Toya Harrell-Matthews, Elementary Curriculum Director, CMSD
April 28, 2013	Exploratory Meeting	To explore possibility for a Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative	CMSD CCSD Coahoma Opportunities Inc., Headstart Educational Goals Team, Delta Bridge
May 21, 2013	Formal Pre-Kindergarten Meeting	To learn more about the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 (Senate Bill No. 2395) and to make plans for application.	Mississippi First CMSD Holly Spivey, Governor's Office Children's Defense Fund Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start CCSS Director, Covenant House Christian Day Care Center Director, Tots for Time Day Care Center Clarksdale Press Register

May 22, 2013	Clarksdale Municipal School District, title I room, Exploratory Meeting	To explore ways in which Delta State University can partner with CMSD and CCSD	CMSD Bill Luckett, Attorney Southern Bancorp Community Partners Delta State University
June 12, 2013	Hibachi Grill – Early Childhood Collaborative Interest Meeting	To determine level of interest from public and private pre-kindergarten providers and private daycares	CMSD CCSD St. Elizabeth Catholic School Educational Goals Team, Delta Bridge Director, Covenant House Christian Day Care Center Director, Tots for Time Director, Creative Children Childcare Center
June 14, 2013	Webinar	To learn about the upcoming Mississippi Early Learning Collaborative Act	Collaborative members
June 20, 2013	Conference Call	To debrief Webinar and to develop a plan of action	CMSD SPARK Nita Norplet-Thompson
July 2, 2013	Higher Education Center – Collaboration Planning Meeting	To plan and implement the expansion of the DSU Early Childhood program into Coahoma County through the Higher Education Center and CMSD and CCSD programs	DSU CMSD The Higher Education Center
July 11, 2013	Higher Education Center - Planning Meeting	To plan the model classroom and gain input from	DSU CMSD Pre-kindergarten

		pre-k classroom teachers	Teachers
July 19, 2013	Higher Education Center – Planning Meeting	To meet and discuss ideas for a Collaborative Pre-K Program within the County and how to reach families with 4-year children and enroll them in a pre-k program	-Director, Tots for Time -Southern BanCorp Community Partners -Bill Luckett, Mayor of Clarksdale - Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Head Start - Educational Goals Team, Delta Bridge - Director, Covenant House Christian Center - CMSD -CCSD - Holly Spivey, Governor's Office - Superintendent, Dennis Dupree - Superintendent, Pauline Rhodes
July 21, 2013	Radio Broadcast	To inform citizens about the pre-k registration and upcoming uniform and supply give-away by area churches	Bill Luckett WROX
August 5, 2013	Kindergarten Teachers' Meeting	Plan and prepare for pre-Kindergarten transition into Kindergarten	- Elementary Curriculum Director, CMSD - Kindergarten Teachers
August 7, 2013	Pre-Kindergarten Teachers meeting	To participate in professional development	- Elementary Curriculum Director, CMSD - Pre- Kindergarten Teachers
August 10, 2013	Multi-Church Give Away	To participate with a local coalition of churches to give away uniforms and	CMSD CCSD Head Start

		school supplies and to hand out applications parents of 4-year children to encourage them to register those children with a pre-K program.	
August 15, 2013	Reception	An informational reception aimed at providing information to parents, the community, and other stakeholders about the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative	-Senator Brice Wiggins - Representative John Moore - Representative Henry Espy - Mayor Bill Luckett - Superintendent Dennis Dupree, CMSD - Superintendent Pauline Rhodes, CCSD Nita Norphlete-Thompson, Head Start -Holly Spivey, Governor's Office Sanford Johnson, Educational Goals Team, Delta Bridge -Collaborative Members Parents Public
September 9, 2013	Conference Call	Discuss Early Childhood Grant and the direction and specifics the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative wishes to take.	- Southern Bancorp Community Partners - CCSD - CMSD - Head Start
September 16, 2013	Conference Call	Discuss Early Childhood Grant	Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten

			Collaborative Members
October 17, 2013	Conference	Discuss Early Childhood Grant	Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative Members
October 21, 2013	Conference Call	Discuss Early Childhood Grant	Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative Members
October 23, 2013	Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start School Readiness Leadership Tem Meeting	Roundtable discussion on School Readiness	- CMSD - CCSD - Director, Covenant House - HeadStart - Parents
October 31, 2013	Conference Call	Finalize grant preparations Curriculum and assessment agreed upon between members	Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative Members

2.0 <u>Lead Partner Capabilities</u>

The Lead Partner's capacity to do the following;

- ***Serve a fiscal agent to disburse funds according to the Early Learning Collaborative's application***

Clarksdale Municipal School District will serve as the Lead Partner for the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative. CMSD has the capacity to disburse funds as evidenced by its long history dealing with federal and state grants, such as the federal Title programs, School Improvement Grant, Magnet Schools Assistance Program Grant and many other grants of varying degrees of complexity. CMSD administers an annual budget of $4,043,319. (audit available upon request)

- ***Ensure that the provisions contained in the agreement are carried out in an efficient and effective manner***

CMSD maintains a business office and a long history of financial stability and efficiency. Annual audits are conducted by independent auditors (audit available upon request). CMSD is always in compliance. Federal Programs are monitored on a three-year cycle. Other grants are closely monitored by the granting agency. Audit results are presented to the School Board in an open meeting.

The Business department is a highly efficient operation with team cohesiveness, serving the business needs of the District. The Business department, working cooperatively, provides excellent business and administrative services. Services are offered in a timely, consultative manner designed to assist in solving problems and meeting new and ever changing challenges in the following areas:

• fiscal services to ensure district financial stability;

• employee payroll services which ensure timely and accurate paychecks;

• centralized, expeditious purchasing of materials, equipment and services;

The Business department is committed to using a collaborative approach and promoting participation of every employee in the division that results in the delivery of efficient services, a high level of productivity, and effective decisions. Acquisition of the best tools, technology, training and equipment combined with adequately staffed departments and a service orientation attitude from division employees ensures that District obligations are met in timely manner.

- ***Facilitate the development of a professional learning community for teachers in the Pre-K program as well as lead the collaborative***

CMSD maintains an active professional development calendar and conducts professional development through in-house and contracted providers. CMSD and CCSD work closely with Delta State University to create a professional learning community in which pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers can come together as professionals to receive professional development and to share their own experiences through the professional learning community. DSU has made application through the Delta Bridge Project to create a demonstration classroom in CMSD and another in CCSD. Plans are underway to utilize the Higher Education Center in Clarksdale, which is operated as a joint project between Coahoma Community College and Delta State University, to serve as center for professional development and for facilitating the creation of professional learning communities with the members of the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative.

- ***Identify a staff person to serve as coordinator and point of contact with the MDE***

Dr. Toya Harrell-Matthews, Director of Elementary Education, Clarksdale Municipal School District.

- ***Convene Early Learning Collaborative network meetings to ensure that partners focus on expanding enrollment capacity and inclusion opportunities for children with disabilities***

Regular meetings of the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative will be held to ensure that all partners focus on identifying underserved children in Coahoma

County, particularly those students with disabilities. An active search is currently taking place to find such children and all entities in the Collaborative participate in Child Find. CMSD currently hosts a pre-kindergarten classroom for students with developmental delays and ensures that these students are afforded inclusion opportunities.

- ***Improve the quality of programs and sustain these gains***

CMSD, as lead partner, has the capacity to improve the quality of programs through its rich collaborative network of supporters and professional development providers. CMSD works closely with agencies such as First Steps, Project Run (Oxford), Aaron E. Henry Health Care, Department of Social Services, Coahoma Opportunities, Inc., and Mental Health. The Collaborative works closely with the Mayor of Clarksdale in seeking to locate experts and continues to collaborate with Delta State University to enhance the existing and new programs in the County. We have, in the past, worked with SPARK, and will continue to maintain this relationship. Members of CMSD and CCSD, as well as our private daycares, and St. Elizabeth Catholic School, serve on the Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start School Readiness Leadership Team. In turn, these entities serve as advisors for the CMSD pre-kindergarten programs in CMSD. It is with a joint sense of urgency that the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative has formed to seek ways to improve the literacy skills of our children before they enter kindergarten. To this end, CMSD, even without grant funding, collaborated with Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start School, in the 2008 - 09 school year, to create three pre-kindergarten classrooms (one for children with developmental delays) in the elementary schools. The demand for these classrooms is evidenced by the fact that they are filled to capacity soon after registration begins. For

the 2012-13 school year, an additional classroom was added. In 2013-14, another classroom was added, bringing the total to six classrooms in CMSD. The success of these programs is evidenced by the success of the CMSD pre-Kindergarten students when taking the Kindergarten Exit Exam. Since the inception of the CMSD pre-kindergarten program, none of the students who attended CMSD pre-kindergarten have failed the Kindergarten Exit Exam or been retained. Achievement data for these students is being tracked.

CMSD has the capacity to sustain the gains made through the grant program as evidenced by its considerable progress made to date, even without funding. Pre-kindergarten is a top priority for this district. It is our belief that the high school graduation rate begins in pre-kindergarten with the foundational skills a child needs to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. CMSD and the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative have the ability to sustain the programs implemented through the grant because of the strong collaboration with Delta State University's Early Childhood Program and the Delta Bridge Educational Goals Committee, of which all entities are a member.

- ***Ensure the collaborative adopts and implements curriculum and assessments that align with the MDE's Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children***

CMSD currently utilizes the MDE's Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-year-Old Children and has a four-year history of utilizing the curriculum. To this end, CMSD pre-kindergarten teachers are equipped to serve as mentors for other members of the Collaborative who may not already utilize the curriculum. CMSD

is familiar with the School Readiness Goals (SRGs) used by Head Start and these teachers are highly qualified as required by Mississippi Department of Education.

- ***Submit accurate information to the MDE in a timely manner***

CMSD has a long history of administering grants and can provide assurance that all information will be accurately sent to MDE in a timely manner. CMSD maintains an efficient technology department and has the ability to up-load reports and transmit electronically. CMSD has made a concerted effort over the past 10 years to continually upgrade our technological capacity.

Provide access to program records, quarterly reports and final reports; and

All program records, quarterly reports and final reports will be maintained at Central Office of CMSD and access will be provided whenever required. *CMSD maintains up-to-date technology and has the capacity to prepare, store, and transmit electronic records as well as space for hard copies of same materials.*

- ***Ensure that confidentiality is maintained for programs and families***

CMSD is full compliance with FERPA and maintains strict confidentiality for programs and families.

Resumes and reference letters for the Lead Partner coordinator and contact person should be included.

Toya Harrell-Matthews

EDUCATION

Tougaloo College *Tougaloo, Mississippi*
Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) May 1997

Delta State University *Cleveland, Mississippi*
Masters of Education (Counseling) May 2000

Mississippi State University *Starkville, Mississippi*
Specialist of Education (Educational Leadership) August 2004

Mississippi State University *Starkville, Mississippi*
Doctorate of Philosophy (Educational Leadership) December 2013

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

Elementary Curriculum Director *(July 2010-present)*
Clarksdale Municipal School District, Clarksdale, Mississippi
My responsibilities include overseeing all the work of the elementary schools. The director's tasks include mentoring and evaluating elementary instructional staff, and identifying resources to fulfill contract requirements. This position also serves as a member of the leadership team for the district.

Principal (*August 2005 – June 2010)*
Myrtle Hall IV Elementary School, Clarksdale, Mississippi
My responsibilities are to provide leadership for the professional staff and students of the school in the development, implementation, and evaluation of comprehensive educational programs, and to administer the programs in accordance with school board policies and administrative rules and regulations.

Adjunct Professor *(August 2004 – May 2009)*
Coahoma Community College, Clarksdale, Mississippi
As an Adjunct Professor my responsibilities are to provide a quality learning experience for Coahoma Community College students on a semester basis. I perform instruction-related duties and responsibilities in a timely manner and in accordance with the mission, policies and procedures of the college.

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Day Treatment Therapist *(October 2000 – October 2007)*

Region I Mental Health Center, Clarksdale, Mississippi

The essential duties and responsibilities of this job were to assist in developing and conducting children's day treatment program activities. Also, provide ongoing supervision of children participating in the day treatment activities, individualized goal setting and case planning for participants. Transporting children in Agency van to and from the program and interfacing with families, schools and other community liaisons.

Counselor *(August 1999 – June 2005)*

Clarksdale Municipal School District, Clarksdale, Mississippi

Utilizing leadership, advocacy, and collaboration, I promoted student success, provided preventive services, and responded to identified student needs by implementing a comprehensive school counseling program that addressed academic, career and personal/social development for all the students

SED/SEMI Case Manager *(June 1997 – July 1999)*

Region I Mental Health Center, Clarksdale, Mississippi

My essential duties and responsibilities were to work with children and their families ensuring that the child gets the proper help from agencies that provide medical, mental physical, social and educational requirements.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

I have an extensive experience with Internet Explorer, Microsoft Office, HTML, Publisher, PowerPoint, FrontPage Microsoft Word, Netscape and most Research Databases.

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City of Clarksdale

Bill Luckett
Mayor
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Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614
Facsimile (662) 621-8130

Curtis D. Boschert
City Attorney
Telephone (662) 621-8137

Cathy Clark
City Clerk
Telephone (662) 621-8136

October 29, 2013

Toya Harrell-Matthews
Elementary Curriculum Director
Clarksdale Municipal School District
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

RE: Pre-Kindergarten Early Learning Collaborative Proposal

On behalf of the City of Clarksdale, I am writing this letter of support for the Clarksdale Municipal School District's Pre-Kindergarten Early Learning Collaborative. I have a vital interest in the success of this collaborative and believe that our school district will benefit tremendously, when awarded.

Please carefully consider this application and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Luckett
Mayor

Commissioner
Ward 1
Bo Plunk

Commissioner
Ward 2
Ken Murphey

Commissioner
Ward 3
Buster Moton

Commissioner
Ward 4
Edward Seals

Mississippi State Senate

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
Executive Contingency Fund, Chairman
Labor, Vice Chairman
Agriculture
Appropriations
Business & Financial Institutions
Energy
Ports & Marine Resources
Public Property

SENATOR ROBERT L. JACKSON
11th District
Coahoma, Quitman, Tate, Tunica Counties
P.O. Box 383
Marks, Mississippi 38646
(662) 326-4611 home
e-mail: rjackson@senate.ms.gov

October 29, 2013

Mississippi Department of Education
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205

To Whom It May Concern:

A child's earliest years of development are the most critical. The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative will provide the opportunity for a high-quality pre-k experience during this critical developmental stage. That is why it is my pleasure to write in support of the Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative. I represent Coahoma County and understand that this opportunity will lay the foundation for success for our children.

The Collaborative brings together a wealth of experience and knowledge in early childhood education. The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative includes: The Clarksdale Municipal School District, The Coahoma County School District, Saint Elizabeth Catholic School, Covenant House Childcare Center, Tots for Time Childcare Center, and Coahoma Opportunities. By working together, these partners will foster a learning environment that will provide the best opportunities for success later in life.

Albert Einstein said, "I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn." The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative strives to create the same learning environment for children at a critical stage in their development. I offer them my support and my best wishes for success as they invest in the future of Coahoma County and Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Jackson

Robert L. Jackson, Senator
District Eleven

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CHUCK ESPY
District 26
Coahoma and Quitman Counties
P. O. Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215

Capitol (601)359-9391
cespy@house.ms.gov

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
Investigate State Offices
Chairman
Education
Fees & Salaries of Public Officers

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

October 29, 2013

Mississippi Department of Education
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205

To Whom It May Concern:

A child's earliest years of development are the most critical. The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative will provide the opportunity for a high-quality pre-k experience during this critical developmental stage. That is why it is my pleasure to write in support of the Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative. I represent Coahoma County and understand that this opportunity will lay the foundation for success for our children.

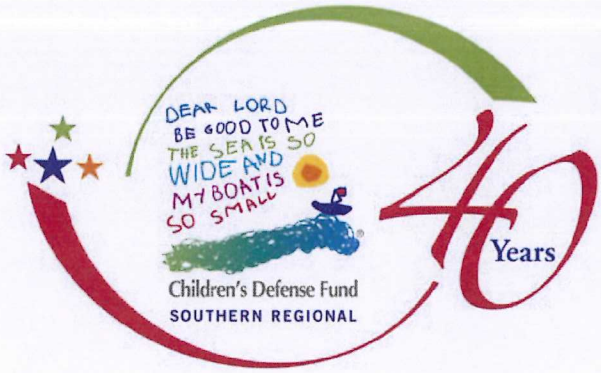
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Albert Einstein said, "I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn." The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative strives to create the same learning environment for children at a critical stage in their development. I offer them my support and my best wishes for success as they invest in the future of Coahoma County and Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Chuck Espy

Chuck Espy



Mr. Dennis Dupree, Superintendent
Clarksdale Municipal School District
P. O. Box 1088
Clarksdale, MS 38614

Dear Superintendent Dupree:

We are happy to offer this letter of support for your Pre-K Early Learning Collaborative grant proposal to the Mississippi Department of Education. The Clarksdale Municipal School District has been a lead partner in the Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) early learning collaborative work in the Clarksdale and Coahoma county catchment area over the past three years. With your leadership, SPARK helped children master the skills and receive the cognitive, physical, family and community supports they needed to be successful at school. Children received individual learning plans, the school district and early education providers aligned their curriculums to meet the Early Learning Guidelines and MS Common Core Standards, families received home visits from Learning Advocates, and a Local Children's Partnership made up of business and community leaders was formed to support the unmet needs of the children, their families and schools.

Your participation in the development and implementation of SPARK strategies in your community gives you the base and a head start in the formation of the Early Learning Collaborative required under the Mississippi Department of Education's Request For Proposals. The Clarksdale Municipal School District's catchment area is poised immediately to expand and facilitate the successful implementation and measurement of the state's Pre-K Early Learning Collaborative program.

Please count on us to continue our partnership as you move forward. It is our sincere hope that you are successful.

Sincerely,

Oleta Garrett Fitzgerald

Oleta Garrett Fitzgerald,
Southern Regional Director

Cc: Dr. Toya Harrell-Matthews,
Director of Elementary Curriculum

2659 Livingston Road, Suite 200, Jackson, MS 39213 p (601) 321-1966 f (601) 321-8736 www.cdf-sro.org

Southern Bancorp
Community Partners

October 28-2013

Re: Pre-kindergarten early learning collaborative

To Whom It May Concern:

The Coahoma County Delta Bridge Project heartily supports the early learning collaborative proposal that is being submitted on November 5. To expand the pre-kindergarten programs in Clarksdale Municipal School District and add additional classrooms in the county school district will have an immeasurable impact on our county-wide educational outcomes.

The Delta Bridge Project invested $150,000 in the Pre-K program of CMSD in June 2013 because we know how important early childhood education is for our children and the future of our county growth. We believe that the collaborative model will allow us to increase literacy in the four year old students across the county as well as foster positive outcomes as these students matriculate through high school and beyond. We believe that more early childhood providers will join this collaborative and strengthen all educational institutes.

Thank you for consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Lois B. Erwin

Lois B. Erwin
Senior Community Development Officer
Southern Bancorp Community Partners
Coahoma County Delta Bridge Project

875 South State Street • Clarksdale, MS 38614 • Phone 662.624.5776 • Fax 662.621.1631
www.southernpartners.org

TRI-COUNTY WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

(Bolivar, Coahoma, & Quitman)

OFFICERS:
Charles K. Barron, *Chairperson*
Elizabeth Johnson, *Treasurer*
Shirley Morgan, *Secretary*

JOSEPHINE P. RHYMES
Executive Director
tcwa@telepak.net

October 28, 2013

Dr. Toya Harrell- Matthews, Elementary Curriculum Director
Clarksdale Municipal School District
P.O. Box 1088
Clarksdale, MS 38614

Dear Dr. Matthews:

On behalf of Tri-County Workforce Alliance, I very strongly support the application submitted by the Clarksdale Municipal School District and its collaborative partners for the Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative Grant.

The Clarksdale Municipal School District and its collaborative partners have proven to be a great fit for the education of our children in that they provide choices and opportunities for each student to reach his/her highest potential. We highly commend the District and its collaborative partners on the strides that have been made and are continuing to be made to increase pre-kindergarten literacy and to foster positive outcomes for children that will impact their achievement throughout high school and beyond.

Tri-County Workforce Alliance has members of its Board of Directors and staff who are educators, retired educators, health care professionals, business owners, politicians, retired veterans, and community volunteers. We are willing to share our expertise and skills with the students and to provide any technical assistance to assure the educational success of the collaboration's endeavors.

We eagerly look forward to our continuous partnership as we work diligently to improve the education of our children and prepare them for the 21st Century workforce.

Sincerely,

Josephine P. Rhymes

Josephine P. Rhymes
Executive Director

Peggy Williams
Cable One Advertising
119 Court Street
Clarksdale, MS 38614

October 28, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of myself, I strongly support the application submitted by Clarksdale Municipal School District for the Pre-Kindergarten Programs Grant. I commend the district on the strides they have made to close the achievement gaps for the students educated in the Clarksdale Municipal School District. The economic condition of our nation has caused tremendous cuts to educational funds. These cuts greatly affect already impoverished areas of our country such as the Mississippi Delta and will prevent them from providing much needed services to this community. Should they receive this grant it will greatly help this school district to help the children at the starting level of education.

I pledge to support Clarksdale Municipal School District in whatever avenues available to me to assure the educational success of the students of Clarksdale. I have worked with the Superintendent's Round Table Committee for over four years and I look forward to working with the district on an ongoing basis to ensure that the children in this community can fulfill their educational vision.

Sincerely,

Peggy Williams

Peggy Williams
Senior AE Cable One Advertising

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Division of Family and Consumer Sciences
P.O. B. 3273, DSU
Cleveland, MS 38733
jhaynes@deltastate.edu
662-846-4315

October 30, 2013

Dr. Dot Prestwich
Assistant Superintendent
Clarksdale Municipal School District
Clarksdale, MS

Dear Dr. Prestwich,

This letter is to state the importance of the partnership that Delta State has with the Clarksdale Municipal Schools and the Coahoma County Schools. The DSU Child Development Program in the College of Education and Human Science's Division of Family and Consumer Sciences is planning the establishment of a model classroom in both of the above school districts. With these model classrooms, there will be multiple professional development trainings planned by DSU and directed toward Early Childhood Educators/Professionals in the Delta. The goal of these trainings and classrooms is the enhancement of Early Childhood Education in Coahoma County. There is also a model classroom being established at DSU's Hamilton-White Child Development Center where professional development trainings will also be offered for Early Childhood Educators/Professionals in the Delta and definitely including Coahoma County.

The overarching goal of DSU and the Clarksdale/Coahoma School Districts is to enable educators in the Delta to be prepared and able to provide high quality care and education for the Early Childhood years, so that children are ready to begin Kindergarten. We are actively collaborating to help bridge the achievement gap that we are seeing in preschool children who are not well prepared for school.

Sincerely,

Jan Haynes, PhD
Chair, Division of Family and Consumer Sciences
Professor, Fashion Merchandising

Wilma H. Wade, Ed. D.
10891 Highway 322 Bellview Road
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

Telephone: (662) 627-1496
Email: wwjeanwade@gmail.com

Mr. Dennis Dupree, Sr. Superintendent
Clarksdale Municipal School District
P. O. Box 1088
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

Dear Mr. Dupree:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter in support of your District's effort to secure grant funding for pre-kindergarten collaboration. Research based pre-k programing and collaboration are highly effective in today's educational setting. It has been proven that these strategies can significantly improve student learning. I am aware of the budget constraints in the Clarksdale Municipal School District. As a former Superintendent, I pledge my support to provide whatever assistance I can to implement pre-k programing and collaboration in the District. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Wilma H. Wade

Wilma H. Wade, Retired Superintendent
Clarksdale Municipal School District

Shirley H. Fair
340 Quincy Avenue
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support for the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative. As president of the Clarksdale Municipal School Board, I have seen firsthand how this program has impacted our early learning program.

As data is presented to our board, we can see the gains that our pre-kindergarten students have made since the inception of this program. If awarded this grant, our district, as well as the four year olds in Coahoma county, will be able to make an impact on literacy which is one of the weakest areas of our state test results.

I truly believe in our early childhood program and these additional funds will only help us create stronger foundations for our children.

Yours in education,

Shirley H. Fair

Shirley H. Fair
Board President
Clarksdale Municipal School District



Coahoma County
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Paul Pearson, District 1
President
Chris Overton, District 2
Timothy Burrel, District 3
Vice President
Johnny Newson, District 4
Roger Weiner, District 5

Daniel Vassel
County Administrator
Tom T Ross, Jr.
Board Attorney

October 28, 2013

Clarksdale Municipal School District's Curriculum Team
Mrs. Toya Harrell-Matthews
Elementary Curriculum Director
Clarksdale Municipal School District

Dear Mrs. Matthews:

I am pleased to present this letter on behalf of the Coahoma County Board of Supervisors in support of the Clarksdale Municipal School District's pre-kindergarten early learning collaborative proposal.

We understand that the funds will be used to expand the pre-kindergarten programs and create additional classrooms in the county school district. Then too, the members of the collaborative consist of the Clarksdale Municipal School District, Coahoma County School District, Coahoma Opportunities, Inc., St. Elizabeth's Catholic School, Covenant House Child Care Center, and Tots for Time Child Care Center.

We also understand that this competitive process will allow increased literacy in children age four years across the county and foster positive child outcomes as they matriculate through high school and beyond.

The Coahoma County Board of Supervisors supports your application and feels that awarding these funds will make a major impact on student achievement.

For additional information, please feel free to contact me at 662-624-3028.

Warmest Regards,

Daniel Vassel

Daniel Vassel, County Administrator
Coahoma County Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 579
Clarksdale, MS 38614
662.624.3028 – office
662.624.3029 – fax
ccadmin@cableone.net

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

October 28, 2013

Mr. Dennis Dupree, Superintendent
Clarksdale Municipal School District
P. O. Box 1088
Clarksdale, MS 38614

Dear Mr. Dupree,

The Coahoma County Office of the Department of Human Services is elated to provide this letter of support for your Pre-K Early Learning Collaborative Grant proposal to the Mississippi Department of Education. The Clarksdale Municipal School District is a drum major in providing educational opportunities for students. It is noted that you are involved with helping students in various areas of need. Serving as an existing partner, it is clear of the various activities provided by the school district to enlarge the number of children who start preschool and the focus on parent involvement.

Clarksdale Municipal School District recognizes that every parent wants the best education for their children and with your implementation of childhood education is a great first step. The ability to provide students with the cognitive, physical and mental support needed for early learning is critical. Childhood education is the beginning of the major development of a child. The Clarksdale Municipal School District has set the stage for an educated and intelligent child. This is evident in the Learning guidelines, MS Common Core Standards and family involvement.

Please note, we are here to serve and be a part of your activities to further ensure that education at an early age pays off.

Sincerely,

Vanessa R. Long

Vanessa Rogers Long, D.Min., MSSW

County Director, DHS

P. O. Box 310-917 Ohio Street, Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614 • Telephone: 662-624-3050 • Fax: 662-624-3038

November 1, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am currently employed as the School Improvement Office for the Clarksdale Municipal School District. I came to the district in 2010 after retiring from both the educational and philanthropic sectors and beginning my own consulting business. I agreed to serve in the Clarksdale Municipal School District because of the visionary leadership of the superintendent, Mr. Dennis Dupree; the high quality leadership of his central office administrators; and the commitment of the building administrators, faculty and community leaders to making a difference in the lives of the children in Clarksdale. Every school in the district is a magnet school, giving parents a choice for their children (Pre-k – 8). For grades 9-12, our two schools, the 9th Grade Academy and Clarksdale High (grades 10-12), are participating in the Cambridge-Excellence for All academic model, one of two districts in the state of Mississippi.

There are ongoing challenges in this Delta region of Mississippi: high unemployment levels, high poverty, low educational attainment levels and the social ills that emanate from an environment without a well established economic base. The district and community leaders with the support of parents recognize the importance of high quality early childhood education programs. An investment in early childhood education is vital to the success of our children. In addition, there is documented evidence that children who have quality early learning experiences, regardless of their ethnicity and/or socio-economic status, have academic success, are less likely to drop out of school, and most often, matriculate at the post-secondary level. Additionally, the early childhood experience significantly increases a child's chance of avoiding the prison pipeline. Furthermore, early childhood education programs have well-documented societal and economic values.

Funding for the early childhood education program for the Clarksdale Municipal School District is significantly important. The motto of the district is "Education of the Students is our Top Priority." I whole heartedly support the district in this effort because our children are our most important resource.

Sincerely,

Beverly Divers-White,
School Improvement Officer
501.658.1625
bdwhite@cmsd.k12.ms.us

MYRTLE HALL IV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

700 Fifth Street
CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI 38614

Valarie Davis, Ed.D.
Principal

Date: October 28, 2013

Re: Funding for Pre-Kindergarten Programs in Clarksdale, MS

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an elementary principal and a supporter of pre-school education. I know that pre-schools are productive and can impact children in a positive manner. Likewise, there's increasing evidence that children gain a lot from going to preschool. At preschool, they gain exposure to numbers, letters, and shapes and this exposure set a solid foundation for success in kindergarten and beyond. And, more importantly, they learn how to positively interact in an educational setting, such as, get along with other children, sharing, and contributing to circle time.

Many statistics show that a majority of kids in the United States attend at least one year of preschool. Typically, children who attend high-quality preschools enter kindergarten with better pre-reading skills, richer vocabularies, and stronger basic math skills than those who do not, according to recent research data.

Every child in Clarksdale, Mississippi deserves to have structured school experiences before starting kindergarten. Children who attend Pre-K programs gain pre-requisite skills for kindergarten such as learning how to raise their hand, take turns, and share the teacher's attention. Good social and behavior-management skills are also necessities in kindergarten. In fact, educators have so often recognized the importance of giving children some form of quality early education that nearly 40 states currently offer state-funded Pre-K programs. Our children in Mississippi deserve the same opportunities if they are expected to compete nationally and globally with their peers.

In addition to strengthening socialization skills pre-school can also provide a foundation for literacy skills and the love of reading that gives children an opportunity to build some background schema such as, associating letters and sound patterns, sequencing, as well as, problem-solve. Pre-school can provide a place where children can gain a sense of self, explore, play with their peers, and build their confidence.

I truly believe that as educators, parents, and community members it is our duty to give our children every possible opportunity to succeed and be afforded a solid education. The Pre-K program is one of those key opportunities that are essential to helping our children be prepared for the tasks ahead of them, beginning with kindergarten, expanding into their college years, and beyond. Therefore, I humbly request that the children of Coahoma County and Clarksdale, MS be recipients of the Pre-K Grant.

Educationally submitted,

Dr. Valarie Davis, Principal

"Educating Children is Our Top Priority"

E-MAIL: vdavis@cmsd.k12.ms.us TELEPHONE 662-627-8590 FAX 662-627-8558



Booker T. Washington International Studies Magnet School
1806 Sunflower Ave. Extended
Clarksdale, MS 38614
662-627-8567

October 31, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Booker T. Washington International Studies Magnet School, I strongly support the Clarksdale Municipal School District's (CMSD) efforts to establish a pre-kindergarten collaborative through competitive grants administered by the Mississippi Department of Education.

As a principal, I see the importance and impact of early childhood education on a daily basis. I am beyond grateful to have a pre-kindergarten classroom in my school that effectively prepares students for kindergarten through early literacy, numeracy, and socialization. Our students leave pre-kindergarten with the letter, number, sound, shape, and color recognition skills required for CMSD's Kindergarten Exit Exam already in place. In addition to academics, these students also have the opportunity to receive character education and positive behavior interventions.

As a result, over 95% of Booker T. Washington's pre-kindergarteners pass the Kindergarten Exit Exam. In addition, results from STAR and Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) screeners in first and second grade frequently place our former pre-kindergarteners well above their peers. The knowledge and character instilled by CMSD's pre-kindergarten program truly lays the foundation for success in kindergarten and beyond. Truthfully, my only complaint with pre-kindergarten is that we can only take twenty students each year!

For these reasons and countless others, I strongly support CMSD's efforts to provide an excellent pre-kindergarten education to all of Clarksdale's children.

Sincerely,

Courtney Van Cleve,
Principal,
Booker T. Washington
International Studies Magnet School

October 29, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Pre-kindergarten Early Learning Collaborative Proposal. I believe that these funds can only help the future students in our community gain a jumpstart on learning. The need for this intervention can't be over emphasized because the earlier these children begin their pathway to literacy - the more likely they are to succeed. Research also shows that providing a high quality education for children before they turn five yields significant long-term educational benefits.

Because it is our goal to educate all of our children by giving them the best learning interventions as early as possible, this funding can help us tremendously. As a principal, I have observed the achievements of the kindergarteners who didn't attend preschool and the kindergarteners who did attend preschool. The difference is amazing! Ultimately, everyone wants a successful student who can someday become a successful adult in our community. Therefore, we must begin as early as possible by molding these small minds into intellectual thinkers. This funding can only help us to include as many children as possible in this effort.

Educationally yours,

Lowanda Tyler-Jones
Principal
Heidelberg Elementary Mathematics and Science Magnet School

George H. Oliver Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School

Mrs. Sharron H. Montgomery, Principal
871 Ritchie Street
Clarksdale, MS 38614

Phone: (662) 627-8605
Fax: (662) 627-8547
E-mail: smontgomery@cmsd.k12.ms.us
October 29, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Pre-Kindergarten early learning collaborative efforts with Head Start and the Clarksdale Municipal School District. It is our belief that young boys and girls should have every opportunity feasible to grow up to be valuable, intelligent, and outstanding young men and ladies. This advantageous chance establishes an essential foundation, provides quality experiences, and assists with comprehensive interventions for them at George H. Oliver Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School.

Again, it is without hesitation that I support the Pre-Kindergarten early learning collaborative effort. Thank you, and if additional information is needed, please feel free to contact me at the above address or telephone number.

Educationally yours,

Sharron H. Montgomery

Mrs. Sharron H. Montgomery

Clarksdale High School
"Destination: GRADUATION!"

Dr. Manika Kemp, Principal
Reginald Griffin, Asst. Principal
Johnathan Page, Asst. Principal
Larry Scott, School Improvement Officer
Henry Johnson, Athletic Director

Toya Harrell-Matthews. Ph.D.
Elementary Curriculum Coordinator
Clarksdale Municipal School District
1101 McGuire Street
Post Office Box 1088
Clarksdale, MS 38614

Dear Dr. Harrell-Matthews:

I very strongly support the Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative effort to enhance the skills of four-year old students. As graduation coach for the district, I have witnessed that students are not very proficient in reading and vocabulary. With the implementation of an early learning environment, our students will have a better chance of improving their oral and written communication skills.

According to statistics from the Mississippi Subject Area Testing Program Second Edition (SATP2), the district tested two hundred and three first time test takers in the area of English II. One hundred and ten students passed and ninety-three failed. Their performance levels were; eleven advanced, fifty-nine proficient, sixty basic and seventy-three minimal. There were also fifty-seven re-testers where only ten passed and forty-seven failed. This groups performance levels were; five proficient, thirteen basic and thirty-nine minimal.

There were one hundred and seventy-six first time test takers who tested in the area of United State History. One hundred and thirteen passed with sixty-three failed. Their performance levels were; five advanced, sixty-four proficient, forty-four basic and sixty-three minimal. There were also twenty-four re-testers where only ten passed and forty-seven failed. This groups performance levels were; five proficient, thirteen basic and thirty-nine minimal.

From the statistics above, I wholeheartly support the Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative effort.

Sincerely,

Clarence L. Hayes, Ph.D.
Graduation Coach

Address: 1101 Wildcat Drive
Website: www.cmsd.k12.ms.us/chs
Telephone: (662) 627-8550 | Fax: (662) 627-8549



Booker T. Washington International Studies Magnet School
1806 Sunflower Ave. Extended
Clarksdale, MS 38614
662-627-8567

October 31, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

As a current Kindergarten Teacher, I strongly support CMSD's Pre-Kindergarten Programs. I firmly believe that investments in high-quality early learning programs will yield high returns. CMSD Pre-Kindergarten Programs are effective programs that have small class sizes, language rich-environment, age-appropriate curricula, with stimulating materials that experience consistent levels of child participation.

These early years are most influential in the development of a child's brain. School readiness and language development are key predictors of a child's academic success. Studies have shown that students who attended pre-kindergarten classes were more likely to graduate from high school, have higher earning careers, and were less likely to be arrested than children who went straight to kindergarten.

I feel that pre-kindergarten is a gift that keeps on giving.

Sincerely,

Emma Orsby-Jackson

Emma Orsby-Jackson
Teacher,
Booker T. Washington
International Studies Magnet School

October 30, 2013

Mr. Dennis Dupree, Superintendent
Clarksdale Municipal School District
101 McGuire Street
Post Office Box 1088
Clarksdale, MS 38614

Dear Mr. Dupree,

Pre-Kindergarten contributed to establishing a firm foundation for my daughter, Zoey Elizabeth Ratliff. The positive aspects that Pre-Kindergarten had on Zoey are everlasting and were during the most important stage in her life. During her Pre-Kindergarten term, she developed great social and communication skills. Her vivid personality had begun to reveal and remained comfortably with her.

Pre-Kindergarten gave Zoey the courage to meet new people and make new friends. As a parent, I take out the time to expose Zoey to educational endeavors. However, I noticed that she utilized some of her own ways of learning that she encountered in her Pre-Kindergarten class. I wholeheartedly believe that Pre-Kindergarten helped my daughter to become the smart and intelligent little girl that she is.

Truly yours,

Erin Brown

Erin Brown

FROM THE DESK OF

Nancy Saddler-Newson
635 Mississippi Ave.
Clarksdale, MS 38614

October 26, 2013

Mr. Dennis Dupree, Superintendent
Clarksdale Municipal School District
101 McGuire Street
Post Office Box 1088
Clarksdale, MS 38614

Dear Mr. Dupree,

As a parent of a now five year old, I am very supportive of the pre-kindergarten collaborative effort because the skills that my child learned in her pre-kindergarten class really prepared her for kindergarten and beyond. Presently, she is reading on a second grade level.

I feel that each child should have the opportunity to excel to his/her highest potential. With this collaborative effort, I feel that opportunities will be provided.

I very strongly support the pre-kindergarten collaborative effort, and I will work with you in any way that I can to fully implement the learning experience.

Sincerely,

Nancy Saddler-Newson

Nancy Saddler-Newson

October 30, 2013

To whom it may concern:

As a parent of a former pre-kindergarten student, I believe that early education is critical to the continued success of our children, and I can attest of its excellence. Having a highly trained teacher with documented experience in early childhood education, small teacher student ratio and class sizes that were suitable for exceptional learning opportunities.

Clarksdale Municipal School Districts pre-kindergarten program grew at a fast rate, accompanied by an increased emphasis on quality and outcomes. As a parent I can strongly state this pre-kindergarten program was effective in improving both math and literacy skills in the students in which it served. Pre-kindergarten in this district helps in reducing the school readiness gap.

My daughter, a current kindergarten student, is more than prepared for kindergarten. In collaboration with reinforcement at home on needed skills and what was provided by the teacher, her reading skills, mathematic skills and cognitive recognition soared. I am very grateful that my child was able to benefit from this program.

In closing, I support the districts efforts to expand pre-kindergarten and hope that this letter of support shows my passion for this program.

Yours in education,

Jonathan Page

Jonathan Page
Assistant Principal
Clarksdale High School

October 29, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the parent of Legend Sims who is currently enrolled in the pre-kindergarten program here at Heidelberg Elementary Math and Science School. I am in full support of the pre-k program because it has been a big step in my child's life. Before he entered the program, he could not hold a pencil or write. He was not able to identify all of his Alphabets, sounds or numbers, despite being in a daycare that made claims to educate children. I was afraid he would fall behind academically because of this.

In these few months, Legend has been in pre-kindergarten, I have witness tremendous growth. He is now able to identify all of his Alphabets, write his name, count numbers, and read some sight words from the pre-primer dolch word list. He has acclimated to the learning environment which makes it easier for him to learn. His teachers have made it conducive for learning by providing consistent routine and structure. Legend is excited about learning and going to school daily. Collaborating with his teachers has allowed me the opportunity to witness the quality instruction my child is receiving.

As a parent, I hope to see an expansion of this program especially in this high-needs district. Pre-K, will not only increase school readiness in the short term, but will increase high school graduation rates in the long term. All children — but especially those at-risk — deserve a chance to succeed in school and in life. Expanding pre-K, with an emphasis on ensuring quality, can help close the achievement gap and build a foundation for each child's academic success.

Educationally,

Cornishee J. Bruce-Sims

Cornishee J. Bruce-Sims

Teresa Mackey
1528 Cedar Street
Clarksdale. MS 38614
662-902-0644

October 30, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

As a parent of a Preschooler, I am elated to write this letter of support on behalf of George H. Oliver Pre-kindergarten class. This program has given my child a chance at a head start with her education. I am very pleased with the classroom size, the core curriculum, and the opportunity for my child to develop socially and emotionally.

Again, thank you for extending this program in our district. It has given my child and others an endless opportunity to learn and grow. With this strong early care foundation, children will improve important language skills, build brain power, make new friends, grow a healthy body, and develop lasting skills that will contribute to them becoming better students and eventually productive citizens.

If any additional information in needed, please feel free to contact me at the above address or telephone number.

Respectfully yours,

Teresa Mackey

Teresa Mackey

Parent

Carmilyn Jackson
1033 Hallie Beth Lane
Clarksdale, MS 38614
662-645-5966

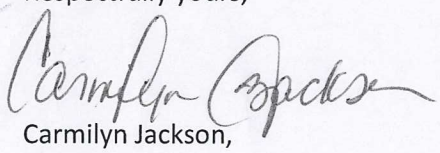
October 30, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

As a parent of a Preschooler at George H. Oliver Elementary School, I am writing in support of the Pre-Kindergarten classes. I just wanted to put on record how much I appreciate the establishment of the program. I have spoken with several parents who have students attending the classes and they said they have found it to be inspiring and informative.

Thank you for giving my daughter an opportunity to interact and learn with other students. Many children would never have had the opportunity to be prepared for the rigorous classroom's curriculum before the designing of this class. Your Pre-Kindergarten program is undoubtedly inspired my daughter to believe that school is important and now she will be able become an aspiring adult with the motivation and belief that she can and will succeed.

Respectfully yours,



Carmilyn Jackson,
Parent

Melanie Williams
929 Miller Dr.
Clarksdale, MS 38614

October 31, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

My son attended the Pre-K Program last year at Kirkpatrick Health and Medical Science Elementary. I was very pleased with the accomplishments that he made during the year. He was able to do so much more than many of the other children I know his age that did not attend the pre-k program.

Now that he is in kindergarten, he is performing very well and is able to keep up with the increasing difficulty of the work. Pre-K really helped my son.

I hope that all students will have the chance to attend a Pre-K class. I feel that it has been VERY valuable for my son.

Sincerely,

Melanie Williams
Melanie Williams

ROSIE MCGEE-BROWN
423 GRANT
CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI 38614

October 29, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rosie McGee-Brown. I am the proud grandparent of two grandchildren who attended the pre-kindergarten in the Clarksdale Municipal School District. While I am a retired educator, I continue to support the district by volunteering in the various classrooms in the district. As I visit classrooms, I see the need for our student to be exposed to quality early learning programs.

I am writing to ask you to consider the Clarksdale Municipal School District for funding for the Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative. It takes a village to raise a child and early childhood education is essential to their development. As products of the pre-k program, my grandchildren are well ahead of their peers. They are both reading above the third grade reading level and are only in the 1st grade. This is largely due to the instruction received in pre-kindergarten.

I respectfully ask that you carefully consider this collaborative for funding. Our students here in the Delta are products of literacy poor homes and lack so many opportunities to help them advance educationally. I believe this collaborative will help to advance our students beyond their expectations. Thanks for your consideration.

Yours in education,

Rosie McGee-Brown

Rosie McGee-Brown

October 30, 2013

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I are the very proud parents of our little Pre-K son, Zacchaeus Jones. We're so thankful for this program and all of the benefits and skills he is afforded just by being in it. He not only gets early exposure to the environment where he'll spend the next five years of his education, but he's also getting a major jump on the skills that we truly believe will grant him an even greater opportunity for academic success throughout his educational life. We have two other blessed and academically successful children, a senior and an eighth grader; however, we are certain that they may have been even better students if they could have been in this ***AWESOME*** pre-k program.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jones

Muriel Jones

3.0 Leveraging and Sharing Resources

Children's early learning experiences have a profound effect on their development. Early learning experiences are critical to the future well-being of children. According to Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The following partners are dedicated to providing a world class education to the children of Coahoma County.

1. Clarksdale Municipal School District
   P.O. Box 1088
   Clarksdale, Mississippi 3814
   Dennis J. Dupree, Sr., Superintendent
   ddupree@cmsd.k12.ms.us
   3,500 enrollment capacity
   106 students being served in pre-kindergarten
   (97 students in education classes; 9 students in special services classes)
   No additional students will be served
2. Coahoma County School District
   P.O. Box 1234
   Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614
   Pauline J. Rhodes, Superintendent
   prhodes@coahoma.k12.ms.us
   4,500 enrollment capacity
   No pre-kindergarten classes currently
   40 new prospective slots to be served with pre-k funds
3. St. Elizabeth Catholic School
   65 years of operation
   150 Florence Avenue
   Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614
   Jeannie Roberts, Principal
   235 enrollment capacity
   14 four year olds currently served
   No additional four year olds will be served
4. Covenant House Child Care Center
   8 years of operation
   345 Mississippi Avenue
   Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614
   Augusta Strong, Director
   68 enrollment capacity
   3 four year old students currently being served
   5 (at minimum) will be served; this site will recruit

5. Tots for Time Child Care Center
   13 years of operation
   1206 Desoto Street
   Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614
   Shikelo Benson, Owner/Director
   totsfortime@bellsouth.net
   89 enrollment capacity
   8 four-year-old students currently served
   No additional students to be served
6. Coahoma Opportunties, Incorporated
   48 years in operation
   P.O. Box 1234
   Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614
   Kathy A. McDougal, Head Start Director
   kathyann11950@yahoo.com
   656 enrollment capacity
   299 four year olds currently being served
   No additional four year olds to be served with Pre-K funds

The Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative held its first meeting on May 15, 2013 in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Representatives from Head Start, the Clarksdale Municipal School District, Coahoma County School District, and the local community action group were in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the interest and need of forming a collaborative in the county to strengthen the early learning experiences of the children in Coahoma County. All parties in attendance were in agreement that this would be an excellent venture and agreed to pursue additional partners. The collaborative met throughout the summer (June 12, 2013, June 20, 2013, July 19, 2013, and September 9, 2013) and added additional partners; Covenant House Childcare Center, Tots for Time Child Care Center, and St. Elizabeth Catholic School. Two successful events were held to extend outreach to parents and the greater community of Coahoma County. The collaborative partnered with the local ministerial alliance and assisted with disbursing uniforms, school supplies, and passing out

registration information on the school choice for all grade levels in the county. This event was held on August 10, 2013. The collaborative was able to reach over 500 parents and children and disseminate registration information for the collaborative. Additionally, the collaborative hosted an informational reception on August 15, 2013 at the Curter Mansion. This reception allowed the collaborative to showcase the initiative and inform those present of the goals and plans of the team. The vision of this collaborative is to design and implement approaches to learning based on the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for four year olds, with the flexibility to support children's individual rates of development and learning. Early childhood education is vital to building a great foundation for educational success, community and reducing unsuccessful school graduations. Involving children in enriched activities and child centered learning environments foster creativity that ensures later success. Young children learn habits and form patterns that are not easily broken. The Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative is committed to providing positive child centered environments conducive to promoting individual child success guided by proven research. Because literacy is a prominent factor in children's development and the struggle in the state of Mississippi to excel in this area, this collaborative will focus on literacy providing specialist and research methods to assist enrolled students to build literacy skills upon inception of the program. The focus for this collaborative will be to provide stronger foundational skills in language and literacy. Our goal is to increase phonological awareness, develop and expand expressive and receptive language skills, build vocabulary, and implement age appropriate strategies to assist with reading and reading comprehension.

The administrators in this collaborative have been in the field of education for a number of years. The average number of years of experience for the administrators in this collaborative is 15 years and 14 for the teaching staff.

The Clarksdale Municipal School District partnered with SPARK for 2 years (2010-2012). This partnership assisted the district with aligning community systems to increase readiness with our kindergarten students. The SPARK staff greatly assisted kindergarten teachers with targeting students that needed targeted assistance in specific skills (literacy, social, motor development, and cognitive) and conducted additional outreach to parents to assist them to work effectively with their child and the schools. This initiative helped parents to grow as their child's first teacher and ensured the home/school connection was a positive one. Additionally, SPARK allowed our district to begin the transition to becoming a Ready school. This process allowed one of our elementary schools to take a closer look at its readiness for learning. Many strides were made in the school that has been beneficial to strengthening children's school experiences as well as their parents. The school district gained valuable insight on readiness practices and how to build continuity in our overall programs.

Currently, our collaborative partners have current interagency agreements with one another or are co-op schools through our Title I federal programs. Over the years, the Clarksdale Municipal School District and the Coahoma County School District has held joint professional developments on differentiated instruction and parental involvement. All professional development opportunities are open to the local day care centers and the Head Start Centers as it relates to specific offerings that each district is offering for the school year.

The kindergarten teachers and the head start teachers and staff have held several informal sessions for the last 4 years to discuss student expectations, curriculum development, and data collection. These sessions have been very powerful and productive sessions. Teachers from both groups were able to discuss how they deliver effective instruction as well as shared ideas to help one another grow professionally. In accordance with our interagency agreement, students from the local head start centers and day care centers visit our various schools throughout the year. During this visit, students are able to become kindergarten students for a day and gain the “big school” experience. Students leave with school brochures and other valuable information to share with their parents.

Essentially, the partners in this collaborative have worked together for a number of years. However, there is still a decline in our students not being socially, emotionally, or educationally where they should be when they enter the doors of our schools. By strengthening our partnership to provide focused professional development, we believe we can build stronger continuity in our mode of instructional delivery as well as have a common measure for achievement as students matriculate from early childhood and beyond.

Another focus of our collaborative is family engagement. Family engagement is critical to the educational success of children. When schools and families work together, children have a much better chance for success, not just in school, but throughout life. SPARK will convene family meetings with the collaborative to assist us with forming and sustaining family-focused learning communities. We believe this partnership will help to reach more families and impact the success of our children.

4.0 Commitment

The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative is fully committed to expanding and strengthening pre-K education in Coahoma County, Mississippi. Collaboration currently exists in Coahoma County between multiple agencies and organizations in joint efforts to improve the quality of pre-K education for all of the children living in the entire county. In recent years, significant strides have been made to prepare more 4 year olds for Kindergarten. Clarksdale Municipal School District and Coahoma Opportunities Incorporated Head Start expanded the number of pre-K classrooms from three (3) to five (5) in order to provide services for up to 100 students in Clarksdale, MS. In addition Coahoma County School District and Coahoma Opportunities Incorporated Head Start has partnered to provide educational services for pre-K students during the summer for the past 5 years. The Delta Bridge Educational Goals Team which consists of diverse organizations both public and private in Coahoma County established expanding pre-K services as one of the organization's goal in the fall of 2012.

Quality Assessment Results

The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative will implement a systematic improvement model that will hinge on a variety of quality assessment data in the areas of student achievement, parental engagement and access, and professional learning and development. The assessment tool that will be used is the Brigance Early Childhood Screens, which is a norm referenced assessment that identifies potential developmental delays and giftedness; determine children's strengths and needs; and assess school readiness. Student achievement will be the primary indicator of

programmatic strengths and areas for improvement. There will be three screeners given throughout the school year using Brigance Early Childhood Screens. Based upon these assessment results, decisions will be made as it relates to professional development and instruction.

Parental engagement and access to data is critical to providing a unique perspective of the quality of the educational services provided through the collaborative. Parent will have a vital role in the program's improvement model. Parents will respond to surveys assessing various aspects of the program at the end of the first semester and at the end of the year. The results of the parent surveys will be analyzed by a collaborative team, reported to parents, and used to strengthen the prioritizing process of program's needs. Furthermore, the Pre-K Collaborative will provide quality assessment result in the area of professional learning and development of the faculty and staff throughout the school year. Qualified staff will complete surveys and questionnaires evaluating various aspects of the early childhood program.

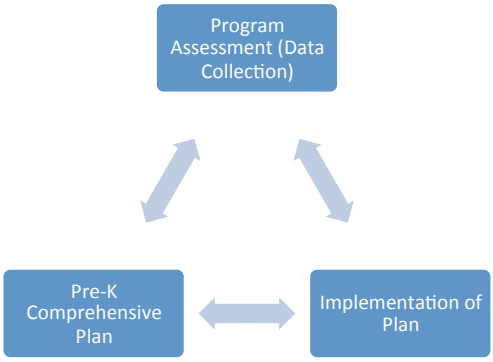
Improvement Plans and Progress

The Coahoma County Collaborative Improvement Model will be a continuous improvement plan that starts with identifying improvement priorities through rich data, such as, results of the Brigance Early Childhood Screen, parental survey and informal data, and faculty and staff feedback and informal data collected during an annual needs assessment process conducted in the Spring Semester. A comprehensive plan will be written with input and approval from all stakeholders and members of the collaborative based upon the priorities set forth through the needs assessment process, which will be done on an annual basis. The entire plan will be implemented with fidelity, and program

quality will be assessed in order to determine appropriate adjustments and modifications to the comprehensive plan.

Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative

Program Improvement Model



Curriculum and Assessments

The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative curriculum will mirror the Mississippi Department of Education *Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children* in the area English Language Arts. These standards are aligned with the knowledge depth and rigor of *The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.* Brigance Early Childhood Screens will be used as a uniformed screener for students which will measure the proficiency of students in two domains of language development and literacy and track students' progress over the course of the academic year.

Enrollment Outreach

Various events for outreach to under-served families have taken place, and the collaborative plans to continue similar outreach efforts. The collaborative sponsored a

Pre-K Round-Up in the city of Clarksdale to garner an increase support of parents for pre-K services and to accurately identify the number of 4-year-old students in the county. Also during this event, the purpose of benefits of the pre-k program was outlined for parents. This event was heavily promoted in the community including daycares, civic organizations, churches, and schools throughout Coahoma County. In addition, this event was advertised on the local radio station. There are plans to continue this annual event as well as continuous efforts to educate parents about the program and make parents partners with the educational process of their children.

Parents will be solicited to serve as mentors to recruit other members. Meetings will be quarterly to report on progress and join the members of the consortium to make sure everyone maintain shared goals. Dissemination materials will be developed and distributed throughout the community to keep awareness alive and community interest vital. Parent engagement activities for pre-k programs will be conducted through the parent groups. Other initiatives will be held to include neighborhood information booths and participation in community events to include parades and other community activities.

Collaborative Agreement Among Programs

There exist agreements with several partners of the collaborative in providing educational services to four year olds in Coahoma County. Coahoma County Opportunities Incorporated Head Start has agency agreements with both Clarksdale Municipal School District and Coahoma County School District. Both public school districts service students enrolled in Head Start throughout the year or during the

summer. Furthermore, district level administrators and elementary school principals from both public school districts serve on the Coahoma County Opportunities Incorporated Head Start Readiness Council, which meets annually to discuss the needs of all parties in providing the highest quality education for four and five year old students in the entire county.

With this current relationship well established between partners of the collaborative, each of the partners identified in the collaborative will provide services to aid in the success of the project. As identified previously these agencies will work towards established common goals for providing services for students within the collaborative. An agreement has been developed and contains goals of the collaborative as well as roles of each partner in the collaborative. A time frame has been established and each partner has signed agreement with signature of authorize personal. Periodic collaborative meetings are planned to discuss the progress of the agreements and benchmarks set to make sure all of the goals of the agreements are met. The agreement used for the collaborative is included in the Appendix.

Records of Professional Development

Professional development is key to empowering and sustaining a staff that will provide quality services for pre-k enrolled children. The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative has a record of providing joint professional development amongst partners in the collaborative. Clarksdale Municipal School District and Coahoma County School District have conducted joint professional development in the areas of motivating at risk students, high-stakes test preparation, teacher evaluation, and Common Core State

Standards. In addition, both public schools and Coahoma County Opportunities Incorporated Head Start have participated in jointly planned professional development during the summer for early childhood teachers during the summer school program.

Continued efforts will be made by the collaborative to ensure that the program staff will be qualified and trained to keep abreast of the current research techniques used in classrooms. Delta State University will serve as one of the partners of the project as well as Head Start. Both entities bring a set of trained staff. Delta State offers a degree in Early Childhood and houses a childcare center that practices the most current ideas in early childhood. Head Start also is trained extensively through state, regional and national standards. These partners along with the school district will work collaboratively to identify the trainings available for staff. Other training will be initiated through curriculum and program specialists in their fields.

All teaching staff will be required to participate in staff development. Individual records with be maintained in each teacher's files outlining the following:

- Assessment of credentials
- Staff development plan
- Evidence of attended staff development
- Evaluation

Teacher records will be reviewed annually as part of the needs assessment for determining professional development for current early childhood workforce.

5.0 Evidence of Need

Early childhood is a crucial time for growing, forming, and brain development. Too many children begin kindergarten without the background or skills to be successful and thus lag behind other children throughout their school careers. In the Mississippi Delta, this is a common trait for our children. Our county has a pregnancy rate of 96.3% and the state's pregnancy rate is 76.8%. The graduation rate for the county is 55.7% and the state's graduation rate is 75.5%. To help with these negative trends, our collaborative is seeking to create and sustain quality pre-kindergarten programs by boosting the literacy instruction delivery of the teachers and acquisition of skills for students. This collaborative can help deter students from dropping out and giving them viable options for matriculating through school. The seeds for failure to complete formal schooling begin at the beginning of the school experience, from the first day a child feels incompetent to complete a task and those seeds grow as the child continues to struggle throughout the years. Our collaborative seeks to build the literacy skills of our children and thus giving them the tools needed to be kindergarten ready. We recognize that access to pre-kindergarten classes that are literacy rich, is key to closing the achievement gap that currently exists in the county.

Currently, the Clarksdale Municipal School District has 5 pre-kindergarten classes. Ninety-five percent of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Fifty-three percent of our 3rd grade students scored below proficient on the state assessment. The student retention rates in kindergarten through third grade all exceed five percent. The retention rates for the 2012-2013 school year is as follows:

Grade	Number of Students	Percentage of Students
Kindergarten	30	10.53%
1st grade	24	9.09%
2nd grade	12	5.11%
3rd grade	22	8.53%

These numbers are not acceptable. However, we now have data to support the success of our existing pre-kindergarten classes. Since the inception of our pre-kindergarten program in 2008-2009, none of the students who attended have been retained and they are all reading on grade level. Moreover, our district has a board approved kindergarten exit exam that all kindergarten students must pass with 70% mastery to exit kindergarten. To date, all of the pre-kindergarten students who remained in our district have passed this exam with an average school of 98%. We believe that implementing pre-kindergarten has not only allowed students to develop readiness skills, but exposure to the pre-kindergarten has laid the foundation for our students to be successful to date.

The Coahoma County School District does not have any pre-kindergarten classes. However, they are looking to add two classes to their program. 100% of the students in this district qualify for free or reduced lunch. Thirty-nine percent of their third grade students were below proficient. This number is not at the required forty percent on the state assessment. However, it is very close and

could possibly regress if we do not close the gap at the lower grade levels prior to third grade. The retention rates for the 2012-2013 school year is as follows:

Grade	Number of Students	Percentage of Students
Kindergarten	14	10.14%
1st grade	7	5.43%
2nd grade	4	3.48%
3rd grade	9	6.34%

The need for our collaborative is not only based on acquiring additional funds, but the impact of income inequality in this region is very alarming. Our students are from homes where parents have little to no education and are unemployed. In a report authored by Sean Reardon, a Stanford professor, the income achievement gap-the difference in the average standardized test scores between children from families at the 10 percentile of income distribution and children at the 90th percentile-is now nearly twice as large as the black-white achievement gap. Likewise, the achievement gap between rich and poor children presents a big problem and must be attacked on many fronts. The correlation between the income level of a student's family and test scores is high. This researcher suggests that some of the processes that are responsible for the gap in achievement is what happens in early childhood classes prior to reaching kindergarten.

This collaborative is fully committed to working on delivering quality instruction to all four year old students. The way to combat high pregnancy

rates, low graduation rates, and crime is to provide quality early childhood experiences. The Coahoma County Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative is committed to closing the achievement gap.

6.0 Parent Engagement and Ease of Family Access

Parent engagement is an important part of the Coahoma County Pre-K programs. Throughout the district the administrators understand the impact of parent engagement in all grade levels. When school, families and community groups work together to support learning children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and like school more. Students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Earn higher test scores
- Be promoted
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills, and
- Graduate high school and attend college

Such statistics lead Coahoma Municipal School District to maintain parent engagement as a goal for the district. Parent participation will be encouraged and models for parent engagement will be maintained such as SPARKS. Parent friendly school environments will be established and all opportunities will be taken to make parents apart of their child's education.

A goal of the collaborative is to ensure active and increasing parent engagement in the pre-k program. Daily activity sheets will be sent home with students that update parents on their child's development. In additional, parents may request conferences for additional information concerning their child's development. After each Brigance Early Childhood Assessment that will occur three (3) times a year in the fall, winter, and spring, parents will be invited to parent-teacher conference night to review and receive

written reports about their children's individual development. There will be two "Family Night" program where parents will receive educational information from their children's serve provider, as well as, a guest early childhood educational expert. Parents will be given perspective dates for proposed parent conferences prior to assigning dates to assist in ensuring parent participation. Parent-teacher conference times for pre-school children will be held at different times than K-12 parent teacher conferences to give parents opportunities to attend the conference night.

The focus of Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative parent engagement is to attain every parent to actively partner with the school to provide educational strategies for positive educational outcomes. This will encounter hard work and dedication of the staff in Coahoma. All staff will participate in working to involve parents as staff and parents will be asked to sign a parent engagement commitment/pledge that will list the responses and engagement expected when working with parents and parents working with child and staff. This agreement will be renewed periodically and parents will be given copies of the pledges.

Parents will be notified of all programs in Coahoma County that will provide educational services to their children in an informational booklet that will have pertinent information concerning the program and contact information. All organizations that will provide services will have policies that encourage visitation during the school day, and communicate parents' right to know about their children's academic success. These policies will be published in the parent-student handbook for the Pre-K programs and placed on members' websites. Parents will be requested to sign form acknowledging reading hand book as required by the Mississippi Department of Health. Parents will

provide valuable feedback in the form of a semi-annual parent program assessment survey, and parents will be a part of the annual review and approval of the comprehensive program improvement plan.

Parents' interest and support is vital to the success of the program and individual children. Services included for parents are as following:

Parent Engagement Chart

Parent Activity	Frequency
Parent Training using SPARKS	Ongoing
Parent Conference Nights	Three (3) times per year
Family Fun Night	Two (2) times per year
Parent/Teacher Pledges	Annually
Child Activity Sheet	Daily

7.0 Qualified Staff

The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative is committed to ensuring that all staff is credentialed in accordance with the Mississippi Code Section 37-21-3. So that we can provide high, quality instruction, the collaborative will seek to hire a reading specialist to serve as a master teacher. This individual will oversee the day to day instructional practices of the classrooms and ensure all components of the program are being implemented with fidelity and intentionality. Additionally, this individual will be responsible for but not limited to:

a. Providing professional development (i.e., literacy development, classroom management, planning for instruction)
b. Collaborating with colleagues to assist with curriculum needs
c. Coordinate planning of pre-k learning communities
d. Serve as a support system in implementing the goals of the collaborative

The Clarksdale Municipal School District employs an elementary curriculum director with 15 years of experience in counseling and leadership. The 5 elementary schools in our district are pre-k through 4th grade schools. We have a total of 6 classes; 5 regular education classes and 1 special need class. The six pre-k teachers all have valid Mississippi educator's licenses. Two of the teachers have bachelor degrees in child development and the other 3 will be returning to school through our collaboration with Delta State University to obtain the hours needed in early childhood development. Additionally our 6 assistant will obtain the

child development credential. We will use our Title II funds to ensure our teaching staff is in compliance with the application.

The Head Start staff consists of 5 center administrators, all with bachelor degrees in early childhood education. The 15 teachers with bachelor's degrees in early childhood education, 15 assistants with associate of arts degrees in early childhood education.

The St. Elizabeth's Catholic School staff has 1 principal with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a pre-k teacher with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, and an assistant teacher with an associate of arts degree in early childhood education.

The Coahoma County School District does not currently have any existing pre-k classes. However, they will hire staff in accordance to the Mississippi Code.

The two child care centers participating in this collaborative are currently participating in the Mississippi Child Care Quality Rating System. They will continue to be evaluated by the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R). Tots for Time Child Care Center has a four year old class with 1 teacher with a bachelor of arts degree in early childhood education as well as an assistant with the child development association credential. The Covenant House Child Care Center four year old classroom teacher has a bachelor of arts in early childhood education. There is currently no assistant in this classroom. However, once recruitment is complete for the upcoming year, this school will meet the requirement of having a minimum of 5 students or more.

8.0 Curriculum and Assessments Aligned to Standards

Students make gains in early literacy when high quality programs include an intentional curriculum and provide effective teacher professional development and support systems. Unfortunately, children from families who have limited economic resources are disproportionately likely to start kindergarten behind (Hart & Risely, 1995). Children who start school behind often become poor readers in the early grades and then continue to struggle with reading through their school career. Once children fall behind, compensatory education is no longer a viable option and thus the graduation rate decreases. If children struggle after reaching grade three, reading struggles become more difficult to remediate.

Getting young children started on the right track is essential to getting them where they need to go. High quality pre-kindergarten programs are vitally important to this journey. Because high poverty is prevalent in this collaborative, it is imperative that the teachers have an intentional curriculum. A strong curriculum and delivery can increase the achievement in low-income children. The strategies used in all early childhood classes will possess positive adult-child relationships. This will provide the foundation for learning language and literacy. All of the domains of child development will be addressed daily and the teaching staff will scaffold in order to reach the children at their specific level of learning. One of the key elements that teachers will be expected to perform daily is modeling of appropriate reading behaviors. This will include using pictures as support, making connections to self and text, making predictions, and using comprehension strategies. Teachers will also implement appropriate management strategies by continually monitoring the classroom, offering

support when necessary, encouraging participation, and implementing proactive management strategies.

The curriculum that will be utilized for this collaborative is Opening the World of Learning (OWL) created by Pearson and is aligned to the Early Learning Standards for Classrooms serving four-year-old children. This program is a comprehensive Pre-K curriculum that prepares children for kindergarten with ongoing assessment of research-based success predictors and playful, purposeful, and personalized instruction.

OWL is based on a thorough knowledge of research on early language and literacy development and research on social and emotional development. Teaching with intentionality is at the core of this program. The focus on conversation and the amount of implicit and explicit oral language, critical thinking, and vocabulary instruction will be implemented daily and teachers will be intentional in their actions and words.

In addition to the assessments that accompany the program for progress monitoring, children will be administered the Brigance Early Childhood Screens III, a nationally normed and standardized instrument. This assessment allows teachers to easily identify potential developmental delays and giftedness in language, motor, self-help, social-emotional and cognitive skills. In addition to the progress monitoring tools and formative assessment tool (Brigance), each four-year-old student will be administered a summative assessment at the completion of their pre-kindergarten year. The two childcare centers will be measured additionally by the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R). This is the tool they are currently evaluated by as participants in the Mississippi Child Care Quality Rating System

9.0 Daily Schedule

Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative

Pre-Kindergarten Schedule

7:35-7:50-(15 min) – OPENING ACTIVITIES – Children will:

- participate in opening routines (attendance, calendar, etc)
- hear about new or special activities planned for the day

8:00-8:30- Breakfast/Restroom

8:30-8:50 (20 min)- Circle Time: (Calendar, alphabets, numbers, colors, shapes, days of the week, months of the year, stories, rhymes)

8:55-9:30—Center time(35 min) – GROUP TIME) (whole and small group instruction) – Children will:

- learn about new concepts in the content areas of language and literacy, math, and science
- participate in language and print rich activities guided by the teacher
- participate in group singing, finger plays, poetry, and other music and movement activities

9:35- 10:20(45 min)- LEARNING CENTERS –Children will:

- extend their learning experiences by engaging in activities in the various work centers such as the reading/writing, dramatic play, block, art, science, music, & math areas

- cooperate with a classmate or in a small group
- work one on one with a teacher
- practice and generalize skills such as , writing, counting and problem solving through relevant and meaningful activities

10:20-10:25-Restroom Break

10:30-11:00-Lunch

11:00-11:25-Restroom/ Quiet Time-(25 min) – Children will:

- listen to quiet music
- listen to stories and look at books
- use quiet materials individually

11:25-11:40-(25 min) – SPECIAL ACTIVITIES (such as Art, Music, etc) – Children will:

- engage in learning outside the classroom environment
- participate in extended learning opportunities
- learn about health and nutrition

11:45- 12:05-(20 min) – JOURNAL WRITING – Children will:

- write about self-chosen or prompted topics using pictures and/or words
- dictate stories
- express their thoughts and ideas in pictures and/or words

12:05-12:35-(30 min)-OUTDOOR ACTIVITY TIME – Children will:

- use their whole bodies in active play to develop small and large muscle groups

- engage in age-appropriate games
- work cooperatively with other

12:35- 1:10-(35 min) – GROUP TIME/ LEARNING CENTERS (whole and small group instruction) – Children will:

- participate in group singing, finger plays, poetry, and other music and movement activities
- extend their learning experiences by engaging in activities in the various centers such as the reading/writing, dramatic play, block, art, science, music, & math areas(once they have completed group activity)

1:15- 1:35-(20min)- Restroom/SHARED READING EXPERIENCE – Children will:

- read books, song charts and/or picture stories together
- participate in themed activities which extend the current lesson
- learn about print concepts through teacher guided reading and writing activities

1:35- 1:50-(15min)- Clean up/SNACK TIME – Children will:

- experience new foods and learn about nutrition
- socialize with friends(practice helping and being kind to each other)
- practice math skills by helping to count plates and cups and other needed items.
- learn self-help skills

1:50- 2:00-(10 min) – REFLECTIONS OF THE DAY/ DEPARTURE – Children will:

- review concepts learned during the day
- verbalize in a group setting what they have done/learned

- begin to appreciate others' points of view

2:15-3:10- PLANNING- Collect materials needed and discuss with Assistant the objectives and activities we will implement the following day. Review student's work and activities. (Professional Development).

10.0 Class Size and Staff-Child Ratio

The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative will adhere to the required class size and staff student ratio. There will be approximately 47 students served at 11 school sites in 25 classrooms. Each classroom will have one qualified teacher, as defined in Mississippi Code Section 31-21-3, to deliver instruction during the Pre-K program, and one qualified assistant teacher.

Service Provider	Total Number of Students	Number of Classrooms	Number of Qualified Teachers	Number of Qualified Teacher Assistants
Clarksdale Municipal School District	108	6	6	6
Coahoma County Opportunities Head Start	299	15	15	15
Coahoma County School District	40	2	2	2
Tots for Time Child Care Center	8	1	1	1
St. Elizabeth Catholic School	235	1	1	1
Covenant House Child Care Center	68	1	1	

11.0 Professional Development

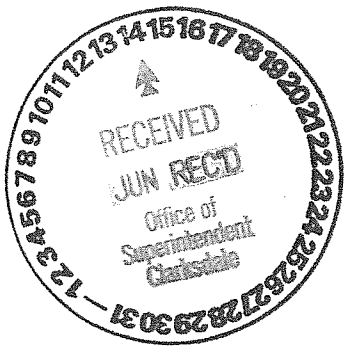
The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative understands that a highly qualified teacher is one of the most influential factors in student achievement. So it is vital that a commitment to continuous improvement of teacher quality is evident in the Pre-K program. Coupled with student achievement data such as, retention rates and exit screener data, Coahoma County will use the Mississippi Statewide Teacher Appraisal Rubric (M-STAR) teacher evaluation process as a tool for assessing early childhood workforce needs; establishing a statistical baseline for current workforce, and developing and implementing a systematic professional development plan for improved teacher quality that reflects the *Learning Forward Standards for Professional Learning*.

Improving student outcomes is the ultimate goal of the Pre-K program in the collaborative, and analyzing current student achievement data will be the strongest indicator of workforce needs. MAP scores, retention rate, and other formal and informal assessment data will be used to identify areas where improved instructional quality is needed to increase student achievement outcomes. Teacher retention rates, continued educational activities, and credentials will be used as a part of the collection of baseline data to accurate assess staff needs. Also, teacher self-assessment surveys and questionnaires will be used to help set professional growth goals in the early childhood workforce. Furthermore, qualified faculty and staff will be formally observed during the beginning of the academic school year as a final part of the collection of baseline data used to determine workforce needs.

The analysis of baseline data collected will serve as the platform in which to build a comprehensive professional development plan for the workforce in the collaborative.

The comprehensive professional development plan will reflect the Learning*Forward Standards for Professional Learning*where teachers will collaborate and learn in a professional learning community (PLC) of teachers.The comprehensive professional development plan will consist of three components:

1.) Identifying skills which need professional support
2.) Provide professional support through coaching and mentorship in the PLC's; consultation and workshop attendance
3.) Follow-up to monitor skill development and provide additional feedback and support



Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The Clarksdale Municipal School District
And
Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start

This cooperative/agreement between the Clarksdale Municipal School District and Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start is effective for a period of one (1) year from the date of signatures. At any time during the year, Clarksdale Municipal School District or Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start may call a meeting to modify or revise the contents of this agreement.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this agreement is to establish working procedures between Clarksdale Municipal School District and Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start to ensure the provision of blended services for preschool children and their families'. These services will be provided to comply with both federal and state laws and regulations, as well as the Head Start Performance Standards.

It is the intent of this agreement to:

1. Define which services will be provided by each agency.

2. Ensure that each agency cooperatively maintains communication and shares leadership responsibilities at the local level to ensure that available resources are utilized in the most effective manner.

3. Maintain ongoing quality and frequent communication and cooperation between Head Start and the Clarksdale Municipal School District.

4. Ensure that cooperative arrangements between the Clarksdale Municipal School District and Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start are developed, implemented and preserved.

5. Ensure that children eligible to preschool special education, and/or related services receive a free and appropriate education, as required by law, in the least restrictive environment.

I. Coordinate enrollment of children who are eligible for Head Start

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

1. Assist Head Start with identifying children, including those with disabilities, *who are possibly eligible for Head Start services. In* accordance with the Head Start *Act*, children in foster care, children that are homeless or families in receipt of public assistance are categorically income eligible.

2. Homeless children are eligible to enroll and attend Head Start while required documents such as proof of residency, immunizations, other medical records, birth certificates, and other documents are obtained within a reasonable time frame.
3. Assist in obtaining any documentation necessary for Head Start enrollment.

Head Start will:

1. Provide personnel to complete enrollment documentation necessary for Head Start record keeping process, health services, attendance, etc.
2. Claim another child in the event a Head Start eligible child drops and/or transitions to another location.

II. Provide transportation for the children

Head Start will:

1. Pick up all children at their residents and transport them to the school.
2. Provide a bus monitor for each bus.
3. Pick up the students from school and transport them to their residence.
4. Ensure training is provided on pedestrian safety for parents, teaching staff, and children.
5. Ensure parents receive a copy of the Parent Bus Rules.

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

1. Provide a monitor to greet the children upon the arrival of the buses and carry them to their prospective classrooms.
2. Provide monitors to carry the children to the buses in the afternoon for loading.
3. Supply the bus driver with an accurate evening count to ensure that no child is left.
4. Ensure teachers include Pedestrian Safety on lesson plans within the first thirty (30) days of the program year.

III. Health and Safety

1. Safety

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

a. Ensure time is allowed for the classroom staff to receive the necessary training in Health and Safety.
b. Purchase First Aid Kits and supplies and restock when needed.
c. Pay for cost of CPR/First Aid certification for staff.
d. Purchase needed materials to be posted.

Head Start will:

a. Arrange CPR/First Aid training for classroom staff
b. Supply training on specific health and safety procedures.
c. Assist Clarksdale Municipal School District in ensuring immunization requirements are met.
d. Coordinate health and dental screenings within the mandated time frames.
e. Coordinate follow-ups for children in a timely manner
f. Work in concert with the school district's nurse
g. Enter results and pertinent information in ChildPlus.

2. Dental Examination

Clarksdale Municipal School District:

a. Assist in securing Dental Health Form 5 and Children's Dental Health History from the parent during enrollment.
b. Assist in obtaining consent for the dental examination from parents.
c. Ensure children brush after breakfast and after lunch along with the teacher and assistant.
d. Purchase toothbrushes and paste for children and staff.

Head Start will:

a. Ensure children enrolled in Head Start receive a dental examination within 90 calendar days of initial enrollment into the Head Start program.
b. Provide necessary forms for parents to complete during enrollment
c. Encourage parents to obtain dental examinations for their children before school begins
d. Seek parental consent to take child for examination after parent misses three appointments.
e. Schedule dates and times of examinations and share with teaching staff
f. Arrange transportation when needed
g. Assist parents with follow-up services
h. Implement plans and procedures to comply with the Performance Standards (1304.20).

3. Physical (EPDST)

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

a. Assist in securing children's health history from the parent during enrollment.
b. Assist in obtaining consent for a physical examination from parents

Head Start will:

a. Inform parents at the time of application of the program's policies on physical examinations.
b. Ensure children enrolled in Head Start receive a complete physical examination within 90 calendar days of initial enrollment into the Head Start program.
c. Encourage parents to obtain a complete physical examination for their children before school begins.
d. Involve parents in determining the health status of their child and participating in the ongoing health care of their child.

4. Sensory

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

a. Assist Head Start in obtaining consent from parents
b. Observe children's auditory and visual performance for possible concerns

Head Start will:

a. Test enrollees for visual and auditory impairments with 45 calendar days of entry into the program.

5. Speech and Language

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

a. Collaborate with Head Start to ensure Clarksdale Municipal School District conducts a linguistically and age-appropriate language and speech screening for each child within 45 calendar days of entry into the program.
b. Share all results with the Head Start Disability Coordinator for data entry and referral for a more formal assessment if necessary.

Head Start will:

a. Assist Clarksdale Municipal School District in obtaining permission for screening and notify parents of screening dates and results if requested.
b. Assist Clarksdale Municipal School District in contacting parents for discussion of results and written consent for more formal assessment/further evaluations when needed.
c. Provide any relevant information needed to assist preschool coordinator and screening team.

6. Developmental Screening

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

a. Collaborate with Head Start to provide training on the Battelle Developmental Inventory II for classroom staff.
b. Administer (classroom staff) the Battelle Developmental Inventory II within forty-five calendar days of each child's entry into the program.
c. Share the results with the Head Start Disability Coordinator for data entry.

Head Start will:

a. Assist Clarksdale Municipal School District in obtaining permission for screening and notify parents of screening dates and results when requested.
b. Collect results of the Battelle Developmental Inventory II for data entry, referral for further evaluations and/or parental consent if needed.
c. Submit a copy of the Battelle Developmental Inventory II and other relevant information of children who failed two areas of the Battelle Developmental Inventory II to the preschool coordinator. (See Disability Partnership)
d. Assist Clarksdale Municipal School District in contacting parents to discuss results and obtain written consent for a more formal assessment/further evaluations when requested.

IV. Training

Head Start will:

1. Provide annual training related to early childhood development practices and other disciplines specific to early childhood upon request.
2. Assist with parent training upon request
3. Work cohesively with Clarksdale Municipal School District to get parents involved.

This cooperative agreement is entered into this _____ day of September 2013 and shall be effective one year.

Kathy McDougal, Head Start Director
Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.

Edward L. Seals, Executive Director
Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.

Dennis Dupree, Superintendent
Clarksdale Municipal School District

Shirley Fair, Board President
Clarksdale Municipal School District



COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AND TRANSITION PLAN BETWEEN THE CLARKSDALE MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COAHOMA OPPORTUNITIES, INC. /HEAD START

This cooperative/transition agreement between the Clarksdale Municipal School District and Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. /Head Start is effective for a period of one year (1) from the date of signatures.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this agreement is to establish working procedures between Clarksdale Municipal School District and Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. /Head Start, to ensure the provision of services for preschool children who are eligible for special education and related services and to provide a smooth transition of all the children with disabilities and their families in Head Start going into the public school system. These services will be provided to comply with both federal and state laws and regulations, as well as the Head Start Performance Standards.

It is the intent of this agreement to:

1. Define which services will be provided by each agency

2. Ensure that children eligible for preschool special education, and/or related services receive a free and appropriate education, as required by law, in the least restrictive environment.

3. Ensure that each agency cooperatively maintains communication and shares leadership responsibilities at the local level to ensure that available resources are utilized in the most effective manner.

4. Provide a smooth transition of all Head Start enrollees to public school.

5. Prepare parents for transition and the continuing roles and responsibilities they play in the educational lives of their children.

6. Maintain on-going quality and frequent communication and cooperation between Head Start and CMSD.

7. Ensure that cooperative arrangements between the Clarksdale Municipal School District and Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. /Head Start are developed, implemented and preserved.

I. Child Find/Screening

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

(a) Provide and promote parent activities for referring children into the Head Start program.

(b) Refer identified preschool children with disabilities that would value and are eligible for the Head Start experience. This includes the child's name, age, date of birth, parent's name and address, the child's type of disability and comprehensive assessment, current IEP, and a copy of written parental permission.

(c) Place preschool children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment (LRE) with an opportunity to interact with non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate.

(d) With parent's consent, forward copies of the eligibility ruling on children who have been referred for enrollment into Head Start to the Disability Coordinator.

Head Start will:

(a). Notify the school system as soon as possible of children entering Head Start with an eligibility ruling from another source, who are pre-diagnosed, and/or suspected to have a disability.

(b). Notify families of Head Start's recruitment efforts, especially children with disabilities, through written and verbal media throughout the community.

(c). Contact community agencies that serve children with disabilities and other children of Head Start's recruitment efforts.

(d) Work with The First Steps program to place pre-diagnosed children who will be turning three years of age into an appropriate pre-school program

II. Screening

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

(a). Assist in training Head Start staff on the Battelle Developmental Screening Inventory when asked.

(b). Provide staff to administer speech and language screenings for new enrollees at agreed upon time when school begins (within forty-five days after the child's first day in Head Start) and provide written results to the Head Start Disability Coordinator.

(c). Provide speech and language screenings for new Head Start enrollees within thirty days notice of enrollment.

Head Start will:

(a). Assign Head Start staff to receive training on the Battelle each year by the public school system when necessary

(b). Coordinate screening as soon as school opens. Obtain written consent from each parent prior to screening.

(c). Organize the administration of the Battelle and speech screenings to Head Start enrollees within forty-five days of entry into Head Start.

(d). Share screening results with parents and supply parents a copy of the screening reports. For those children that "failed" the screening, obtain parental consent to refer to LEA for further assessment.

(e). Explain Head Start's referral process
(1.) Screening (2) LEA's referral to placement process (3) IDEA

III. Referral for Comprehensive Evaluation

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

(a) Obtain, complete and provide the necessary documentation: parental consent, developmental history, notice of committee meeting and procedural safeguards in a timely manner for each child in Head Start, who is referred by the District's Local Survey Committees. The local survey committee will include a representative from Head Start.

(b) Send a notice of committee meetings to Head Start Disability Coordinator and parents of the location and time of the evaluation.

(c) Evaluate Head Start referrals that have been identified by the LSC for recommendations. This evaluation will be completed within forty-five days of the LSC determination to evaluate.

(d) Maintain on-going communication with the Head Start Disability Coordinator. Communicate regularly on the status of each referral.

(e) Share the written evaluation report with parents and the Disability Coordinator, with parental consent.

Head Start will:

(a). Assist CMSD in the referral process by providing CMSD an appropriate area for parent interviews, testing, and meetings concerning children with disabilities.

(b). Provide staffing on new enrollees who have been referred and/or evaluated and do not meet the Mississippi Department of Education regulations but meet Head Start's eligibility criteria.

(c.) In collaboration with CMSD, contact parents and center staff about meetings to include the date, time, and location. Head Start will also provide transportation when needed.

IV. Multi-Disciplinary Evaluation

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

(a). Consider the Head Start Performance Standards, section 1308, when evaluating Head Start children who have been referred.

(b). Work together on the multi-disciplinary team, which will include a Head Start representative, preferably the Head Start Disability Coordinator.

Head Start will:

(a). Provide copies of the Head Start eligibility criteria outlined in CFR 45, Part 1308 to multi-disciplinary eligibility team, which will include an LEA representative.

(b). Staff suspected enrollees who have been referred and/or evaluated by an LEA and not found eligible by state criteria.

1. Staff intervention with the multi-disciplinary team's recommendation
2. Informal and formal assessments
3. Parent and family interviews

V. Individual Education Program

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

(a). Complete the IEP within thirty (30) days after eligibility ruling.

(b). Notify the Disability Coordinator of IEP meetings three (3) days prior or more to the IEP meeting.

(c). Provide a copy of the IEP plan to the Disability Coordinator with parental consent.

(d). Maintain on-going communications with the Disability Coordinator and Head Start teacher to monitor implementation and effectiveness of the IEP.

(e). Address parental concerns regarding their child's education plan.

(f). Support the Head Start teacher in the implementation of the IEP through the Head Start weekly lesson plan.

(g) Assist in a nine-month monitoring process with Head Start teachers and the Disability Specialist to ensure progress and effectiveness of the IEP.

Head Start will:

(a). Ensure that all disability enrollees have a written IEP thirty (30) days after determination of eligibility.

(b). Assist LEA in contacting parents for IEP meetings that will include location, time and transportation assistance if needed.

(c). Remind parents at monthly parent committee meetings or trainings to keep all scheduled LEA meetings and/or conferences.

(d). Use an IEP format similar to the one used by the LEA and in accordance with the Performance Standards and in accordance with IDEA guidelines for Head Start enrollees who are found ineligible by the LEA but Head Start finds eligible for services.

(e). Invite an LEA representative to attend Head Start IEP meetings.

VI. Placement

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

(a.) Provide all children with a disability with the least restricted environment in accordance with the child's IEP.

(b.) Provide placement to Head Start children.

(c.) Provide eligible children continuing special education and related services during the summer, especially if ESY criteria are met, and it is documented on the IEP.

Head Start will:

(a). Provide opportunities to enroll and serve ten per cent of children with a disabilities, at a minimum, of the total enrollment

(b.) Provide LEA with child count including child and parent's name, address and disability.

(c.) Dispense medication according to the Performance Standards and Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start's Medication Administration Policies and Procedures.

VII. Training and Technical Assistance:

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

(a). Invite Head Start to LEA's local, state and/or national training if appropriate.

(b). Provide training on IDEA, etc. to parents and families and upon request.

(c)). Provide training to Head Start staff on the Battelle or other assessment tools upon request.

(d). Provide information and training on obtaining assistive devices for eligible children when applicable.

Head Start will:

(a.) Invite the LEA's to Head Start cluster meetings, and training if appropriate.

(b). Select education staff to participate in training provided by the local school districts.

(c). Invite parents to attend relevant and training opportunities.

(d.) Invite CMSD representatives to become members of the Health Advisory Committee

VII. Transition Activities

Clarksdale Municipal School District will:

(a). Notify parents of dates of Kindergarten registration.

(b). Continue to provide early intervention, on-going collaboration, and transitional services between local Head Start teachers, kindergarten teachers, and parents of preschool children in the Clarksdale Municipal School District.

(c). Arrange a visit for Head start children to observe the facility and classrooms prior to entry upon request.

(d) Participate in transitioning records to the appropriate school for Head Start enrollees entering kindergarten who are presently receiving services if needed.

Head Start will:

(a). Provide each principal with the number and names of enrollees from Head Start centers who will enter kindergarten when necessary.

(b). Invite a representative from the school system to attend the scheduled center parent meeting. Advise the representative of the meeting date, time, and arrange for the presentation to be on the agenda.

(c). Advise each principle of the number of children who will be visiting the school on the scheduled date and time.

(d). Encourage staff to adhere the schedule.

(e). Compile all pertinent information and arrange transportation for parents, if necessary, to attend the scheduled transition meeting from Head Start to the local school system.

Head start will:

~~I. The referral to placement process will be completed within thirty days.~~

(A). The referral forms will contain the following information:

(1). Child's Name
(2) Parent/Guardian's Name
(3) Child's Address

(4) Parent's Home, Work And Cell Telephone Numbers
(5) Child's Health Information
(6) Assessments (upon written parental/guardian consent)

(b). Head Start will begin referring Head Start children as soon as screening is complete/occurs after school opens. The Battelle Screening results of children failing two or more domains will be referred by November15, or sooner if possible. Other referrals will be given to the public school system throughout the Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start school year.

(c). The child's parent/guardians will be contacted by the school system to obtain consent for evaluations. Head Start will assist in contacting parent/guardians to obtain consent for evaluations.

(e.) Head Start will provide the public school in obtaining children's visual and hearing screening as well as the physical examinations.

The Clarksdale Municipal School District will provide COI/Head Start with all assessment results and provide a complete summary report of each COI Head Start child referred.

II. COI/Head Start will include the active participation of CMSC in staff referrals.

(A.) CMSD will include the active participation of COI Head Start Disability Coordinator and/or other staff in all COI Head Start placement committee meetings and other meetings.

COI/Head Start will assist the public schools in contacting parents for IEP and other relevant meetings. CMSD will provide COI Head Start with a written copy of each child's IEP and maintain written and oral communication of each child's progress.

This cooperative agreement and transition plan is entered into this _____ day of September 2013 and shall be effective one year.

Kathy McDougal, Head Start Director
Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.

Edward L. Seals, Executive Director
Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.

Dennis Dupree, Superintendent
Clarksdale Municipal School District

Gina Foster, Director of Special Education
Clarksdale Municipal School District

Shirley Fair, Board President
Clarksdale Municipal School District

Head Start Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda

October 23, 2009
12:00 p.m.

Presiding Officer: Arthurine Williams, President

- Call to order
- Meditation
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Warm-up — Daisy Burnett, Early Childhood Development and Health Services Coordinator
- Reading and Approval Of Minutes From Last Meeting — Katrice Blanch, Secretary
- Old Business
  None
- New Business
  Round Table Discussion
  1. Are we meeting the needs of the children?
  2. Is there a system in place for tracking Head Start children?
  3. How can concerns/issues be addressed by all entities present here today when they occur.
  4. What's your assessment of the Head Start children and what directions should we take?
- Questions and Answers
- Election of Officers — Daisy Burnett

Announcements and Adjournment

HEAD START EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

OCTOBER 22, 2010

12:00 NOON

- Call to Order
- Meditation
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Warm-Up — Alberta Carter, EC & Health Services
- Lunch
- Reading and Adoption of Minutes from Last Meeting — Madge Harris, Mental Health/Disabilities
- Old Business
  1. Is there a system in place for tracking Head Start Children?
- New Business

  Round Table Discussion
  1. Head Start's new Pre-K Curriculum
  2. Alignment of Head Start Assessment with Mississippi Early Learning Guides
  3. Fit 4 You Initiative
  4. Comparison of 2009 and 2010 beginning assessments
- Questions and Answers
- Updates/Concerns/Reflections
  1. Parents
  2. Partners
  3. Coordinators
- Election of Officers — Debra Halbert, Education Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

COAHOMA OPPORTUNITIES, INC. HEAD START CENTER

EDUCATION ADVISORY MEETING

Coahoma Community College in The Gallery

APRIL 21, 2011 12:00 noon

AGENDA

- Call to Order — Betty King, President, Education Advisory
- Meditation (Silent)
- Review and Adoption of Agenda — Betty King, President, Education Advisory
- Ice Breakers — Mr. Darrell Dobbs, Vice President, Education Advisory
- Reading and Adoption of Minutes from last meeting — Ms. Augusta Strong, Assistant Secretary, Education Advisory

Lunch will be served

- **Old Business**

  Round Table Discussion **(Parent, Partners, & Coordinators)**
  - Tracking children from head start through third grade.
- **New Business**

  Round Table Discussion **(Parents, Partners & Coordinators)**
  - Where are we on School Readiness?
  - How can parents help to prepare children for kindergarten?
  - Changes to Curriculum (Revised Child Outcomes)
  - Parent Involvement (Parent Meetings/Classroom)
- Updates/Concerns/Reflections

Announcements and Adjournment

Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start

Head Start Education Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENDA

October 31, 2012

Aaron E. Henry Head Start Center

Please serve yourself from the Buffet as you enter

Call To Order — Yvonne Wade

Silent Meditation — Madge Harris

Recognition of Guests

Ice Breaker — Alberta Carter

Review and Adoption of Agenda/Minutes

Round Table Discussion

- New School Readiness Goals/New School Readiness Leadership Team Starting in 2013
- What assessment tools are being used to assess your Pre-K/Kindergarten children's progress/concerns, classrooms and teacher-student interactions?
- How do you communicate to parents about their child/children progress/concerns?

Updates/Concerns

- Parents
- Partners
- Coordinators

Closing Remarks — Debra Halbert

Announcements and Adjournment

Please serve yourself from the Buffet as you enter

Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start

Head Start Education Advisory Committee Training

AGENDA

April 18, 2012

Call to Order

Meditation — Madge Harris

Ice Breaker — Alberta Carter

Review and Adoption of Agenda

Lunch Will Be Served

New Business

- Election of Officers — Alberta Carter

Round Table Discussion

- 2011-2012 LAP-3 Results/Analysis
- Where is Head Start on school readiness?
- What is the school district's expectation for Head Start children?
- Getting ready for kindergarten: What Parents can do?

Updates/Concerns

- Parents
- Parents in Education
- Coordinators

Announcements and Adjournment

Head Start

A Component of Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.

October 10, 2013

Dear Friend in Education:

Thank you for your past participation on the Head Start Education Advisory Committee. However, our funding source has deemed that we now call this committee the School Readiness Leadership Team. So welcome to the first meeting for this school term with our new more appropriate name.

We will meet on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at Coahoma Community College's Skill Tech, Highway 49 at 11:45 a.m. As always, lunch will be served to accommodate you and your busy schedule. Please be prepared to brainstorm and discuss ways to provide even better and more innovative educational services for children in Coahoma County. The team also needs to review the status of Head Start children who transitioned to kindergarten in August 2013, so please ask a Kindergarten and/or Pre-K teacher to accompany you to the meeting.

Thank you in advance for collaborating with Head Start to promote educational excellence for Head Start children and families in Coahoma County.

Sincerely,

Debra Halbert

Debra Halbert
Education Coordinator

115 Issaquena Avenue ■ Post Office Drawer 1445 ■ Clarksdale, MS 38614 ■ Phone: 662-624-4887 ■ Fax: 662-624-4115

4/21/11

Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.

Education Advisory Committee

Roster

Name	School	Position
Evarra L. Trotter	Jonestown Headstart	Center Admin/Teacher
Angela Allred	COI Office	Family Services Coordinator
A Halbert	COI Office	Edu. Coordinator
Candace Barron-Chestnut	CHO CMSD	K Teacher
Cathy A McCargo	COI	Head Start Director
Delbrita Carter	COI	ECHS Coordinator
Sandra Jones	COI	Health Coordinator
Romshell Bone	Head Starter AEH	Head Starter AEH
Helen J. McCain	AEH	Parent
Debra D Walker	AEH	Parent
Minnie Moore	AEH	Parent
Katrina Washington	BBHC	Teacher
Patricia Ransom	BBHC	Center Adm.
Augusta Strong	Covenant Haven Christian Daycare	Director
Dorothy Pennington	CMSD	Ass. Superintendent
Faye Howell-Matthews	CMSD	Elementary Curriculum Director
Jean Rudd	CCSD	Federal Prog. Director
Sherry Coleman	Friars Point	Principal
Mary Louise Jones	COI	Parent Involvement Coordinator
Becky Ivens	Pres. Educ. Advisory Committee (Tarun Henry)	Parent / President

Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start

Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, October 22, 2010

Attendance Roster

Name	Organization	Contact Address	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Angela Ward	COI	115 Issaquena Ave	624-4887	
Ava Walton	COI/Beth Blackburn	" "	6244887	
Patricia Ransom	Beth Blackburn	" "	" "	
Angela Holmon	AEH	810 Sasse	645-6703	
Melinda Wilson	AEH	810 Sass	627-7869	
Michelle Conn	AE. H	270 Farrell-Shaw St	645-0737	Pssmama@aol.com
Amanda Strong	Covenant House Christian Daycare	340 Mississippi P.O. Box 1017	624-4050	covenanthousedc@bellsouth.net
Darrell Dodd	Beth Blackburn	438 Maple Ave	662-902-7281	darrell12b@yahoo.com
Shirley Stanley	C.O.C.	115 Issaquena Ave	624-4887	—
Cordetta Thompson	Jonestown Headstart	Jonestown	902-2443	Cthompson@datnet.org
Loretha Davis	COF	810 Sassie	624-4887	lorethafriars@yahoo.com.
Alberta Carter	COI			

Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start

Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, October 22, 2010

Attendance Roster

Name	Organization	Contact Address	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Mary C Nolan		P.O Box 665	883-2678	marynolan1980@hotmail.com
Prince Ola Stallworth	COI/Head Start	115 Issaquena Ave	662/627-4887	willieprince@tunhoo.com
Georgia Starks	COI/Head Start	905 Sassc # 41 C'dale MS.	662 627-7569	georgiastarks@hotmail
Betty King		148 Monroe Circle C'dale, Ms.	662-902-8272	The chosen eagle@yahoo.com
Melissa Reaves	COI/Head start	P.O. Box 87 Dublin MS 38739	662 645-2711	melissa dorsey38@yahoo.com
Arthurine Williams	Vol	503 Catalpa St C'Dale MS	662 627-1716	
Evon Trotter	COI/Headstart	P.O. Box 92 Coahoma	6623372986	
Jean Duff	Coahoma Co. Schools	P.O. Box 820 Clarksdale	624-5448	jduff@coahoma.k12.ms.us
Samika Jones	COI/Headstart	115 Issaquena Ave	662-624-4887	
Aurelio Elorza	COI/Headstart	115 Issaquena	627-4887	
Kelly McDuff	COI	—	—	—
Mary Jones	COI	115 Issaquena	627-7838	—

Coahoma Opportunities, Inc. Head Start

Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, October 22, 2010

Attendance Roster

Name	Organization	Contact Address	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Pamela Kelly	COI/Headstart	905 Sasseen C'dale, MS 38614	336-4398 ~~839~~-75	kakatatn@yahoo.com
Madge Davis	Head Start	115 Issaquena	902.2383	Elizabeth_Jane@yahoo.com
Paul Collins	Head Start	115 Issaquena Ave.	902-7107	gpcollins38614@yahoo.com
L. Mosley	HS	115 Issaquena Ave	902-8697	tinycommunity@yahoo.com

Head Start Education Advisory Meeting

Friday, APRIL 23, 2010

Attendance Roster

Name	Address	Agency	Phone Number
Kathy Mardenborough	—	COI	—
Brenda Ella Stallworth	—	COI	—
Betty King		Sassa School	
Daisy Barnett		COI	
Maggie Ivy		COI	
Cynthia Wood		COI	
Mary Jones		COI	
Rose Jones Brown		COI	
Mary A. Nolan		COI	
Catherine Harris		Jonestown Parent	
Evora B. Stallworth		COI	
Jean Duff	P.O. Box 820 C'dale	Coahoma Co. Schools	624-5448
Agnes Mabry	—	COI	—
Loretta Davis	P.O. Box 73 Friars Pt	COI	662-383-2819
Rochelle Brune	137 16th St	COI	645-7930
Georgia Starks	905 Lane #41	COI	645-1965
Shawn Robinson		COI	
Shirley Stanley		COI	
Crystal Hall-Dipson	651 Grant Place	Coahoma Co. Schools	383-2477
Shirley Tillis	1706 N. Clive, C'dale	" " " Lyon	313-4134
Angelia Elloyd	—	COI	—
Tawanna James	—	COI	624-2413
Dorothy Jones	452 Barnes C'dale	Community Leader	302-0826
Dorothy Pearl Greene	221 Confederate St	COI	
Emma Simpson	COI Admin	COI	
Augusta Strong	P.O. Box 1017	Covenant House	624-4050
		COI	

Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Roster of Attendance

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Rose Weaver	P.O. Box 473 Friars pt	383-0008
Mary Gordon	P.O Box 465 Friars Pt	3832588
Mary Jenkins	2106 Center St., C'dale, MS	627-3594
[illegible]	216 Cypress Dale	624-630
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Darcy Burnett	115 Issaquena	627-7838
Shirley Stanley	5003 Sunflower Rd.	624-5445
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jackie Harrell-Matthews	602 Catalpa C'dale, MS	662-627-8598
Rene Sutter	309 Adams C'dale, Miss	662-627-1708
Johnnie Ester McCoy	730 Cherry St. Clarksdale, MS	662 902-0928
Irene Ella Stallworth	304 Oak Street	662 313-8715
[illegible]	COI - Office	
Shermie Williams	COI Vol	662-627-1716
Pearline B. Heard	P.O. Box 1088 Cdale	662-627-8500
Angela Ward	115 Issaquena	662-624-4887
Madge Davis	115 Issaquena	627-7838
Mary L. Jones	Admin Office	627-7838
Federick Carter	Admin Officer	624-4889

Education Advisory Committee Meeting
10/23/09

Sign-in Sheet

- Kathy A McDougal -
- Patricia Ranson -
- Daisy Burnett - COI & COI HS Coordinator
- Carol W. Jones COI - Headstart - Center Director/Teacher
- Mary C. Nola COI Headstart Teacher
- Felicia Yarbrough (Parent) Ref. Blackburn
- Jan Duff Co Aroma County School District
- Joya Hamlett-Matthews - Myrtle Hall IV
- Mary Jones - Myrtle Hall IV
- Angela Ward - Family Services Coordinator
- Mary Louise Jones - COI/Head Start
- Doris J. Doby - COI/HS
- [illegible] - COI/Headstart/Health Coor.
- Wade Kan - COI Disadv/M.H. Coordinator
- Priscilla Wallace - COI Nutrition Coordinator
- Pauline Reed - Carbona County Schools
- Lyle Washington - Booker T. Washington
- Jan Light - Booker T. Washington

HEAD START EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA
October 31 2012
Aaron E. Henry Parent Center

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Address	Phone Number
1	Yvonne Wade	P.O. Box 389 Jtown	358-4021/624-1479
2	Melissa Reading	1370 Hwy 3 Sarah MS	645-2711
3	Doris Elroy	115 Issaquena St C'dale	624-4887
4	Alberta Carter	115 Issaquena St.	C'dale 624-4887
5	Samika Jones	115 Issaquena Ave	c'dale 624-4887
6	Sandra Walter	1101 Smith, C'dale	627-8588
7	Jessie Farris	1300 Sunflower, C'dale	627-8567
8	Jessie Farris	P.O Box 820 Coahoma Co. Schools	624-5448
9	Ann Upton	1614 Sansing Dr	662-824-8474
10	Shanda Jones	501 Maple Street	662-627-8577
11	Alberta R Rays	P.O. Box 820 Cdale MS 38614	662-624-5448
12	Tawana Williams	946 West Second	662-627-8577
13	Lavishell Bane	137 16th St.	662-645-7930
14	Katara Tyler	939 Main Street	662-902-5458
15	Amy MacKay	108 Avalon Pl, Helena AR 72342	330-508-0302
16	Valery Jumonick-Harris	350 James A. Shelby Dr	662-383-2477
17	Peggy Hemphill	1409 Anderson Blvd.	662-645-5016
18	Loretta Davis	P.O. Box 73 Friars Pt	662-383-2519
19	Ashley Magby	POBox 154 Friars Pt	662-302-1885
20	Kayla Bass	P.O. Box 767 Friars Point	662-383-2558
21	Delphia Martin	115 Issaquena	662-313-6684
22	Madge Hart		
23	Angela Strong	P.O. Box 1017	624-4050

AGENDA
October 31 2012
Aaron E. Henry Parent Center

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Address	Phone Number
25	Renea Stegliano	304 Oakhurst St	662 (313-7403
26	Liane Simmons	P.O. Box 1171 Shelby	(662) 645-1274
27	Debra Halbert	822 Catalpa	645-2223

Early Childhood Educators Luncheon

Coahoma Community College

McLaurin Vocational Building

December 8, 2010

11:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Introduction of Participants
- Presentation from Pearson/Scott Foresman Representatives
- Evaluation & Door Prizes



Our luncheon today was sponsored by Pearson/Scott Foresman. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Boswell and Mrs. Cieglo for their hard work and commitment to education.

Clarksdale Municipal School District

Participant Rating of Training/Support Activity

STAFF DEVELOPMENT RECORD **LOCATION:** The Gallery @ CCC

TITLE/TOPIC: Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum Materials

DATE: 12/8/2010 **TIME:** 11:00 TO 1:00

PRESENTER(S): Jimmy Boswell & Laura Cieglo

NAME: SIGN/PRINT	SCHOOL:	NAME: SIGN/PRINT	SCHOOL:
Pearlie M. Newell	Clarksdale	A Hulbert	Head Start
Tara Hamell-Matthews		M. Davis	Head Start
Glory Jones	Myrtle Hall IV	Karen Dare	CCC
Dan McCoskrill		Trina Cop	CCC
Vanessa Hall Brown	CMSD	Kenneth Dare	CCC
Dorothy Rushing	CMSD	Lenetta Davis	A.E. Henry Head Start
Emma O. Jackson	B.T.W.	Alberta Carter	Head Start
Jean Light	BTW	Angela Wood	Head Start
Laura Isgett	COI Center Admin	Andrea Williams	B.T.W. P.T.O. President
Sandra J. Downing	C/O		
Sandy Fields			
Robin Nail	St. Elizabeth		
Melissa Hood	St. Elizabeth		
Angela Strong	Covenant House		
Lynda Miller Kirkpatrick			
Candace Barron Chestnut	CHO		
Regina Hawkins	Hawkey's H.C.C.C.		
Mary Jones	COI/Head Start		

Early Childhood Educator's Luncheon

Coahoma Community College

The Gallery

March 22, 2011

AGENDA

Welcome

•

Introduction of Guests

•

Purpose of Luncheon

•

Overview of SPARK

•

Open Discussion

Curriculum Alignment

Transition for incoming kindergarten students

Time & place for next meeting

•

Complete information sheet & evaluation

•

Lunch

There is no "I" in team, but there is a "Me"! Thanks for coming to this planning session.

© Gartner Studios

Clarksdale Municipal School District

Participant Rating of Training/Support Activity

STAFF DEVELOPMENT RECORD **LOCATION:** CCC

TITLE/TOPIC: Early Childhood Educator's Forum

DATE: 3/22/2011 **TIME:** 12:00 TO 2:00

PRESENTER(S): Toya Harrell-Matthews

NAME: SIGN/PRINT	SCHOOL:	NAME: SIGN/PRINT	SCHOOL:
Pearline M. Newell	CO	Augusta Strong	Covenant House C.D.C.
Joyce Handley	HES	Lois Colyer	
Jessie Jones			
Evora B. Trotter Jones	Headstart	Madge Dain	Head Start
LaShekaBell/LasheKa Bell		Angela Ward, Head Start	
Glory Jones/Glory Jones		Dorothy Prestwich	(CMSD)
D. Crawford	c/o		
Candace Barron Crawford	CHO		
Linda Mullen Kirkpatrick			
Shirley E. Saddler	JES		
Josephine P. Rhymes			
Cherlissa Burnside-Buford			
Nancy S. Newson			
Jan Liptak			
Emma Jones			
Pearl Watts			
Andrea Williams	BHO		
John McCoy			

Early Childhood Educator's Meeting

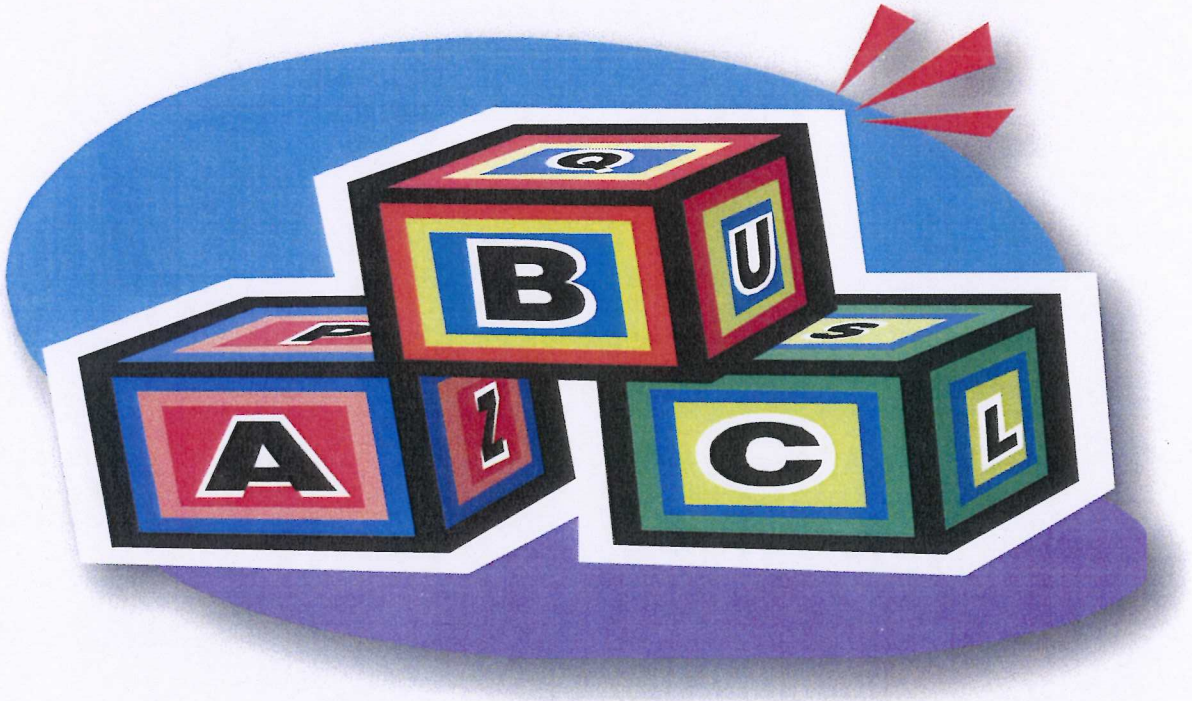
Gycelle Tynes Educational Services Center

April 13, 2011

3: 00 p.m.

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Purpose of the meeting
- Brief presentations
  - Debra Halbert & Alberta Carter, Coahoma Opportunities Inc.
  - Pearl Watts & LaSheka Bell, SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids)
  - Toya Harrell-Matthews, Clarksdale Municipal School District
- Next Steps
- Adjournment



Clarksdale Municipal School District

Participant Rating of Training/Support Activity

STAFF DEVELOPMENT RECORD **LOCATION:** Central Office

TITLE/TOPIC: Early Childhood Educators Meeting

DATE: 4/13/2011 **TIME:** 3:00 TO 4:00

PRESENTER(S): Toya Harrell-Matthews & Debra Halbert

NAME: SIGN/PRINT	SCHOOL:	NAME: SIGN/PRINT	SCHOOL:
Kathy McDonald	CDI-Head Start		
D. Halbert	CDI		
LaSheka Bell	SPARK		
Pearl Watts			
Emma Crudup			
Lynda Miller	MHC		
Candace Chestnut	GHO		
Mary E. (Jennie) Roberts	Kirk.		
Jane Webster	BTW		
Jean Light	BTW		
Purlessa Burnside-Burford	MHTC		
Crawford	CO		

ATTACHMENT C

Early Learning Collaborative
Budget Summary Form

Collaborative Contact: Toya Harrell-Matthews

DIRECT COST REQUESTED FOR COLLABORATIVE	AMOUNT **YEAR 1** January 2014 to June 2014	AMOUNT **YEAR 2** July 2014 to June 2015	AMOUNT **YEAR 3** July 2015 to June 2016
1. Salaries, Wages, and Benefits	$33,241.13	$67,095.35	$67,708.46
2. Student Transportation (No more than 10% of total budget)			
3. In-state Travel	$6,120	$9,720	$9,720
4. Educational Materials	$134,571	$50,000	$50,000
5. Consultants and Contracts	$10,400	$31,400	$31,400
6. Program Evaluation (Classroom Quality Measure)			
7. Equipment or Technology	$130,000	$72,000	$108,000
8. Professional Development	$5,000	$35,360	$35,360
9. Assessments for Students (diagnostic and progress monitoring)	$8,222	$1,500	$1,500
10. Other Stipends & Food		$27,771.20	$27,771.20
TOTAL BUDGET	$327,554.10	$294,846.60	$331,459.70

No indirect cost rate shall be allowed.

This form is a required element of the grant application and must be included with the budget narrative indicating an itemized breakdown of these budget categories and explaining how each line item was calculated.

The initial period is from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

Budget Narrative

The Coahoma County Pre-K Collaborative budget is built to sustain the early learning pre-k classrooms in Coahoma County years after the life of the Mississippi Department of Education Pre-K Early Learning Collaborative Grant. The budget is not based upon the recommended per pupil allocation, but it is based upon the capacity of the partners in the collaborative to maintain sufficient resources to provide longevity to pre-k programs in Coahoma County, MS. Various matching funds will be used by the collaborative in each year of the grant. Philanthropic grant through organizations, such as, The Walton Foundation and Delta Bridge; district funding from local, state, and federal sources; and civic and religious donation help offset cost by providing student transportation, facilities usage and maintenance, utilities, and salaries and fridge benefits for teachers, teacher assistants, building administrators, district administrators, and bus drivers. The budgetary request over the next three years will provide a substantial foundation for the collaborative to build and expand its quality pre-k services to 4 year olds throughout the county.

Salary

Position	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Literacy Specialist	$33,241.13	$67,095.35	$67,708.46

Literacy Specialist- will be responsible for quality professional development implementation, training of faculty and staff, monitor curriculum needs and assisting in on-going parental engagement activities. This salary amount for each year is comprised of both salary and benefits.

In-State Travel

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
$6,120	$9,720	$9,720

In state travel consists of travel for the literacy specialist and the two contracted interventionists to travel from site to site rendering services. The requested amount is based upon the per diem travel rate of public school employees. This amount also includes the travel, lodging, and meals to two (2) state conferences, Mississippi Early Childhood Association and Mississippi Head Start State Conference. This cost will allow 5 teachers to attend in order to be an on-site trainer within the collaborative.

Educational Materials

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
$134,571	$50,000	$50,000

During year one, 24 classrooms will be furnished with an Early Literacy Curriculum that is aligned to the Mississippi Early Learning Standards. This will be a one-time purchase at a cost $83,951.28. In each of the three (3) years of funding, classroom libraries will be build to provide a print-rich learning environment at a cost of $1000 per classroom. In addition, $1000 will be utilized to purchase books and other educational materials for a parent center at each of the 11 sites.

Consultants and Contract

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
$10,400	$31,400	$31,400

The requested amount for consultants and contracts is for the two (2) interventionists who will serve all sites in order to profession intervention to the most at-risk students in the area of literacy. In year one, they will work 40 days for 3 hours each to identify at-risk students at each of the sites at a cost of $8,000. During year 2 and year 3 they will work 140 days for 3 hours a day each for a cost of $29,400. Included in the budget is $2000 each year for early childhood experts for the Family Night.

Equipment and Technology

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
$130,000	$72,000	$108,000

One partner of the collaborative, Coahoma County School District, will use $70,000 to purchase equipment for 2 classrooms. One goal of the collaborative is to provide a one-to-one device ratio for all classrooms. In year one, 5 IPADs will be purchased for 24 classrooms at a cost of $60,000. In year two, 6 IPADs will be purchased for 24 classrooms at a cost of $72,000, and 9 IPADs will be purchased at a cost of $108,000 in year 3 to meet the goal of a device for every student.

Professional Development

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
$5,000	$35,300	$35,300

In year 1 $5000, training will be provided to the literacy specialist and the contracted interventionists on the Opening the World of Learning Curriculum (Owl) and the Brigance Screener. Year 2 and 3 will consist of training for all teachers and assistants in the collaborative on the implementing the curriculum and assessments.

Assessments

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
$8222	$1,500	$1,500

In year 1, the collaborative will purchase the Brigance Screener. This cost consists of the kits, screener forms, and technical assistance manuals. This cost will not be incurred in Year 2 and 3. However, in the event of misplaced materials, we are allotting monies for replacements.

Other

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Stipends		$25,771.20	$25,771.20
Food		$2000	$2000
Total		$27,771.20	$27,771.20

In year 2, the fifty-two teachers and assistants in this collaborative will participate in a 4 day training on the OWL and the Brigance and participate in teambuilding activities. This training will take place during the summer and teachers will be paid $123.09 a day. (This amount includes the $100 a day stipend and benefits). During year 3, teachers and assistants will participate in four day training on effective instructional strategies, classroom management, and principles of literacy instruction. The same cost will be incurred as in year 2.

ATTACHMENT D

Partner Identification Form

Early Learning Collaborative 2013-2014

Include a Partnership Identification Form for each Partner and Early Childhood provider participating in the Collaborative. Form must be included in the proposal package.

Partner or Provider: Clarksdale Municipal School District

Name: Toya Harrell-Matthews

Title: Elementary Curriculum Director

Address: P.O. Box 1088

Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

Telephone: 662.627.8500

Fax: 662.627.8542

E-mail: tmatthews@cmsd.k12.ms.us

Type of Organization: Public School

I assure that all guidelines and requirements of implementing the Early Learning Collaborative Act will be followed.

Toya Harrell-Matthews
Authorized Signature

10/28/13
Date

ATTACHMENT D

Partner Identification Form

Early Learning Collaborative 2013-2014

Include a Partnership Identification Form for each Partner and Early Childhood provider participating in the Collaborative. Form must be included in the proposal package.

Partner or Provider: Coahoma County School District

Name: Pauline J. Rhodes

Title: Superintendent

Address: P.O. Box 820

Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

Telephone: 662.624.5448

Fax: 662.624.5512

E-mail: prhodes@coahoma.k12.ms.us

Type of Organization: Public School

I assure that all guidelines and requirements of implementing the Early Learning Collaborative Act will be followed.

Pauline J. Rhodes
Authorized Signature

10/28/13
Date

ATTACHMENT D

Partner Identification Form

Early Learning Collaborative 2013-2014

Include a Partnership Identification Form for each Partner and Early Childhood provider participating in the Collaborative. Form must be included in the proposal package.

Partner or Provider: Tots for Time Child Care Center

Name: Shikelo Benson

Title: Owner/Director

Address: 1206 Desoto Avenue

Clarksale, Mississippi 38614

Telephone: 662.624.4221

Fax: 662.624.4221

E-mail: totsfortime@bellsouth.net

Type of Organization: Child Care Center

I assure that all guidelines and requirements of implementing the Early Learning Collaborative Act will be followed.

Shikelo Benson

Authorized Signature

10/28/2013

Date

ATTACHMENT D

Partner Identification Form

Early Learning Collaborative 2013-2014

Include a Partnership Identification Form for each Partner and Early Childhood provider participating in the Collaborative. Form must be included in the proposal package.

Partner or Provider: St. Elizabeth Catholic School

Name: Jeannie Roberts

Title: Principal

Address: 150 Florence

Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

Telephone: 662.624.4239

Fax: 662.624.2072

E-mail: stliz1@bellsouth.net

Type of Organization: Parochial School

I assure that all guidelines and requirements of implementing the Early Learning Collaborative Act will be followed.

Jeannie M. Roberts
Authorized Signature

10 - 28 - 2013
Date

ATTACHMENT D

Partner Identification Form

Early Learning Collaborative 2013-2014

Include a Partnership Identification Form for each Partner and Early Childhood provider participating in the Collaborative. Form must be included in the proposal package.

Partner or Provider: Covenant House Day Care Center

Name: Augusta Strong

Title: Director

Address: 340 Mississippi

Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

Telephone: 662.624.4050

Fax: 662.627.9419

E-mail: covenanthousecdc@bellsouth.net

Type of Organization: Christian Day Care Center

I assure that all guidelines and requirements of implementing the Early Learning Collaborative Act will be followed.

Augusta D. Strong
Authorized Signature

10/28/13
Date

ATTACHMENT D

Partner Identification Form

Early Learning Collaborative 2013-2014

Include a Partnership Identification Form for each Partner and Early Childhood provider participating in the Collaborative. Form must be included in the proposal package.

Partner or Provider: Coahoma Opportunities Incorporated

Name: Kathy McDougal

Title: Director of Head Start

Address: P.O. Box 1445

Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

Telephone: 662.624.4887

Fax: 662.624.4115

E-mail: kathyann11950@yahoo.com

Type of Organization: Community Action Program

I assure that all guidelines and requirements of implementing the Early Learning Collaborative Act will be followed.

Kathy McDougal
Authorized Signature

10-28-13
Date

ATTACHMENT E

ASSURANCES

Should an award from the Early Learning Collaborative Act be made to the applicant in support of the activities proposed in this application, the authorized signature below certifies to the Mississippi Department of Education that the authorized official and all partners will:

1. Upon request, provide the Mississippi Department of Education with access to records and other sources of information that may be necessary to determine compliance with appropriate state laws and regulations;

2. Conduct educational activities funded by this project in compliance with state laws;

3. Use grant funds to supplement and not supplant funds from nonfederal sources; and

4. Submit, in accordance with stated guidelines and deadlines, all program evaluation reports required by the Mississippi Department of Education.

According to Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Standard Terms and Conditions

1. The grantee shall be an equal opportunity employee and shall perform to all other applicable requirements; accordingly, the applicant shall neither discriminate nor permit discrimination in its operation or employment practices against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, or sex in any manner prohibited by law. Further, the applicant agrees to comply with the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;

2. The applicant agrees that the MDE, or any of its duly authorized representatives, at anytime during the term of this agreement, shall have access to, and the right to audit examine any pertinent books, documents, papers, and records of applicant related to applicant's charges and performance under this agreement. Applicant shall keep such records for a period of five years after final payment under this agreement, unless the MDE authorizes their earlier disposition. Applicant agrees to refund to the MDE any overpayments disclosed by any such audit. However, if any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, or other action involving the records has been started before the expiration of the five-year period, the records shall be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it;

3. The applicant assures that it possesses legal authority to apply for and to receive funds under this agreement;

4. This agreement shall not be modified, altered, or changed except by mutual agreement by representative(s) of each party to this agreement, and must be

confirmed in writing through MDE grant modification procedures;

5. The applicant shall perform all services as an independent applicant and shall discharge all of its liabilities as such. No act performed or representation made, whether oral or written, by the applicant with respect to third parties shall be binding on the MDE;

6. The MDE, by written notice, may terminate the grant, in whole or in part, if funds supporting the grant are reduced or withdrawn. To the extent that the grant is for services, and if so terminated, the MDE shall be liable only for payment in accordance with payment provisions of the grant for services rendered prior to the effective date of termination. The MDE, by written notice, may terminate the application for nonperformance of the application at any time during the term of the program. The applicant agrees that work, data, etc. created under the auspices of the program shall be turned over to the MDE upon such termination. The MDE, in whole or in part, may terminate the program for cause by written notification. Furthermore, the MDE and the applicant may terminate the agreement, in whole or in part, upon mutual agreement. Either the Mississippi Department of Education or the awardee may terminate this agreement at any time by giving a 30 day written notice to the other party of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof. The applicant shall be paid an amount which bears the same ratio to the total compensation as the services actually performed bear to the total services of the contractor covered by the agreement, less payments of compensation previously made;

7. This agreement, and all matters or issues collateral to it, shall be governed by, and constructed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Mississippi;

8. Applicant shall not assign or sub-grant in whole or in part, its rights or obligations under this agreement without prior written consent of MDE. Any attempted assignments without said consent shall be void and of no effect;

9. Applicant agrees to coordinate the partnership component of this program;

10. It is expressly understood and agreed that the obligation of MDE to proceed under this agreement is conditioned upon the appropriation of funds by the Mississippi State Legislature and the receipt of state and/or federal funds. If the funds anticipated for the continuing fulfillment of the agreement are, at anytime, not forthcoming or insufficient, either through the failure of the federal government to provide funds or of the State of Mississippi to appropriate funds or the discontinuance or material alteration of the program under which funds were provided or if funds are not otherwise available to MDE, MDE shall have the right upon ten (10) working days written notice to the Grantee, to reduce the amount of funds payable to the Grantee or to terminate this agreement without damage, penalty, cost or expenses to MDE of any kind whatsoever. The effective date of reduction or termination shall be as specified in the notice of reduction or termination;

11. Grantee agrees that, at all times, the employees of grantee furnishing or performing any of the services specified under this agreement shall do so in a proper, workmanlike, and dignified manner; and

12. Property, equipment, and supplies purchased, in whole or in part, with funds provided under this agreement shall be procured, accounted for, and disposed of in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. Title to any equipment and supplies purchased under this agreement shall be vested in the grantee. In addition, please note that the intent of the program is to ensure that materials are purchased for the teachers' use during professional development, as well as upon their return to the school district. Property, equipment, and supplies are not to be purchased for school districts.

Shikelo Benson 10/28/13

Authorized Official's Signature **Date**

Shikelo Benson

Authorized Official's Typed Name **Date**

Augusta D. Strong 10/28/13

Authorized Official's Signature **Date**

Agusta D. Strong

Authorized Official's Typed Name **Date**

Jeannie M. Roberts 10/28/13

Authorized Official's Signature **Date**

Jeannie M. Roberts

Authorized Official's Typed Name **Date**

Pauline J. Rhodes 10/28/13

Authorized Official's Signature **Date**

Pauline J. Rhodes

Authorized Official's Typed Name **Date**

The authorized official signatures lines may be duplicated as needed.

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Kathy M McDougal 10-28-13

Authorized Official's Signature **Date**

Kathy Ann McDougal

Authorized Official's Typed Name **Date**

Toya Harrell-Matthews 10/28/13

Authorized Official's Signature **Date**

Toya Harrell-Matthews

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