



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function
Contracts/MOU Board of Education Meeting: 08/04/26

Item Title: Brownsville Wellness Coalition and
Brownsville Independent School X Action
District MOU Information
Discussion

BACKGROUND:

The Brownsville Wellness Coalition will partner with Brownsville Independent School District to support and expand school vegetable garden initiatives through educational, technical, and programmatic assistance. This partnership will provide teachers and students with hands-on learning opportunities in nutrition, agriculture, environmental stewardship, and healthy living while promoting student wellness and community engagement.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Brownsville Independent School District and the Brownsville Wellness Coalition to support school vegetable garden initiatives for the period of August 2026 through July 2027, unless terminated earlier as provided in the agreement. No cost to the District.

Micaela Escobar
Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Recommended by: Executive Director

Miguel Salinas
Reviewed by: Staff Attorney

Dr. Nellie Cantu

Approved by: Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Timothy E. Caff
Dr. Timothy E. Caff, Superintendent

7/22/26
When Necessary, Additional Background May Follow This.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Between Brownsville Wellness Coalition (BWC) and Brownsville Independent School District (BISD)

Effective Date: August 4, 2026

Term: August 2026 – July 2027

I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a collaborative partnership between Brownsville Wellness Coalition (BWC) and Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) to support, expand, and sustain school garden initiatives throughout the district.

Through this partnership, BWC and BISD will work collaboratively to strengthen garden-based learning, nutrition education, environmental stewardship, agricultural literacy, and community engagement opportunities for students, families, educators, and the broader community. Both organizations share a commitment to providing meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that promote healthy lifestyles, environmental responsibility, and increased access to fresh food.

II. Background

Brownsville ISD, in collaboration with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, has established school gardens across multiple campuses to enhance student learning through experiential agriculture and nutrition education.

Building upon this foundation, Brownsville Wellness Coalition will provide technical assistance, educational programming, and operational support to help sustain existing school gardens and assist with the development of future garden sites.

This partnership is intended to foster long-term sustainability through collaborative planning, educational programming, volunteer engagement, and shared community resources.

III. Roles and Responsibilities

Brownsville Wellness Coalition (BWC) agrees to:

1. Provide technical assistance and program support for the maintenance, expansion, and sustainability of participating BISD school gardens and urban agriculture projects.
2. Dedicate up to five (5) staff support hours per week for each Community Garden employee assigned to this partnership, with scheduling prioritized according to campus needs, seasonal agricultural activities, available staffing, funding, weather conditions, and mutually agreed-upon program priorities.

3. Provide guidance and technical expertise for the implementation of garden-based education, nutrition programming, and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension **Learn, Grow, Eat & Go!** curriculum or other mutually approved educational programming.
4. Collaborate with campus administrators, teachers, staff, and parent representatives to support classroom instruction, garden demonstrations, workshops, and educational activities throughout the school year.
5. Participate in regularly scheduled coordination meetings with BISD representatives to review program progress, identify campus needs, and coordinate future activities.
6. Assist with the implementation and collection of surveys, participation records, harvest data, and other evaluation tools to measure program outcomes and educational impact.
7. Share appropriate program reports, participation metrics, harvest data, and other non-confidential information necessary for program evaluation and continuous improvement.
8. Coordinate educational field trips, volunteer opportunities, workshops, and community engagement activities at BWC Community Gardens and Urban Farm locations when appropriate and mutually agreed upon.
9. Support student volunteerism, service-learning opportunities, youth leadership development, and community engagement activities in collaboration with participating campuses.
10. Grow and provide seedlings to participating BISD campuses based upon seasonal availability, production capacity, and campus needs. BWC will communicate available plant varieties, prepare quotations upon request, submit invoices following approval, and coordinate delivery or pickup with designated BISD personnel.
11. Coordinate community volunteers interested in supporting school garden initiatives. Volunteer participation shall be voluntary and based upon each individual's availability. Volunteer schedules are not guaranteed and may vary throughout the year.

Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) agrees to:

1. Provide BWC staff with reasonable access to participating campuses, school gardens, and designated facilities necessary to implement agreed-upon programming.
2. Designate campus representatives, teachers, administrators, or parent liaisons to coordinate communication, scheduling, and garden activities.
3. Support the integration of school gardens into classroom instruction, nutrition education, environmental education, and other campus programming whenever feasible.
4. Coordinate student participation in workshops, educational activities, volunteer opportunities, surveys, and field experiences associated with this partnership.
5. Collaborate with BWC to support the continued development, maintenance, and long-term sustainability of participating school gardens.
6. Provide or coordinate the materials, supplies, tools, irrigation equipment, and other operational resources necessary for the maintenance, educational use, and continued growth of participating school gardens and urban agriculture spaces.
7. Encourage participation by student organizations, classrooms, clubs, educators, families, and campus volunteers in school garden activities and community engagement opportunities.
8. Support family engagement and community outreach efforts related to school garden programming whenever possible.

IV. Governance and Coordination

To ensure the success of this partnership, both parties agree to the following:

- Designate a primary liaison to facilitate communication and coordinate activities under this agreement.
- Conduct regular coordination meetings to review progress, discuss program needs, evaluate outcomes, and plan future activities.
- Schedule campus visits, technical assistance, workshops, and educational programming collaboratively based upon campus needs, seasonal priorities, staff availability, and program objectives.
- Recognize that community volunteers coordinated by BWC may participate in approved school garden activities. Volunteer participation shall be based upon individual availability and willingness to serve.
- Maintain open communication and collaborate in good faith to resolve operational challenges, identify opportunities for improvement, and strengthen the partnership throughout the duration of this agreement.
- Conduct an annual review of this MOU to evaluate program outcomes and consider modifications for future collaboration.

V. Program Capacity

Both parties acknowledge that services provided under this agreement are subject to available staffing, grant funding, operational capacity, seasonal agricultural priorities, weather conditions, and volunteer participation.

BWC will make reasonable efforts to equitably distribute staff support among participating campuses while prioritizing schools with the greatest identified need and ensuring responsible management of organizational resources. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as guaranteeing a fixed number of visits or services beyond the staffing commitments described herein.

VI. Term and Termination

This MOU shall become effective on **August 4, 2026**, and remain in effect through **July 31, 2027**, unless terminated earlier by either party.

Either party may terminate this agreement by providing **thirty (30) days written notice** to the other party.

The parties may mutually amend this agreement at any time through written consent.

VII. Non-Binding Agreement

Date: _____