



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function
Contracts/MOU Board of Education Meeting: 11/2/2026

Item Title: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) X Action
between STEM NATION Media Information
and Brownsville ISD Discussion

BACKGROUND: The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department is requesting approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with STEM NATION Media to participate in the STEM NATION Media Video Challenge. BISD elementary and secondary students would have an opportunity to be included in a STEM video challenge. The winning videos would be posted on the STEM NATION educational platform. The MOU may be modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between BISD CTE Department and STEM NATION Media for the 2026-2027 school year at no cost to the district.

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Adrian Dorsett
Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Dr. Norma Ibarra-Cantu
Recommended by: Executive Director

Miguel Salinas
Reviewed by: Staff Attorney

Dr. Alma Cardenas-Rubio
Approved by: Assistant Superintendent-Secondary

Dr. Timothy E. Cuff
Dr. Timothy E. Cuff, Superintendent

STEM Student Video Challenge NATION *Media* Guidelines

Contest Theme

Create an original video about anything connected to science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. Students may explain a STEM idea, demonstrate an experiment, solve a problem, introduce a STEM career, showcase an invention, or explore how STEM affects everyday life. Creativity is important!

Age Divisions

- Elementary School Division: Grades K–5
- Middle/High School Division: Grades 6–12

One winning video will be selected from each division from the RGV region.

Contest Prize

- \$500 prize for the winning Elementary School entry
- \$500 prize for the winning Middle/High School entry

If a winning video was created by a team, the \$500 prize will be divided among the team members or distributed according to the school's approved procedure.

Contest Dates

- Contest opens: at date agreed upon by all schools
- Submission deadline: TBD in conjunction with opening date
- Winners announced: TBD in conjunction with opening date

Late submissions may not be accepted.

Video Length

Videos must be no longer than 90 seconds, including opening titles and closing credits.

Video Format

- Preferred file type: MP4
- MOV files may also be accepted.

- Recommended resolution: 1080p
- Landscape orientation is preferred, although vertical videos may be accepted.
- The picture and sound must be clear enough for online viewing.
- Include the student's name, school, grade, and video title in the submission form—not necessarily inside the video itself.
- Do not display private information such as a home address, personal telephone number, or personal email address.



How to Submit

Students must submit their entries to their designated school administrator or contest coordinator. Students should not send entries directly to STEM NATION Media.

The school administrator will:

- Confirm that the student meets the eligibility requirements.
- Verify that all required permission forms have been completed.
- Submit the video and supporting information using the designated contest submission process.
- Confirm that the video was received before the deadline.

Original Work

- The video must be created primarily by the student or student team.
- Adults may provide general supervision but should not create the project for the student.
- All facts and claims should be accurate.
- Any sources used for facts, quotations, photographs, video clips, or other material must be identified.
- The entry must not copy another person's video or present someone else's work as the student's own.

Music, Images, and Copyright

Students may use:

- Material they created themselves
- Copyright-free or properly licensed music, photographs, video, and graphics
- Material for which they have written permission

Students should not use commercial songs, television or movie clips, copyrighted characters, or online images unless their use is legally permitted. Sources and credits should be included when appropriate.



Artificial Intelligence

If artificial-intelligence tools are used to help create images, narration, music, writing, or other parts of the video, that use must be disclosed with the submission. AI may support the project, but the student must provide the central idea, learning, and creative direction.

Safety and Appropriate Content

- Experiments and demonstrations must follow appropriate school safety procedures.
- An adult must supervise any activity involving heat, chemicals, electricity, tools, animals, or other possible hazards.
- Entries must not include dangerous acts, harassment, discrimination, profanity, graphic content, or inappropriate commercial promotion.
- Students should not identify or film another person without permission.

Required Permissions

Every submission must include:

- Student participation permission
- Parent or legal guardian consent for students under 18
- Permission for STEM NATION Media and participating schools to review, reproduce, edit for length or accessibility, display, publish, promote, and archive the submitted video
- Permission to use the student's approved name, image, voice, school, grade level, and submitted work
- A release from every identifiable person appearing or speaking in the video
- Confirmation that the person submitting the video has the right to use all included music, images, footage, and other materials

Families should be offered an approved way to limit how the student's name is displayed publicly.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be evaluated on:

- STEM content and accuracy
- Creativity and originality
- Clarity of explanation
- Student participation and effort
- Interest and audience engagement

- Effective use of the 90-second time limit
- Technical quality appropriate to the student's age level
- Compliance with contest rules



Judges' decisions will be final.

Winning Videos

Winning videos may be published on the STEM NATION Media website, social-media channels, presentations, and other approved educational or promotional platforms. Publication timing and placement will be determined by STEM NATION Media.

Submission does not guarantee publication. STEM NATION Media and participating schools may decline or remove content that does not satisfy the contest guidelines or permission requirements.

Submission Checklist

Before submitting, confirm that:

- The video is 90 seconds or shorter.
- The topic relates to STEM.
- The work is original.
- Facts and sources have been checked.
- Music, photographs, and video clips are original or properly authorized.
- All identifiable participants have given permission.
- Parent or guardian consent is included when required.
- Any use of artificial intelligence is disclosed.
- The file opens and plays correctly.
- The student's name, grade, school, division, video title, and contact information are included on the submission form.
- The entry has been submitted to the designated school administrator before the deadline.

Before publishing this, the participating school/school district and STEM NATION Media should approve the permission/release language and decide and agree on the dates, team rules, prize-distribution method, and exact submission system.

Memorandum of Understanding

MOU between STEM NATION Media and the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between STEM NATION Media and Brownsville Independent School District to participate in the STEM NATION Media Video Challenge.

Purpose

This MOU is to mark an agreement for BISD students to be included in a STEM video challenge being offered by STEM NATION Media, a platform for information about STEM careers. Students are invited to create an original video on a STEM subject of their choice to be judged by a jury of regional citizens, giving them the chance to have their video appear on a national educational platform and to ensure that the students of BISD have this opportunity to think deeper about STEM, what it could mean to their future and to join students from across the Rio Grande Valley in this interesting, informative and entertaining challenge.

Funding

This MOU is not a commitment of funds.

Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from STEM NATION Media and the Brownsville Independent School District. This MOU shall become effective upon signatures by the authorized officials from both listed partners and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials from listed partners, this MOU shall end with the conclusion of the STEM Video Challenge.

Contact Information

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APPROVAL

Brownsville Independent School District

Dr. Timothy E. Cuff
Superintendent

Date

STEM NATION Media

Diane Garza, PhD
Dr. Diane Milliken Garza
CEO
STEM NATION Media

9/21/2026

Date