



**AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE
AND LINDALE ISD**

Texas A&M University-Commerce, a member of the Texas A&M University System, an Agency of the State of Texas (herein called the “University”) and Lindale ISD (“ISD” or “School District”), a Texas charter school district, on behalf of Lindale High School (“High School”). The High School and College may hereafter be individually referred to as “Party” and collectively as “Parties.”

WHEREAS the purpose of this Agreement is to outline the collaboration of the Parties, as listed above, in creating a program for the delivery of dual-credit courses and a sustainable model for ensuring college readiness,

NOW THEREFORE, the parties to this Agreement mutually agree as follows:

TERM

The term of this Agreement shall commence on July 15th, 2024 and will terminate July 15th, 2025. By mutual consent both parties may renew, amend or extend the Agreement in response to changed external conditions (legislation, accreditation requirements, etc.) or to meet the needs of both collaborators.

PROVISION OF COURSES AND APPROPRIATE COURSE OFFERINGS

The University and the School District will collaborate to deliver dual credit courses applicable to the Texas Core Curriculum, or other such academic program of the University as mutually agreed. Dual Credit courses will follow guidelines published by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Administrative Code, and Texas A&M University-Commerce policy, 11.99.99.R0.01 Standards and Criteria for Off-Campus and Self-Supporting Courses and Programs.

Extension of these opportunities meets statewide goals established under the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s strategic plan (60x30), specifically:

- 1.) Supports the goal of sixty percent of Texans aged 25-34 will have a certificate or degree by 2030.



- 2.) Supports the goal of 550,000 to complete a degree annually by 2030.
- 3.) Supports the goal of all Texans who have completed an academic program doing so with possession of identifiable marketable skills.
- 4.) Supports the goal of student loan debt not exceeding sixty percent of first year wages for those completing a certificate or degree by 2030.

Courses will be readily transferrable in compliance with applicable Texas state statute(s), Texas administrative code(s), and regulations.

The School District will provide a list of high school curriculum equivalencies for those courses being taken as dual credit. This list of equivalencies will be included as “Attachment A,” which is appended to this Agreement. The University and School District will collaborate annually in selection of courses to ensure compliance with state core curriculum, course transfer, and high school graduation requirements.

COURSE COMPLIANCE

The University is responsible for involving full-time teaching faculty in the process of selecting and implementing University courses. This includes ensuring that course goals and standards are understood, and that the same standards of expectation and assessment are applied where University courses are offered. Courses offered for dual credit include must include the same content and rigor as courses taught to other college students, utilizing the same curriculum, policies, and instructors with similar if not same qualifications. The University will designate staff/personnel to monitor the quality of instruction to assure compliance with the Course Articulation Agreement (Attachment A) and the standards established by the State, applicable Accrediting Body, the University, and the School District. Provision of dual credit will be in accordance with the provisions of Texas Administrative Code, Title 19 “Education,” Pt. 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D.

ENROLLMENT

In accordance with Texas Administrative Code Title 19 “Education,” Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D, Rule §4.85, the School District must supply an official electronic copy of each dual credit student’s high school transcript for admission to the University. Upon mutual agreement, the University will assist with enrollment at least one time per semester for all students who are qualified and who wish to enroll in academic dual credit courses. Students must complete the first course in a course sequence (i.e. ENG 1301/1302) with a C or better to proceed to the next course.

INSTRUCTORS, FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION

School District and University will be responsible for evaluating instructor credentials to ensure they meet all state and regional requirements, including, but not limited to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and SACSCOC. School District instructors must meet state certification requirements in their subject area to teach in the state of Texas. University faculty



will meet the requirements necessary to teach courses for the University. University is accredited by SACSCOC, and all instructors of records for courses in this articulated program shall be in compliance with criteria as described in SACSCOC Principle 6.2.a. of the SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation.

The University shall supervise and evaluate University faculty instructors of dual credit courses using the same or comparable procedures used for faculty at the main campus of the University.

Qualified School District faculty teaching University courses will utilize approved course materials, follow University guidelines on syllabi and other instructional materials, and all such other applicable guidelines and policies.

Additional Requirements:

- 1) All dual credit instructors are responsible for completing all appropriate University employee training.
- 2) All dual credit instructors must participate in University core curriculum assessment activities as required by University policies, procedures and processes.
- 3) Issues arising regarding faculty teaching University courses, quality of such courses, or student issues developing in the context of such courses will be reported by the School District principal as soon as possible to the Associate Provost of the University.
- 4) The University and the School District commit to a collaborative working relationship regarding delivery of dual credit instruction.
- 5) The School District will regard dual credit courses taught for the University by the School District's qualified faculty as a part of that faculty member's contractual teaching load for the School District.
- 6) The University will compensate qualified School District faculty for teaching University dual credit courses. The University reserves control of course content and maintains such other standard expectations it has of its own faculty for those qualified School District personnel teaching dual credit courses.

HIGH SCHOOL ORGANIZATION AND FACILITIES

Computers will be provided by School District for use by students and connectivity to the University's course management system will be available for student use.

TUITION AND FEES

Effective January 1, 2024, the University and School District agree to a revised tuition structure reflecting the University's decision to adhere to requirements of the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program, promulgated in HB 8 (Texas Legislature, Eighty-eighth Regular



Session). FAST provides for state support for dual credit tuition for students on the National School Lunch Program. For the purposes of our Agreement:

- 1) The University will share student names and identification information to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) which will, in turn, share with the Texas Education Agency (TEA).
- 2) The TEA will confirm which students are a part of the National School Lunch Program with the THECB, and the THECB will share that information back to the University.
- 3) The THECB will pay the University the current rate set by the THECB for each student who *is* a part of the National School Lunch Program.
- 4) The District and University will work together to streamline and ensure accuracy of dual credit enrollments, class rolls, and billing:
 - ISD will assist with communication to students and parents enrolled in dual credit with TAMUC of the student's responsibility to pay.
 - The University will bill students directly for dual credit courses they are enrolled in at TAMUC at the current THECB set rate for students not eligible for the FAST program.

BOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

All textbooks and supplemental materials required for classes will be the responsibility of the student. The University and the School District commit to working together to manage costs of instructional materials. The University will work with the School District to provide timely notice of required books and materials for each course offered to the School District's students.

Students are eligible for a campus-wide ID to access campus facilities. These can be purchased on campus for \$10.

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Dual credit students are eligible to receive all support services provided to University students.

Dual credit students needing accommodation or support for disabilities must register and provide appropriate documentation to the University's Office of Student Disability Resources and Services. The office can be contacted at 903-886-5150.

Specific support and guidance provided as a part of the program include the following:

- 1.) Annual dual credit orientation events for parents and students in collaboration with the School District.



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- 2.) The School District will collaborate with the University in hosting application days to ensure prospective dual credit students apply to the University promptly.
- 3.) The School District will collaborate with the University to host and promote annual dual credit parent and student informational and advising events to guide students towards appropriate course selection, per state law.
- 4.) It is understood by both parties that all students receiving a degree from University must comply with SACSCOC Principle Section 9, items 4 and 5 of the Principles of Accreditation. Principle 9.4 requires that “at least 25% of the credit hours required for an undergraduate degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree” while Principle 9.5 requires “at least one-third of the credit hours required for a graduate or a post-baccalaureate professional degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree. Additional courses may be required to meet this Principle.

GRADING POLICY

University grades for dual credit courses will be entered as letters (A, B, C, D, F, Q, W) for University purposes. However, University faculty members will provide School District personnel with numerical representations of those grades at the conclusion of each course. The School District will use those numerical grades for School District grading purposes. The School District accepts responsibility for addressing parent concerns about numerical grades.

INSTRUCTIONAL SCHEDULE AND CALENDAR

The University calendar will be followed, and the courses will be delivered by instructional mode agreed to by both parties. Where conflicts arise between the University and School District schedules, the two parties will work toward a compromise that benefits students. To better ensure course appropriateness and availability, the University and School District will work together to establish dual credit offerings and schedules for the coming academic year each year by May 31.

CONDUCT

Students are required to adhere to University and School District regulations regarding facilities and equipment usage, and the University and School District codes of conduct, as well as the applicable A&M System rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. Failure to do so will subject the student(s) to appropriate action taken by the School District and the University, including without limitation suspension and dismissal. Students are responsible for understanding and following the principles of academic honesty.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS



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All signatories to the Agreement will be responsible for complying with applicable Federal, state and local laws, rules, and mandatory policies and guidelines.

MODIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement may be modified and amended only by mutual agreement of the parties in writing, and any such modification or amendments shall be attached and become a part of this Agreement as set forth herein.

GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE

The validity of this Agreement and all matters pertaining to this Agreement, including but not limited to, matters of performance, nonperformance, breach, remedies, procedures, rights, duties, and interpretation or construction, shall be governed and determined by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas. Pursuant to Section 85.18(b), Texas Education Code, mandatory venue for all legal proceedings against College is to be in the county in which the principal office of College's governing officer is located.

TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The University and School District reserve the right to terminate this Agreement upon service of written notice to the other party 30 days prior to the date of termination. In this event, the date of termination will be the day after the end of the semester during which the 30-day period expires.

(SIGNATURES TO FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE)



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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the collaborators have duly approved this Agreement, as of the Effective Date:

On behalf of the School District:

Teri Hodges, CTE Director

Teri Hodges, CTE Director (Aug 22, 2024 11:25 CDT)

08/22/2024

ISD Administration

Date

Texas A&M University-Commerce

T. V. Haase

08/26/2024

Dr. Tammi Vacha-Haase, Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs

Date

Ricky Dobbs

08/26/2024

Dr. Ricky Dobbs, Senior Provost, Academic Affairs

Date

Nikki Shuylor-Steele

08/21/2024

Nikki Steele, Executive Director of Secondary Partnerships & Initiatives

Date

Jill A. Witt

08/26/2024

Contract Administration

Date



Attachment A:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Independent School District: | Lindale ISD |
| High School: | Lindale High School |
| Cohort Year: | 2024-2025 |

High School Courses

| 9 th Grade | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Fall | Spring |
| | |
| | |
| 10 th Grade | |
| Fall | Spring |
| | |
| | |
| 11 th Grade | |
| Fall | Spring |
| | |
| | |
| 12 th Grade | |
| Fall | Spring |
| | |
| | |

College Courses

| Fall | Spring |
|---|--------|
| ANS 1319 Introduction to Animal Science | |
| ANS 1119 Introduction to Animal Science Lab | |