

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 271
Bloomington, Minnesota

REQUEST FOR SCHOOL BOARD ACTION

DATE OF BOARD MEETING: October 22, 2018

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding for
Autism Mentorship Program


ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Special Education

APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE
CABINET MEMBER: Jennifer McIntyre, Executive Director of
Special Education

RESOLUTION FOR BOARD TO ADOPT:

RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 271 approves the Memorandum of Understanding for the Autism Mentorship Program, a pilot program supported by the Autism Society of Minnesota, effective October 8, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION OF SUPERINTENDENT:

Approve. 

DETAILED BACKGROUND:

The Autism Society of Minnesota and Independent School District 271 are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of the Autism Mentorship Program (AMP). The program will be in effect from October 8, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The AMP is a unique mentoring program, pairing high school age students (mentee) who are on the autism spectrum with young adults (mentor) also on the the autism spectrum, who are alumni of the Minnesota Life Academy. The mentee and mentor pairing will be provided training on how to interact with one another, maintain and build conversations and how to provide support to one another regarding on going concerns about school, friendships and transitioning out of high school after graduation.

AMP is a pilot project supported by the Autism Society of Minnesota and driven by a steering committee including parents, caretakers and youth on the autism spectrum, Minnesota Life College staff, Independent School District 271 special education staff, an advisor from MENTOR Minnesota and University of Minnesota academic partners from the Department of Family Social Science and Division of Clinical Behavioral Neuroscience. This steering committee meets once a month to problem solve, provide guidance and measure effectiveness to the staff working with the mentee and mentors.

The District's legal counsel and the District's insurance agent of record have reviewed this contract.



Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) made this ____ day of _____, 2018 is by and between Autism Mentorship Program (AMP), a pilot supported by the Autism Society of MN, 2380 Wycliff St., #102, St. Paul, MN 55114 and Independent School District #271, Attn: Business Office, 1350 W. 106th St. Bloomington, MN 55431. This MOU establishes that AMP and Independent School District #271 agree to the following terms and conditions as partners in AMP starting on October 8, 2018 through June 30, 2019:

AMP will:

- Identify, solicit, and recruit volunteer mentor applicants focused on a candidate pool supplied by Minnesota Independence College & Community (MICC)
- Manage programmatic activities including but not limited to development of policies and procedures, fund development, outreach/marketing, and case management
- Oversee all operational activities including screening, training, matching, support and supervision, recognition, and closure procedures
- Coordinate one-to-one mentor and mentee matching with Minnesota Independence College & Community to meet the goal of 6 new matches for the pilot during the 2018 – 2019 school year.
 - Future enrollment goals will be determined based upon results of this pilot project
- Provide on-site coordination during mentoring sessions
- Manage all fiscal requirements including fund development, budget management, and fiscal planning
- Pay all program expenses including AMP employees, background checks and other incidental costs as they arise from AMP dedicated funds
- Provide program insurance coverage, including adequate commercial general liability coverage (found in the document "18-19 Commercial Package Endorsement") and workers compensation coverage for future applicable AMP employees
- Coordinate efforts with University of Minnesota liaisons to gather and document success metrics
- Provide project evaluation summaries to all partners

Independent School District #271 will:

- Provide a pool of potential mentees for the 2018 – 2019 school year from Bloomington Kennedy High School (BKHS) and assist with the application and screening process
- Support our high school students who participate in the pilot program
- Provide adequate space for the mentoring activities to occur on scheduled days at Bloomington Kennedy High School (BKHS)
- Provide school district staff participation/supervision during the AMP mentorship meetings
- Host and participate in focus groups with youth participants, their parents/guardians and staff, including support specialists
- Carry adequate commercial general liability insurance coverage and workers compensation coverage for district employees

- Coordinate and pay for any additional school requirements related to the mentor volunteers or AMP staff (e.g., school background check or orientation for volunteers)
- Participate in status meetings
- Provide a contact person
- Cooperate to the fullest extent possible with AMP Manager

AMP and Independent School District #271 will hold all information confidential regarding participants that is gathered through the program, according to AMP policy, and release such information only with signed parental consent or in compliance with local and state laws and statutes. All data collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the School District or City, for any purpose in the course of the performance of this Agreement is governed by the Minnesota Governmental Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13, and other applicable State statutes, as well as Federal regulations on data privacy. The parties to this Agreement agree to abide by these statutes, rules, and regulations.

AMP and Independent School District #271 will indemnify, defend and hold the other Party and its assignees, agents, officers and employees harmless from and against any claims, suits, proceedings, costs, liabilities, expenses (including court costs and reasonable legal fees), or damages (Claims) to real or tangible personal property and/or bodily injury to persons, including death, resulting from its or its employees, Clients or agents negligence or willful misconduct arising from or related to this Agreement.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have caused this MOU to be executed as of the day and year listed above.

Autism Mentorship Program:

Name (Print)	Title	Signature

Independent School District #271, Bloomington School Board:

Name (Print)	Title	Signature