

Received
6/27/07

June 20, 2007

To: Cynthia Nava
Deputy Superintendent
Gadsden School District

From: Fred Marquez, Director Luis A. Vázquez, Ph.D.
ENLACE Southern Principal Investigator

Re: Truancy Monies (State of New Mexico)
ENLACE Family and Community Involvement,



Budget Request of \$7,000.00

Scope of Work

ENLACE New Mexico is an established Pre-K-20 community partnership entered into an agreement with the Public Education Department to provide family and community, work with local governmental, probation and law enforcement agencies, these services via; work in the targeted public schools around the state as well as directly with identified disenfranchised communities around New Mexico to increase family involvement and youth leadership which in turn has a direct effect on truancy and drop-out rates.

We recently met with the Deputy Superintendent the Gadsden School District, the Director of Federal Programs, Associate Superintendent for Education, and the Superintendent of Human Resources in order to implement the ENLACE Family model in the school district. The Gadsden Independent School District – ENLACE Partnership identified its roles and responsibilities and plans for completing their objectives with the overall goal of increasing the number of students scoring proficient or above and meet or exceed the 2008 NCLB AMO target in reading of 56% and an increased number of students scoring proficient or above exceed the 2009 NCLB-AMO target in math of 45% based in part on the parent involvement initiative. The following strategies were developed and will be used with parent and students to address AYP:

1. The GISD-Enlace staff will communicate with the parents of students not meeting proficiency in reading and or math, increase volunteerism, support decision making and advocacy in order to further support positive collaboration with the community.
2. The Parent Outreach staff in conjunction with school staff will contact 100% of parents/guardians of students not meeting proficiency in reading or math:
 - with information about programs for their children's participation that support improved performance in reading or math,
 - and to invite them to play an active role in their children's education.

3. The Parent Outreach staff will support the school staff by working with parents to increase attendance rates at parent involvement activities and District Parent Advisory Committee.
4. Parent Outreach will collaborate with Enlace and follow the Enlace model.

ENLACE New Mexico (Southern Region) will establish parental and family work representatives of the Gadsden Public School District 21 schools in the state of New Mexico) who will:

- A. Set-up meetings with local communities including principals and their teams and identified (in the beginning) active parents and community members in the high schools.
- B. ENLACE will make contact with local neighborhood and community associations and organizations to identify parents and families of students in the public schools.
- C. Two day orientation on the development of Family Centers, and the "Knock and Talks Program." Day one would be a round table discussion, and hands on work in the community and at the school. Day two would be lessons on how to do the "Knock and Talks" and actually going door to door. These "knock and talks" are used to go from house to house, via parent to parent to help support communities and families whose students are not attending school. These knock and talks will come about as referrals from the local identified schools. These lists will be generated by various sources, the schools administration, staff, or the local probation and police and truancy agencies,
- D. When knock and talks are completed ENLACE communities will help to identify what are the current problems within the family and in turn work with various agencies to provide the much needed additional support to this family, that would in turn place there student back in school with the support of the ENLACE network.
- E. Establishment of on site Family Centers at local schools where truancy activities can begin to take place. Use of FERPA qualifying documents which protect both the local public schools and families and parents who want to participate.
- F. Weekly phone check-up calls, and bi-monthly site visits and support meetings, as well as on site technical assistance, from other ENLACE parents around the state.
- G. Development of on-site parent and family leadership plans for each community.

H. Partnership and collaboration development and updates and knowledge of "No Child Left Behind" parental rights.

Mileage:

A major component of the GISD-ENLACE Parent Center project is the parent outreach by parents to other parents. The area surrounding Las Cruces is primarily rural and often requires driving long distances to home visits. Enlace, utilizing "Knock" and Talk" strategies will necessitate paying a number of parents mileage reimbursement to perform this function. Mileage reimbursement will be for home visits, knock and talks, and travel to Albuquerque to observe first hand established Parent Centers.

(Total: \$1,000.00)

Parents Stipends:

ENLACE at NMSU is already collaborating with the GISD at Gadsden High school through the established Academic Curriculum for Excellence (A.C.E.) and transition of high school seniors to the university. In addition, ENLACE is working with a parent group in the Chaparral community to establish family centers. Parent stipends will be given to parents for going out into the community to reach to students who are not attending classes, work directly with schools and students whose families are in need of support to get their children back to school, as well as create partnerships with local municipal, law enforcement, social and family service agencies.

Total: (\$5,000.00)

Supplies and Food for Local Communities:

The Gadsden School District has agreed to provide a Family Center office and activity meeting space at each of the twenty-one schools of the district. The district will also provide a computer, printer and telephone service. ENLACE will provide the necessary office supplies to keep the centers operational. This includes orientation packets, booklets, brochures, paper, pencils, clipboards, binders, and other supplies. Other items may include food for family and community planning meetings, as well as snacks in the local centers to help with students who come to school hungry.

Total: (\$1,000.00)

Total Request \$7,000.00

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