

AGREEMENT FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION INITIATIVE

This Agreement for Alternative Education Initiative (“Agreement”) entered into this 19th day of August 2024, by and between Springfield School District No. 186 (“District”) and NAACP/Springfield Branch (“NAACP”), WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the District and NAACP have established and maintained an alternative education initiative program (the “Program”) for District students who have been expelled for acts of misconduct that disqualify them from alternative education programs in District schools; and

WHEREAS, the District is willing to continue providing and paying for the Program as long as funding is available for the instructional component, including a non-certified alternative education coordinator and reasonable staffing as agreed upon by both parties on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, NAACP is willing to continue arranging for the mentoring component of the Program; and

WHEREAS, the parties have identified an appropriate site to conduct the Program and the District is willing to continue to pay the lease as long as funding is available;

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the promises and covenants hereinafter set forth, the parties hereto agree that:

1. By this Agreement, the parties jointly agree to continue the Program to serve the instruction needs of District students who have been expelled without eligibility for an alternative program in District schools **or for District students whose families request placement in the program with joint approval of the District and the NAACP.**

2. The District shall provide and pay for instructional services in core academic courses through retired district teachers or certified teachers approved by the NAACP and the District assigned to the Program, and a list of such teachers shall be provided to the NAACP's liaison set forth below. A panel comprised of District staff and representatives of the NAACP shall interview candidates.

3. NAACP shall identify, approve and train mentors who will provide one-on-one mentoring services to participating students so long as such students remain in the Program, and a list of such mentors shall be provided to the District's liaison set forth below. Mentors shall thereafter be approved and designated as volunteers by District's Board of Education for the purposes of Section 10-20.20 of the School Code, thereby extending protection from liability as therein provided. All mentors, volunteers, staff and/or other persons participating in the program shall be required to undergo the required background checks as outlined by the Illinois School Code, and any other state or federal law. This includes acknowledgement and signature of the sexual harassment and social media use policies set forth by the Board of Education of Springfield Public School District 186.

4. NAACP shall enlist the assistance of the Springfield Ministerial Alliance, the Springfield Urban League, and other organizations and associations to identify and recruit qualified mentors for the Program.

5. Instructional/mentoring services shall be provided to participating students at 801 S. 11th Street and/or other sites as jointly approved by the District and NAACP. It is hereby acknowledged that Springfield School District No. 186 shall be responsible for obtaining insurance coverage with respect to property loss or damage that

could result or may arise from the operation of the Program. (Please see the attached Certificate of Insurance). To assist in the operation of the facility, the District shall pay the NAACP an amount not to exceed ~~\$25,000.00~~\$30,000.00 annually.

6. Student participation shall be on a voluntary basis. Upon application to and acceptance in the Program, the student and the student's parent(s) shall enter into an individualized performance agreement with the Program which shall set forth expectations in respect to the academic performance, conduct and participation in the mentoring component of the Program. The parties shall develop and administer a policy on student attendance requirements, dress code, and behavior code.

7. District's Board of Education may, in its discretion, stipulate conditions by which any student participating in the Program may qualify for readmission to an in-District alternative program or such student's readmission to his/her home school.

8. Students who satisfy the academic requirements of the Program shall receive credit towards graduation from District.

9. On or before April 1 each year, the District and NAACP shall annually evaluate the program as well as future needs for the program for the purpose of making modifications. The parties further agree to explore the feasibility of a work component to the Program.

10. The District and NAACP shall collaborate to refine the instructional/mentoring program for each participating student, and shall work through the following liaisons to address any matters that may arise in connection with the Program:

For District: Mrs. Jennifer Gill, Superintendent
Mr. Jason Wind, Director of School Support

1900 West Monroe Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

For NAACP: Mr. Austin Randolph, Branch President
Mrs. Sherri Hamilton, Education Committee Chair
P.O. Box 3002
Springfield, Illinois 62708

11. The term of this Agreement shall begin on the date set forth above and shall continue to May 30, 2025, the last day of the current academic year. Thereafter, this Agreement shall be subject to extension for each successive academic year by further written agreements of the parties.

12. The NAACP indemnifies and holds the District harmless for any and all claims and/or damages, including attorney fees that arise out of its operation of the Program.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement in duplicate originals to take effect on the date and year first above written.

**SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 186,**

Date: _____

By: _____
Its Board President

Date: _____

By: _____
Its Superintendent

NAACP,

Date: _____

By: _____
Its Branch President