



MEETING OF: August 27, 2013

TITLE: Funding Proposal for Pre-K Scholarship Grants through ADE in Collaboration with Valley of the Sun United Way and First Things First to Provide Funding for Preschool Students to Expand Integrated Classroom Options for Preschool Students with Disabilities.

ITEM #: 2

Information:

Study:

Action: X

PURPOSE:

To approve an agreement between Tucson Unified School District and Valley of the Sun United Way to receive reimbursement related to the First Things First Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Program in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education.

Lorrane McPherson will be available to answer any questions regarding this agreement.

DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

First Things First, an Arizona voter approved program, focuses on the provision of quality early childhood experiences to pre-kindergarten aged children to ensure that they come to school ready to learn. The Arizona Department of Education is the Administrator of the program and Valley of the Sun United Way serves as the fiscal agent for the First Things First Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Grant.

TUSD has been approved for \$193,200 for the 2013-2014 school year to support 72 low income preschool children to participate in preschool services for 12 hours per week. These scholarships will be used to recruit and pay for preschool children to be typical peer models in preschool classrooms that serve preschool children with disabilities. As a result of our success in achieving Quality First status, TUSD was awarded an increase of \$10,200 from 2012-2013 which will serve 11 more preschoolers in 2013-2014.

First Things First Preschool Scholarship Program allows TUSD to convert 7 self-contained ABLE classrooms into a new model called "Partners," which includes 50% students with disabilities and 50% typical peers, and provides services for 3 hours per day, 4 days per week for a total of 12 hours per week. The First Things First Scholarship funding covers the cost of classroom licensure, materials and supplies and some salaries. The creation of the Partners Program is fully covered by these scholarships. The Partners Program continues to both expand opportunities for preschool students with disabilities and provide typical peers access to high quality preschool programs.

This is a one year agreement ending in June 30, 2014, however there is the potential for continued funding based on the successfulness of the "Partners" program.

This directly relates to the Superintendent's Goal of Grants.

BOARD POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS:

For all Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs), Initiator of Agenda Item provides the name of the agency responsible for recording the Agreement after approval:

For amendments to current IGAs, Initiator provides original IGA recording number:

Legal Advisor Signature (if applicable)

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

_____	District Budget
\$193,200	State/Federal Funds
_____	Other _____
<u>Budget Cost</u>	<u>Budget Code</u>
	43213.211.xxxx.xxx.xxx




Budget Certification (for use by Office of Financial Services only):

Date _____
I certify that funds for this expenditure in the amount of \$ are available and may be:
Authorized from current year budget
Authorized with School Board approval
Code: Fund: _____
 First Things First

INITIATOR(S):

Lorrane McPherson, Exceptional Education Interim Executive Director	08/16/13
_____ Name	_____ Title
	_____ Date

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED/ ON FILE IN BOARD OFFICE:

ATTACHMENTS:
Click to download
 Borman Agr for Pre-K Scholarships
 Davidson Agr for Pre-K Scholarships
 Wheeler Agr for Pre-K Scholarships

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD AGENDA ITEM
CONTINUATION SHEET