

**2024-2025 Project Search
Memorandum of Agreement
between
Elizabethtown Independent Schools
and
Larue County Schools**

I. Purpose:

Providing students with work experience opportunities is a proven educational strategy with the capacity to complement and maximize the chance of success in adulthood. This memorandum outlines the Project SEARCH programming and details each district's responsibilities in the implementation of the program.

II. Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is an intensive internship program that provides training, education, and workforce development for students with disabilities. The goal is to help prepare students for competitive, integrated employment. Students with disabilities receive services in a supportive environment to prepare for employment, acquire competitive, transferable, and marketable job skills, and gain increased self-awareness, confidence, and independence.

III. Non-Educational Partners:

Project SEARCH is a combined effort to provide on-the-job training and independent living support. To achieve these goals, educational and non-educational partnerships are vital. The following partners will work with each other and the school districts to support students' development.

Baptist Health Hardin

Baptist Health Hardin (BHH) houses the Project SEARCH program in their facility. BHH provides internship opportunities along with mentors for each opportunity.

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) provides individualized support for students both within the Project SEARCH program and in the students' private lives. KYOVR works to find competitive, integrated employment for the student upon completion of the internship.

FINCK Supported Living

FINCK Supported Living participates in the day-to-day operations of Project SEARCH. FINCK provides a skills trainer to assist students through their internships and works

with KYOVR to find competitive, integrated employment for students upon completion of Project SEARCH.

IV. Responsibilities for Elizabethtown Independent Schools

The Elizabethtown Independent School District will serve as the host school district for Project SEARCH. EIS will work to recruit eligible students for Project SEARCH and urge them to participate in the skills assessment to determine fitness for the program. EIS will employ and evaluate the classified instructor supporting the program's implementation. EIS will be responsible for the salary and benefits of the classified instructor. EIS will invoice LaRue County Schools for \$4,000 per student participating in the program. EIS will invoice LaRue County Schools based on participation on September 1, 2024. EIS will evaluate the program's effectiveness and work with stakeholders to improve Project SEARCH outcomes.

V. Responsibilities for LaRue County Schools

LaRue County Schools (LCS) will serve as a valued stakeholder and partner in Project SEARCH. LCS will work to recruit eligible students for Project SEARCH and urge participation in the skills assessment to determine fitness for the program. LCS will be financially responsible for the represented number of students participating in the program for the academic year totaling \$4000 per student. LCS will work with stakeholders to evaluate the program's effectiveness and work to improve Project SEARCH outcomes.

VI. Transportation

Each school district will be responsible for transporting their students to and from Baptist Health Hardin.

VII. Daily Operations

Project SEARCH will operate between 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday for EIS students. LaRue County Schools students will participate between the hours of 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Monday-Thursday, and 9:00 am - 12:45 pm on Fridays. The first day of operation is August 19, 2024, and the last day is tentatively 5/16/2025. In the event of inclement weather, EIS and LCS will collaborate to determine the final day for students participating in Project SEARCH. The program will follow the academic calendar of EIS other than the last day of program operation. Students from LaRue County Schools will additionally follow the schedule of their home district. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by the individual districts for their students participating in the program.

VIII. Special Education Services

Special education services for students participating in Project SEARCH shall be provided by EIS with communication and collaboration with LCS for LCS students.

IX. Incompletion of the Program

Upon the instance of a student no longer being able to participate in Project SEARCH, the student's resident district, including the ARC, will determine the next appropriate steps for the student regarding continuing educational services. The student's home district shall be accountable for their participation on September 1, 2024, as determined by the initial financial commitment established at the beginning of the academic year.

X. Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, each district shall adhere to the guidance provided by their respective district policies. Should EIS declare closure due to inclement weather, Project SEARCH shall not operate on that day.

Upon agreement, this memorandum will be effective for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Paul Mullins
Superintendent
Elizabethtown Independent Schools

Date

David Raleigh
Superintendent
LaRue County Schools

Date