

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
Between
Jefferson County Board of Education
And
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH (AIR)

This Memorandum of Agreement (hereinafter "Agreement") is entered into between the Jefferson County Board of Education (hereinafter "JCPS"), a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, with its principal place of business at 3332 Newburg Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40218 and THE AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH (AIR) (hereinafter "AIR"), a non-profit corporation located at 1400 Crystal Drive, 10th Floor, Arlington, VA 22202.

WHEREAS AIR and JCPS share the common goals of documenting and disseminating promising practices and actionable strategies related to community engagement in school integration efforts. This partnership will inform the development of a school integration 'Playbook' that public school districts around the country can use to authentically engage community and youth voices in school integration efforts.

THEREFORE, in consideration of the terms, conditions, premises, and mutual agreements set forth herein, JCPS and AIR agree as follows:

1. Duties of JCPS:

- a. JCPS will:
 - i. Designate a key contact person at the district to act as a liaison between AIR staff members and district/school staff.
 - ii. Attend regular project meetings (at least once monthly) to inform the direction of the project, and if approved by the IRB, support outreach to district staff and community members, and troubleshoot any project challenges.
 - iii. If approved by the IRB, support adult and youth co-designer recruitment-help to develop an outreach process, review outreach materials, and share information with school community members.
 - iv. Review and refine project materials (cadence and review parameters to be defined by the JCPS and AIR project teams), which may include: co-designer recruitment materials, data collection protocols, data collection activity plans, and Playbook materials.

- v. If research is approved by the IRB, co-present with AIR at a conference or other dissemination opportunity to share information about JCPS' school integration efforts.

2. **Duties of AIR:**

- a. AIR will:
 - i. Designate two AIR staff members to act as the primary JCPS project team members.
 - ii. Schedule and facilitate regular project meetings (at least once monthly) to inform the direction of the project, support outreach to district staff and community members, and troubleshoot any project challenges.
 - iii. Manage adult and youth co-designer recruitment, onboarding, and task oversight.
 - iv. Fund and manage quarterly payments to adult and youth co-designers for their hourly project work (up to 85 hours in 2025).
 - v. Schedule and facilitate community co-interpretation sessions to focus Playbook development.
 - vi. Develop and refine Playbook materials in partnership with AIR project colleagues and co-designers.
 - vii. Fund conference fees and travel costs for at least one JCPS staff member to attend a conference or dissemination event in partnership with AIR staff (costs not to exceed \$5,000).
- b. Acknowledges that projects involving program evaluation, monitoring activities, or data collection or research of any kind, are subject to JCPS IRB review and approval as determined by the JCPS IRB to meet federal, State, and Board policies. In these cases, JCPS student or staff participation is voluntary. As a federally authorized Institutional Review Board (IRB), JCPS complies with the federal definition for research, which includes sharing of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) for the purpose of answering a question or evaluating activities for effectiveness beyond standard educational or operational procedures. Thus, all research, program evaluation and data collection activities must be approved by the JCPS IRB and shall not begin before approval is secured from the JCPS IRB.
- c. If the performance of this Agreement involves the transfer by JCPS to AIR of any data regarding any student that is subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. 1232g as amended, ("FERPA"), AIR and JCPS must manage the data transfer in accordance with FERPA requirements, and AIR agrees to the following conditions:

- i. If AIR requests transfer of identifiable data by JCPS that is subject to JCPS IRB procedures, as determined by the JCPS IRB to meet federal, State, and Board policies, JCPS cannot transfer identifiable data to AIR before the JCPS IRB-approved informed consent process has been executed. In this case, AIR does not function as an exception under FERPA. AIR is responsible for obtaining, and maintaining, signed consent after JCPS IRB approval. No data will be provided under this agreement without signed consent from the guardian for records requests involving students or from the JCPS employee or community member for records requests involving adults. AIR must deliver copies of the signed authorization to JCPS upon request.
- ii. If AIR has been legally deemed a FERPA exception by JCPS in accordance with FERPA Exception Conditions, then AIR shall:
 - (a) In all respects, comply with the provisions of FERPA, including any requirements of Chapter 99 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations and any other applicable state or federal law.
 - (b) Use any such data for no purpose other than to fulfill the purposes of this Agreement, and not share any such data with any person or entity other than AIR and its employees, contractors, volunteers, and agents, without prior approval of JCPS. Disclosure shall be limited to only those employees, contractors, volunteers, or agents who are necessary for the fulfillment of this Agreement.
 - (c) Require all employees, contractors, volunteers, and agents of AIR to comply with all applicable provisions of FERPA with respect to any such data. AIR shall require and maintain confidentiality Agreements with each employee, contractor, volunteer, or agent with access to data pursuant to this Agreement.
 - (d) Maintain any such data in a secure environment, whether physical or electronic, and not copy, reproduce, or transmit any such data except as necessary to fulfill the purposes of this Agreement. AIR shall notify JCPS within 24 hours in the event of any data breach or disclosure of data to any person or entity other than the parties listed in this agreement.
 - (e) Collect, store, and maintain data in a manner that does not permit the identification of an individual student by anyone other than employees, contractors, or agents of AIR necessary for the fulfillment of this Agreement and having a legitimate interest related to the purposes of this Agreement in knowing such personal identification, and not disclose any such data in a manner that would permit the identification of an individual student in any form, including, but not limited to, published results of studies.

- d. Use reports produced for this project only for the purposes described above. The data and reporting shall not be used for personal or institutional gain or profit.
- e. To direct all communication and decisions regarding the evaluation, data collection, and analysis to the Accountability, Research, and Systems Improvement office.
- f. Acknowledges that JCPS retains the right to audit AIR's compliance with this agreement.
- g. AIR acknowledges that any violation of this Agreement and/or the provisions of FERPA or accompanying regulations related to the nondisclosure of protected student information constitutes just cause for JCPS to immediately terminate this Agreement pursuant to Article V of this Agreement.
- h. Not use the name or logo of JCPS or individual JCPS schools in printed materials, websites, videos or social media without prior approval from JCPS.
- i. Maintain an all-risk property and casualty insurance policy with respect to the facilities and a policy of commercial general liability in amounts no less than \$1,000,000/\$2,000,000 per policy and provide JCPS with a certificate of insurance upon request.
- j. Require all AIR employees/volunteers/contractors performing services under this Agreement to have on file a Criminal Records Check, per Kentucky law and JCPS requirements, completed no more than five years ago. Employees/contractors convicted of any of the following, per JCPS Board Policy 03.6, shall not be considered:
 - i. Any conviction for sex-related offenses.
 - ii. Any conviction for offenses against minors.
 - iii. Any conviction for felony offenses, except as provided below.
 - iv. Any conviction for deadly weapon-related offenses.
 - v. Any conviction for drug-related offenses, including felony drug offenses, within the past seven years.
 - vi. Any conviction for violent, abusive, threatening or harassment related offenses.
 - vii. Other convictions determined by the Superintendent/designee to bear a reasonable relationship to the ability to perform services under this Agreement.
- k. AIR shall require all staff and volunteers performing services on JCPS school premises during JCPS school hours under this Agreement to submit per KRS 160.380 to a national and state criminal history background check by the

Department of Kentucky State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and have a letter, provided by the individual, from The Cabinet for Health and Family Services stating no findings of substantiated child abuse and neglect records maintained by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

- l. AIR staff and volunteers will comply with all JCPS health safety guidelines including rules related to COVID-19 mitigation.
- m. To the extent that JCPS facilities are closed to students, those facilities will also be unavailable to AIR. During any periods of the Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) or remote learning, JCPS facilities will not be available to AIR.

3. Mutual Duties:

- a. Each party shall not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital or parental status, political affiliations or beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, genetic information, disability, or limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.
- b. Each party shall comply with all federal and state laws and regulations and all JCPS policies applicable to the provision of the services described in this Agreement, including without limitation the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Kentucky Educational Rights and Privacy Act (KFERPA), the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and JCPS policies and procedures for volunteers and visitors entering JCPS facilities.
- c. The respective administrative offices of JCPS and AIR who have responsibility for the implementation of this Agreement shall meet periodically during the term of this Agreement to evaluate the program and discuss issues of mutual concern.

4. Term: This Agreement shall be effective commencing April 30, 2026 and shall terminate on April 30, 2027. The Agreement may be extended by mutual written agreement of JCPS and AIR.

5. Termination: Either party may terminate this Agreement prior to the end of its term by giving sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other party. If JCPS terminates the Agreement, AIR will be permitted in their discretion to continue to provide services during the period in which the sixty (60) day notice becomes effective. JCPS may terminate this agreement immediately in the event of a student health or safety concern or a breach of data security as outlined above. AIR acknowledges that any violation of this Agreement and/or the provisions of FERPA or accompanying regulations related to the nondisclosure of protected student information constitutes just cause for JCPS to immediately terminate this Agreement. In the event of an immediate termination, AIR shall not be permitted to continue to provide services after receipt of the notice of termination.

6. **Amendment:** This Agreement may be modified or amended only by a written agreement signed by JCPS and AIR.
7. **Independent Parties:** JCPS and AIR are independent parties, and neither shall be construed to be an agent or representative of the other, and therefore neither shall be liable for the acts or omissions of the other. Each party shall, however, be liable for any negligent or wrongful acts of its own employees, students and invitees.
8. **Captions:** Section titles or captions in this Agreement are inserted as a matter of convenience and reference, and in no way define, limit, extend, or describe the scope of this Agreement.
9. **Entire Agreement:** This Agreement contains the entire agreement between JCPS and AIR concerning the AIR and supersedes all prior agreements, either written or oral, regarding the same subject matter.
10. **Severability:** If a court of competent jurisdiction holds any provision of this Agreement unenforceable, such provision shall be modified to the extent required to make it enforceable, consistent with the spirit and intent of this Agreement. If such a provision cannot be so modified, the provision shall be deemed separable from the remaining provisions of this Agreement and shall not affect any other provision.
11. **Counterparts:** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, in which case each executed counterpart shall be deemed an original, and all executed counterparts shall constitute one and the same instrument.
12. **Applicable Law:** This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed on the dates below to be effective April 30, 2026.

Jefferson County Public Schools:

AIR:



Dr. Brian Yearwood, Ed.D, Superintendent

Kate Haaf, Senior Director, Contracts and Grants

Date: _____

Date: 5/8/26