



## **Memorandum of Agreement between the Public-School System and the College of the Marshall Islands**



### **English Bridge Program from the RMI Public School System (PSS) to the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI)**

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) sets out the partnership terms and understating between the Public School System and the College of the Marshall Islands while carrying out the English Bridge Program from PSS to CMI project.

#### **Background**

This project responds to concerns expressed in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), by all stakeholders, that a misalignment between high school and college English is causing students difficulties in successfully completing degrees at CMI. To date most students graduating from high schools in the RMI do not possess the required English knowledge and skill set required to enroll directly into the CMI credit courses. As is the case in many parts of the world, most high school students in the RMI place into non-credit-bearing English courses when they first enroll into college, which research suggests contributes to high drop-out rates.

In part this is due to a mismatch between the current skills (English content) taught at the high-school level and the knowledge and skills students needed to successfully pass credit-level English credit level courses. At CMI, the courses are ENG 111: Composition I and ENG 105: Fundamentals of Public Speaking.

To help address this issue, PSS and CMI are supporting leaders and faculty from both institutions as they design an English bridge course that will promote students' English learning and engagement. The aim is that successful completion of this course will allow students to move directly to credit English courses following high school graduation.

#### **Purpose**

This MOA outlines the intended outcomes of the project and the joint responsibilities of both organizations to ensure the outcomes, listed below, are met.

The project stakeholders agree to work collaboratively with the aim of ensuring that more students who want a college degree will earn one, and will become successful and contributing members of their communities.

#### **Outcomes of the Project**

1. By 2025, at least 25% of students enrolled in the bridge courses will be eligible for credit-bearing English courses at CMI.
2. By 2026, at least 30% of students enrolled in the bridge courses will be eligible for credit-bearing English courses at CMI.
3. By 2027, at least 35% of students enrolled in the bridge courses will be eligible for credit-bearing English courses at CMI.

**Activities**

The project outcomes will be accomplished by relevant high school, PSS and CMI staff developing and implementing a new Grade 12 English bridge course.

All relevant high school and PSS staff will commit to:

- The development and quality delivery of the new fit-for-purpose English bridge course including using the new curriculum materials;
- The delivery of improved pedagogies which support the teaching of the course;
- Their students’ academic skill development;
- Parent and community involvement in the students’ learning; and
- The facilitation of individual student support
- Working alongside CMI officials to ensure that the assessment of students in the Grade 12 English bridge course is valid, fair, accurate and nationally consistent, and that the final results are communicated to CMI Admissions and Records in a timely manner.

All relevant CMI staff will commit to:

- Preparation of the Grade 12 English bridge course assessment (both formative and summative) at a level that will allow passing students to succeed in CMI’s credit level English upon enrollment at the college in the first year of the project.
- Collaboration with high school staff to oversee the marking of the final assessment to a standard that ensures the integrity of the results
- Facilitation of appropriate professional development and mentorship of PSS teachers.
- Assessment of student success following enrollment at the college.

**Entry of students to credit level courses at CMI**

CMI will place students in English levels based on their performance on the final course assessment as follows:

<b>Score</b>	<b>Placement</b>
70% or higher	Credit
65-69%	Accelerated Level 3
60-64%	Regular Level 3
50-59%	Accelerated Level 2
50% or lower	Regular Level 2

## **Collaboration**

PSS and CMI staff commit to a professional partnership based on improved collaboration, coordination and sharing of expertise and skill, underscored by a shared commitment to student achievement. Relevant staff commit to regular meetings to review progress and address challenges.

CMI instructors who serve as mentors for PSS teachers will receive a stipend paid by PSS, to be paid within a month from when documents for payment claims are submitted. In addition, PSS will pay travel expenses for CMI faculty mentoring teachers located at Jaluit High School, Kwajalein Atoll High School, Ennibur High School, and Northern Islands High School to travel to the high school sites on an annual basis. School visits will involve one CMI mentor and one PSS staff. Travel expenses shall include airfare and per diem or stipend plus hotel as necessary at the standard government rate. In case of transportation issues, mentoring may be conducted via Zoom. CMI faculty will also mentor teachers at Marshall Islands High School, Laura High School, and Life Skills Academy.

## **Duration**

This MOA is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from PSS and CMI. This MOA shall become effective upon the signature by the authorized officials from PSS and CMI and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any of the partners by mutual consent. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials from PSS and CMI this MOA shall be continued.

## **Contact Information**

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Minister

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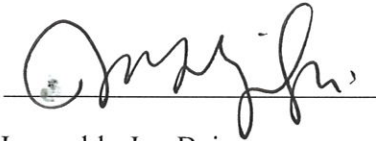
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Honorable Joe Bejang

Minister

Ministry of Education, Sports and Training

Date: 8/29/24




Dr. Natalie Nimmer

Commissioner

Public School System

Date: 8/2/24

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Dr. Elizabeth Switaj

Interim President

College of the Marshall Islands

Date: 8/29/2024

CMI/PSS Proposal

**Budget Breakdown**

<b>Travel Expenses</b>	<b>Kwajalein Round Trip</b>	<b>Jaluit Round Trip</b>	<b>Wotje Round Trip</b>	<b>Total</b>
Airfare for 2	\$1,016.00	\$684.00	\$812.00	\$2,512.00
Per diem for 2 (Kwaj, Wotje & Jaluit 7 days)	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$12,600.00
Ground Transportation	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$300.00
Freight	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$150.00
Total Travelling Expenses	\$5,366.00	\$5,034.00	\$5,162.00	\$15,562.00

Other Expenses				
Stipends				\$6,500.00
Materials & Supplies				\$3,215.00
Representation/Food				\$3,500.00
Total Other Expenses				\$13,215.00

Overall Total	\$28,777.00
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