# MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND TRAINING AND COLLEGE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

This Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") is entered into in August 2021 between the Marshall Islands Ministry of Education, Sports and Training, Public School System ("MOEST-PSS") and the College of the Marshall Islands ("CMI") (collectively "Parties"). It describes the responsibilities of the Parties with regards to the continuation of the Math Transition Program ("MTP") which aims to support high-school math teachers to better engage students' mathematics learning and enable them to transition directly into college-credit courses following high school graduation.

WHEREAS, in June 2021 the Parties concluded a Memorandum of Understanding which set out the partnership terms of an agreement to implement a program introduced by REL Pacific and Carnegie Math Pathways in Marshall Islands public high schools with the goal of reducing the need for public high school graduates to complete remedial courses at the college;

**WHEREAS,** remedial course work is both a major barrier to student achievement and a contributing factor to inequitable outcomes;

WHEREAS, teams supported leaders and faculty from both the PSS and CMI as they designed a mathematics course that promoted students' mathematics learning and engagement.

**WHEREAS**, given the satisfactory outcome in terms of high school students' transition to college-credit level math, the Parties have agreed to continue the program during the third phase of the MTP under a new agreement; and

**WHEREAS,** in this MOA, the Parties agree to continue to pursue the objectives, outcomes, and activities of the MTP.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

# 1. CMI agrees to:

- a. Identify, at the start of each Academic Year, those STEM Instructors who will participate in the MTP. The number of instructors will not exceed 6 per semester unless additional instructors are requested in writing by PSS;
  - b. Insure that the STEM Instructors:

- i. Grade 12 MTP results to place students at CMI as indicated on Schedule 1 attached hereto;
  - ii. Prepare the Grade 12 MTP summative course assessments;
- iii. Provide oversight of formative assessments (quizzes, activities, etc.) at a level that will allow passing students who enroll at CMI to succeed in CMI's credit level mathematics;
- iv. Collaborate with high school staff to oversee the marking of final assessment to a standard that ensures the integrity of the results;
- v. Provide appropriate professional development activities for PSS teachers;
  - vi. Mentor PSS mathematics teachers; and
- vii. Actively participate in the third phase of the MTP as members of the established subcommittees and commit to regular meetings to review curriculum, assess progress and address challenges.
- c. Continue to monitor the progress of students placed based on their MTP results to ensure the continued validity of the summative assessments and success of the MTP initiative in improving student achievement and equity of outcomes; and
- d. Submit an invoice for the payment of Instructors with details of names and activities undertaken at the end of each semester.

### 2. MOEST-PSS agrees to:

- a. Identify the required Staff Development funding to meet the cost of the program;
- b. Ensure the active participation of grade-12 math instructors in development of formative assessments, marking of the final assessment, professional development activities, mentorship, established subcommittees, and regular meeting to review curriculum, assess progress, and address challenges;
  - c. Provide final assessment scores to CMI in a timely manner; and
- d. Maintain equitable access to the MTP course developed under Phase 2 of the MTP.

## 3. Payment:

- a. CMI instructors who take part in the activities stipulated in this MOA will receive a stipend of 2 credit hours per semester, commensurate with their academic status as follows:
  - i. Masters Level: \$750 per credit hour; and
  - ii. Doctorate: \$800 per credit hour
- b. Stipends will be paid directly to CMI on receipt of an invoice at the end of each semester.
- c. MOEST-PSS will pay all expenses for CMI faculty who mentor teachers in high schools located on Neighboring Islands. Travel expenses shall include airfare and per diem or stipend plus hotel costs at the standard government rate. Where there are no hotels, PSS will arrange reasonable accommodation.
- 4. Effective Date: This MOA shall come into effect on September 1, 2021.

Dated:

Kitlang Kabua, Minister of Education,

Sports and Training

Dated:

Irene Taafaki, President

College of the Marshall Islands

Dated:

Kanchi Hosia, Commissioner,

Public School System

# **SCHEDULE 1**

<b>Transition Math Assessment Result</b>	CMI Math Placement
60 ≥	Credit
50 - 59	Math 098/Math 099
40 - 49	Math AP/Math 099
30 - 39	Math 088/Math 099
Below 30	Math 068