

Building Better Math Pathways from the RMI Public School System (PSS)

To the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI)

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Public School System

And

The College of the Marshall Islands

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the partnership terms and understanding between the Public School System and the College of the Marshall Islands while carrying out the Building a Better Math Pathways from PSS to CMI project, which is supported by REL Pacific: Regional Educational Laboratory

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 mathematics 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 mathematical knowledge and skills required to enroll directly into 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 math courses when they first enroll in college, which research suggests contributes to high drop-out rates.

In part this is due to a mismatch between the current mathematical content taught at the high-school level and the knowledge and skills students needed to successfully pass credit-level mathematics credit level courses. At CMI, the courses are MATH 102: Survey of Mathematics and MATH 111: College Algebra.

To help address this issue, REL Pacific and Carnegie Math Pathways (CMP) teams are supporting leaders and faculty from both the PSS and CMI as they design a mathematics course that will promote students' mathematics learning and engagement. The aim is that successful completion of this course will allow students to move directly to credit courses following high school graduation.

Purpose

This MOU 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 2020, at least 25% of students enrolled in the transition course will be eligible for credit-bearing math courses at CMI.
2. By 2021, at least 50% of students enrolled in the transition course will be eligible for credit-bearing math courses at CMI.
3. By 2022, at least 75% of students enrolled in the transition course will be eligible for credit-bearing math 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 mathematics transition course, through the facilitation of REL Pacific experts.

All relevant high school and PSS staff will commit to:

- The development and quality delivery of the new fit-for-purpose mathematics transition course including using the new curriculum materials;
- The delivery of improved pedagogies which support the teaching of the course;
- Engagement in professional support including structural (systemic) support;
- Their students' academic skill development;
- Parent and community involvement in the students' learning; and
- The facilitation of Individual student support.

All relevant CMI staff will commit to:

- Preparation of the Grade 12 Mathematics transition course assessment (both formative and summative) at a level that will allow passing students to succeed in CMI's credit-level mathematics upon enrollment at the college.
- 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

The PSS will work alongside CMI officials to ensure that the assessment of students in the Grade 12 mathematics transition course is valid, fair, accurate and nationally consistent, and that the final results are communicated to CMI Admissions and Records in a timely manner.

CMI will allow students who successfully pass the Grade 12 mathematics transition course to enroll in credit level Mathematics courses upon admission to the College, without being required to complete the placement examination in mathematics. Those who fail the Math transition course will need to sit the placement test.

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. In addition, PSS will pay travel expenses for CMI faculty mentoring teachers located at Jaluit High School, Kwajalein Atoll High School, and Northern Islands High School to travel to the high school sites on an annual basis. Travel expenses shall include airfare and per diem or stipend plus hotel as necessary at the standard government rate.

Duration

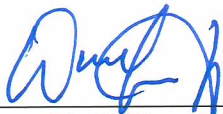
This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from (PSS and CMI. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the Public School System and the College of the Marshall Islands and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials from PSS and CMI this MOU shall be continued.

Contact Information

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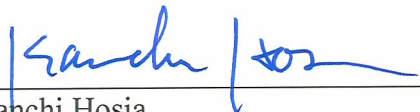
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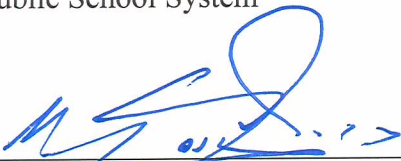
Honorable Wilbur Heine
Minister
Ministry of Education, Sports and Training

Date: Aug. 8, 2019



Kanchi Hosia
Commissioner
Public School System

Date: 8/8/19



Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono
President
College of the Marshall Islands

Date: 08-08-19

CMI/PSS Proposal
Budget Breakdown- With/Without Stipend & 2 travelers

Travel Expenses	Kwaj Round Trip	Jaluit Round Trip	Wotje Round Trip	Total
Airfaire for 2	\$ 497.00	\$ 256.00	\$ 306.00	\$ 1,059.00
Perdiem for 2 (Kwaj 3 days, Wotje & Jaluit 7 days)	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 2,500.00
Ground transportation	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
Total Travel Expenses	\$ 1,347.00	\$ 1,406.00	\$ 1,106.00	\$ 3,859.00
Other Expenses				
Materials & Supplies				\$ 3,215.00
Representation/Food				\$ 3,500.00
Total Other Expenses				\$ 6,715.00
Overall Total	\$ 1,347.00	\$ 1,406.00	\$ 1,106.00	\$ 10,574.00

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