## AUTHORIZE TUITION PAYMENTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION UNIVERSITY COURSEWORK

## THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Authorize tuition payments to various universities for special education coursework at a cost not to exceed \$310,000 across all participating universities. The initial universities participating in this program were selected based on their previous involvement with tuition support and discounted continuing education programs in the Chicago Public Schools. No written agreement is required for tuition payments. Information pertinent to this program is stated below.

UNIVERSITY:

Chicago State University

9501 S. King Dr. Chicago, IL 60628

Contact: Dean Carolyn Theard-Griggs

Phone: (773) 995-4457 Vendor # 28386

Northeastern Illinois University 5500 North St. Louis Avenue

Chicago, IL 60625

Contact: Dean Andrea Evans Phone: (773) 442-5583

Vendor # 29483

University of St. Francis

Regional Educational Academy for Leadership

500 Wilcox St Joliet, IL 60435

Contact: Director William Freeman

Phone: (815) 740-3667

Vendor # 19527

National Louis University 122 S Michigan Ave Chicago, IL 60603 Contact: Dean Rob Muller Phone: (312) 261-3377 Vendor # 48030

USER:

Talent Office 42 W Madison St Chicago, IL 60602 Christine Murphy Judson

773-553-1067

**PAYMENT PERIOD:** Tuition payments are authorized for university courses scheduled from January 1, 2021 through December 30, 2021.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Payments cover tuition for authorized CPS teachers enrolled in courses at participating universities under the Talent Office Continuing Education Program. The Continuing Education Program provides an opportunity for current CPS teachers to pursue their Special Education or Early Childhood Special Education certification so that an increased number of schools can provide special education services and support to diverse learner students. This increases opportunities for students to reach their academic potential. All of the initial universities selected provide rigorous, accelerated course sequences to Special Education certification.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Special Education Endorsement participants include CPS teachers who possess a teaching license, have been nominated, work in a high needs school or community area that experiences persistent special education vacancies, and commit to working in their school for at least one additional school year in a special education position. Participants are selected through a competitive process and commit to the full, accelerated sequence of courses. In order to receive a Special Education endorsement, teachers must successfully complete the coursework and pass the special education content exam offered through ILTS.

**OUTCOMES:** The Continuing Education Program is an essential strategy in broadening the pool of special education teachers available to work in high-needs communities across the city. Increased access to special education teachers will prepare more diverse learner students to achieve academic achievement in alignment with their IEP goals and district priorities. In order for this to be possible, an increased number of teachers must be credentialed to teach Special Education. This university coursework is specifically designed to prepare teachers to earn this credential.

**COMPENSATION:** Tuition payments to all universities during the payment period shall not exceed \$310,000 in total through December 30, 2021. No individual university shall receive more than \$100,000 of the total funds.

**AUTHORIZATION:** The Director, Talent Acquisition is authorized to direct payments to be made to the universities as necessary. Authorize the Talent Office to add additional universities to this program without first amending the board report.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Pursuant to the Remedial Program for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Participation in Goods and Services contracts (M/WBE Program), this contract is exempt as this agreement is for tuition-based programs.

LSC REVIEW: Local School Council approval is not applicable to this report.

## FINANCIAL:

Fund 115, Unit 11010, Talent Fund 362, Unit 11070, Talent

The total not to exceed is \$310,000 for the one (1) year payment period.

Future fiscal year funding is contingent upon budget appropriation and approval.

## **GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

Inspector General – Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts – The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness – The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Contingent Liability – The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

**Approved for Consideration:** 

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- DocuSigned by:

LaTanya D. McDade Chief Education Officer Approved:

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Janice K. Jackson

**Chief Executive Officer** 

Approved as to legal form:

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Joseph T. Moriatty

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Joseph T. Moriarty General Counsel