



Board Agenda Item #	IV. C Action Item
Date:	03/05/2020
To:	Magnolia Board of Directors
From:	Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent
Staff Lead:	Suat Acar, Chief Operations Officer
RE:	MSA 3 ASES Middle School After School Program subcontracting to ThinkTogether

### Proposed Board Motion

I move that the board approve Magnolia Science Academy 3 (MSA 3) to switch ASES Funds from MSA 3 in-housed operations to the vendor ThinkTogether, Inc to operate the MSA 3 ASES Middle School After School Program as a board approved subcontracting vendor and assign the CEO & Superintendent to sign the MOU.

### Introduction and Background

- The purpose of the After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program is to create incentives for establishing locally-driven Expanded Learning programs, including after school programs that partner with public schools and communities to provide academic and literacy support, and safe, constructive alternatives for youth. The ASES Program involves collaboration among parents, youth, and representatives from schools, governmental agencies, individuals from community-based organizations, and the private sector.
- MSA 3 is the **Fiscal Agent** of the ASES funds. Fiscal Agent means that MSA 3 will receive the entire ASES funding allocated for MSA 3 to serve MSA 3, and MSA 3 is 100% accountable to fulfill the requirements of the program as well as reporting to the California Department of Education (CDE) on a timely manner. In order to be complaint MSA 3 can either run its own program (in-housing) or subcontract the ASES services to a CDE approved vendor.
- During the **05/09/2019** MPS Regular Board Meeting, the Board of Directors of MPS approved MSA 3 to use the ASES After School Funds internally and run its own operations independent from any 3<sup>rd</sup> party CDE Approved Vendor (in-housed).
- During the 2019-20 school year, the Home Office observed that there has been

operational hardships that MSA 3 has suffered such as staffing, inadequate supervision during after school hours and lack of academic rigor through ASES Middle School After School Programs

- MPS Board of Directors already approved ThinkTogether (To replace Youth Policy Institute-YPI) as a subcontractor during the **11/14/2019** MPS Regular Board Meeting to start serving MSA 1 Reseda Campus using the ASES funds of MSA 1.
- The ThinkTogether, Inc currently runs the ASSET Grant High School Program at MSA 1, too, as the fiscal agent of these funds.
- After the switch, ThinkTogether, Inc started serving all the after school programs (Both Middle School and High School) of MSA 1. The Home Office checked with the Principal of MSA 1. The principal stated that the switch helped MSA 1 to deal with one vendor which will take over all responsibilities such as staffing (hiring, firing, subbing etc.) and reporting. We plan to make the same move for MSA 3 as well.
- Home Office plans to “Piggyback” on that RFP which was done in this fiscal year to start getting services from this same company without a new RFP process.

#### Analysis (If applicable)

- Currently MSA 3 has 2 staff members under ASES funds. This does not seem to be enough to cover around 50 to 70 middle school students staying after school. ThinkTogether is ready to provide 3 or 4 staff plus regional supervisor to run the program.
- MSA 3 will not have to call for a sub or follow up for the payroll of in-housed employees. Also certain reports which are based on daily attendance tracking will be handled by ThinkTogether. These will help MSA 3 administration to focus on other priorities during the 2020-21 renewal year.
- ThinkTogether will use the ASES Academic Plans and Programs submitted to the CDE.

#### Budget Implications

- The total dollar amount provided by the ASES funds for fiscal year 2019-20 is \$122,745.
- The remaining funds as of February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 are \$62,089.73. This is the **maximum** amount that will be seen on the MOU.
- The transitioning will take place upon Board approval starting effective as of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All the **remaining funds as of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020** will be moved from MSA 3 School Operations to the vendor account and will be paid per the MOU to be signed by

the MPS and ThinkTogether, Inc in installments until June 30, 2020 for fiscal year 2019-20.

- ThinkTogether will be paid only with available ASES funds. No additional funds will be used to pay for ThinkTogether services.
- If MSA 3 wants to continue working with ThinkTogether in fiscal year 2020-21 then the entire annual 2020-21 funds to be received under ASES funds will be budgeted under vendor account and the vendor will be paid according to the MOU for 2020-21. The total amount to be paid to the vendor will not exceed the annual ASES funds to be received for 2020-21.
- CFO has reviewed and approved the budget implications

Exhibits (attachments):

- CDE's ASES website:  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ex/fundingop.asp#afterschooleducationandsafetyprogram>