

Item of Information: 2026-2028 Innovative Services for Students with Autism Grant

1. Background:

Southwest ISD in conjunction with three partnering school districts has been selected as the recipient of the 2026–2028 Innovative Services for Students with Autism Grant, a competitive grant program administered by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Southwest Independent School District (Southwest ISD) applied for and was awarded this grant as the lead applicant and fiscal agent, partnering with Natalia ISD, Somerset ISD, and Brackett ISD to form the South Texas Autism & Transition collaborative, known as the STAT Team. This four-district partnership will implement a multi-district initiative designed to provide comprehensive transition services to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder between the ages of 14 and 22.

The STAT Team collaborative will be designed to create inclusive, evidence-based pathways to workforce development, higher education, and independent living for transition-age students across all four districts. Southwest ISD will serve as the central administrative and leadership hub, managing all grant funds, ensuring TEA compliance, and coordinating program implementation. Natalia ISD, Somerset ISD, and Brackett ISD will serve as full partner districts, each establishing local programming aligned to the shared collaborative model.

2. Process:

The four districts were awarded the grant through a rigorous and competitive application process that included the districts outlining goals, short term objectives, impact on student growth and achievement and a plan to support efforts beyond the grant years. .

3. Fiscal Impact:

All expenditures will be funded through the grant

Budget Category	Account Code	Year 1 Allocation	Percentage
Payroll Costs	6100	\$210,000	21.0%
Professional & Contracted Services	6200	\$435,000	43.5%
Supplies & Materials	6300	\$150,000	15.0%
Other Operating Costs	6400	\$81,000	8.1%

Budget Category	Account Code	Year 1 Allocation	Percentage
Capital Outlay	6600	\$124,000	12.4%
Total		\$1,000,000	100%

Year 2 funding is subject to TEA continuation approval based on Year 1 performance outcomes and data. The total potential grant award over both fiscal years is up to \$2,000,000.

4. Recommendation:

This is an item of information.

5. Required:

None