

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
The 21st Century Partnership for STEM Education
and the
Newark Board of Education

The terms and conditions in this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) will govern and take precedence over any other Agreement by and **between The 21st Century Partnership for STEM Education (21PSTEM)** located at 375 East Elm, Suite 215, Conshohocken, PA 19428 (“Partner”) and **THE NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION** (the “Board”) located at 765 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102.

WHEREAS, Partner is a non-profit company registered in the State of Pennsylvania, entity number 3755550, to engage in the business of providing educational research and programs; and

WHEREAS, Partner’s staff has the education, certification, training and/or work experience in this area so as to be able to provide these services responsibly; and

WHEREAS, the Partner is lead organization of the Mathematical Thinkers Like Me project (“Project”), collaborating with Rutgers University-Newark (led by Dr. Arthur Powell), funded by AERDF (originally New School Ventures Fund) as is the Board for the participation of its schools in the Project; and

WHEREAS, the **Partner** operates for research purposes of the Project under the Rutgers University-Newark IRB and the NBOE-approved Research and Data Sharing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Board voluntarily desires to allow Partner to provide its services to the Board.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants set forth in this MOU, the receipt and sufficiency thereof being acknowledged by both parties, the Board and Partner hereby agree as follows:

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

Partner will provide use of its online collaborative problem solving environment, Virtual Math Teams (VMT), at no cost, for the purposes of the Project, to improve students’ use of executive functions, conceptual understanding and procedural performance of mathematics in an equitable learning environment.

Board agrees to:

- allow participating students and school personnel to use their standard computer and network resources to access VMT;
- convey to Partner such student information as needed to:
 - create student accounts for participation in collaborative problem solving via VMT

- anonymously aggregate student problem solving session data with the other project student data collected under the existing Research and Data Sharing Agreement for the purposes of the Project between Rutgers University-Newark and the Board.

ADDITIONAL TERMS

1. New Jersey Law - The MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. Any and all proceedings relating to the subject matter hereof shall be maintained in the courts sitting in New Jersey, which courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction for each purpose. The parties agree that any and all claims arising under this Agreement, or related thereto, shall be heard and determined in a court of competent jurisdiction in New Jersey.

2. Criminal History Background Checks - Partner shall ensure that each worker(s), subcontractors(s), agent(s), intern(s) and/or representative(s) assigned to a school location or to a project involving contact with children has had a criminal history background check, and that said check indicates that no criminal history record information exists on file in either the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the State Bureau of Identification which would disqualify said employee from employment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq. Partner must ensure that said background checks are performed no later than thirty (30) days after execution of this MOU. The services under this MOU shall not begin or proceed until Partner complies with the requirements of this section. Failure to ensure that criminal history background check(s) are performed within said time limitation shall be deemed a material breach of this agreement by Partner, and as such, serves as a basis for the Newark Board of Education to immediately terminate this MOU.

3. Funding - This MOU is not a commitment of funds. No monies will be exchanged between the parties for the services rendered or received. It is expressly understood by the parties that the Board's voluntary participation in this MOU does not require any monetary payment of any kind from the Board in exchange for the services being provided by Partner, its subcontractor, agent or representative under this MOU.

4. Confidentiality – Partner and/or its agents agree to maintain all staff and student information confidentially in accordance with all New Jersey state and federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to, the Children's Online Privacy and Protection Act ("COPPA"), the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), Federal Regulations (42 CFR-Part 2 and 42 CFR-Parts 160 & 164), and the N.J. Children of Substance Abusers Legislation of 1999 (N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-7.1). To the extent that any services are performed by Partner virtually using the internet or some other remote means of electronic transmission, Partner shall ensure that any online internet providers, platforms or other remote means of electronic transmission that it may use to deliver said services are sufficiently secure and adequately safeguard student information, is compliant with all relevant state and federal laws including COPPA, and must be compatible with and comply with the technical requirements of the Board's computer network and/or must be on a Board pre-approved online platform.

5. Indemnification - In addition to any liability or obligation to the Board that may exist under any other provision of this MOU or by statute or otherwise, Partner shall be liable to and hereby agrees to indemnify, save and hold harmless the Newark Board of Education, the Superintendent, its Board and any of its employees, agents and representatives from and against any and all damages, lawsuits, claims, liabilities and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees and court costs, which the school district or the Board may sustain, be subject to or be caused to incur by virtue of or as a result of any settlement approved by Partner or of an adverse determination of any claim, demand, suit, proceeding, action or cause of action for any matter or claim that arises as a result of this MOU and the work performed under them including but not limited to any negligence or willful misconduct of Partner its agents, servants, employees, officers, partners, consultants or subcontractors.

6. Term/Termination for Convenience – The term of this MOU shall be in effect for 4 years year(s) for the 2021-2025 school years. Either party may terminate the service provided by Partner at any time, without penalty and for convenience, upon ten (10) days written notice to the other party.

7. Commercial Insurance - Partner shall procure and maintain for the duration of the MOU commercial insurance against claims for injuries to persons and/or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of work hereunder by Partner, or its agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors. Partner represents and warrants that all work provided hereunder will be performed by persons who are licensed, certified and experienced to furnish the Board with these services. This MOU shall be contingent upon proof of insurance coverage for the entire term, notwithstanding that the Newark Board of Education may accept any in place of coverage at the time of the execution of this agreement which may be due to expire prior to the completion date of this agreement.

The Newark Board of Education is to be added as an **additional insured** but only as our interests may appear on all Certificates of Insurance as indicated below.

MINIMUM SCOPE AND LIMITS OF INSURANCE

- A. Comprehensive General Liability Insurance including Completed Operations Coverage, covering bodily injury, personal injury and property damage. Limits of Liability shall be not less than \$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit.
- B. Workers' Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance as required by the State Law of New Jersey and as indicated in I.5.1.

8. Independent Entities - None of the provisions of the MOU are intended to create nor shall be deemed or construed to create any relationship between the parties hereto other than that of independent entities contracting with each other solely for the purposes of effecting the provisions of the MOU. Neither of the parties, hereto, nor any of their respective officers, directors or employees, shall be construed to be the agent, employee or the representative of the other.

9. Compliance with local and federal laws – Both parties agree to comply with all federal,

state, and local laws applicable to this MOU. Partner also agrees that it will not discriminate under federal and New Jersey state law based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or physical or mental handicap.

10. Compliance with Board Policies and Procedures - Partner shall ensure that each worker(s), subcontractors(s), agent(s) and representative(s) assigned to a school location or to a project involving contact with children will comply with the Board’s Conduct policy as well as all local, state and federal laws and regulations, including those related to public health. Partner also agrees to abide by any safety regulations, executive orders and/or state mandates that may be issued by any state or federal agency governing and/or relating to maintaining the public health and safety including, but not limited to, the use of temperature checks, masks, gloves, vaccinations, testing and social distancing. Should any of Partner’s worker(s), subcontractors(s), agent(s) and/or representative(s) violate any Board policy or public health and safety policy, the Board retains the right to request and have Partner remove said worker(s), subcontractors(s), agent(s) and representative(s) from the school location and/or the program altogether.

11. Modifications - This MOU may only be amended or modified by mutual written consent of the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Partner has caused these Certifications, Representations and Special Conditions to be signed by its authorized officer.

21st Century Partnership for STEM Education

NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: _____
Date

By: _____
Date

Print Name: John Baker

Dawn Haynes

Title: Vice President of Operations

Board President