

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PULASKI COUNTY IMAGINATION LIBRARY AND LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a partnership between Pulaski County Imagination Library and the Little Rock School District.

### **I. Program Mission**

Pulaski County Imagination Library (PCIL) is an affiliate program of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a book-gifting program that mails one free book to a participating child each month from birth to age five in communities with operating affiliate programs. The mission of the Pulaski County Imagination Library is to create a lifelong love of reading in young children, prepare them for school, and inspire them to dream more, learn more, care more, and be more by providing developmentally appropriate books for children from birth to age five throughout Pulaski County, Arkansas.

The mission of the Little Rock School District (LRSD) is to equip all students with the skills and knowledge to realize their aspirations, think critically and independently, learn continuously, and face the future as productive contributing citizens. This mission is accomplished through open access to a diverse, innovative, and challenging curriculum in a secure environment with a staff dedicated to excellence and empowered with the trust and support of the community.

Together, PCIL and LRSD enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to mutually increase literacy, parent involvement, and grade-level reading among children living in Pulaski County. Accordingly, PCIL and LRSD operate under this MOU and agree as follows:

### **II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

PCIL and LRSD are partnering to bring Imagination Library to students in the Little Rock School District. LRSD currently enrolls 1,679 PreK students in its three and four year old programs. Often these children have younger siblings at home. Through Pulaski County Imagination Library, developmentally appropriate books will be delivered to the homes of children enrolled in PCIL. Research shows that early literacy development is crucial for long-term academic success, and that children with access to books in their homes learn pre-literacy skills such as holding a book front to back, following sentences left to right, and "reading" illustrations. LRSD recognizes that supporting literacy development for children in its PreK program and for their younger siblings who are likely to enter its program helps improve its overall academic program by helping children prepare for Kindergarten and the K12 system.

PCIL is responsible for funding the Imagination Library within Pulaski County. These expenses include the cost of books and mailing for each child enrolled (\$25 per year) and administrative costs. Once the program is fully operational, the estimated PCIL annual budget will range from

\$400,000 to \$650,000 depending on the saturation of the program throughout Pulaski County. LRSD is not responsible for any of the administration of the Imagination Library program; its financial contribution is based on 2017-2018 PreK enrollment.

Based on 2010 Census Data, an estimated 26,731 children live in Pulaski County. Based on current LRSD Kindergarten enrollment (1,843 students), 9,215 of the children living in Pulaski County will attend LRSD, or roughly 34% of the county's zero-to-five population. Under the terms of this MOU, LRSD agrees to contribute funding equal to the funding for the number of children in its PreK program (1,679 children) and one additional sibling [3,358 children \* \$25 = \$83,950] each year. This funding represents 13% to 21% of the overall PCIL budget. PCIL is responsible for all additional fundraising to meet the needs of its budget.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITIES**

Representatives from each organization participating in the MOU who will ensure that tasks and responsibilities are carried out by their organizations are:

Sarah Argue, Program Coordinator - PCIL  
sarah@pcaril.org, 501-681-4924

Michael Poore, Superintendent - Little Rock School District  
mike.poore@lrzd.org, 501-447-1005

PCIL agrees to the following tasks for this MOU:

- Imagination Library program administration (registration, book distribution)
- Coordination with LRSD Director of Early Childhood Programs

LRSD agrees to the following tasks for this MOU:

- Provide annual funding of \$83,950
- Coordination with PCIL
- Annual distribution of registration forms to PreK families

### **IV. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING**

The term of this MOU is for a period of five years from the effective date of this agreement and may be extended upon written mutual agreement. It shall be reviewed at least annually to ensure that it is fulfilling its purpose and to make any necessary revisions. In addition, it is the intention of both parties that this MOU shall be continued for many additional years pursuant to mutually agreed upon goals for early childhood education.

Either organization may terminate the MOU upon thirty (30) days written notice without penalties or liabilities. Upon termination, any monies already distributed to PCIL will remain the property of PCIL.

**V. AUTHORIZATION**

The signing of this MOU is not a formal contract. It implies that the signatories will strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the objectives stated in the MOU.

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Sarah Argue  
Program Coordinator  
Pulaski County Imagination Library

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Date

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Michael Poore  
Superintendent  
Little Rock School District

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Date

