

**Memorandum of Understanding
for Sharyland Early College High School
between South Texas College
and the Sharyland Independent School District**

This Memorandum of Understanding is hereby entered into by and between South Texas College, a political subdivision, (hereinafter called the "College"), acting by and through its President; the Sharyland Independent School District, a Texas political subdivision, (hereinafter called School "District"), and acting by and through its Superintendent.

I. PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the parties to this Memorandum of Understanding desire to establish Sharyland Early College High School ("Sharyland ECHS"), serving grades 9-12, and provide dual enrollment for academic dual credit college courses for high school students free of charge. The student population of the Sharyland STEM ECHS will be composed of underserved and underrepresented high school students (grades 9-12); consisting of students who are at-risk, economically disadvantaged, first generation college goers, and who have not received the academic preparation necessary to meet credit college entrance standards. Potential students for the Sharyland ECHS will be screened and selected through the use of a lottery system that encourages and considers applications from all students. All students will have an equal opportunity for acceptance, regardless of background or academic performance.

WHEREAS Early College High Schools are small schools with enrollments between 400-500 or fewer students (100-125 students per grade cohort) which provide students the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and up to two years of transferable college credits (60) and/or an associate's degree, and

WHEREAS Early College High Schools prepare this population of high school students for successful career and educational futures through a full integration of high school, college, high demand/high skill career preparation, improved academic performance, and increase high school and college/university completion rates;

WHEREAS both Sharyland ISD and South Texas College are willing and able to participate in the facilitation of this program to benefit the students they both seek to assist.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants, and conditions and provisions set forth herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

II. STATEMENT OF GENERAL DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

1. GOVERNANCE:

- a. The Early College High School established under this agreement will be governed by state and federal laws and regulations, school district, and college policies and