
Memorandum of Understanding

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Between

Mt. Diablo Unified School District

and

Eat REAL, Life Lab, and Sequoia Science Education

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets for the terms and understanding between the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Eat REAL, Life Lab, and Sequoia Science Education to partner and develop the **Real Food in Schools Collaborative**.

Background

Childhood obesity is at an all-time high and access to healthy foods continues to be a barrier for socio-economically disadvantaged communities. The need to connect nutrition education and enhanced science instruction with sustainable system changes in schools, specifically in the Food and Nutrition Services department, is imperative to make long term impact on what and how students and families eat.

Purpose

This MOU will formalize the **Real Food in Schools Collaborative** to leverage and strengthen services and program changes to better serve students and families in Mt. Diablo Unified. It will provide a foundation and replicable framework for implementing a “Growing Healthy Kids through Joyful Learning and Nutrition” initiative. This collaborative is focused on increasing garden, science, and culinary education, strengthening food service systems and delivery, and enhancing parent and community engagement.

The above goals will be accomplished by undertaking the following activities:

- Offer nutrition based education through garden and culinary classes
- Expand outdoor science lab spaces to better support phenomena instruction
- Develop systemic and operational changes in the Food and Nutrition Services Department in Mt. Diablo Unified to increase access to locally grown produce, healthy meals and increased understanding of food preparation and consumption of healthy foods in schools
- Enhance and expand parent and community engagement through nutrition education
- Obtain certification through Eat REAL. Eat REAL® developed **Responsible Epicurean and Agricultural Leadership (REAL) Certified®** to be the trusted, nationally-recognized mark of excellence for food and foodservice operators committed to holistic nutrition and environmental stewardship

Reporting

The **Real Food in Schools Collaborative** will meet regularly and monitor strategies and services to meeting its purpose. Annual reflection and collaborative efforts will be completed and monitored.

Funding

This MOU is not a commitment of funds but rather to memorialize the partnership.

Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Eat REAL, Life Lab, and Sequoia Science Education. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Eat REAL, Life Lab, and Sequoia Science Education and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials from Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Eat REAL, Life Lab, and Sequoia Science Education, this MOU shall end on June 30, 2020.

Contact Information

Nellie Meyer

Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Superintendent

Date

*Don Burgett**

Don Burgett
Executive Director
Life Lab

6/20/18

Date

*Larry Ruff**

Larry Ruff
Chief Executive Officer
Eat REAL

6/18/18

Date

*Tamara Helfer**

Tamara Helfer
Executive Director
Sequoia Science Education

8/15/18

Date

**Original signatures on file in Instructional Support Department, Mt. Diablo Unified*