

To: Board of Education

From: Kevin Harrell, executive director, student services, ext. 2221  
Laura Basham, assistant director, special education, ext. 2410

Re: Agreement with PresenceLearning, Inc. for Speech/Language Services

Date: September 8, 2016

Background:

The IDEA requires the district to provide speech and language services to qualifying students with disabilities as documented in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). We currently have a full-time speech/language pathologist (SLP) position that remains vacant due to the lack of qualified and certified applicants willing to work in the schools. The district has had a SLP position advertised and unfilled since the spring of 2016.

Rationale:

To continue providing the services documented in students' IEPs, the district needs to contract for speech and language services. The provision of these services is required by state and federal regulations.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that we move forward with an online therapy model through PresenceLearning, Inc. (presencelearning.com), initially for some of our students qualifying for SLP services at Lawrence Virtual School. This will allow for individual IEP requirements to be met, while ensuring quality services are provided by certified clinicians. This will also allow us to ensure brick and mortar required SLP services are covered by current district staffing.

Administration recommends board approval for the service contract between Lawrence Public Schools and PresenceLearning, Inc. at the rate of \$66 per hour, not to exceed \$80,000 for the school year. Funding will come from the Medicaid-contracted services account (2750SS0000-53230).

Motion:

"I move the Board of Education approve the contract between Lawrence Public Schools and PresenceLearning, Inc. for the 2016-2017 school year at the rate of \$66 per hour, not to exceed \$80,000 for the school year."