

To: Board of Education

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

Re: Agreement with PresenceLearning, Inc.

Date: July 20, 2017

Background:

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). Last school year, most students at Lawrence Virtual School (LVS) requiring speech and language services per their IEP received these services through certified clinicians from an online therapy service, PresenceLearning (PresenceLearning.com).

Rationale:

To continue providing online therapy services documented in students' IEPs, the district needs to contract for these 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, for some of our students qualifying for SLP services at Lawrence Virtual School. This will allow for individual IEP requirements to be met using an online model while ensuring quality services are provided by certified clinicians.

The administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the service contract between Lawrence Public Schools and PresenceLearning; not to exceed \$80,000 for the 2017-18 school year. Funding will come from the Medicaid-contracted services account (2750SS0000-53230).

Motion:

"I move that the Board of Education approve the contract between Lawrence Public Schools and PresenceLearning for the 2017-2018 school year; not to exceed \$80,000 for the school year."