

To: Board of Education

From: Kevin Harrell, executive director, student services
Laura Basham, director, early childhood
Lori Stithem, assistant director, special education

Re: Supplemental Health Care contracted services

Date: August 13, 2018

Background:

IDEA requires the district to provide speech and language, occupational therapy, and/or physical therapy services to students with disabilities as documented in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Our current district speech and language pathologist caseloads are maximized and not all required services are covered with current staff. Additionally, at unexpected times it may become necessary to contract with an outside agency to ensure certified providers are available to provide required services. District staff may take leave for family medical reasons, maternity reasons, or other employment; for example, resulting in no certified staff to provide targeted specially designed instruction for students with disabilities in the respective area(s).

Rationale:

In order to ensure a certified Speech and Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, and/or Physical Therapist provides required special education services documented in students' IEPs, the district needs to contract with an agency that can provide certified clinicians should the need arise. A minimum projection of need for the 2018-19 school year is one full time speech and language pathologist and coverage for two known maternity leaves. The provision of these services is required by state and federal regulations and will exceed \$20,000. Therefore, board approval is needed for these required services.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the district move forward with the renewal of a contract with Supplemental Health Care to ensure the district provides required special education services. This will allow for individual IEP requirements to be met 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 Supplemental Health Care for certified clinicians; not to exceed \$150,000 for the 2018-19 school year. Funding will come from Medicaid funding.

Motion:

"I move that the Board of Education approve the contract between Lawrence Public Schools and Supplemental Health Care for the 2018-2019 school year, including

extended school year (ESY) not to exceed \$150,000, to be paid from Medicaid funding.”