

Action on a Request to Approve Contract Revisions and Seat Allocations for Behavioral Reassignment Seats for the 2017-2018 School Year

Background

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) provides a continuum of services, including placements for students who have significant emotional, behavioral, and social needs. The Behavioral Reassignment (BR) schools were created to serve students who have been expelled with services from the district or who, through Central Office hearing process, have received placement in BR schools for specified periods of time.

The contract term for BR schools is one year and may be renewed for subsequent years, based on the outcome of the contract review, availability of funds, and the needs of MPS.

On June 30, 2016, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors approved one-year contracts for educational services with the following BR schools:

Banner Prep, located at 4610 W. State St. The 2016-17 contract specifies services for 115 full-time-equivalent (FTE) pupils in grades 9 through 12. The mission of Banner Prep is to provide an alternative small school setting for secondary level students when academic and/or behavioral issues have become major barriers in a student's success in school.

Southeastern Education Center, located at 4200 N. Holton St. The 2016-17 contract specifies services for 80 FTE pupils in grades 6 through 8. The mission of Southeastern is to provide students with a safe and secure environment within which they can strengthen their academic skills, develop effective work/school habits, and improve interpersonal relationships.

Lad Lake Synergy, located at 2820 W. Grant St. The 2016-17 contract specifies services for 110 FTE pupils in grades 6 through 12, 90 of the seats are for behavioral reassignment students and 20 of the seats are for students who are at-risk. The mission of Synergy is to guide growth, reach potential, and live responsibly.

St. Charles Education Center, located at 151 South 84th St. The 2016-17 contract specifies services for 80 FTE pupils in grades 1 through 12 for students with disabilities.

MPS continues to have a need to partner with community-based agencies to serve students that have been reassigned for a designated period of time due to violations of the MPS Code of Conduct.

In March 2017, a review team met to review the data for each of the BR schools which included a presentation by school representatives. The review team was provided the opportunity to discuss the findings, consider additional input from schools, and provide feedback.

Based on the review of data and the outcome of the review process, Administration recommends one-year contract renewals with Banner Prep, Southeastern Education Center, and Lad Lake Synergy for BR seats for the 2017-2018 school year.

The recommendation is for Banner Prep to serve 115 behavioral reassignment students and an additional 10 special education comprehensive behavioral students in grades 9 through 12 for a total of 125 seats. Southeastern to serve 85 behavioral reassignment students and an addition 10 special education comprehensive behavioral seats in grades 6 through 8 for a total of 95 seats. Lad Lake Synergy to serve 90 behavioral reassignment students and an addition 20 at-risk students in grades 6 through 12 for a total of 110 seats.

The proposed seat allocations are outlined in the attachment and included in the redline contracts. Three of the four agencies are contracted at similar levels as the 2016-17 school year taking into account the absence of one of the previous providers.

The redline contracts, as drafted by the Office of the City Attorney, are attached to this item. Changes have been made throughout the contracts to reflect current practices.

Fiscal Impact

This item authorizes expenditures up to \$1,140,090 in school operations funds and allocations to-be-determined from appropriate categorical aids for Banner Prep; authorizes expenditures up to \$866,468.40 in school operations funds and allocations to-be-determined from appropriate categorical aids for Southeastern Education Center; and authorizes expenditures up to \$1,003,279.20 in school operations funds and allocations to-be-determined from appropriate categorical aids for Lad Lake Synergy.

In total, the item authorizes \$3,009,837.60 in school operation funds to cover 330 seats at a per pupil rate of \$9,120.72.

The funds are designated in the 2017-18 budget (Agency Programs) as adopted by the Board on May 25, 2017.

Implementation and Assessment Plan

MPS will provide appropriate services (i.e. teacher, para-professional, psychologist, social worker) for students in the special education comprehensive behavioral unit.

Upon approval, the contracts will be effective starting with the 2017-2018 school year.

A copy of the contracts will be forwarded to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the attached contracts for behavioral reassignment seats with Banner Prep, Southeastern Education Center, and Lad Lake Synergy for the 2017-2018 school year.

