

Private Service Providers / Consultants

The District encourages the use of private service providers and professional consultants as resource individuals when such consultative services will be helpful in the improvement of the educational program of the District. The District, through the Superintendent as its designee, may enter into contracts with private service providers and/or consultants to provide necessary services to students.

Services provided by a private service provider/consultant (hereinafter referred to as “PSP”), and the frequency and duration of such services, shall be pursuant to the terms of the contract between the PSP and the District. Any contract the District enters into with the PSP shall provide the responsibility for eligibility determination, choice of educational methodology, and other determinations of educational services and programs which shall be retained at all times by the District.

Prior to being hired, the PSP shall undergo a background check the same as any new employee or volunteer of the District. The same requirements shall apply to the PSP.

The Superintendent or designee shall conduct periodic reviews of the services of the PSP. The Board may request that the Superintendent provide the Board with the review findings of the PSP.

Consultants shall exercise no authority over the work of District employees, but shall act only as advisors in those fields in which they are qualified to offer assistance and for which they are employed.

Compensation

PSP compensation shall be approved by the Board prior to invitation and arrangement for visitation by such person or persons to the District except when such compensation is within the amount specifically budgeted. If reimbursement is obtained through Medicaid, the PSP shall agree in the contract that those services will not exceed the approved Medicaid rate.

All consultants shall be hired based on a written contract which shall not exceed twelve (12) months.

Confidentiality

The PSP shall at all times maintain confidentiality pursuant to the Family Educational Records and Privacy Act (FERPA) of all records of services, including, but not limited to, identifying information regarding the student and services, observations, evaluations and/or assessments.

## Definition

Private service provider or consultant means a person, group, agency or organization that meets the following conditions:

- a. Is not an employee of the District or a public agency with legal jurisdiction over the circumstances related to the provider/consultant's involvement with the student; and
- b. Is paid for services provided to the student.

Examples of private service providers include: psychologist, counselor, targeted service provider, behavioral therapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, social worker, psychosocial rehabilitation specialist, etc.

Examples of consultants include: attorney, auditor, architect, agents of record and others with technical skills or professional training.

Any contractor or consultant that has not had a criminal background check and has unsupervised contact with students will be accompanied by a school district employ while he is present at the school.

Cross Reference: 4600                      Volunteer Assistance  
                          5720                      Volunteers / Contractors

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-512        Governance of schools  
    Family Education Records and Privacy Act

### Policy History:

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Revised on: