

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.

When knowledge or technical skills are needed that cannot be provided by current employees, the Superintendent will prepare a description of services needed along with an estimation of the time and cost likely to be incurred. The Board shall grant or deny approval for the Superintendent to engage consultant services, paid or unpaid, within the budgetary limits specified by the Board.

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 in the same manner 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 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 assessments.

## Definition

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

1. 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
2. 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, and psychosocial rehabilitation specialist.

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

Cross Reference: 4600 Volunteer Assistance  
4420 Sex Offenders  
5110 Criminal History/Background Checks  
5725 Private Service Providers  
Contractors

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-512 Governance of Schools  
20 U.S.C. § 1232g; *et seq.* Family Education Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA)  
34 CFR Part 99 Implementing FERPA

## Policy History:

Adopted on: February 22, 2017

Revised on: