

HAYS CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date: September 28, 2026

Agenda Item: K.5c

Board Goal: Student Achievement

Subject: Consideration and possible approval of expenditures for Special Education Contracted Services for the 2026-2027 School Year

Administrator Responsible/Position: Marivel Sedillo, Deputy Superintendent / Chief Academic Officer
Michelle Velasquez, Executive Officer of Special Education

A. Purpose of Agenda Item:

☒ Action needed ☐ Information only ☐ Receive input

B. Authority for This Action:

☒ Local Policy: CH – Purchasing and Acquisition ☐ Law or Rule ☐ N/A

C. Goal or Need Addressed: The purpose of this agenda item is to attain approval for contract special education services.

D. Summary:

☒ **Previous board action relating to this item:** Contract services for special education services have been approved during the 25/26 fiscal year.

☐ **Future action anticipated:** N/A

☒ **Background information:** Last year, expenditures for contracted special education services exceeded the amount originally budgeted and approved from a variety of vendors. The increase was necessary to ensure the district-maintained compliance with federal and state special education requirements and continued to provide services outlined in students' Individualized Education Programs.

Several factors contributed to the increased expenditure, including ongoing shortages of qualified speech-language pathologists, LSSPs/Educational Diagnosticians, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Orientation & Mobility challenges in recruiting and retaining district-employed staff, growth in student service needs, and the need to fill vacancies to prevent interruptions in required services.

The Special Education Department closely monitored service delivery, staffing throughout the year, and students being dismissed and qualifying for services.

The department reviews staffing models, service delivery options, and budget projections to better align future expenditures with anticipated needs while continuing to meet all legal and educational obligations.

At this time, we have six SLP vacancies, three ARD facilitators, three point four-five LSSP/Diagnosticians, two OT and one Orientation & Mobility vacancies that will contribute to an increase in contracted services for this school year, until we are able to fill our positions.

E. Comments Received:

☒ Cabinet ☐ DLT ☐ FBOC ☐ Teacher Org. Reps. ☐ Other:

F. Administrative Recommendation: Administration recommends approval of the additional special educational contract expenditures because the district is required to ensure delivery of services identified in the student's IEP.

Advantages and benefits of this proposal: Providing special education services meets federal and state education requirements. Without services, Hays CISD will be required to make up sessions through compensatory services.

Expected results in terms of student benefit/achievement: Instructional related services (speech, OT, O&M) help students develop the communication skills necessary to access instruction, participate in education activities, make progress toward IEP goal, and prepare for successful postsecondary outcomes. Effective special education services reduce barriers to learning and support improved academic, social, and functional performance. The evaluation services provided by LSSPs/Diagnosticians are critical to determine special education services to meet the needs of our students.

Effect of this action on other parts of the system: Special Education services are necessary to provide access to grade-level instruction, incorporate the use of grade-level TEKS, and support the development of written language skills.

Consequences of not approving this recommendation: Students in need of specialized services would not have access to services, thus not meeting the state and federal requirements for FAPE; resulting in additional costs to provide compensatory services.

G. Fiscal Impact and Cost: Approximately \$1,400,000 (if positions remain unfilled)

- Deloach SLP Services: \$47,000.00
- Procure Therapy: \$423,999.12 (*Approved for \$250,000 earlier this year. Overage: \$173,999.12*)
- Soliant Health: \$349,262.06 (*Approved for \$250,000 earlier this year. Overage \$99,262.06*)
- Sonrisas Therapies: \$136,492.50
- Sunbelt Staffing: \$65,709.68
- The Stepping Stones Group: \$163,822.80
- Tx-Star Speech: \$54,865.00
- Wildflower Therapy Services LLC: \$150,190.00

☒ **Budget**

☒ **Grant/Special Funds:** IDEA B

☐ **Other**

Prior Year Spending for this item/service: \$1,391,208.66

Bid / Contract Information: Various

Reasons for rejecting alternatives: Provision of services is required to meet federal and state education requirements.

Future/Ongoing: Continued use of vendor services to fill vacancies and adjust for growth and identified student need.

H. Monitoring and Reporting Time Line:

Person responsible for evaluating this decision or action: Marivel Sedillo, Michelle Velasquez

Evaluation method and timeline: Evaluation of services are monitored on an ongoing basis through monthly check-ins with Special Education leadership, professional evaluation, and walk-throughs

Next report to the Board: As requested

I. Suggested Motion:

I move that the Hays CISD Board of Trustees approve the expenditures for special education contracted services for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented and discussed.