

Memo

To: The Harlem Board of Education

From: Heidi Lange, Director of Student Support Services

Date: October 2, 2026

Re: Maria Ragonese Speech Language Pathologist

This memo is to recommend the contract of a Speech and Language Pathologist with Maria Ragonese for the 2026-2027 school year. It is necessary to contract this position in order to meet the requirements of IDEA and to provide services to students with IEPs. There is a need for this contracted service in order to maintain IDEA compliance as a result of a staffing shortage for FMLA leaves. There is an FMLA leave that will begin on October 15, 2026 and is projected to end March 24, 2026. Mrs. Ragonese will provide speech and language therapy for one day a week for up to 7 hours each week to assist with the FMLA coverage.

Costing

Approximate total of 140 hours x \$125 per hour

Total Cost: \$17,500 from the IDEA Flow Through Part B

