

Consider approval of Onward as SHARS Management Vendor

1. Background:

Southwest ISD is seeking to enhance its School Health and Related Services (SHARS) claiming processes to ensure accurate reporting, timely submissions, and increased reimbursement opportunities. The current system requires additional support to improve efficiency, compliance, and integration with district platforms. As such, it is necessary to select a vendor with proven success in SHARS management, especially one familiar with our district's infrastructure and practices.

2. Process:

The district reviewed multiple SHARS vendors and evaluated them based on pricing, knowledge of the Southwest ISD context, compatibility with eSPED, and feedback from surrounding districts. Onward emerged as the most suitable provider due to its competitive cost structure, comprehensive understanding of our district's operations, and positive recommendations from peer districts who reported improved SHARS claiming accuracy and support services.

3. Fiscal Impact:

The cost for Onward's SHARS management services is 4% of billed claims, with an annual agreement subject to renewal. The service will be funded using Medicaid reimbursement allocations or the general operating budget as appropriate.

4. Recommendation:

That the board approve Onward as the SHARS management vendor for Southwest ISD beginning with the 2025–2026 school year.

5. Required:

Board action.