

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND
MILLCREEK SCHOOLS, LLC.

This agreement is between Jackson County School District and Millcreek School of Magee for the period of August 6, 2025 through the end of Extended School Year, summer 2026.

I. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this agreement is to establish working procedures between *The Jackson County School District (District)* and *Millcreek Schools, LLC (Facility)* for the provision of services to children eligible for special education in compliance with Federal and Mississippi State Laws and Regulations.

It is the intent of this Agreement to:

1. Define which service(s) will be provided by each Agency.
2. Ensure that children eligible for special education services receive a free and appropriate public education, as required by law, in the least restrictive environment.
3. Ensure that each Agency cooperatively maintains communication and shares leadership responsibilities at the local level to ensure that available resources are utilized in the most effective manner.
4. Ensure that cooperative arrangements between District and the facility are developed, implemented and preserved.

This agreement applies to children ages six through twenty-one (6-21) who are eligible for special education services and to all other children enrolled in Millcreek School of Magee.

II. PROGRAM MANDATES

Responsibility of School District:

1. Provide services to children with disabilities on a mandatory basis following the Individual with Disabilities Act Amendments of July 1, 2004 (IDEA 04).
2. Provide children with disabilities ages six through twenty-one (6-21) a free appropriate public education (FAPE) including the development and implementation of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) procedural safeguards and the provision of related services, as deemed necessary.
3. Place children with disabilities in their least restrictive environment with an opportunity to interact with nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate.

4. Work with appropriate community agencies to provide services to children with disabilities ages six through twenty-one (6-21).

Responsibility of Millcreek School of Magee:

1. Enroll and provide educational services to those students meeting entrance/admission requirements.
2. Provide assessment and evaluation of all enrolled children, establishing base-line data and identifying potential problems in all suspected areas.
3. Maintain communication with the previous educational provider securing the information necessary to ensure a global picture of the child's strengths and weaknesses
4. Work together with the referring agency to ensure children who are identified to be at risk receive the appropriate professional support and diagnostic evaluation.
5. Develop and implement Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for children with disabilities coordinating closely with the parent/guardian and referring school district.
6. Work closely with other community agencies as appropriate for each individual disabled child in order to provide strong transition/discharge.

III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. The Jackson County School District is a public-school district that provides special education services to individuals with disabilities. The District will provide these services to students whose IEP Committee has determined Jackson County School District setting to be their Least Restrictive Environment.
2. Millcreek School of Magee is a private facility, recognized by the Mississippi Department of Education as an approved Educable Child placement facility. Students served at this facility are referred by public school districts, The Department of Child Protective Services (DCPS), and parents.

IV. SERVICE IMPLEMENTATION

1. CHILD FIND/SCREENING

Jackson County School District will:

- (a) Adhere to State/Federal Regulations in locating and identifying children with disabilities from birth to twenty-one (0-21) within their jurisdiction
- (b) Issue Child Find releases; and
- (c) Distribute Individual Child Find flyers.

Millcreek School of Magee will:

- (a) Comply with Mississippi Department of Education regulations in conducting Child Find activities;
- (b) Conduct agency needs assessments;

(c) Contact community agencies serving children with disabilities with referrals:

(d) Screen areas as noted:

1) Obtain signed Release of Information Form(s):

2) Obtain information from the previous education setting related to the functioning of the child;

3) Complete physical observation forms, as needed, by the District:

4) Complete hearing/vision:

5) Screen all areas of suspected problems through procedures set forth by the Mississippi Department of Education.

6) Complete a referral checklist with accompanying data collection as specified by the District; and

7) Participate in meetings with the District to determine the need for referral for possible evaluation for special education services.

2. REFERRAL FOR EVALUATION

Jackson County School District will:

(a) Ensure appropriate procedures and data collection requirements as mandated by the Mississippi Department of Education are followed.

Millcreek School of Magee will:

(a) Send Notice of Invitation to Committee meeting and Prior Written Notice (PWN) for Initial Evaluation and cover letter parent/guardian explaining cooperative agreement between the District and the Facility.

(b) Ensure a complete history of referral information/data has been collected on child being considered for referral for evaluation and assist in additional data collection, as deemed necessary, and

(c) Contact and obtain information regarding the child's functioning in the previous educational setting prior to the meeting to consider referral for evaluation:

(d) Inform facility staff that District has access to files referred for evaluation with parental and guardian approval; and

(e) Collect data as requested by the District and send a copy of this data to the District, including screening instruments/ documentation of suspected problem areas, physical observation and hearing/vision form and/or other screening information as requested and collected.

3. COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Jackson County School District will:

- (a) Establish and coordinate evaluation timelines; and
- (b) Participate in meetings to determine data collection needs and determination of eligibility for children referred from the facility as deemed necessary by the District.

Millcreek of Magee will:

- (a) Collect the data for Step B/curriculum-based assessment of functioning based on general education curriculums.
- (b) Complete the data for Step C/administration of standardized assessment as warranted for the disability category:

4. INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Millcreek of Magee will:

- (a) Coordinate IEP paperwork and meetings;
- (b) Send the Notice of Invitation for the Committee Meeting and Prior Written Notice (PWN) for Initial Placement;
- (c) Write IEP goals and objectives in cooperation with District personnel
- (d) Determine with District personnel the time and place of IEP meeting;
- (e) Assure participation of appropriate Facility/School District staff as part of the IEP Committee; and
- (f) Obtain parental permission to place the child in special education services and coordinate the implementation of the IEP
- (g) Supply information needed regarding District services for IEP goals and objectives; and
- (h) Facilitate the active involvement of District personnel by ensuring strong communication and s working together during this process.

5. PLACEMENT

District will:

- (a) Consider for services at school sites within the District all children who reside within the jurisdiction of District if the child's Least Restrictive Environment as determined by the IEP Committee is Jackson County Public Schools.
- (b) Coordinate efforts to place a child with disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment considering every opportunity to interact with non-disabled peers as appropriate;

Facility will:

- (a) Provide services for children with disabilities whose IEP Committee has determined the least restrictive environment to be Millcreek School of Magee.

(b) Provide services for parent placed children as deemed appropriate by the IEP Committee. Jackson County School District may or may not be involved in the placement. Whether Jackson County School District is involved in the placement or is not involved, Millcreek of Magee will inform Jackson County School District of the parent placement...

6. SPECIFIC PROGRAM SERVICE DELIVERY

Jackson County School District will:

(a) Ensure appropriate personnel are located at school sites to provide special education and related services to those children who will be receiving services at this placement including speech and language services; and

Millcreek of Magee will:

(a) Coordinate communication between districts and Millcreek of Magee personnel to ensure services as outlined in the IEP are provided.

(b) Provide transportation and/or other arrangements to ensure the child is present at school for the provision of IEP services;

(c) Cooperate in communication efforts with the district and Millcreek of Magee personnel to ensure services as outlined in the IEP are provided

(d) For those children enrolled at Millcreek of Magee by Jackson County Public School District, the daily rate will be \$179.32 or the State rate, whichever is higher, for the 2025-2026 school year. If transportation is to be provided by Millcreek of Magee it will be calculated per student at \$83.00 per day. If the IEP Committee determines a 1:1 is required, an additional \$100.00 a day will be added. Millcreek is required to provide services for all our residents. Educational services are part of this component. All residential students are required to follow Millcreek's school year and ESY calendars. Billing will reflect these dates.

7. PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW/MONITORING CHILD'S PROGRESS

The Jackson County School District will:

(a) Coordinate procedures for implementation of IEP requirements as set forth in regulations of the Mississippi Department of Education.

(b) Coordinate IEP review meetings; and

(c) Ensure needed reevaluation for special education services.

Millcreek School of Magee will:

(a) Ensure Facility Personnel will complete reports of progress related to IEP requirements as set forth in regulations of the Mississippi Department of Education;

(b) Participate in IEP reviews meetings; and

(c) Participate and collect data as needed for reevaluation for special education services;

(d) Coordinate needed reevaluation for special education services.

V. CONFIDENTIALITY

The District and Facility shall follow the requirements outlined in the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 2004 (IDEA 04).

VI. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Jackson County School District and Millcreek School of Magee will:

- (a) Develop a system of staff needs assessment in the area of training;
- (b) Coordinate training calendars; and
 - (b) Train staff regarding regulations and philosophy of provision of special education services

VII. COUNTING AND REPORTING

The Jackson County School District will:

- (a) Coordinate a system so that timelines and persons responsible for reporting are clear.

Millcreek of Magee will:

- (a) Monitor staff regarding implementation of specific procedures and regulations as set forth by the Mississippi Department of Education.

VIII. TRANSITION

The Jackson County School District will:

- (a) Develop a process for sharing information and data collected between Agencies;
- (b) Coordinate in district services for those students who will be receiving additional services at school sites based on IEP Committee decisions; and
- (c) Notify district personnel of changes in IEP services based on IEP Committee decisions.

Millcreek of Magee will:

- (a) Begin discharge and transition planning back to the District at the time of admission and be coordinated throughout the child's stay at the Facility with the District.
- (b) Release aftercare information in a timely manner to facilitate a smooth transition for the child from the Facility setting to the District setting on a full-time basis;
- (c) Notify the District in a timely manner of any events that have occurred in the Facility that would impact services provided in the District setting; and
- (d) Maintain open lines of communication to ensure a smooth transition for the child from the Facility setting to the District setting.

David Baggett, Superintendent
Jackson County School District

Date

Gwendolyn Stallworth, Director of Special Services
Jackson County School District

Date

WD Heath, Administrator/CEO

Date

John Buchanan, Director of Education
Millcreek Schools, LLC

Date

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 4, 2025

To: Jackson County School District

From: Millcreek School of Magee
John Buchanan, Director

Re: Collaborative Agreement for 2025-2026

The Mississippi Department of Education has strongly recommended that a collaborative agreement be put into place between private facilities and public schools in order to delineate services, responsibilities, and costs related to placement of students in the programs of the private facility.

Please review the following collaborative agreement and call John Buchanan (ext. 4156) at Millcreek School of Magee, 601-849-2304, if you have any questions or request for changes.

When the collaborative agreement is satisfactory for your district, please print one copy, obtain district personnel signatures, and return the copy with original signatures to us at Millcreek of Magee 900 1st Ave. Magee, MS 39111. After our school and facility signatures are added, we will return a copy to you.

Thank you for working with us to ensure that students from your district receive the services that will meet their individual needs.