

28E Sharing Agreement with Garner-Hayfield-Ventura for the North Iowa Therapeutic Instructional Consortium with Four Oaks (A Special Needs Program in Ventura)

Background:

We currently partner with Garner-Hayfield-Ventura (GHV) School for a self-contained, therapeutic special education program in the old Ventura elementary building. It serves primarily severe mental health disabilities. This includes severe behaviors. Our other option for our most severe special education students is Pinecrest near NIACC east of Mason City. It is advantageous for us to have a program closer to Belmond such as in Ventura.

Review of Research:

A "Therapeutic" school is one where mental health therapy is a central component to the instructional program.

Cost/benefit Analysis:

The cost for the GHV School is pricey. We would need to purchase each seat in advance for \$30,000 per seat. We will likely need two seats.

However, recent bills for sending students to Pinecrest have run as high as \$14,000 *per quarter*.

*The full **contract** is available for viewing under the **EXTRAS** tab of BoardBoard. It has been omitted from the main board materials due to its length and volume.*

Recommended Action:

I recommend the board move to renew the 28E sharing partnership with the Garner-Hayfield-Ventura School for its self-contained, therapeutic special education program, and purchase two seats in its program.