



DeSoto Independent School District

Memorandum

To: Stephanie McCloud, Chief Academic Officer
From: Stephanie Fuller, Executive Director of Special Populations
Date: May 20, 2025
Re: Request for Contracted Services

This budget justification outlines the necessity of contracted special education services for the 2025–2026 academic year in response to ongoing staffing shortages and the steady increase in the district's special education population, which now totals 764 students.

Notably, within this school year alone, the Special Education has conducted 497 evaluations (initials and re-evaluations), demonstrating a substantial demand for ongoing and timely assessment services. Additionally, 196 students have already been referred across campuses for evaluation in 2024–2025, further underscoring the escalating need for qualified evaluators.

Campus	Total Number of Students Referred 2024-2025
Arthur Terrace	41
Civil Field	26
B I B	18
Constitution Hill	30
DeSoto High School	10
Franklin Meadows	10
Katherine Johnson	21
McCowan	9
Miss Young	4
Old Meadows	7
West	1
Woodridge	19
Total	196

	Initials and Re-Evaluations
Total Evaluations	497

The mission of DeSoto ISD is to ensure students, without exception, learn and grow at their highest levels.



DeSoto Independent School District

With over 60% of our special education population requiring speech services and a statewide shortage of service providers, the district must continue to rely on contracted personnel to meet IDEA timelines and maintain FAPE. Contracted providers have proven necessary but can be unreliable, with frequent mid-year departures leading to service gaps and procedural delays. This funding request ensures uninterrupted access to critical services and evaluations, consistent support for students, and compliance with state and federal mandates despite fluctuating staffing levels. Moreover, the continued growth of the special education population requires proactive budget planning to sustain legally required services without disruption.

Furthermore, the allocation of funds for a diagnostician position, separate from other evaluator roles, was critical in addressing complex cases, supporting professional development for five newly hired diagnosticians, and ensuring proper transition planning for 12th grade students in accordance with federal requirements. This position also functions as a safeguard when staff go on leave or resign, preventing gaps in legally required evaluations. It is also worth noting that parents increasingly request experienced evaluators for high-stakes eligibility decisions—further reinforcing the importance of seasoned diagnosticians on staff.

Therefore, a proposed allocation of \$1,500,000 is requested to support contracted services necessary to fulfill legal obligations and maintain uninterrupted, high-quality special education support.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if further details or discussion are needed.

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2025-2026 SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACTED SERVICES BUDGET PROPOSAL



Special Education Vacancies		2024-2025 Expenditures to Meet Student Needs	2025-2026 Proposed Budget for Contract Services
VI and OM Evaluator	\$	35,241.84	\$ 50,000.00
School Psychologist/LSSP	\$	108,180.05	\$ 150,000.00
Speech Language Pathology Therapist & Speech Language Pathology Assistant	\$	802,515.66	\$ 850,000.00
Physical Therapist & Physical Therapy Assistant	\$	127,298.50	\$ 150,000.00
Occupational Therapist	\$	24,550.92	\$ 50,000.00
Music Therapist	\$	54,855.00	\$ 50,000.00
Funding Code: 199-11-6299-00-881-23-0-81	\$	1,152,641.97	\$ 1,300,000.00
Special Education Vacancies		2024-2025 Expenditures to Meet Student Needs	2025-2026 Proposed Budget for Contract Services
Educational Diagnostician	\$	158,051.26	\$ 200,000.00
Funding Code: 224-21-6299-82-881-23-0-81	\$	158,051.26	\$ \$200,000.00



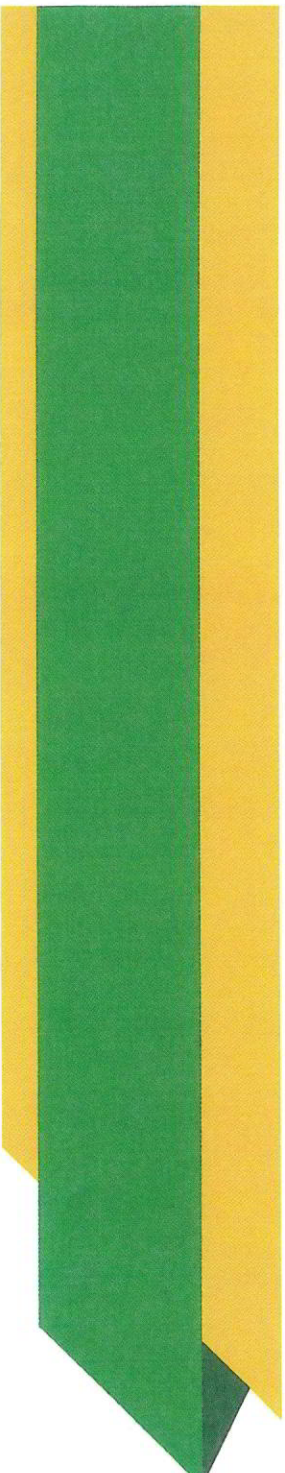
Special Education

Stephanie Fuller, Executive Director of Special Populations

**2025-26 School Year
(RFP 23-006)**

Approved Contract Service Vendors

ABC Educational
Amoxie Educational
Coloring Life My Way
Ed Theory
Il Inizio Consulting
Paramount Education & Evaluation
Kiner Speech Services
National Recruiting Consultants
Sunbelt Staffing
Supplemental Healthcare
Teaching & Learning Connection



Recommendation:

**Administration recommends the approval of the
Special Education Contract Services
Renewal for the 2025-2026 School Year**

