

Pleasantdale School District 107

Administrative Office • 7450 S. Wolf Road • Burr Ridge, IL 60527
(708) 784-2013 • Fax: (708) 246-0161 • www.d107.org

For more than 20 years, Pleasantdale School District has been a member of the LaGrange Area Department of Special Education (LADSE). The vision statement for LADSE reads: *LADSE is a special education cooperative that collaborates with its member districts to provide high-quality, evidence-based programs and services that result in positive outcomes for students.* As a small district, we are able to experience an economy of scale through our LADSE partnership. Additionally, we have found that we receive good services through LADSE. As a district, we have been satisfied with the services provided and believe that we are getting a good value through this cooperative partnership.

When we dissect the cost of LADSE services compared to the cost to offer these programs independently, we find that LADSE is our better value. Services provided by LADSE fall into two categories: consolidated services and purchased services. Consolidated services are those services provided by LADSE for which the cost is divided among member districts and based on a student enrollment formula. The first four items in the table below, under consolidated services, are specific to LADSE; all others are services available to District 107 without a per usage cost. Purchased services are specific to our needs in any given year, and the district is billed based on the services used. The table below illustrates examples of these services by category.

Consolidated Services	Purchased Services
Administration	Early Childhood Classroom Support
Early Childhood Education Administration	Occupational/Physical Therapists
Technology	Speech & Language Pathologist
Professional Development	WRAP Services
Power IEP (Software)	Tuition
FACTS (and other State Reporting)	Transportation Coordination

As mentioned above, the true value of our LADSE partnership is the economy of scale. LADSE allows district 107 access to the programs and services we need for our students. LADSE allows this access in a cost effective manner. As a small district, we simply do not have the ability to replicate the programs and services we need. LADSE provides us with high quality related services, coordination of specialized transportation, targeted professional development, and cost-effective programming for students with low incidence disabilities.

Mission

Ensure that each student is a passionate learner empowered with the Academic and social skills to responsibly choose and excel in life pursuits.

Pleasantdale School District 107

Administrative Office • 7450 S. Wolf Road • Burr Ridge, IL 60527
(708) 784-2013 • Fax: (708) 246-0161 • www.d107.org

To put this in context, we can look at the profile of a student who receives special education services. This fictitious child is five-years old, eligible for services under autism, and requires intensive instructional and therapeutic supports. Additionally, this child's needs are best met in a highly structured, small group classroom with a focus on developing communication, social skills, and positive behavior. Finally, the educational team would like to complete an assistive technology evaluation to identify opportunities for more independence through the use of assistive technology in the area of communication due to a significant speech delay. It will take someone with specialized training in assistive technology 10-20 hours to observe, develop a plan, provide training to staff, and support the implementation of technology. For our small district to provide a program for this child, that meets his/her needs, we would need to hire a teacher, purchase equipment and instructional resources, provide a classroom space, and increase our related service providers to meet intensive speech & language and assistive technology needs. All of these services would come at a cost significantly higher than we would experience through our LADSE partnership.

Additional value of our LADSE Partnership includes professional development provided to our staff. Through our partnership, we are able to support staff through high quality PD, specifically tailored to meet our needs. The PD we receive from LADSE improves the quality of support and services we are able to give students who receive their services within District 107. Finally, there are many services that are difficult to assign a dollar value to. These services including but not limited to:

- Grant Management
- Cost calculations for pupil claims & tuition billing
- Student & Personnel verifications and claiming
- Staffing: recruitment, hiring, sharing resources
- Contracting with vendors (transportation)

As LaGrange School District 102 prepares to withdraw from the LADSE co-operative, we have evaluated the services we receive from LADSE and recommend that we continue our partnership with LADSE. Based on thorough analysis of services and current market costs, LADSE remains the best value for Pleasantdale School District 107. A full costing of services can be found on the attached page.

Mission

Ensure that each student is a passionate learner empowered with the Academic and social skills to responsibly choose and excel in life pursuits.