

Action Item - 2

Title: Authorization of IDEA, Part B Sub-award Agreements with Various Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools – Special Education Services (\$27,000,000) [IU]

Board of Education Meeting Date: 5/29/2025

Action Under Consideration:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education, acting in its capacity as Board of Directors of Philadelphia Intermediate Unit No. 26 (IU 26), authorize IU 26, through the Executive Director or his designee, to execute and perform contracts, subject to funding, as follows:

With:

Ad Prima Charter School, Alliance for Progress Charter School, Antonia Pantoja Charter School, ASPIRA Bilingual Cyber Charter School, Belmont Charter School, Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School, Christopher Columbus Charter School, Community Academy of Philadelphia Charter School, Deep Roots Charter School, T Esperanza Academy Charter School, Esperanza Cyber Academy Charter School, Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School, First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School, Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School, Franklin Towne Charter Elementary School, Franklin Towne Charter High School, Frederick Douglass Mastery Charter School, Freire Charter School, Global Leadership Academy Charter School, Global Leadership Academy Charter School Southwest at Huey, Green Woods Charter School, Harambee Institute of Science and Technology Charter School, Hardy Williams Academy Charter School, Imhotep Institute Charter High School, Impact Charter School West, Independence Charter School, Inquiry Charter School, John Wister Mastery Charter School, Keystone Academy Charter School, KIPP DuBois Charter School, KIPP North Philadelphia Charter School, KIPP Philadelphia Charter School, KIPP Philadelphia Octavius Catto Charter School, KIPP West Philadelphia Charter School, Laboratory Charter School of Communication and Languages, Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney, Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School, Maritime Academy Charter School, MaST Community Charter School III, Mastery Charter High School, Mastery Charter School - Pickett Campus, Mastery Charter School - Shoemaker Campus, Mastery Charter School Cleveland Elementary, Mastery Charter School Clymer Elementary, Mastery Charter School Harrity Elementary, Mastery Charter School Mann Elementary, Mastery Charter School Pastorius - Richardson Elementary, Mastery Charter School Simon Gratz Campus, Mastery Charter School Smedley Elementary, Mastery Charter School Thomas Campus, Mastery Prep Elementary Charter School, Math, Science, and Technology Community Charter School, Mathematics, Science and Technology Community Charter School II, Memphis Street Academy Charter School at J.P. Jones, Multicultural Academy Charter School, New Foundations Charter School, Northwood Academy Charter School, Pan American Charter School, People for People Charter School, Philadelphia Academy Charter School,

Philadelphia Electrical and Technology Charter High School, Philadelphia Hebrew Public Charter School, Philadelphia Montessori Charter School, Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School, Preparatory Charter School of Mathematics, Science, Technology and Careers, Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School, Russell Byers Charter School, Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School, Southwest Leadership Academy Charter School, Tacony Academy Charter School, TECH Freire Charter School, The Jacquelyn Y. Kelley Discovery Charter School, The Philadelphia Charter School for the Arts and Sciences at H. R. Edmunds, Universal Alcorn Charter School, Universal Audenried Promise Neighborhood Partnership Charter School, Universal Creighton Charter School, Universal Institute Charter School, Universal Vare Promise Neighborhood Partnership Charter School, West Oak Lane Charter School, West Philadelphia Achievement Charter School, Wissahickon Charter School, Young Scholars Charter School, YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School, and other eligible Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools authorized by the Board of Education.

Purpose:

Distribution of IDEA Part B funds to Philadelphia charter schools and cyber charter schools with administrative offices in Philadelphia for students with disabilities attending those charter schools

Start date: 7/1/2025

End Date: 6/30/2026

Compensation not to exceed:

\$27,000,000

Separate Compensation by Contractor:

All charter schools will be paid out of the aggregate amount not to exceed \$27,000,000 based on the number of students with disabilities enrolled in each charter school pursuant to the terms of the IDEA Part B grant

Location:

Philadelphia charter schools and cyber charter schools with administrative offices in Philadelphia approved for IDEA Fund Allocation by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)

Renewal Option:

Number of renewal options: 5; Duration of each option: 1 year

Maximum Compensation authorized per option period:

\$27,000,000 per option period

Description:

Why is this contract needed?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B is a federal program which provides grant funds on a formula basis to states and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to support the education of children with disabilities. The amount of IDEA, Part B funds that an LEA receives is calculated according to a rate based on the number of special education students the LEA reported as having compliant IEPs on December 1st of the previous year. After PDE approves and finalizes the IDEA Part B allocation amounts for each LEA, the funds are given to the 29 Pennsylvania Intermediate Units (IUs) for distribution to the LEAs located within their jurisdictions. Charter schools are considered LEAs, and IUs must distribute or "pass-through" these allocated Part B funds to all eligible charter schools that have students with disabilities located within their boundaries. This action item is to request authorization for IU 26 to pass through the PDE approved IDEA, Part B funds allocated to each eligible charter school within the IU 26 jurisdiction, and enter into sub-award agreements with these charter schools so that these funds are used to supplement the education of students with disabilities in compliance with IDEA.

How will the success of this contract be measured?

The IU-26 monitors individual charter school spending and use of state awarded IDEA funds through entering into individual charter school sub-award agreements, and by reviewing and approving budgets and narratives submitted by charter schools regarding the allowable and compliant use of allocated IDEA-B funds. Periodic audits of Charter school educational programs are conducted by the IU to ensure that IDEA funds are used as planned and approved.

How is this work connected to the District's plan to achieve Goals & Guardrails?

The passthrough of state allocated IDEA funds to Philadelphia charter schools by the IU shall help ensure that all attending students with disabilities receive special education services and the funding and supports they need to meet the goals and objectives of their IEPs. The program shall support student academic and post-graduation career success, and their proficient performance on annual state academic and vocational assessments.

Which Goal and/or Guardrail does this Action Item support?

Has this investment been discussed during a progress monitoring session?

Which session?

This Action Item aligns with Board Goals 1-4c and Guardrail 4, which target student growth in ELA, Mathematics, high school Literature, Algebra, and Biology. Additionally, it aligns to Strategic Action. 3.8 Audit and improve compliance with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and expand supports for English Learners.

Does this Action Item support a specific strategy/intervention identified in the Strategic Plan?

The passthrough and monitoring of IDEA funds to eligible Charter Schools support Strategic Action 3.8, the District's commitment to improving academic outcomes and closing achievement gaps for students with diverse needs through comprehensive instructional supports.

Related resolution(s)/action item(s)

N/A

Funding Source(s)

FY26 IDEA-B

FY27 IDEA-B

FY28 IDEA-B

FY29 IDEA-B

FY30 IDEA-B

FY31 IDEA-B

Office Originating Request:

Special Education and Diverse Learners