

## **Action Item - 8**

**Board of Education Meeting Date:** 4/24/2025

**Title:** Authorization of Education Payments to Other Educational Entities (\$18,850,000)

### **Action Under Consideration:**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize the execution and performance of a contract by The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, subject to funding, as follows:

**Purpose:** Payment of services for an estimated 1,615 students placed in other educational entities

**Start Date:** 07/01/2025

**End Date:** 06/30/2026

**Compensation not to exceed:** \$18,850,000 in total across the five categories below.

#### ***(i) For Regular Educational Placements***

**To:** Any intermediate unit, school district, or educational entity providing regular education programs for students who are Philadelphia residents and who submit proper invoices for and documentation of the subject services.

**Purpose:** Payment of services for an estimated 200 regular education students.

**Payment Amount:** Aggregate amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

**Locations:** Non-School District of Philadelphia facilities, both in-state and out-of-state.

**Note:** An estimated 200 Philadelphia students in residential institutions, partial hospitalizations, foster homes, and incarceration facilities are expected to receive regular educational programs in school districts, intermediate units, and other educational institutions that are non-School District of Philadelphia facilities. Payments for previous years were made to various intermediate units and school districts, and hospital and behavioral health treatment centers across Pennsylvania, including those in Bucks, Chester, Derry Area, Greater Latrobe, Montgomery, and other counties. These payments also cover multiple school districts, such as those in Allegheny, Upper Darby, and Northampton counties.

#### ***(ii) For Special Educational Placements, In-State***

**To:** Any intermediate unit, school district, or other educational entity that provides special education programs to students who are residents of Philadelphia and who submit proper invoices and documentation for the services provided.

**Purpose:** Payment of services for an estimated 450 special education students.

**Payment Amount:** Aggregate amount not to exceed \$11,300,000.

**Locations:** Non-School District of Philadelphia facilities in Pennsylvania.

**Note:** An estimated 450 Philadelphia students in residential institutions, partial hospitalizations, foster homes, and incarceration facilities are expected to receive their special education programs in school districts, intermediate units, and other educational institutions that are non-School District of Philadelphia facilities.

Payments for previous years were made to Intermediate Units (Bucks County, Chester County, Colonial, Northampton, Delaware County) and school districts (Allegheny Clarion Valley, Bethlehem Area, Bensalem Township, Central Bucks, Colonial, Conrad Weiser, Derry Area, Governor Mifflin, Grove City Area, Greater Latrobe, Hatboro Horsham, Jim Thorpe, Lancaster, Marple Newtown, Montour, Neshaminy, Norristown Area, Northampton Area, Pittsburgh, Radnor, Rose Tree Media, Salisbury Township, Springfield Township, Twin Valley, Upper Darby, Waynesboro Area, Western Wayne, West Chester Area, Wilson, Wilson Area, Wissahickon).

***(iii) For Special Educational Placements, Out-of-State***

**To:** Any out-of-state educational entity that provides a special education program to students who are residents of Philadelphia and who submit proper invoices and documentation for the services provided.

**Purpose:** Payment of services for an estimated 50 special education students.

**Payment Amount:** Aggregate amount not to exceed \$2,350,000.

**Locations:** Non-School District of Philadelphia facilities outside of Pennsylvania.

**Note:** An estimated 50 Philadelphia students in residential institutions, partial hospitalizations, foster homes, and incarceration facilities are expected to receive their special education programs in out-of-state facilities that are non-School District of Philadelphia facilities.

***(iv) For Hospital/Treatment Facilities, Regular Education/Special Education***

**To:** Any hospital or treatment facility that provides treatment for students who are residents of Philadelphia and who submit proper invoices and documentation for the services provided.

**Purpose:** Payment for services for an estimated 900 Philadelphia students in hospital/treatment facilities for regular and special education programs.

**Payment Amount:** Aggregate amount not to exceed \$3,600,000.

**Locations:** Non-School District of Philadelphia facilities in Pennsylvania, both in-state and out-of-state.

**Note:** An estimated 900 Philadelphia students in hospital treatment facilities and institutions that are non-School District of Philadelphia facilities, located both in-state and out-of-state.

***(v) For Best Interest Determinations***

**To:** Any district or other educational entity that provides a program to students are residents of Philadelphia and who submit proper invoices and documentation for the services provided.

**Purpose:** Payment of services for an estimated 15 regular education students.

**Payment Amount:** Aggregate amount not to exceed \$100,000.

**Locations:** Non-School District of Philadelphia facilities outside of Philadelphia.

**Note:** An estimated 15 Philadelphia students in other districts are expected to receive their educational programs in those districts per a Best Interest Determination.

**Description:**

**Why is this contract needed?**

This action item authorizes the District to make payments pursuant to the Pennsylvania Public School Code (24 PS §§13-1302, 13-1306, 13-1306.2, and 13-1308), under which the District is responsible for funding educational programs for students placed each year by the Philadelphia Departments of Human Services (DHS), Community Behavioral Health (CBH), the Juvenile Justice System, or other agencies, or who are hospitalized, but who remain legal residents of Philadelphia, in five categories: (i) regular education placements, (ii) special education placements in Pennsylvania, (iii) special education placements outside of Pennsylvania, (iv) hospital and treatment facilities, and (v) payments for students educated in other Pennsylvania school districts due to a Best Interest Determination, for an estimated 1,615 students. The District is required by state law to make these payments to these entities

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

The District is required by state law to make payments to these entities.

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

It aligns with Goal 4 and Guardrail 1: "For students with intensive needs, educational programs that can "bridge" the gap between a long-term placement and a traditional learning environment can focus on providing these supports in order to fully prepare the learner to return to a traditional school setting."

**Funding Source(s):**

FY2025-2026 Operating Funds

**Office Originating Request:**

Finance