

CHRONOLOGY OF THE AGENDA ITEM

RFP 24-187 (Speech-Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy)

- Start-Up – item is in its first stage of operation; establishing a new function or operation

Vacancies of therapists have increased nationally over the last few years. No single company has been able to provide enough speech-language pathologists (SLPs), occupational therapists (OTs), and physical therapists (PTs) to cover DeKalb’s needs. DeKalb County School District (DCSD) has been unable to fill all vacancies when employees resign or retire. Currently, there are 46 full-time SLPs and one (2) retired, part-time SLPs who are district employees in addition to the positions currently filled by contracted employees. The cost incurred by these vendors, due to the hourly rate and number of speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists needed, exceeded \$100,000 for the 2023-24 school year. The current 2024-25 cost is approximately \$3,043,549.00 , this amount does not include invoice amounts yet to be paid.

Currently, there are no full-time speech language pathologists; 4 occupational therapists and 1 physical therapist who supports students with 504 plans. The cost incurred by these vendors, due to the hourly rate and number of occupational therapists and physical therapists needed, exceeded \$100,000 for the 2023-24 school year. Year-to-date 2023-24 cost is approximately \$47,992.40. This amount includes invoice amounts yet to be paid.

It is anticipated that the number of contracted therapists for the 2024-25 school year will increase from the previous school year. The number of contracted therapists required may be higher if the District is unable to hire employees as replacements for those who resign or retire from the District.

The chart below provides a historical perspective of the number of contracted staff from each agency required to meet student needs.

History of Contracted Services for Speech, Occupational, and Physical Therapy

AGENCY	2024 – 2025 (to date)	2023 – 2024	2022 - 2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
Advokids	0	5	4	4	3
Atlanta Ped. Therapy/Applied Pediatrics	6	5	7	6	2
Cobb Pediatric	N/A	21	27	22	24

Community Rehab Assoc.	4	2	2	2	0
Comprehensive Therapy	5	2	0	1	1
*EBS/ Stepping Stones Group	23	N/A	N/A	14	22
EDU Healthcare (Providastaff)	N/A	1	2	1	2
Orange Tree	1	2	1	1	2
PDS/Therapy Spot	4	5	5	1	3
Progressus Invohealthcare	4	2	2	5	8
Soliant/TIF Solutions	16	7	4	3	2
SHC	11	NA	NA	NA	NA
SenseAbilities	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
CBR/ Total Communication	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
American Medical	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
AMN Allied	5	NA	NA	NA	NA
ProCare	3	NA	NA	NA	NA
GHR	2	NA	NA	NA	NA
Totals:	87	52	54	60	69
Financial Impact:	\$3,043,549.00	\$2,196,414.40	\$446,899.21	\$4,550,271.79	\$4,881,143.84