

DeKalb County School District

Chronology of the Agenda Item RFP 25-606

School Psychological Services Support

School psychologist shortages are a nationwide problem contributing to vacancies, recruitment challenges, turnovers, heavy student caseloads, and professional burnout in the school setting. At the same time, student mental health needs have increased along with requests for psychological evaluations based upon Child Find regulations. The Office of Psychological Services has received support from qualified service providers certified in Georgia to deliver supplemental school psychological services. There are currently 61 DeKalb County School District (DCSD) school psychologists. There is a high need to support students through student-based meetings such as MTSS Tier 3, Section 504, and Special Education Eligibility meetings along with providing comprehensive psychological evaluations. Additional staff are needed to support schools when DCSD school psychologists are absent due to family and medical leave along with reducing the delays of comprehensive psychological evaluations. No single company has been able to provide a sufficient number of school psychologists to cover student needs.

Eight companies approved last school year by the Board have provided a variety of services based upon their respective delivery models. The services include psychological evaluation assistance, attending student-based meetings, and covering schools in the absence of a school psychologist. The companies are Stellar Therapy Services, The Stepping Stones Group, LLC, Quantum Education Professionals, Presence Learning, Inc., Horizons Psychological Assessment Center, Comprehensive Psycho-Educational Assessment Agency, Psyched About School Behavior & Educational Consulting, LLC, and SHC Services, Inc.

During the 2024-2025 school year, the Office of Psychological Services spent a total of \$195,000.00 on contracted psychological services support.

To date, the Office of Psychological Services incurred a total spend of \$54,258.75 on contracted psychological services. As the District continues Saturday testing sessions throughout the months of March, April and May, the current projected spend through the end of the 25-26 SY is \$158,162.75. We will initiate summer testing as well to address any outstanding evaluations. We are requesting a spend amount not to exceed \$250,000.00.