

Report of the Superintendent to the School Board

ACTION ITEM

Subject: Freeman Telemedicine Program Renewal

A. Pertinent Facts:

Freeman's goal is to keep the children and staff of Joplin Schools healthy and, in the classroom, reducing the number of school days missed due to illness/injury. By offering convenient/prompt access to a local Freeman medical provider via TELEMEDICINE from our school sites, prompt diagnosing and treatment can be received. Freeman installed equipment for a total of (16) sites that were all operational by January 1, 2023. This agreement renews the agreement that was initially brought to the Board of Education on October 26, 2021.

B. Alignment:

- **Strategic Goal 2.4.3** The District budget will reflect priority of meeting classroom instructional needs.
- **Strategic Goal 3.3.2** The District will grow community partnerships with local businesses and organizations to support student and staff engagement and success.

C. Data:

Key Benefits of Freeman Telemedicine Program

- Increased student attendance and reduction of staff absences, which also reduces hours needed for substitute teachers.
- Students and staff receive needed care right where they are, meaning students and staff can be treated without leaving school, and parents will not have to leave work for their child to be treated.
- Parents have the ability to connect and participate in their child's visit via their personal cell phone or tablet, just as if they are in the room, asking any questions, communicating with the provider, their child, and the school nurse.
- The programs allows for fast/convenient access to a local Freeman healthcare provider who works and lives in our community, and it is easy to reconnect for follow-up questions and test results.
- Medical-grade equipment allows parents and the provider to examine a student's ears, nose, and throat, and listen to their heart, lung, and bowel sounds remotely for thorough assessment.
- At the conclusion of the visit, medications are called in to the pharmacy of choice. If further testing is needed, it can be sent directly to a Freeman location or to the location of choice. (Cost of medications or further testing is not included in the TELEMEDICINE visit fee.)
- Affordable payment options include billing insurance, billing Medicaid, or a flat fee of \$35.

D. Fiscal Note:

Freeman shall purchase, at its expense, all equipment needed to perform the services. There is potential benefit to increasing our student ADA for state funding and accreditation due to less absences.

E. Recommendation:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the Freeman Telemedicine Program and renew the agreement as presented.

Prepared by: Justin Crawford, Director of Human Resources

Reviewed by: Dr. Kerry Sachetta, Superintendent *KS*

Meeting Date: April 30, 2024