

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
DECISION ON DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
CONTRACTS FOR RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS

October 24, 2016

Background Information:

Federal and state law and regulation set forth a framework of rights for students with disabilities (SWD) and infants and toddlers (IFT). Included with these rights is the requirement that school systems provide various types of related services for SWD and the IFT program to support the educational needs as set forth in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). These related services include, but are not limited to, physical, occupational and speech/language therapy. Failure to provide these related services would violate applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

At the national, state, and local levels, a shortage of Speech and Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists exists. Consequently, Harford County Public Schools must contract with outside agencies for some related therapies on a contractual basis.

Discussion:

The Department of Special Education has been unable to secure the required Speech and Language Pathologists positions through recruiting efforts or the seven contracts currently approved at the September 12, 2016 Harford County Public Schools Board of Education Meeting. The contract with Advanced Medical Personnel Services, Inc. has the potential to exceed \$100,000 depending upon the nature and extent of the therapy the Department of Special Education may be required to provide for SWD and the IFT program. This contract is competitive in the current market:

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the above contracts.