

Consolidating Your Contracted Related Services: A model to provide more effective and efficient special education related services

*Making the difference
that matters most.*

Discover a Better Way Forward

Given the shortage of qualified related service providers (RSPs), school leaders are often dependent on contractors to provide mandated services, including speech-language, occupational, and physical therapy, as well as school psychology and paraprofessional services.

Expenditures devoted to these services can vary widely from district to district and school to school. Data shows that for every 1,000 students in special education, expenditures can range from \$2.8 million to \$4 million annually. In addition, special education administrators often find these costs growing throughout the school year given the challenge in managing multiple providers and fluctuating student needs.

It is incumbent upon school leaders to either redesign this aspect of the special education delivery system, or face the difficult task of tapping into existing district-wide fiscal resources that are earmarked for all students.

What Can School Leaders Do?

A single-source provider of contracted related services may be the answer. Futures' unique model for consolidating related services achieves two crucial objectives: (1) all providers operate within a single framework (incorporating inclusion practices) and (2) cost certainty, which ensures that the cost of the services will not increase beyond an agreed-upon amount throughout the year. Inherent features of this approach include:

- 1. Consolidation of contracted services whereby Futures manages all third-party providers* and maximizes appropriate revenues (including alternative revenue streams such as Medicaid). This unique model includes recruitment, management, training and professional development, and accountability systems—typically at a reduced cost to the district;
- 2. A hybrid model*, whereby both district (or school) staff and Futures share related service delivery responsibilities as outlined above; and
- 3. Futures provides all of the RSPs* and with the supports outlined above.

Irrespective of the method, the power of this framework achieves two crucial objectives:

- *Programmatic fidelity, which refers to the degree to which the service providers practice in a uniform manner that promotes educational outcomes and best practices, and adheres to district expectations; and*
- *Cost certainty, which ensures that the cost of the services will not increase beyond an agreed-upon amount.*

“It has become increasingly difficult for schools to attract and retain quality therapists to meet the speech, occupational and physical therapy needs of their students – and our rural location intensifies this challenge. Futures Education has been successful in recruiting [and managing] knowledgeable high-quality therapists—we are fully staffed for related services for the first time in many years.”

Kriss Hagerl, Superintendent
Sierra Vista Unified School District
Sierra Vista, Arizona

Partnering with Futures Education for related services delivery has several distinct advantages:

- *Fidelity and uniformity of practice patterns (i.e., exit and entry criteria)*
- *The “freeing up” of valuable and finite administration time*
- *Maximized budget and revenue streams*
- *Value-added professional development and technical assistance*
- *Embedded management staff reporting to district leadership*
- *Recruitment expertise*
- *Accountability systems*

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Discover Futures

Founded in 1998 by renowned clinicians and educators, Futures Education provides special education expertise unparalleled in depth and breadth. All members of our leadership team are educators, administrators and clinicians with a comprehensive understanding of the programmatic, administrative and fiscal issues related to special education.

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