

GLENBROOK HIGH SCHOOLS
District Business Office

TO: Dr. Riggle

FROM: Jennifer Pearson
Kim Ptak

DATE: September 10, 2012

RE: Approval of Special Education Student System

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve a three-year contract for the purchase of a special education student system from eSped, contingent upon agreement of final contract. The cost breakout is as follows:

Year 1: \$23,900 (annual per student subscription fee, set-up, training and data conversion)
Year 2: \$11,000 (annual per student subscription fee)
Year 3: \$11,000 (annual per student subscription fee)

Background

The development of a special education IEP program has been in process for three years. There have been ongoing delays in implementation of the system given technical sufficiency and support from the data management company. At this point, a basic IEP document has been developed, but concerns exist regarding integration, further development, maintenance, and support. Currently staff is using a word version of the Illinois State Board of Education IEP forms to comply with new state requirements; however, there are a number of limitations. The documents are not integrated with a student information system; they are not easily accessible; formatting issues make data entry tedious; staff needs to manually create quarterly progress reports to parents and summaries for general education staff; it is a stand alone document and data cannot be pulled to generate required reports. Given the current limitations, the district explored other commercially available IEP systems.

Selection Process

- Area districts were surveyed to find out what systems they used and their experience with the system in terms of reliability, features, ease of use, technical adequacy, and training/support. From the feedback two systems were identified as favorable (eSped and EasyIEP)
- Discussions were set up with both companies to evaluate the technical specifications and integration with current and possible future SIS systems. Based on the discussion, EasyIEP was eliminated
- A demonstration of eSped was conducted. Feedback from the demonstration was collected along with feedback from districts currently using eSped (Mundelein High School, Evanston Township High School, Winnetka Public School, River

Trails, North Shore District 112). A recommendation was made to purchase eSped.

Features of eSped not available with current system

The following features are available with eSped that are not available with the current special ed student system: integration with student information system, web-based access, data validation, archiving, ease-of-use, intuitive, integration of data to generate reports, data queries, the ability to import documents (e.g. progress monitoring data and graphs, psychological reports), live and/or online support including after school hours, encryption of email documents, updated regularly as based on changes in state regulations or user group recommendations, access to other modules that we currently maintain in word documents (504 plans), new features being developed, including electronic signatures, parent/teacher portal, etc.

In addition, eSped has the ability to integrate with both Powerschool the student system

Funding

Year 1 cost for eSped:	\$23,900
Year 1 cost for recommended Student System:	<u>\$130,200</u>
	\$154,100

Amount in approved tech budget:	<u>\$200,000</u>
Under budget:	(\$45,900)

Year 1 costs will be covered by the \$200,000 student system budget planned in the FY 12/13 technology budget. Future years will be built into the annual technology budget.