



**North Pike School District  
Office of Special Services  
Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP)  
Questions**

The following questions were submitted to Paige Pigott, Director of Special Services for the North Pike School District (NPSD), for inquiry regarding the Mental Health Counseling Request for Proposals (RFP) advertised in the Enterprise Journal on August 11, 2020 and August 18, 2020 and posted under Special Education on the North Pike School District webpage on August 11, 2020.

- 1. Since the scope of work allows for a Mississippi Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC or LPC-S or Licensed Professional Counselor by Comity) or Mississippi Licensed Social Worker (LSW, LMSW, or LCSW) , is there a preference through the district as to which type of counselor is best suited to fit the student’s needs and budgetary objectives of the district.**

Most students who require mental health counseling are working on learning and generalizing coping and social skills. Therefore, any counselor with the stated license who can meet the needs of our students according to their identified individualized needs will be considered.

- 2. The intended service volume seems to indicate that 1 full time counselor would be needed for this program? Can you please confirm if there will be any demand for more than one counselor amid the rise in social and emotional needs due to COVID19?**

Currently, there are approximately fifteen (15) students who may benefit from contractual counseling services in addition to counseling services provided by school counselors. The additional service hour needs of these students is approximately 30 to 40 hours per month. However, since services are determined by each student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) committee the duration and frequency of services may change as students’ needs change. We only anticipate the need for one part-time counselor for contractual services based on student needs.



North Pike School District  
Office of Special Services  
Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP)  
Questions  
Mississippi Licensed Professional  
Counselor

- 3. What is the actual work schedule for the counselor or counselors during the 1st year's service period on the 2019-2020 school can you please provide the number of students serviced and how many different campuses they are located?**

See response to number two in this document.

There are four schools within the North Pike School District where students receive these services; North Pike Elementary, North Pike Upper Elementary, North Pike Middle School, and North Pike High School. North Pike Elementary, Upper Elementary, and High School are all three located in close proximity. North Pike Middle School is located 7.6 miles from these three schools and the district office. In addition, some preschool aged children are provided services at nearby facilities and mutually agreed upon locations.

- 4. Are teletherapy organizations being considered for this bid?**

The North Pike School District (NPSD) is open to any therapy an Individualized Education Program Committee (IEP) finds appropriate for a student in order to receive educational benefit and ensure access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in accordance with State Board Policy 74.19.

- 5. If a remote or virtual counselor is to be provided, does the district have their own preferred telepractice platform? Or may we utilize our own platform with attendance and participation data being provided to the district for billing purposes?**

The North Pike School District (NPSD) currently uses Google Meets for meetings, however the provider may use any platform at their own expense that is in compliance with HIPPA, FERPA, district data sharing policies and procedures and ensures student confidentiality. The North Pike School District technology director/technician may request information to determine any of the above.



North Pike School District  
Office of Special Services  
Responses to Request for Proposal (RFP)  
Questions

- 6. If the services are to be provided in person, is travel between your school locations allowed to be billable as part of the counselor's work day?**

Travel will be reimbursed from the North Pike Special Services office located at 1036 Jaguar Trail, Summit, MS 39666 to school sites or from the school site visited for first session on each day to the above address. All schools with the exception of the North Pike Middle (NPM) are located within walking distance. NPM is located 7.6 miles from the above address. Provider should schedule students at NPM on a day to start first session to limit travel. However, in the event that schedules will not permit based on student needs, travel will be reimbursed at the district travel mileage rate.

- 7. Can you provide the current hourly rate you are being charged for these services for in person and virtual?**

In the 2019-2020 school year, services were provided on a salary rate of pay for a provider who performed these services in addition to other services. Therefore, the NPSD currently does not have a contractual provider for these services.

- 8. What is your interview and onboarding process for any newly assigned counselor to your district upon award?**

The Special Services Director along with the District Special Services Case manager will conduct a staffing meeting to discuss each student and their needs. The new counselor will be taken to each school staff to meet with the teacher of record for each student to receive service.