



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6994
September 1, 2026
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6994: Interlocal Agreement with MISD for Mental Health Counseling Services	☐ Discussion Only ☒ Action Needed: ☒ Motion ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Authorize the City Manager to sign the interlocal agreement with the Mercer Island School District for mental health counseling services during the 2026-2027 school year.	

DEPARTMENT:	Youth and Family Services
STAFF:	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Derek Franklin, YFS Administrator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. 2026-2027 Interlocal Agreement for School Mental Health Counseling Services
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	4. Focus efforts and actions to be an environmentally and fiscally sustainable, connected, and diverse community.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek approval from the City Council to enter into an Interlocal Agreement (“ILA”) with the Mercer Island School District (“District”) for mental health counseling services for the 2026-2027 school year.

- YFS mental health counselors have served in one or more schools in the District for 46 years and under an ILA for the past 29 years.
- The proposed ILA for the 2026-2027 school year includes eight mental health and drug and alcohol school-based counseling professionals.
- The District contributes \$60,000 to the cost of the salaries, benefits, and certification for the eight mental health counselors covered in the ILA.

BACKGROUND

Since 1979, the City’s Department of Youth and Family Services (YFS) has maintained a partnership with the District whereby YFS has placed mental health counselors in the District’s schools. This began with a YFS counselor at the high school then grew to include YFS counselors at every school; a staffing level that has

been in place for more than 30 years. This model allows for collaborative mental health counseling programs in the four elementary schools, the middle school, and the high school including the Crest Learning Center.

Students that have mental health counselors in their school are found to be over 20 times more likely to access needed mental health support. For the last 29 years, the City and the District have memorialized this collaboration in an annual ILA detailing staffing and costs for the counseling services.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

As part of the proposed ILA (see Exhibit 1), the City will provide eight mental health and drug and alcohol school-based counseling professionals for the 2026-2027 school year. The ILA also allows for the inclusion of graduate-level interns as part of the staffing.

The 2026-2027 ILA includes the addition in section 3.3 of language that includes the capacity for YFS school-based counselors to offer optional student emotional support advocacy related to formal school reporting, discipline, or other processes. There are no other substantive changes in this year's ILA regarding the provision of services.

STAFFING COST ESTIMATE

The estimate below includes the full cost of salary and benefits for the eight school counseling professionals for the 2026-2027 school calendar year. The ILA reflects an annual payment of \$60,000 from the District to support the eight YFS counselors.

2026-2027 ESTIMATE			
	City Share	District Share	Total
4 Elementary School Counselors	\$484,249.60	\$60,000.00	\$424,249.60
2 Middle School Counselor	227,773.79		227,773.79
1 High School Drug/Alcohol Specialist	133,207.43		133,207.43
1High School Counselor	128,092.45		128,092.45
Tuition & Registrations	3,200.00		3,200.00
	\$976,523.27	\$60,000.00	\$916,523.27

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the City Manager to sign the interlocal agreement with the Mercer Island School District for mental health counseling services during the 2026-2027 school year substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1 to AB 6994.