



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6507
July 2, 2024
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6507: Interlocal Agreement with MISD for Mental Health Counseling Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> 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 2024-2025 school year.	

DEPARTMENT:	Youth and Family Services
STAFF:	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Derek Franklin, YFS Administrator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. 2024-2025 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 bill 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 2024-2025 school year.

- YFS mental health counselors have served in one or more schools in the District for 44 years and under an ILA for the past 27 years.
- The proposed ILA for the 2024-2025 school year includes eight mental health and drug and alcohol school-based counseling professionals. This includes one middle school counselor working part-time for the school year in an LTE position.
- 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 counseling programs in the four elementary schools, the middle school, and the high school to include the Crest Learning Center.

Students that have mental health counselors in the school are found to be over 20 times more likely to access needed mental health support. For the last 27 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 2024-2025 school year. This includes one middle school counselor working part-time for the school year in an LTE position in anticipation of their retirement at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. The ILA also allows for the inclusion of graduate-level interns as part of the staffing.

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 2024-2025 school calendar year. The ILA reflects an annual payment of \$60,000 from the District to support the eight counselors from YFS.

2024-2025 ESTIMATE	
Staff/Time	Cost
4 Elementary School Counselors	\$505,891
2 Middle School Counselors	\$222,977
1 High School Drug/Alcohol Specialist	\$133,320
1 High School Counselor	\$116,982
Tuition & Registrations	\$3,000
Total	\$982,169
District Contribution	\$60,000
Total Cost for City	\$922,169

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the City Manager to sign the interlocal agreement with the Mercer Island School District for mental health counseling services during the 2024-2025 school year substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1 to AB 6507.