IN THE KNOW

A Guide of Related Service Providers

2011-2012

DC Special Education Co-operative

Helping DC Charter Schools Develop High-Quality Special Education Programs

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****_In the Know_ has been produced as a resource for DC charter schools. The Co-operative does not endorse any of the providers listed.**

DC SPECIAL EDUCATION CO-OPERATIVE

Helping DC Charter Schools Develop High-Quality Special Education Programs

VISION

The Co-operative vision is that all students with disabilities in District of Columbia Public Charter Schools receive a high-quality education that prepares him/her for success in school and in life.

MISSION

The mission of the DC Special Education Co-operative (The Co-operative) is to support DC public charter schools in providing high-quality, compliant special education services that meet the diverse and often complex needs of students with disabilities, driving student growth and achievement.

HISTORY

In 1998, a group of charter school leaders, teachers, special education experts, and local chartering authorities came together to form The Co-operative, the first organization of its kind in the nation. The Co-operative was founded on the belief that, like traditional public schools, charter schools need the technical assistance and support of an educational service agency to create and build quality special education programs. Twelve years later, The Co-operative, now recognized nationally as an innovative model, has been replicated in states across the country. Today, The Co-operative has 28 member charter schools, which make up 53 percent of all charters in Washington, DC.

WHAT THE CO-OPERATIVE DOES: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- ***Technical Assistance (TA).*** The Co-operative provides TA to help charter schools improve their special education programs and comply with federal special education regulations. TA resources include an electronic listserv, a weekly e-newsletter, a help line, and a website. The Co-operative staff also provides consultation to special education teachers and charter school leaders through site visits.
- ***Professional Development.*** The Co-operative provides professional development independently and in collaboration with other local and national special education experts. Training topics include program development, staffing, legal issues, navigating federal regulations, and communicating with parents.
- ***Advocacy & Collaboration.*** The Co-operative works with the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE) to facilitate information sharing and service delivery to special education programs in charter schools. The Co-operative works to ensure that charter schools are represented in policy discussions, and that DC charters have access to professional development, funding and other opportunities available to non-charter public schools.

DC LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

DC requires that anyone practicing as a "clinician" in any discipline has a license issued by the appropriate DC Board of Professional Licensing. Not only is this the law, it is best practice, ensuring that providers have baseline qualifications and experience. Licensure generally requires that clinicians have passed a regional or national exam, have graduated from an accredited school, and have worked a minimum number of hours in their field of practice. Higher levels of licensure generally demonstrate that the provider has spent more time working in the field, has passed a more difficult regional or national exam, and has been supervised by a higher-licensed provider for an average of 100 hours. These providers also are Medicaid reimbursable.

Related service providers include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Professional Counselor
- Psychologist: Clinical
- Psychologist: School
- Social Worker
- Speech/Language Pathologist

Provider Requirements

- All related service providers must have a degree from an approved, accredited program.
- Providers must meet any requirements for re-certification or re-licensing dictated by their professional boards (e.g. continuing education).

School Requirement

- Schools must have job descriptions and résumés for all providers on file.
- Schools must keep a copy of all provider licenses on file.

Educational and Licensure/Certification Requirements

Occupational Therapist – Licensure: DC Board of Occupational Therapy

Physical Therapist – Licensure: DC Board of Physical Therapy

Professional Counselor* – Licensure: DC Board of Professional Counseling

Psychologist: Clinical – Doctorate in clinical or counseling psychology; Licensure: DC Board of Psychology

Psychologist: School* – Master's in psychology; Certification: DC Board of Education; Licensure: DC Board of Professional Counseling

Social Worker* – Master's in social work; Licensure: DC Board of Social Work

Speech-Language Pathologist* – Master's in speech-language pathology; Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA); Licensure: DC Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

*School-based service providers, including School Counselor; School Psychologist; School Social Worker; Audiologist; and Speech-Language Pathology, may be licensed by OSSE's Educator Licensure Office.

STRATEGIES FOR FINDING A GOOD MATCH

ASK THIS…

- Is the provider comfortable working in your specific environment (inclusion, pull-out, etc.)?
- What are his/her specific experiences with a population like yours (early childhood, bilingual, behavioral disabilities)?
- Will the provider be delivering all services or does he/she delegate to assistants, interns, etc.?
- Ask to see a copy of an evaluation report (with identifying information redacted, of course!). Does the provider's reporting style meet the needs of your school and your parents?
- Discuss how bilingual services are provided. Does the provider give the parent a copy of the report in his/her native language? If so, is there an extra fee?
- Is the provider SEDS-trained (progress notes, goals, evaluation information)?

CONSIDER THIS…

- Does the provider's philosophy about special education and related services match that of your school?
- What do your colleagues at other charters have to say about this provider? Ask for references, and find out what other coordinators' experiences have been with the provider. Is he/she considerate? Prompt? A good team member?

PLEASE DON'T FORGET…

LET PROVIDERS KNOW THAT YOU FOUND THEM THROUGH

THE DC SPECIAL EDUCATION CO-OPERATIVE'S PROVIDER GUIDE

Index of Services

Literacy Intervention/Tutoring and Reading Evaluations

Educational Solutions, L.L.C.

Psychological/Counseling Services and Evaluation

Behavioral & Educational Solutions, P.C.

Speech and Language Therapy and Evaluation

Educational Solutions, L.L.C.

Teacher Training

A Piece of Mind, Inc.
Behavioral & Educational Solutions, P.C.
DC Special Education Co-operative
Educational Solutions, L.L.C

Technical Assistance

DC Special Education Co-operative

Test Prep

DC Special Education Co-operative
Educational Solutions, L.L.C.

Vocational/Transition Services

DC Special Education Co-operative

A Piece of Mind, Inc.

Charter School Consultation Programs
Understanding Behavior. Nurturing Children.

713 17th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
Phone: (202) 549-0797
E-mail: katie@apieceofmindonline.org
Website: www.apieceofmindonline.org
Licensed in: DC (Special Education)
Board Certified Behavior Analysts
Languages spoken: English

Services

- Training and staffing for one-to-one aides
- Behavioral support (IEP goal development, and FBA and BIP creation)
- SST support for children with Autism, communication-based developmental delay or behavioral concerns (including observations, write-ups and intervention recommendations and trainings)
- Skill assessment, IEP goal development, and lesson planning assistance for children with Autism
- **Staff Professional Development in:**
  - Functional communication and language development
  - Behavior management
  - Developmental milestones and red flags

Our mission is build capacity within DC public charter schools by assisting teachers in providing the most effective interventions for children with Autism, communication-based developmental delays, and behavioral challenges.

Behavioral & Educational Solutions, P.C.

1380 Monroe Street, NW #401
Washington, DC 20010
Phone: (202) 674-1182
Fax: (877) 637-7490
E-mail: info@besdc.com
Website: www.besdc.com
Licensed in: DC and MD
Languages spoken: All services are provided in Spanish and English

Services

- Comprehensive Psychological Evaluations
- Psycho-educational Evaluations
- Neuropsychological Evaluations
- Functional Behavioral Evaluations
- Behavioral Intervention Plans
- Academic Interventions
- Individual & Family Therapy
- Individualized Education Planning Support
- Family Service Plans
- Parent Training & Consultation
- Teacher Training, Coaching & Consultation
- Classroom Management Coaching
- Behavioral Specialist Services
- Systemic Prevention Programs

Behavioral & Educational Solutions, P.C. is a Washington, DC-based psychological and educational support company proud to serve DC's diverse schools, students and families. We are dedicated to delivering multi-disciplinary, culturally- and linguistically-sensitive, and developmentally appropriate services within school settings. Our services are designed to assist schools with the social, emotional, and educational concerns that hinder academic success. Our practitioners are doctoral-trained to work in school settings.

DC Special Education Co-operative
1488 Newton Street, NW #2
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Phone: (202) 903-6883
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E-mail: jcamerata@specialedcoop.org
Website: www.specialedcoop.org
Licensed in: DC

Services

- Program Quality
  - Strategic planning for special education program development
  - Candidate search for special education staff
  - Screening interviews for Special Education Coordinators
  - Development of service plan for related services
  - Transition coordination & transition coaching
  - Mentoring services (for new coordinators)
- Compliance
  - Pre-compliance monitoring record review
  - Record retrieval
  - Facilitation of MDT/IEP/Resolution session meetings
- START-UP: Wrap-around services for Year 1 of implementation
- Training for school staff and/or parents (customized topics)
  - Discipline
  - IEP Writing
  - Special Education 101
  - Working with Parents
  - Special Education Law
  - Advocacy Skills 101
- Praxis Coaching
- Medicaid Assistance
  - Application Prep
  - Billing and Quality Assurance Services

The DC Special Education Co-operative is a non-profit organization founded by charter school leaders. Our mission is to support schools while helping to build their internal capacity. In addition to our advocacy efforts, the Co-op does fee-for-service work, and members are eligible for special rates.

4508 4th Road North
Arlington, VA 22203
Phone: (703) 312-5300
Fax: (703) 516-0061
E-mail: jmichney@verizon.net
Website: www.edsolutionsllc.info
Licensed in: Virginia and DC
Languages Spoken: English and Spanish

Services:

- Speech language evaluations, therapy & consulting
- One-on-one, small group, and small class tutoring in scientifically motivated reading, writing, and language programs (Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing, Language to Literacy, Phono-Graphix, Visualing Verbalizing, etc.)
- Reading evaluations (to assess reading skills in the five areas identified by the National Reading Panel: phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, reading fluency, and reading comprehension)
- Professional development workshops for teachers and parents (teacher training in literacy programs, home literacy presentations for parents)
- On-going professional development for teachers (in the form of in-class coaching and mentoring from skilled literacy specialists)
- Test preparation (programs for students and teachers)
- Grant writing (assistance writing successful federal, state, and private grant applications)
- Consulting (on literacy curricula, technological supports, IEP and other meetings, compensatory education plans)

Educational Solutions, L.L.C. is a multi-disciplinary educational services firm that has successfully provided tutorial, speech language (testing and therapy), consulting, professional development, and grant writing services for the past 10 years in schools, homes, and communities across DC, Virginia, Maryland, New York and Georgia.

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