

Rationale

Mt. Diablo Unified School District's Collaborative Classroom Program partnership with Spectrum Center Schools and Programs enables the District to provide special education for students with challenging emotional, behavioral and academic needs – and to provide these services on MDUSD campuses. As a result of the Collaborative Classroom Program, MDUSD is able to educate a wider variety of students within a District site and comply with California Department of Education mandates by offering quality programs in the least restrictive environment by keeping students on the District's public school campuses.

Students with special needs such as autism, emotional disturbance and intellectual disabilities participate in the Collaborative Classroom Program, where they receive specialized services from Spectrum Center education and support staff and have access to academic courses, general education curriculum, extra-curricular activities and social interaction and mainstreaming opportunities with their peers at their public school.

The Collaborative Classroom Program partnership between MDUSD and Spectrum Center, which was established in 2003, has benefitted students, their families and the District. The Collaborative Classrooms have helped transition students back to district programs. During the last four years, ten students have transitioned from the Valley Campus and Delta Campus non-public schools to Mt. Diablo-Spectrum collaborative classrooms, and thirteen students have transitioned from the Collaborative Classroom Program back to the District.

Each of the Collaborative Classroom Sites is Certified by the California Department of Education (CDE) and Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Schools (WASC).

As a collaborative partner, Spectrum Center understands that the economic situation facing the state and the District calls for Spectrum to continually review programs and costs. Over the years, we have reduced our cost to the District and we propose further reductions totaling \$229,959 for the 2012-2013 school year.

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| Close the Fair Oaks Collaborative Classroom Program as MDUSD continues to build internal capacity to provide appropriate autism intensive programs that meet the students' needs. | Classroom cost reduction: | \$216,594 |
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| Continue increase of early payment discount for all Spectrum Programs contracted with MDUSD from 1% offered to other districts to 2% for Mt. Diablo. | Potential discount: | \$83,365 |
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Total 2012 – 2013 Reductions

\$229,959

