

## AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered on December 31, 2025, by and between The Stepping Stones Group LLC, 225 W Washington St, STE 1140, Chicago, IL 60606 hereinafter referred to as "Contractor" and Hopkins County Schools, 320 South Seminary Street, Madisonville, KY 42431, hereinafter referred to as "School District." It is hereby agreed as follows:

**SERVICES, RATES AND BILLING:** Contractor agrees to provide the services, at the designated rates, as listed in Appendix A to this Agreement.

School District agrees to be billed (except during holidays) by Contractor for up to 40 hours per week for each of Contractor's employees, unless agreed otherwise. No employee of Contractor will work above 40 hours per week without advanced authorization from both Contractor and the designated supervisor assigned by School District. Any hours worked that are considered overtime by state or federal law will be billed at 150% of bill rate. School District will not be billed during school closures and school holidays.

When Statutory Costs and other employee costs of living increase, Contractor will pass those increases along to School District with no mark-up. School District agrees to pay such increases at the same time as any billed fees pursuant to this Agreement. Statutory Costs include any costs and expenses of Contractor that are associated with Workers Comp, FICA, FUTA, SUTA, and incremental costs associated with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), among others.

**TRAVEL TIME & MILEAGE:** To the extent applicable, travel between schools will be considered billable time and the mileage will be billed at the current IRS mileage rate. No travel will be billed when work is completed at one site.

**PAYMENT TERMS:** **School District will be billed every month** via email and agrees to pay all outstanding invoices within 30 days of receipt. School District agrees and understands that School District is billed on actual hours of service provided by the Contractor's employee, based on the total hours listed on a biweekly time sheet. To ensure billing accuracy and timeliness, School District will complete the Billing Details just above the signature section of this Agreement.

**REMITTANCE DETAILS:** School District will make payments to Contractor at the following address:

PO Box 6280  
Carol Stream, IL 60197

If School District prefers to make payments via electronic ACH, instructions can be obtained from the Contractor representative.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND INSURANCE:** Contractor will be responsible for providing all employee benefits and insurance including workers' compensation, general liability, and professional liability insurance coverage (with policy limits and deductibles that are appropriate for similarly situated school districts).

**NO SOLICITATION:** During the term of this Agreement and for a period of two years after the termination of this Agreement, School District agrees not to directly or indirectly contract with, offer employment to or hire any employee of the Contractor assigned to School District or any candidate submitted by Contractor to School District. School District agrees that if School District breaches this no solicitation covenant, direct and indirect damages may be assessed and recovered by Contractor, and Contractor shall be entitled to seek and obtain specific performance.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** School District agrees not to provide any information pertaining to the contents of this Agreement to any individual or any entity that may be considered a competitor of the Contractor. School District further agrees not to discuss or disclose any information pertaining to the contents of this Agreement, including but not limited to fees/costs, duration and terms, etc. to the Contractor's employee assigned to provide services to the School District. Disclosure of such information to the Contractor's employee will be considered a breach of this Agreement.

Both parties may receive information that is proprietary to or confidential to the other party or its affiliated companies and their clients in connection with the parties' performance of services under this Agreement. Both parties agree to hold such information in strict confidence and not to disclose such information to third parties or to use such information for any purpose whatsoever other than performing under this Agreement or as required by law. No knowledge, possession, or use of School District's confidential information will be imputed to Contractor as a result of any of Contractor's employees having access to such information. The provisions set forth in the foregoing paragraph and this paragraph shall survive expiration or other termination of this Agreement, regardless of the cause of such termination.

All parties acknowledge the School District is subject to the Kentucky Open Records Act. The School District agrees they will attempt to honor these provisions on confidentiality but any obligation to disclose information under the Kentucky Open Records Act will override the provisions herein regarding confidentiality.

Contractor agrees that it is subject to, and shall comply with, all federal and state laws and School District policies relating to the confidentiality of student information, including, without limitation, compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

**COOPERATION:** School District agrees to cooperate fully and to provide assistance to Contractor in the investigation and resolution of any complaints, claims, actions, or proceedings that may be brought by or that may involve any employees of Contractor.

**TERMINATION:** This Agreement will end on June 30, 2026 and may continue beyond this point by mutual consent. If terminating the agreement prior to the end date, School District agrees to delivering no less than 30 days notice of termination with or without cause. Contractor may terminate this Agreement (i) if School District discontinues operations or (ii) if School District fails to make any payments as required by this Agreement.

All parties acknowledge the School District further has a right to terminate before the end of this Agreement by giving thirty (30) days' notice if the District is able to fill this position with a qualified employee.

**NONDISCRIMINATION:** Contractor represents and warrants that it does not discriminate in hiring and employment practices regarding race, color, religion, disability, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, pregnancy, or sexual orientation.

**INDEMNIFICATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:** To the extent permitted by law, Contractor will defend, indemnify, and hold School District and its equity holders, subsidiaries, directors, officers, agents, representatives, and employees harmless from all claims, losses, and liabilities (including reasonable attorneys' fees) to the extent caused by or arising from Contractor's breach of this Agreement; its failure to discharge its duties and responsibilities under this Agreement; or the gross negligence or willful misconduct of Contractor or Contractor's officers, employees, or authorized agents in the discharge of those duties and responsibilities under this Agreement.

Except as expressly set forth herein, neither party shall be liable for or be required to indemnify the other party for any incidental, consequential, exemplary, special, punitive, or lost profit damages that arise in connection with this Agreement, regardless of the form of action (whether in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability, or otherwise) and regardless of how characterized, even if such party has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

As a condition precedent to indemnification, the party seeking indemnification will inform the other party within ten (10) business days after it receives notice of any claim, loss, liability, or demand for which it seeks indemnification from the other party; and the party seeking indemnification will cooperate in the investigation and defense of any such matter.

The provisions in this section of the Agreement constitute the complete agreement between the parties with respect to indemnification, and each party waives its right to assert any common-law indemnification or contribution claim against the other party.

**NOTICES:** Notices to Contractor shall be sent to:

The Stepping Stones Group  
225 W Washington ST, STE 1140  
Chicago, IL 60606

AND

[K12ops.contracts@ssg-healthcare.com](mailto:K12ops.contracts@ssg-healthcare.com)

Notices to School District shall be sent to:

Hopkins County Schools  
320 South Seminary Street  
Madisonville, KY 42431

**JURISDICTION:** This agreement shall be governed by, construed, and is enforceable in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and any action or proceeding related to or arising out of this Agreement shall be commenced and heard in the State Court sitting in Hopkins County, Kentucky. Any action or proceeding relating to or arising out of this Agreement shall be commenced and heard in the State or Federal Court sitting in Kentucky. Both parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction and venue of such courts.

**GENERAL:** No provision of this Agreement may be amended or waived unless agreed to in writing and signed by the parties. The provisions of this Agreement will inure to the benefit of and be binding on the parties and their respective representatives, successors, and assigns.



**Corporate Office**  
225 W Washington St STE 1140  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Ph: 800-337-5965 Fax: 800-822-8287  
[www.thesteppingstonesgroup.com](http://www.thesteppingstonesgroup.com)

**BILLING DETAILS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT:**

Billing Contact Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (for invoice): \_\_\_\_\_

Special Billing Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed for Contractor:

Signature: Amber Espinola

Name: Amber  
Espinola

Title: Client Services Manager

Date: 12/31/2025

Signed for School District:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix A

The services that may be provided under this Agreement and the corresponding hourly bill rates for each service for the are listed below:

<b><u>Specialty</u></b>	<b><u>Hourly Rate</u></b>
Speech Language Pathologist- Virtual	\$75 / Hour
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher	\$75 / Hour