



Kenton County School District | *It's about ALL kids.*

# Issue Paper

**DATE:**

4/1/26

**AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):**

Consider/Approve Kenton County School District (KCS D) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the following agencies: Cultivate, Family Care Counseling Solutions, MEBS and Associates, LLC (MEBS), North Key, OneQuest, Ramey-Estep/ReGroup to provide school-based therapy and associated mental health services for KCS D students in all of our schools during the 2026-2027 school year.

**APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY:**

01.1- Legal Status of the Board

**HISTORY/BACKGROUND:**

KCS D would like to continue partnering with the following outside agency providers: Cultivate, Family Care Counseling Solutions, Meaningful, Emotional, Behavioral Services (MEBS), North Key, OneQuest, and Ramey-Estep/ReGroup in order to provide mental health services for all students who have an identified need in the Kenton County School District. The aforementioned outside agency groups will work with school staff to provide school-based therapy to identified students who receive parental permission. The total number of students served by these outside agencies is approximately 600 per year.

**FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Kenton County School District (KCS D) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the following agencies: Cultivate, Family Care Counseling Solutions, Meaningful, Emotional, Behavioral Services (MEBS), North Key, OneQuest, and Ramey-Estep/ReGroup to provide school-based therapy and associated mental health services for KCS D students in all of our schools during the 2026-2027 school year.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Lesley Smith, Assistant Superintendent

  
Principal Administrator

  
District Administrator

  
Superintendent

*Use this form to submit your request to the Superintendent for items to be added to the Board Meeting Agenda.  
Principal –complete, print, sign and send to your Director. Director –if approved, sign and put in the Superintendent’s mailbox.*



**The Kenton County School District**  
**Memorandum of Understanding: Cultivate Behavioral Health**  
**2026-2027**

The Collaborative Service Agreement between the staff of Kenton County School District and **Cultivate Behavioral Health** will have the following components:

1. The goal is to facilitate the provision of **school-based therapy and associated services** to students who are referred by the Kenton County School District or its agents and qualify for services.
2. **Cultivate Behavioral Health** will provide services for students in the school setting or other public location and consult and collaborate with school staff to provide support for students.
3. **Cultivate Behavioral Health** will ensure compliance with all existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the scope of practice of their services and abide by Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
4. **Cultivate Behavioral Health** will maintain appropriate professional and liability insurance. To the extent not covered and paid by insurance, **Cultivate Behavioral Health** agrees that he/she will be responsible for any claims, losses, liability, demands and damages, and agrees to hold harmless and/or indemnify from any loss, damage, claim or expense incurred by the KCS D based solely on negligence, errors, or omissions by **Cultivate Behavioral Health** related to the performance of services conducted by **Cultivate Behavioral Health** pursuant to this agreement.
5. **Cultivate Behavioral Health** will provide a list of personnel and their role, who will be working in the Kenton County School District, by the first day of school and updated if changes are made during the term of the agreement.
6. **Cultivate Behavioral Health** will comply with KCS D Visitor Protocols by providing personal identification upon visiting a school.
7. **Cultivate Behavioral Health** will comply with state regulations which may include background checks, fingerprinting, child abuse and neglect check, etc as required by the Kenton County School District for outside providers working with students in the Kenton County School District. (REG 160.151):  
**Cultivate Behavioral Health** is expected to contact the school counselor to arrange an appropriate time and space for services in advance.
8. **Cultivate Behavioral Health** will collaborate with the district liaison when appropriate.
9. During the term of this agreement, the Kenton County School District agrees to:
  - Provide a safe environment, space, and reasonable accommodations to allow the provision of services during the school day and in the school buildings.
  - Refer students for services using the **Cultivate Behavioral Health** referral process.
  - Comply with FERPA standards.
  - Provide a district liaison for questions and concerns.
10. The Kenton County School District is not responsible for payment for services provided by **Cultivate Behavioral Health**
11. The terms of this agreement are valid for one calendar year. It is contingent on approval from the Kenton County Board of Education.
12. The Kenton County Board of Education reserves the right to terminate the agreement at any time, without cause.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lesley Smith, Assistant Superintendent  
Kenton County School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cultivate Behavioral Health

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Date approved by KCS D Board of Education: \_\_\_\_\_



# The Kenton County School District

## Memorandum of Understanding: Family Care Counseling Solutions

2026-2027

The Collaborative Service Agreement between the staff of Kenton County School District and **Family Care Counseling Solutions** will have the following components:

1. The goal is to facilitate the provision of **school-based therapy and associated services** to students who are referred by the Kenton County School District or its agents and qualify for services.
2. **Family Care Counseling Solutions** will provide services for students in the school setting or other public location and consult and collaborate with school staff to provide support for students.
3. **Family Care Counseling Solutions** will ensure compliance with all existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the scope of practice of their services and abide by Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
4. **Family Care Counseling Solutions** will maintain appropriate professional and liability insurance. To the extent not covered and paid by insurance, **Family Care Counseling Solutions** agrees that he/she will be responsible for any claims, losses, liability, demands and damages, and agrees to hold harmless and/or indemnify from any loss, damage, claim or expense incurred by the KCS D based solely on negligence, errors, or omissions by **Family Care Counseling Solutions** related to the performance of services conducted by **Family Care Counseling Solutions** pursuant to this agreement.
5. **Family Care Counseling Solutions** will provide a list of personnel and their role, who will be working in the Kenton County School District, by the first day of school and updated if changes are made during the term of the agreement.
6. **Family Care Counseling Solutions** will comply with KCS D Visitor Protocols by providing personal identification upon visiting a school.
7. **Family Care Counseling Solutions** will comply with state regulations which may include background checks, fingerprinting, child abuse and neglect check, etc as required by the Kenton County School District for outside providers working with students in the Kenton County School District. (REG 160.151):  
**Family Care Counseling Solutions** is expected to contact the school counselor to arrange an appropriate time and space for services in advance.
8. **Family Care Counseling Solutions** will collaborate with the district liaison when appropriate.
9. During the term of this agreement, the Kenton County School District agrees to:
  - Provide a safe environment, space, and reasonable accommodations to allow the provision of services during the school day and in the school buildings.
  - Refer students for services using the **Family Care Counseling Solutions** referral process.
  - Comply with FERPA standards.
  - Provide a district liaison for questions and concerns.
10. The Kenton County School District is not responsible for payment for services provided by **Family Care Counseling Solutions**
11. The terms of this agreement are valid for one calendar year. It is contingent on approval from the Kenton County Board of Education.
12. The Kenton County Board of Education reserves the right to terminate the agreement at any time, without cause.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lesley Smith, Assistant Superintendent  
Kenton County School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Family Care Counseling Solutions

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Date approved by KCS D Board of Education: \_\_\_\_\_



# The Kenton County School District

## Memorandum of Understanding: MEBS and Associates, LLC

2026-2027

The Collaborative Service Agreement between the staff of Kenton County School District and **MEBS and Associates, LLC** will have the following components:

1. The goal is to facilitate the provision of **school-based therapy and associated services** to students who are referred by the Kenton County School District or its agents and qualify for services.
2. **MEBS and Associates, LLC** will provide services for students in the school setting or other public location and consult and collaborate with school staff to provide support for students.
3. **MEBS and Associates, LLC** will ensure compliance with all existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the scope of practice of their services and abide by Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
4. **MEBS and Associates, LLC** will maintain appropriate professional and liability insurance. To the extent not covered and paid by insurance, **MEBS and Associates, LLC** agrees that he/she will be responsible for any claims, losses, liability, demands and damages, and agrees to hold harmless and/or indemnify from any loss, damage, claim or expense incurred by the KCS D based solely on negligence, errors, or omissions by **MEBS and Associates, LLC** related to the performance of services conducted by **MEBS and Associates, LLC** pursuant to this agreement.
5. **MEBS and Associates, LLC** will provide a list of personnel and their role, who will be working in the Kenton County School District, by the first day of school and updated if changes are made during the term of the agreement.
6. **MEBS and Associates, LLC** will comply with KCS D Visitor Protocols by providing personal identification upon visiting a school.
7. **MEBS and Associates, LLC** will comply with state regulations which may include background checks, fingerprinting, child abuse and neglect check, etc as required by the Kenton County School District for outside providers working with students in the Kenton County School District. (REG 160.151):  
**MEBS and Associates, LLC** is expected to contact the school counselor to arrange an appropriate time and space for services in advance.
8. **MEBS and Associates, LLC** will collaborate with the district liaison when appropriate.
9. During the term of this agreement, the Kenton County School District agrees to:
  - Provide a safe environment, space, and reasonable accommodations to allow the provision of services during the school day and in the school buildings.
  - Refer students for services using the **MEBS and Associates, LLC** referral process.
  - Comply with FERPA standards.
  - Provide a district liaison for questions and concerns.
10. The Kenton County School District is not responsible for payment for services provided by **MEBS and Associates, LLC**
11. The terms of this agreement are valid for one calendar year. It is contingent on approval from the Kenton County Board of Education.
12. The Kenton County Board of Education reserves the right to terminate the agreement at any time, without cause.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lesley Smith, Assistant Superintendent  
Kenton County School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
MEBS and Associates, LLC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Date approved by KCS D Board of Education: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Kenton County School District

### Memorandum of Understanding: NorthKey Community Care

2026-2027

The Collaborative Service Agreement between the staff of Kenton County School District and **NorthKey Community Care** will have the following components:

This document identifies a Memorandum of Agreement ("Agreement") between Kenton County School District ("KCS D") and NorthKey Community Care ("NorthKey") for the delivery of clinical mental health services to KCS D students by NorthKey staff in KCS D schools.

1. **NorthKey** agrees to provide duly qualified mental health professionals to deliver clinical mental health and substance use services ("mental health services") when deemed clinically appropriate to students of KCS D. NorthKey will provide the appropriate staff to deliver these services to KCS D during the 2025-2026 academic school year.
2. The term of this Agreement shall be the 2026-2027 KCS D academic year, generally from August 1, 2026 through June 1, 2027. Either Party may terminate this agreement at any time, with or without cause by providing the other Party with at least 30 days' notice.
3. With proper authorization for services, **NorthKey** staff will provide mental health services to students with Medicaid and/or appropriate commercial insurance payers.
  - a. **NorthKey's** practice with commercial insurance payers is to follow the guidelines, protocols, and procedures of the student's insurance plan, and **NorthKey's** staff must be an approved provider with the insurance company to deliver approved services. The particulars of the insurance plan will serve as the guide for how services are authorized and delivered to a student with a commercial insurance payer.
  - b. If a student's insurance plan (Medicaid or commercial insurance) does not cover mental health services to be provided by the **NorthKey** staff assigned to the school, KCS D may authorize **NorthKey** to provide the mental health services at the discounted rate of \$124 per hour (NorthKey's regular hourly rate for these mental health services is \$204 per hour).
  - c. Students without a payer source will be directed to a NorthKey staff member who will work with the parent/guardian to help obtain Medicaid or other insurance payer source for the student to receive mental health services.
4. KCS D agrees to ensure effective communication and collaboration with the assigned **NorthKey** staff and coordinator, and provide appropriate space when onsite at KCS D sites to conduct confidential individual and family mental health services.
5. During times when KCS D buildings are unavailable, **NorthKey** may provide mental health services onsite at a **NorthKey** location, another site that is mutually agreeable to the student/family and **NorthKey** staff, or by utilizing telehealth services.
6. Services will be initiated based on referrals from KCS D school counselors, family resource center, school staff, parent, student, or NorthKey staff. Cases must be opened through **NorthKey's** intake process before any services or billing can occur.
7. A **NorthKey** representative will notify the school as soon as possible if the **NorthKey** staff member assigned to the school is not able to be onsite at the scheduled school for any reason on the regularly scheduled school days.
8. As stated above, if a student's insurance plan does not cover mental health services to be provided by the **NorthKey** staff assigned to the student's school, KCS D may authorize the services to be initiated or continued by **NorthKey**. To compensate **NorthKey** in such a situation, KCS D will make funding available to cover costs for such students, including copayments, consultations, deductibles, and other costs normally charged that the student's parent/guardian cannot afford to pay. The rate of \$124 per hour (discounted from the regular rate of \$204 per hour) will apply in such situations. These charges will be included in an invoice billed monthly to KCS D, upon the approval of a Financial Application.
9. KCS D may request **NorthKey** staff to provide educational and/or informational services to parents/guardians, students, and/or teachers at in-school or after-school events. Any such educational and/or informational services provided by **NorthKey** will be billed at the discounted rate of \$124 per hour and included in the monthly invoice to KCS D. **NorthKey** agrees to waive this fee to attend Readifest events and other Back to School events.
10. KCS D agrees to cover the cost of additional services that may be requested if services are preapproved and authorized by KCS D. See attached for services and associated costs.

10. Should this Agreement be terminated prior to the end of the term, any prior services preapproved and authorized by KCSD shall be paid by KCSD if services have been rendered by **NorthKey**.
11. Invoices for any services rendered by **NorthKey** on behalf of KCSD will be directed to:  
Kenton County School District Accounts Payable
12. In performing the duties and obligations imposed on each party by this Agreement, it is understood and agreed that **NorthKey** is always acting as an independent contractor with respect to KCSD. KCSD shall not have any control or direction over the manner, methods, or means by which **NorthKey** performs its work and functions, including the clinical judgment, recommendation of treatment, and/or level of care for clients.
13. KCSD agrees it will not solicit for employment nor hire any **NorthKey** employee for one year after said employee ceases to be employed by **NorthKey**.
14. Any questions between the two parties regarding this Agreement shall be communicated via phone, email, or in writing to the following contacts:
 

<p>Angela Fox, LPCA Team Leader of Behavioral Health Youth Treatment NorthKey Community Care 502 Farrell Drive Covington, KY 41011 <a href="mailto:Angela.Fox@northkey.org">Angela.Fox@northkey.org</a></p>	<p>Lindsey Wilson Mental Health Consultant Kenton County School District 2044 Tuscanview Drive Covington, KY 41017 <a href="mailto:lindsey.wilson@kenton.kyschools.us">lindsey.wilson@kenton.kyschools.us</a></p>
---	---
15. **Northkey** will provide appropriate staffing, when available, to the KCSD Schools that are mutually agreed upon between **NorthKey** and KCSD.
16. This document reflects the complete agreement between the parties and remains in effect through the entire term from August 1, 2026 until June 1, 2027. Any modifications to this Agreement shall be in writing and signed by both parties.

Lesley Smith  
Assistant Superintendent  
Kenton County School District  
2044 Tuscanview Drive  
Covington, KY 41017

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

Danielle Amrine, MSW, MBA  
President/CEO  
NorthKey Community Care  
PO Box 2680  
Covington, KY 41012-2680

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

Date approved by KCSD Board of Education: \_\_\_\_\_



**The Kenton County School District**  
**Memorandum of Understanding: OneQuest Health**  
**2026-2027**

The Collaborative Service Agreement between the staff of Kenton County School District and **OneQuest Health** will have the following components:

1. The goal is to facilitate the provision of **school-based therapy and associated services** to students who are referred by the Kenton County School District or its agents and qualify for services.
2. **OneQuest Health** will provide services for students in the school setting or other public location and consult and collaborate with school staff to provide support for students.
3. **OneQuest Health** will ensure compliance with all existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the scope of practice of their services and abide by Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
4. **OneQuest Health** will maintain appropriate professional and liability insurance. To the extent not covered and paid by insurance, **OneQuest Health** agrees that he/she will be responsible for any claims, losses, liability, demands and damages, and agrees to hold harmless and/or indemnify from any loss, damage, claim or expense incurred by the KCS D based solely on negligence, errors, or omissions by **OneQuest Health** related to the performance of services conducted by **OneQuest Health** pursuant to this agreement.
5. **OneQuest Health** will provide a list of personnel and their role, who will be working in the Kenton County School District, by the first day of school and updated if changes are made during the term of the agreement.
6. **OneQuest Health** will comply with KCS D Visitor Protocols by providing personal identification upon visiting a school.
7. **OneQuest Health** will comply with state regulations which may include background checks, fingerprinting, child abuse and neglect check, etc as required by the Kenton County School District for outside providers working with students in the Kenton County School District. (REG 160.151):  
**OneQuest Health** is expected to contact the school counselor to arrange an appropriate time and space for services in advance.
8. **OneQuest Health** will collaborate with the district liaison when appropriate.
9. During the term of this agreement, the Kenton County School District agrees to:
  - Provide a safe environment, space, and reasonable accommodations to allow the provision of services during the school day and in the school buildings.
  - Refer students for services using the **OneQuest Health** referral process.
  - Comply with FERPA standards.
  - Provide a district liaison for questions and concerns.
10. The Kenton County School District is not responsible for payment for services provided by **OneQuest Health**.
11. The terms of this agreement are valid for one calendar year. It is contingent on approval from the Kenton County Board of Education.
12. The Kenton County Board of Education reserves the right to terminate the agreement at any time, without cause.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lesley Smith, Assistant Superintendent  
Kenton County School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
OneQuest Health

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Date approved by KCS D Board of Education: \_\_\_\_\_



# The Kenton County School District

## Memorandum of Understanding: Ramey-Estep/Re-group 2026-2027

The Collaborative Service Agreement between the staff of Kenton County School District and Ramey-Estep/Re-group will have the following components:

1. The goal is to facilitate the provision of **mental health counseling and/or mental health case management services for individual** students who are existing clients of **Ramey-Estep/Re-Group**, who need to receive services at school.
2. **Ramey-Estep/Re-Group** therapists will be credentialed with their licensure boards and provide copies of licenses as requested.
3. **Ramey-Estep/Re-Group** will ensure compliance with all existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the scope of practice of mental health professionals.
4. **Ramey-Estep/Re-Group** will maintain appropriate professional and liability insurance. To the extent not covered and paid by insurance **Ramey-Estep/Re-Group** agrees that he/she will be responsible for any claims, losses, liability, demands and damages, and agrees to hold harmless and/or indemnify from any loss, damage, claim or expense incurred by the KCS D based solely on negligence, errors, or omissions by **Ramey-Estep/Re-Group** related to the performance of services conducted by **Ramey-Estep/Re-Group** pursuant to this agreement.
5. **Ramey-Estep/Re-Group** will comply with KCS D Visitor Protocols by providing personal identification upon visiting a school.
6. **Ramey-Estep/Re-Group** will comply with state regulations which may include background checks, fingerprinting, child abuse and neglect check, etc as required by the Kenton County School District for outside providers working with students in the Kenton County School District. (REG 160.151):  
**Ramey-Estep/Re-Group** is expected to contact the school counselor to arrange an appropriate time and space for services in advance.
7. During the term of this agreement, the Kenton County School District agrees to:
  - Provide a safe environment, space, and reasonable accommodations to allow the provision of services during the school day and in the school buildings.
  - Comply with FERPA standards.
  - Provide a district liaison for questions and concerns from providers
10. The Kenton County School District is not responsible for payment for services provided by **Ramey-Estep/Re-Group**.
11. The terms of this agreement are valid for one calendar year. It is contingent on approval from the Kenton County Board of Education.
12. The Kenton County Board of Education reserves the right to terminate the agreement at any time, without cause.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lesley Smith, Assistant Superintendent  
Kenton County School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ramey-Estep/Re-Group

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Date approved by KCS D Board of Education: \_\_\_\_\_