



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

Issue Paper

DATE:

May 20, 2026

AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):

Consider/Approve KCS D partnerships with Cincinnati Children’s – Project SEARCH, Northern Kentucky University (NKU), and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), including the corresponding Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), pending board attorney review

APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY:

01.11 General Powers and Duties of the Board

HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

KCS D has the opportunity to serve as the host educational partner, in collaboration with Project SEARCH, a nationally recognized, high-impact transition program designed to secure competitive, integrated employment for students with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities. This program supports students in their final year of high school prior to aging out by transitioning them from a traditional school setting into a fully immersive business environment, resulting in a 70% to 100% rate of competitive, integrated employment. Students participate as interns while learning tasks aligned to high-turnover, entry-level business needs. By focusing on the development of marketable and transferable skills while supported by instruction in areas such as technology and financial literacy, the program prepares students to be transition ready and productive participants in the 21st Century economy. Project SEARCH is a nine-month immersion program that takes place at the host business, Northern Kentucky University (NKU), with students following the KCS D school calendar and participating daily. This immersion model is designed to build the mental and physical stamina necessary for successful participation in a minimum 20-hour work week. The program is a strategic partnership between KCS D, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital – Project SEARCH, NKU, and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR). If approved, this opportunity would be available as a regional program for districts throughout Northern Kentucky, with KCS D serving as the host educational partner. The program has the capacity to serve up to 15 students each school year. Other districts may request student participation through a MOU with KCS D. Participating districts would be responsible for a per-student cost based on a sliding scale tied to each district’s Average Daily Attendance (ADA).

FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Estimated costs is \$74,000 for one FTE Special Education teacher funded by IDEA.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval KCS D partnerships with Cincinnati Children’s – Project SEARCH, Northern Kentucky University (NKU), and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), including the corresponding Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), pending board attorney review

CONTACT PERSON:

Danielle Rice

Principal/Administrator

District Administrator

Superintendent

Principal –

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