

**Norridge School District 80**

8151 W. Lawrence Avenue

Norridge, Illinois 60706

708-583-2068

*Inspiring Educational Excellence in a Nurturing Environment*

April 13, 2018

Mr. James Prather  
Rhodes Elementary School  
8931 Fullerton Ave.  
River Grove, IL 60171

Mr. James Prather,

In the wake of yesterday's decision of the West 40 ISC hearing panel and in pursuit of their recommendation that we work together to permit the Norridge School District 80 (NSD 80) students attending programs at Enger to remain there, I write to renew my request that the Leyden Area Special Education Cooperative (LASEC) Board enter into an agreement to accomplish that. Dr. McGuffin's presentation to the hearing panel made plain her opinion that these children should remain. The families believe it. The hearing panel believes it. There is plainly room to accommodate them. Thankfully, the past practice of dozens of similar circumstances tells us how to accomplish it: we treat them as tuition students under the Illinois School Code and add a 10% markup for administrative oversight. On behalf of the Norridge School District 80 Board of Education, I renew my request for LASEC to take action to permit that outcome by way of either a bylaws amendment or an intergovernmental agreement with NSD 80.

As previously discussed, Norridge School District 80 is willing to develop such an agreement that contains the following parameters:

1. Provide students the greatest degree of access with nondisabled students, while providing flexibility to LASEC for currently enrolled students,
2. Allow NSD 80 to *grandfather* all of our students who are currently in the *Enger* program to reside in the program until they are promoted from eighth grade or before their fifteenth birthday,
3. Allow the Director of LASEC and NSD 80 administration to access student records in accordance with the Illinois Students Records Act (ISRA) and Family Education Rights Protection Act (FERPA) for currently enrolled students,
4. Implement a tuition-based structure not to exceed one hundred ten percent (110%) of the applicable *Enger* program actual tuition cost as prescribed in Illinois School Code and rules of the Illinois State Board of Education for our currently enrolled students as non-members, and
5. Allow NSD 80 to collect Medicaid fee for service on behalf of currently enrolled students.

That said, the NSD 80 requests the Executive Committee place an ***action*** item on the agenda for Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at the regularly scheduled time with either of the following proposed motions for their equivalent for action:

*I move to accept for consideration an **amendment to the LASEC by-laws to institute the above noted intergovernmental agreement with Norridge School District Number 80 as a non-member of the Cooperative commencing on July 1, 2018, subject to a final by-law document to be presented to the LASEC Committee of the Whole.***

Or:

*I move to enter into an agreement with Norridge School District Number 80 to permit all current NSD 80 students attending programs at Enger to remain in that program until the earlier of (a) them being promoted from the eighth grade or (b) them attaining the age of 15 years, to allow a mutual access to the records of such students between LASEC and NSD 80 in a way that satisfies ISRA and FERPA, to assess a tuition charge to NSD 80 for each such student not to exceed one hundred ten percent (110%) of the Enger program costs as described in the Illinois School Code and in Illinois State Board of Education rules and to permit NSD 80 to collect the Medicaid fee for service on behalf of currently enrolled students.*

Our goal, at all times, is to provide the best possible services and outcomes for our students. We believe that you share that interest. I am available to discuss this issue upon request and in greater detail with the Executive Board and all voting members.

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul O'Malley

cc: Dr. McGuffin