

There is an increase in financial costs to the school system for athletic trainer services for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$3,968.

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, contracts with Memorial Healthcare to provide athletic trainer and physician services at high schools located in Memorial Healthcare's service zone (approximately 8 high schools). The athletic trainer provides immediate and essential services to protect the safety and welfare of students engaged in interscholastic sports. The function of the athletic trainer is to provide services regarding the prevention, recognition, emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation to student athletes. The athletic trainer directs the high schools sports medicine programs.

Licensed and nationally certified athletic trainers hold the highest level of skill and training in the sports medicine industry. Athletic trainers have extensive educational background in human anatomy, human physiology biomechanics and exercise physiology. Nationally certified trainers are trained in six major practice domains: prevention, clinical evaluation and diagnosis, immediate care, treatment, rehabilitation and reconditioning, organization and administration and professional responsibility. Athletic trainers are critical to the health, welfare and safety of student athletes. Trainers are the first responders to students injured at practices and games.

Under the agreement, Memorial Healthcare will provide the following contractual services:

- Staff each high school with a licensed and nationally certified trainer. The athletic trainers must be certified by the National Board of Certification (BOC) and be licensed by the State of Florida.
- The certified athletic trainer conducts clinical assessment and administers standard techniques of first aid to the acutely ill/injured athlete, protecting the athlete from further injury. The athletic trainers educate the student athlete and provide direct services to the athlete on hydration, concussion recognition and awareness, conditioning, nutrition, performance, enhancement training and injury care. All athletic trainers are certified in CPR and First Aid. Before practices and games, the athletic trainers prepare athletes with pre-game taping, padding and bracing joints and limbs.
- Memorial Healthcare certified trainers will attend all football games, practices and other high trauma athletic events to provide immediate assessment, evaluation and basic treatment.
- The certified athletic trainers shall serve as the cornerstone of the school system's concussion management program.

Memorial Healthcare is responsible for hiring, employing, insuring and paying all athletic trainers. The School Board does not pay any fringe benefit costs for athletic trainer services. The cap on the number of hours performed by each athletic trainer is 1,212. It is important to note that the hourly rate of athletic trainers is \$30.00 per hour. The equivalent dollar value of an athletic trainer based on 1,212 hours is \$36,360 per trainer.

Summary Explanation and Background Continued

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The accumulative dollar value under this contract is \$290,880 (\$36,360 x 8 trainers). Even with a cap on hours, the district is receiving a \$290,880 value for a total cost of \$202,346. The athletic trainers season begins with the first day of fall sports practice on August 3, 2015.

Consistent with Florida Statute 1012.46, Dade County Public Schools and Palm Beach School Board provide nationally certified trainers at their high schools. A comparison of the costs and benefits of the program are provided below. It should be noted that to replicate the Dade model in Broward would cost in excess of \$2,000,000. The Dade model employs full time trainers and pays them on the teacher's salary schedule. Further, Dade County trainers' compensation includes full fringe benefit package.

	Employment Status	Hours	School Board Cost	Trainer Certification
Dade County	Full time employees	No cap on hours	\$70,000 per year with benefits per athletic trainer	Yes, licensed and nationally certified
Palm Beach County	Contract with multiple agencies for part time services	1,000 hours per year	\$22,500 per athletic trainer	Yes, licensed and nationally certified
Broward County	Contract with Memorial Healthcare for part-time services	Cap on hours per trainer, per year is 1,212 (Value is \$36,360)	\$25,293 per athletic trainer	Yes, licensed and nationally certified