

Foundations Upper Valley

An S^D Associates special education school, 147 Main Street, Windsor, VT 05089

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March 26, 2018

Pat Pallas Gray
Independent Schools Consultant
Agency of Education
219 No. Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Ms. Gray,

I am in receipt of both the 'Independent School General Education Review' and the 'Independent School Special Education Review Report' sent by Ms. Ryan. As we discussed on the telephone, I am responding here to address the two concerns raised in the Special Education Review.

1) Regarding inclusion of Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) on IEP service pages:

All of our students have this service articulated. For most of the districts we serve, we do not have direct control of the IEP through either Sped Doc or Gold View. The IEPs are developed in collaboration with each LEA out-of-district coordinator or other district case manager who controls the product with our input. Some have included the BCBA on the schedule of services, and some have included the BCBA in the accommodations, the latter for the stated reason that the BCBA is not currently a Medicaid reimbursable item. We are happy to do either, but would like clarification regarding the location of the service in the IEP.

2) Concern regarding serving tuition students outside of the approved disability categories:

Our admission process articulates the approved disability categories for Foundations as requested. During the 2016-17 school year, we did serve one student inadvertently as a tuition student. That student was on our roster when Mr. Kane made his review visit. This student had a primary identification of emotional disability (ED) for which we are not currently approved, and a secondary identification of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) for which we are.

As stated, her inclusion as a tuition student was inadvertent. Our parent company, S^D Associates LLC provides contracted special education/ ABA services for school districts across Vermont. Subsequent to her placement at the Baird School in 2015,

we provided a contracted program at our Williston clinic location at the request of the South Burlington School District. This student was reunited with her family in Hartford during the summer of 2016 after several years in DCF custody. In order not to introduce too many changes and challenges at once in her life and to provide as much programmatic stability as possible, Foundations, at the request of her IEP team, agreed to a transition year in Windsor before Hartford School District reintegrated her into her local school.

This was clearly an admissions error on our part and a placement error on the part of HSD, though one committed in good faith in the best interests of this student. It occurred, I believe, because we did not go through the formal admissions process given our then current service to this girl in Williston. Hindsight being '20/20', this is not an error we are in danger of repeating. All of our current students at Foundations meet the approval requirements.

Given these considerations, we respectfully request congruent approval periods for both general education and special education. I will be happy to provide more information upon request.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Powsner", is written over a horizontal line. An arrow points from the text "Best Regards," above to the start of the signature.

David Powsner M.Ed., BCBA, LBA
Foundations of the Upper Valley
147 Main Street
Windsor, VT 05089

cc. Cassandra Ryan