

# The Speech Pathology Group, Inc. dba SPG Therapy & Education

2021 Ygnacio Valley Rd, C-103  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598  
Phone (925) 945-1474 Fax (925) 945-1768

## AGREEMENT BETWEEN *Azusa Unified School District* AND *SPG Therapy & Education*

THIS AGREEMENT is effective July 1, 2024, by and between the Azusa Unified School District (hereinafter “District”) and SPG Therapy & Education, (hereinafter “Contractor”).

District hereby engages Contractor to render described services under the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

### 1. Performance of Services:

- a. Contractor agrees to perform the services described on “Addendums A, B, C, D, E, F and/or G” (hereinafter “Services”) of this Agreement as an independent contractor. Contractor will determine the means, manner, method, and details of performing the Services. Contractor shall be responsible for providing the materials and tools, necessary for the performance of the Services.
- b. Contractor represents that Contractor has the qualifications and ability to perform the Services in a professional manner, without the advice, control, or supervision of the District. Contractor shall be solely responsible for the professional performance of the Services, and shall receive no assistance, direction, or control from District. Contractor shall have sole discretion and control of Contractor’s services and the manner in which they are performed.

2. Compensation & Terms for Payment: Contractor shall submit written demand monthly for payment, said demand shall be made on a form and in the manner prescribed by the Contractor detailing dates/hours of services provided. Contractor shall submit said demands for payment for services rendered no later than thirty (30) days from the end of the month in which said Services were actually rendered. District shall make payment in an amount equal to the number hours of service provided multiplied by the agreed upon hourly rate within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice. Any amounts past due shall accrue interest from the due date until paid at the rate of 18% per annum.

3. Contract Term and Termination: This Agreement will become effective on July 1, 2024. This Agreement will terminate upon the completion of the Services (as stated in addendums A (Speech) and/or B (Behavior) and/or C (Psychological Services) and/or D (Occupational Therapy Services) and/or E (Physical Therapy Services) and/or F (Mental Health) and/or G (Education) or when terminated as set forth below.

- a. Either party may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving twenty (20) days written notice (as referenced in number 4 of this contract) to the other party. Contract changes, amendments or cancellations must be communicated directly with Contractor’s President. As a professional courtesy, please do not discuss contract changes, costs, or pending employment changes with contractor’s employees. The Contractor will inform its’ employees of changes or cancellations to the contract.

4. Notice: Any notice required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be deemed to have been given, served and received if given in writing and either personally delivered or deposited in the United States mail, registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt required, or fax transmission with verbal confirmation of receipt, addressed as follows:

### DISTRICT

Azusa Unified School District  
546 S Citrus Avenue  
Azusa, CA 91702  
Phone: (626) 858-6184  
Fax:

### CONTRACTOR

SPG Therapy & Education  
2021 Ygnacio Valley Rd, C-103  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598  
Phone: (925) 945-1474  
Fax: (925) 945-1768  
Tax ID# 94-3290122

Any notice personally given or sent by certified mail or fax transmission shall be effective upon receipt. Any notice sent by overnight delivery service shall be effective the business day next following delivery thereof to the overnight delivery service.

5. **Relationship of the Parties:** Please note that all Contractors' employees are employed on an "At Will" basis and therefore cannot be required to provide a 20-day notice of termination. Contractor does request that employees provide a minimum of 20-day notice of termination. Contractor shall not be responsible for any loss or claim of damage whatsoever incurred by District/Facility in the event Contractor cannot provide a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA), Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA), Registered Behavior Technician (RBT), Behavior Technician (BT), School Psychologist (SP), Occupational Therapist (OT), Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA), Physical Therapist (PT), Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA), Mental Health Therapist or Education Specialist due to resignation of Contracted SLP/SLPA/BCBA/BCaBA/RBT/BT/SP/OT/COTA/PT/PTA/Mental Health Therapist or or Education Technician or Contracted SLP/SLPA/BCBA/BCaBA/RBT/BT/SP/OT/COTA/PT/PTA/Mental Health Therapist or Education Specialist is not able to provide services for any reason. However, Contractor will use all efforts to replace the SLP/SLPA/BCBA/BCaBA/RBT/BT/SP/OT/COTA/PT/PTA/Mental Health Therapist or Education Specialist, if one is available in the area.
  - a. Contractor enters into this Agreement as, and shall continue to be, an independent contractor. Under no circumstances shall Contractor be considered an employee of District within the meaning of any federal, state, or local law or regulation including, but not limited to, laws or regulations governing unemployment insurance, old age benefits, workers' compensation, industrial illness or accident coverage, taxes, or labor and employment in general.
  - b. Under no circumstances shall Contractor look to District as his/her employer, or as a partner, agent, or principal. Contractor shall not be entitled to any benefits accorded to District's employees, including, without limitation, workers' compensation, disability insurance, vacation, or sick pay.
  - c. Contractor shall be responsible for providing, at Contractor's expense, and in the Contractor's name, disability, workers' compensation or other insurance, as well as licenses and permits usual or necessary for conducting the Services hereunder.

6. **Management of SPG Therapy & Education Staff:**

- a. Each SLP/SLPA/SP/OT/COTA/PT/PTA/Mental Health Therapist or Education Specialist employee of Contractor is assigned a Clinical Supervisor. The Clinical Supervisor is available to provide assistance and support by helping contractor's employees access requested materials/assessments, explaining District/Facility procedures and forms, answering questions related to federal/state regulations and eligibility criteria, providing intervention suggestions and helping to resolve site related issues. The Clinical Supervisor may make site visits and/or provide Service Coverage for a contracted SLP/SLPA/SP/OT/COTA/PT/PTA/Mental Health Therapist or Education Specialist that is ill or may have excessive absences. Clinical Supervision services to be provided within contracted hours for assigned SLP/SLPA as designated in Addendum A, for assigned SP in Addendum C, for assigned OT/COTA in Addendum D, for assigned PT/PTA in Addendum E, for assigned Mental Health Therapist in Addendum F and/or for assigned Education Specialist in Addendum G.

- b. Each BT/RBT/BCaBA employee of Contractor is assigned a BCBA. The BCBA is available to provide assistance and support by helping contractor's employees access requested materials, explaining District/Facility procedures and forms, answering questions related to federal/state regulations, providing intervention suggestions and helping to resolve case related issues. The BCBA will make site visits and/or provide Service Coverage for a contracted BT/RBT/BCaBA that is ill or may have excessive absences. BCBA services to be provided within contracted hours as outlined in Addendum B.

7. **Federal & State Taxes:** Contractor shall pay, when and as due, any and all local, state and federal income or other taxes incurred as a result of Contractor's compensation hereunder, including estimated taxes, and shall provide District with proof of said payment upon demand. Contractor hereby indemnifies District for any claims, losses, costs, fees, liabilities, damages, or injuries suffered by District arising out of Contractor's breach of this Section.
8. **Fingerprinting and Criminal Records Check of Contractor's Employees:** CONTRACTOR shall comply with the requirements of California Education Code section 44237, 3501.1 and 35021.2 including, but not limited to: obtaining clearance from both the California Department of Justice (hereinafter referred to as "CDOJ") and clearance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (hereinafter referred to as "FBI") for CONTRACTOR'S employees and volunteers, unless CONTRACTOR determines that the volunteers will have no direct contact with

LEA pupils, prior to service with any LEA pupil. CONTRACTOR hereby agrees that CONTRACTOR'S employees and volunteers, unless CONTRACTOR determines that the volunteers will have no direct contact with LEA pupils, shall not come in contact with LEA pupils until CDOJ and FBI clearance are ascertained. CONTRACTOR shall certify in writing to LEA that none of its employees, and volunteers, unless CONTRACTOR determines that the volunteers will have no direct contact with LEA pupils, or contractors, who may come into contact with LEA pupils have been convicted of a violent or serious felony as those terms are defined in California Education Code section 44237(h), unless despite the employee's conviction of a violent or serious felony, he or she has met the criteria to be eligible for employment pursuant to California Education Code section 44237 (i) or (j). In addition, CONTRACTOR shall make a request for subsequent arrest service from the CDOJ as required by California Penal Code section 11105.2.

If District/Facility policy requires contractor's employee to obtain separate and additional live scan prior to placement at facility site, they may do so at District's/Facility's expense.

9. **Caseload Maximum:**

a. Speech-Language Services: Contractor agrees to a maximum caseload of 55 students for each full time SLP/SLPA and a maximum caseload of 40 students for any caseload that solely consists of students classified as SH, AAC, and/or preschool. Combination caseloads will be prorated based on caseload roster provided by district. \*It should be noted that both ASHA and CTA recommend a caseload limit of 40 students for K through 12 public schools.

b. Behavior Intervention Services: BTs/RBTs are highly trained 1:1 aides. BCaBAs and BCBAAs must supervise RBTs in accordance with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) requirements.

c. Occupational and/or Physical Therapy Services: Workload management is an ongoing process and therapist's caseloads will be set and managed based on workload rather than number of students. Weekly hours can increase or decrease based on changes in workload.

10. **Rules and Regulations:** All results and regulations of the Board of Education and all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations are to be observed strictly by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement.

11. **Indemnification:**

a. Contractor shall and does hereby indemnify, defend, and hold harmless District, and District's officers, employees, agents and representatives from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, costs, expenses, obligations, liabilities and damages, including, without limitation, interest, penalties, and reasonable attorneys fees and costs, that District may incur or suffer and that arise, result from, or are related to any breach or failure of Contractor to perform any of the representations, warranties, and agreements contained in this Agreement.

b. District shall and does hereby indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Contractor, and Contractor's officers, employees, agents and representatives from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, costs, expenses, obligations, liabilities and damages, including, without limitation, interest, penalties, and reasonable attorneys fees and costs, that Contractor may incur or suffer and that arise, result from, or are related to any breach or failure of District to perform any of the representations, warranties, and agreements contained in this Agreement.

12. **Non-Solicitation:** District/Facility understands and acknowledges that Contractor expends extensive amounts of time, resources and money educating, training and mentoring its employees. The purpose of these company investments by Contractor is to enhance employee retention and maintain an experienced and well-trained supply of employees capable of providing the Contractor's various services at multiple Districts/Facilities. Contractor is not in the business of training or recruiting individuals to be hired as employees of District/Facility. Accordingly, District/Facility agrees that during the term of this Agreement and for the immediate twelve calendar months following the termination of this Agreement (the "Period"), District/Facility shall not directly solicit for employment, offer employment to, or hire any employee of Contractor working at a District/Facility, without the prior written consent of Contractor. In the event that District/Facility breaches or violates this Paragraph 12, then District/Facility agrees to and shall pay to Contractor as damages the amount of \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) per Contractor employee within 21 calendar days. District/Facility agrees that it would be impracticable and extremely difficult to determine the amount of actual damages caused to Contractor by a violation of this Paragraph 12, including but not limited to the loss of the return on Contractor's investment in its employee and losing key employees. The parties agree that this stated amount is a reasonable approximation of the probable damages owed

to Contractor. District/Facility, therefore, agrees that this amount of damages is fair and reasonable under the circumstances existing at the time this Agreement is executed.

13. **Supplies & Equipment:** Contractor will provide therapy and diagnostic materials as needed, if they are not available at school district/site. Should the contracting District require computer generated reports and IEPs, then it is the District's responsibility to either provide a computer to the contracted employee or provide access to a computer at the contractor employee's assigned site(s). If a computer is not available, then it is understood that all documentation will be handwritten.
14. **California Law:** This Agreement shall be governed by and the rights, duties and obligations of the parties shall be determined and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California. The parties further agree that any action or proceeding brought to enforce the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be maintained in Contra Costa County, California.
15. **Attorneys' Fees:** If either party files any action or brings any proceedings against the other arising out of the Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover, in addition to its costs of suit and damages, reasonable attorneys' fees to be fixed by the court. The "prevailing party" shall be the party who is entitled to recover its costs of suit, whether or not suit proceeds to final judgment. No sum for attorneys' fees shall be counted in calculating the amount of a judgment for purposes of determining whether a party is entitled to its costs or attorneys' fees.
16. **Waiver:** The waiver by either party of any breach of any term, covenant, or condition herein contained shall not be deemed to be a waiver of such term, covenant, condition, or any subsequent breach of the same or any other term, covenant, or condition herein contained.
17. **Time for Site Specific Trainings/Requirements:**
  - a. Speech Services, School Psychology and Mental Health Services: District agrees to compensate Contractor for time spent by Contractor's employee for orientation/trainings, teacher workdays, non-student days when teachers are required to report to work, speech or Psych meetings, staff development days, and the like. Attendance for these services will be provided in accordance with the weekly contracted hours set forth in Addendum A and/or Addendum C.
  - b. Behavior Intervention Services, Occupational Therapy Services, Physical Therapy Services and Education Services: District agrees to compensate Contractor for time spent by Contractor's employee for orientation/trainings, teacher workdays, non-student days when teachers are required to report to work, staff meetings, staff development days, and the like, when District has requested Contractor's employee(s) to attend. Attendance for these services will be in addition to the weekly contracted hours set forth in Addendums B for Behavior Intervention Services, Addendum D of Occupational Therapy Services, and Addendum E for Physical Therapy Services.
  - c. District also agrees to pay Contractor for any additional time required by Contractor's employee to become proficient with any District/Facility required procedure (i.e.: computerized IEPs, Medi-Cal reports, positive behavior intervention, etc). Any hours in excess of contracted hours set forth in Addendums A, B, C, D, E, F and/or G and will require prior approval from District/Facility designee.

18. **List of Services to be Performed by Contractor:**
  - a. Speech-Language Services: Contractor will provide Services that align with the scope and practice for Speech and Language Pathology, as defined by the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board, for provision of speech/language therapy services in the public-school setting. Services to include direct and indirect activities as they pertain to eligible students on caseload and in accordance with the Individual Education Plan (IEP) which will define the type and frequency of service that each student is to receive.

District will provide contracted SLP/SLPA with site's most current caseload list, to be updated on a monthly basis, via district generated roster lists.

- b. Behavior Intervention Services: Contractor will provide Services that align with the scope and practice for Behavior Analysts, as defined by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, for provision of behavior intervention services in the public-school setting. Services to include direct services as they pertain to eligible students and in accordance with the Individual Education Plan (IEP) which will define the type and frequency of service that each student is to receive.

c. School Psychology Services: Contractor will provide Services that align with the scope and practice for School Psychologists, as outlined in the California Education Code, for provision of School Psychology services in the public-school setting. Services to include direct services as they pertain to eligible students and in accordance with the Individual Education Plan (IEP) which will define the type and frequency of service that each student is to receive.

d. Professional Occupational and/or Physical Therapy services: Contractor will deliver Services in a school-based instructional model. The services include direct services to students, consultation, coordination, and collaboration with special and general education teams, appropriate documentation, and oversight of Occupational Therapy (“OT”) and/or Physical Therapy (“PT”) service delivery. The Services provided will follow state and federal education codes, best practices, and ethical standards as well as comply with program guidelines as set forth by District. Inclusive Services are comprised of direct contact with students to include direct treatment (individual and group), evaluations, Annual and Triennial assessments and meetings as well as consult time, preparation, documentation, travel between schools, mandatory meetings and administrative tasks.

19. Entire Agreement of Parties: This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior discussions, negotiations and agreement, whether oral or written. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument executed by both parties.

It is understood that contracted Speech Services will be provided and caseload demands will be met by a certified, licensed, and/or credentialed Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), and/or a licensed Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA), when under the supervision of a certified and licensed SLP.

It is further understood that contracted Behavior Services will be provided by a certified, licensed, and/or credentialed Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), certified, licensed and/or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) under the supervision of a BCBA, and/or a certified, licensed, and/or credentialed Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) and/or Behavior Technician (BT) under the supervision of a certified and licensed BCaBA or BCBA.

It is further understood that contracted School Psychology Services will be provided by a certified, licensed, and/or credentialed School Psychologist.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the date first above written. This contract is effective on July 1, 2024, and terminates on June 30, 2025, unless sooner terminated as provided herein.

**DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Norma Carvajal Camacho,  
Assistant Superintendent, Ed. Services  
Azusa Unified School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CONTRACTOR**

*Susan Stark*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Stark, M.S., CCC-SLP  
President

7/19/24

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Azusa USD 2024-2025	SPG Therapy & Education Addendum A Speech Services	As of: 7/19/2024
------------------------	--	------------------

School Based Speech-Language Pathologists

SPG Therapist	Service	Dates of Service	Days per Week	Hours per Day	Hours per Week	Notes	24-25 Hourly Rate	Amount
ESY Services July 2024:								
TBD	Speech Services							\$0.00
							ESY Services July 2024: \$0.00	

Fall/Spring School Based Services\*

SPG Therapist	Site/Service	Dates of Service	Days per Week	Hours per Day	Days	Notes	24-25 Daily Rate	Amount
Elizabeth Huertas	Speech Services	8/20/24-6/11/25	5	8	185		\$915.67	\$169,399
Kirsten EideNelson	Speech Services	8/20/24-6/11/25	5	8	185		\$915.67	\$169,399
			FTEs	2.00	Fall/Spring Projection:			
							Total 2024-2025 Services: \$338,798	

ESY Services June 2025:

SPG Therapist	Service	Dates of Service	Days per Week	Hours per Day	Hours per Week	Notes	24-25 Hourly Rate	Amount
TBD	Speech Services							\$0.00
							ESY Services June 2025: \$0.00	

\*SPG Therapy & Education utilizes a Professional Work Week.  
 Contractor agrees to provide services within the contracted hours per week, as set forth above.  
 Daily hours may flex pending caseload requirements (i.e. IEP meetings, parent conferences, SST meetings, etc.).  
 SPG Therapy & Education (NPA) and the LEA (District) understand that it is the District's responsibility to provide training for contracted staff pertaining to the District's policies and procedures, including but not limited to: SEIS, Progress Reporting, Attendance Registers\*\*, Medical/MAA Billing.  
 \*\*The District understands that collection and retention of all attendance registers submitted by contracted staff is the responsibility of the District.  
 It is further understood that the district will inform SPG Therapy & Education of contracted staff who are out of compliance with the District's policies and procedures.  
 The contracting NPA understands that the District will provide computer access to contracted staff for SEIS access and input and for other required documentation.

The NPA will provide all diagnostic and therapy materials to contracted service providers with the understanding that District agrees to provide appropriate and necessary test protocols, as test protocols are part of the student's record and are retained in student's file.

Bilingual therapists are contracted to provide mental health services and will not be utilized as interpreters during IEP meetings as this is outside their scope of professional practice.

*Susan Stark* \_\_\_\_\_ 7/19/2024  
 Susan Stark, M.S., CCC-SLP Date  
 President

Norma Carvajal Camacho \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
 Assistant Superintendent, Ed. Services, Azusa USD