



Blount County Budget Committee Memo

TO: Blount County Commissioners

FROM: Blount County Schools

DATE: October 20, 2025

RE: Budget Increase - Occupational & Physical Therapy Services for SPED Students

1. Proposal (what is the new item/service being requested) Under Federal law (IDEA)
BCS is required to provide occupational and physical therapy services to
students based on the requirements stated their Individualized Education
Program. In FY25 those services were primarily funded with federal grant
proceeds. Unfortunately, the FY26 award decreased by \$464 thousand which
fully shifts the financial burden to local dollars.
2. Current Operations (how are operations without the request and impact if not funded)
Students are currently receiving all required services; however, current
funding levels will be fully exhausted by the end of December. BCS is required
by law to provide these services to special education students regardless of
budgetary constraints.
3. Impact if funded (provide summary if the request is approved)
Students will continue to receive their required occupational and physical
therapy services. The two providers currently under contract for these
services will receive payment without delay.

Budget Impact	
Original Budget	\$ 140,000.00
Amendment Impact	\$ 452,800.00
Proposed Revised Budget	\$ 592,800.00

Signature from Department Head/Elected (or designee)

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FROM: Blount County Schools

DATE: October 20, 2025

RE: Budget Increase - Occupational & Physical Therapy Services for SPED Students

1. Proposal (what is the new item/service being requested) BCS is required to pay for educational services when a student is placed in residential care following a doctor's orders. The amount varies from year to year based on the number of students placed in residential care facilities. The average total cost for the past three years was ~\$40,300; however, the first 3 months of the current school year have been much higher than the YTD totals as this time last year.
2. Current Operations (how are operations without the request and impact if not funded) BCS is required by TCA 49-3-370 to pay invoices related to educational services provided to students placed in residential care facilities regardless of budgetary constraints. Without the budget increase funds will need to be transferred from another major functional area.
3. Impact if funded (provide summary if the request is approved) Residential care facilities will receive payment without delay for educational services provided to students who are placed in their care as ordered by a medical doctor.

Budget Impact	
Original Budget	\$ 25,000.00
Amendment Impact	\$ 11,500.00
Proposed Revised Budget	\$ 36,500.00



Signature from Department Head/Elected (or designee)

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