

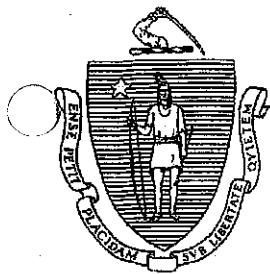


Central Administration

40 Linnell Circle, Billerica, MA 01821 * Tel: (978)-528-7800 * www.valleycollaborative.org

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Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Office of Regional Governance

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January 12, 2017

Dr. Chris Scott, Director
Valley Collaborative
40 Linnell Circle
Billerica, MA 01821

Re: Valley Collaborative FY16 Annual Report

Dear Dr. Scott,

Thank you for the timely submission of your educational collaborative's FY16 Annual Report. We have reviewed your submission to determine its compliance with the reporting requirements of M.G.L. c. 40, § 4E and CMR 603 CMR 50.00. If additional documentation is required, it is noted below.

Information on the programs and services provided by the collaborative

Your response meets the requirement.

Discussion of the cost-effectiveness of all programs and services

Last year, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) noted the following:

Response on pages 24-37 substantially meets the requirement. Please ensure that the FY16 Annual Report includes the names of the agencies to which Valley is compared in the cost-effectiveness comparisons.

*In this year's Annual Report, cost effectiveness of the tuition programs is described on pages 26 and 27, along with the names of private schools to which tuitions are compared. However, the annual report does not address the cost effectiveness of other services. Please provide a written document addressing this matter to ESE, the collaborative board, and the member school committees, via the security portal, by **February 17, 2017**. For guidance concerning cost-effectiveness analyses, please see pages 2-3 of the Department's FY16 Collaborative Annual Report Guidelines at:
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/collaboratives/FY16ReportGuidelines.pdf>.*

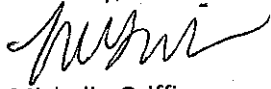
Progress made toward achieving the objectives and purposes set forth in the collaborative agreement
Your response meets the requirement.

Evidence of approval of the Annual Report by the collaborative board of directors
Your response meets the requirement.

The Annual Report is co-located on the collaborative website with the Annual Independent Audit Report.
Your collaborative has met this requirement.

Should you have questions about this letter, please email collaboratives@doe.mass.edu.

Sincerely,



Michelle Griffin

c: File



Central Administration

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Valley Collaborative 2016 Annual Report Request for Additional Information

Valley Collaborative is in receipt of a request from the Office of Regional Governance, DESE, for additional information. This letter, dated January 12, 2017, specifically requests the following:

- **Discussion of the cost-effectiveness of all programs and services** - The Department did recognize that Valley submitted sufficient information regarding the cost-effectiveness of tuition programs but noted that “the annual report does not address the cost-effectiveness of other services”.

Please note, Valley Collaborative prides itself in providing its member districts with superb special education programming for its out-of-district students as well as limited contracted services support. Please find a comparison of all published Therapeutic Services rates (for students enrolled at Valley) as well as Contract Services rates (for students not enrolled at Valley) attached.

In line with Valley’s focus on its on member districts, Valley has chosen to set its non-member district contracted services rates higher for students not enrolled at Valley. It should also be noted that in 2012, the Valley Board of Directors voted to include the cost of therapies in the tuition rates for both member and non-member districts. Therefore the comparison data reflected in the Therapeutic Services rate sheet does not reflect the cost savings associated with the therapy costs being included in the tuition rates. The estimated savings for member districts in FY’16 was \$1,057,562.71 and for non-member districts it was approximately \$1.2 million. Also, Valley includes free breakfast and lunch in its tuition rates. This is another cost savings to districts and families worth approximately \$380,000 (based on 300 students x 210 days x \$6 for breakfast and lunch = \$380,000). Valley is not aware of other collaboratives offering this benefit.

Furthermore please note, cost effectiveness and comparisons were made based on information that was posted on the various Collaboratives’ websites. Tuition rates were compared based on program descriptions e.g. level and student ratios. Given the differences among programs and services, a proper cost effective analysis is almost impossible without requiring full disclosure of student to staff ratio per program and transparency on the therapies included in the cost of a tuition rate. I would be happy to discuss how a cost effective analysis could be more meaningful and accurate if the proper data points were made public.



Center for Assessment and Therapeutic Services - Valley Students

The cost effectiveness of 2015-2016 Member Districts Rates compared to the other Collaboratives in the region.

It should be noted that in 2012, the Valley Board of Directors voted to include the cost of therapies in the tuition rates for both member and non member districts. The savings to member districts in FY'16 was \$1,057,562.71.

Therapeutic Services	Valley Collaborative		CREST	SEEM	NEC
	Rates	Current Rates Charged [#]			
Therapy (SLP, OT, PT, BCBA)	\$77/hr.	\$0/hr.	\$78.8/hr.	\$82/hr.	\$95/hr.
Transition Specialist	\$77/hr.	\$0/hr.	N/A	N/A	\$95/hr.
Augmentative and Alternative Communication Specialist	\$77/hr.	\$0/hr.	\$110.31/hr.	N/A	\$95/hr.
Social Work	\$77/hr.	\$0/hr.	N/A	N/A	\$95/hr.
School Psychologist	\$78/hr.	\$78/hr.	\$187/hr.	N/A	N/A
Transitional Aide	\$126.75/day	\$126.75/day	\$137/day	\$192.64/day	\$164.47/day
Behavioral Aide	\$237.90/day	\$237.90/day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Restraint Training	\$150/per person not to exceed \$1500 a day	\$150/per person not to exceed \$1500 a day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Extended Day Programming	\$20/day (1:5 ratio) \$40/day (any other ratio)	\$20/day (1:5 ratio) \$40/day (any other ratio)	\$47/day	N/A	N/A
One-on-one Nurse	Contingent on qualifications	Contingent on qualifications	LPN \$220/day RN \$258/day	N/A	N/A
Assessments					
Interim Alternative Education Setting – 45 Day Assessment	Valley \$9,765/45 days	Valley \$9,765/45 days	CREST \$12,082	SEEM \$9,370.35	NEC \$11,274.75
Speech Language Evaluation	\$308 flat rate	\$308 flat rate	\$472.77/5 hrs		
Occupational Therapy Evaluation	\$308 flat rate	\$308 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
SIPT Assessment			N/A	N/A	N/A
Sensory Integration & Praxis Test – 17 subtests	\$100/hr.	\$100/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Physical Therapy Evaluation	\$308 flat rate	\$308 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Functional Behavioral Assessment	\$1,155 flat rate	\$1,155 flat rate	\$609.35/5 hrs.	N/A	N/A
Functional Vocational Evaluation (V5) · Sensory-motor · Strengths · Gross & Fine Motor · Preferences and Interests · Coping/Adaptive Behavior · Work adjustment and Job readiness · Autonomous Living · Memory and Learning Style · an observation of the student in a community based work environment	\$777 flat rate	\$777 flat rate	\$787.95/5 hrs.	N/A	N/A
Transition Assessment (V10) V5 and: · Adaptive Living · Transition · Self-Determination · Social · Employability · Person-Centered Planning	\$1,210 flat rate	\$1,210 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Observational Assessment	\$603 flat rate	\$603 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cognitive/Intelligence Testing – Three Year Evaluations	\$78/hr.	\$78/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Psychological Evaluation · Bender Visual-Motor Gestalt Test · Connors' Rating Scales · Rey-Osterath Complex Figure · Drug Use Screening Inventory · BASC Progress Monitor · Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory · Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, 2nd Ed. · Behavioral Assessment for Children, 2nd Ed. · Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 4th Ed. · Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, 4th Ed. · Wechsler Preschool & Primary Intelligence Scale, 4th Ed.	\$78/hr. 2 hrs. minimum depending on assessments r equested	\$78/hr. 2 hrs. minimum depending on assessments requested	N/A	N/A	N/A
Team Meeting Attendance	\$93/hr.	\$93/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Travel Rate	Federal mileage reimbursement rate	Federal mileage reimbursement rate.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Products					
Transition Planning Package (20 Person Centered Planning Tools with 2 hours of consult with our Transition Specialist)	Valley \$240 per pkg.	Valley \$240 per pkg.	CREST N/A	SEEM N/A	NEC N/A
Person Centered Planning Tool	\$4.93 ea.	\$4.93 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Experiential Physical Education: Field Manual	\$40 ea.	\$40 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Experiential Physical Education: Comprehensive Curriculum Guide	\$75 ea.	\$75 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Experiential Physical Education: Leadership Development (2 days, 1 night)	\$3500 per 10 students	\$3500 per 10 students	N/A	N/A	N/A

N/A: No comparison data available.

Valley has the most cost effective rates for all of these services.



Center for Assessment and Therapeutic Services - Valley Students

The cost effectiveness of 2015-2016 Non Member Districts Rates compared to the other Collaboratives in the region.

It should be noted that in 2012, the Valley Board of Directors voted to include the cost of therapies in the tuition rates for both member and non member districts. The savings to member districts in FY'16 was approximately \$1.2 million

Therapeutic Services	Valley Collaborative		CREST	SEEM	NEC	
	Rates	Current Rates Charged*				
Therapy (SLP, OT, PT, BCBA)	\$94/hr	\$0/hr	\$94.55/hr.	\$93/hr.	\$105/hr.	
Transition Specialist	\$94/hr.	\$0/hr	N/A	N/A	\$105/hr.	
Augmentative and Alternative Communication Specialist	\$94/hr.	\$0/hr	\$132.38/hr.	N/A	\$105/hr.	
Augmentative & Alternative Communication Consult	\$94/hr.	\$0/hr	N/A	N/A	\$105/hr.	
Social Work	\$94/hr.	\$0/hr	N/A	N/A	\$105/hr.	
School Psychologist	\$100/hr.	\$100/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Transitional Aide	\$136.50/day	\$136.50/day	\$158/day	\$192.64/day	\$201.60/day	
Behavioral Aide	\$253.50/day	\$253.50/day	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Extended Day Programming	\$25/day (1:5 ratio) \$45/ day (any other ratio)	\$25/day (1:5 ratio) \$45/ day (any other ratio)	\$55/day	N/A	N/A	
One-on-one Nurse	Contingent on qualifications	Contingent on qualifications	LPN \$254/day RN \$297/day	N/A	N/A	
Assessments	Valley	Valley	CREST	SEEM	NEC	
Interim Alternative Education Setting -- 45 Day Assessment	\$11,970/45 days	\$11,970/45 days	\$14,498.28	\$12,840.30	\$12,310.20	
Speech Language Evaluation	\$374 flat rate	\$374 flat rate	\$567.32/5 hrs	N/A	N/A	
Occupational Therapy Evaluation	\$374 flat rate	\$374 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	
SIPT Assessment						
Sensory Integration & Praxis Test -- 17 subtests	\$150/hr.	\$150/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Physical Therapy Evaluation	\$374 flat rate	\$374 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Functional Behavioral Assessment	\$1,410 flat rate	\$1,410 flat rate	\$731.22/5 hrs.	N/A	N/A	
Functional Vocational Evaluation (V5)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory-motor • Gross & Fine Motor • Coping/Adaptive Behavior • Autonomous Living • an observation of the student in a community based work environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths • Preferences and Interests • Work adjustment and Job readiness • Memory and Learning Style 	\$816 flat rate	\$816 flat rate	\$945.54/5 hrs	N/A	N/A
Transition Assessment (V10)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptive Living • Self-Determination • Employability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition • Social • Person-Centered Planning 	\$1,270 flat rate	\$1,270 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Observational Assessment	\$827 flat rate	\$827 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Cognitive/Intelligence Testing -- Three Year Evaluations	\$100/hr.	\$100/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Psychological Evaluation						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bender Visual-Motor Gestalt Test • Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure • BASC Progress Monitor • Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, 2nd Ed. • Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 4th Ed. • Wechsler Preschool & Primary Intelligence Scale, 4th Ed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conners' Rating Scales • Drug Use Screening Inventory • Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory • Behavioral Assessment for Children, 2nd Ed. • Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, 4th Ed. 	\$100/hr. 2 hrs. minimum depending on assessments r equested	\$100/hr. 2 hrs. minimum depending on assessments r equested	N/A	N/A	N/A
Team Meeting Attendance	\$116/hr.	\$116/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Travel Rate	Federal mileage reimbursement rate	Federal mileage reimbursement rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Products	Valley	Valley	CREST	SEEM	NEC	
Transition Planning Package (20 Person Centered Planning Tools with 2 hours of consult with our Transition Specialist)	\$275 per pkg.	\$275 per pkg.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Person Centered Planning Tool	\$4.93 ea.	\$4.93 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Experiential Physical Education: Field Manual	\$40.00 ea.	\$40.00 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Experiential Physical Education: Comprehensive Curriculum Guide	\$75.00 ea.	\$75.00 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Experiential Physical Education: Leadership Development (2 days, 1 night)	\$3500 per 10 students	\$3500 per 10 students	N/A	N/A	N/A	

N/A: No comparison data available.

Valley has the most cost effective rates for all of these services.



Contract Services - Non Valley Students

The cost effectiveness of 2015-2016 Member Districts Rates compared to the other Collaboratives in the region.

Hourly Services	Valley	CREST	SEEM	NEC
Therapy (Speech, Occupational & Physical)	\$96.25/hr.	\$78.8/hr.	\$82/hr.	\$95/hr.
Transition Specialist	\$96.25/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Augmentative and Alternative Communication Specialist	\$96.25/hr.	\$110.31/hr.	N/A	N/A
Social Work	\$96.25/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Home School Facilitator	\$92.50/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ABA Therapist	\$55/hr.	N/A	\$60/hr.	N/A
Board Certified Behavior Analyst	\$98.75/hr.	\$105.06/hr.	\$103/hr.	\$105/hr.
Psychiatrist	\$323.75/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
School Psychologist	\$97.50/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tutoring	\$45/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
One-on-one Transitional Aide	\$19.50/hr.	\$137/day	\$192.64/day	\$164.47/day
One-on-one Behavioral Aide	\$36.6/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
One-on-one Nurse	Contingent on qualifications	LPN \$220/day RN \$258/day	N/A	N/A
Restraint Training	\$150/per person not to exceed \$1500 a day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Extended Day Programming	\$20/day (1:5 ratio) \$40/day (any other ratio)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Assessments	Valley	CREST	SEEM	NEC
Speech Language Evaluation	\$308 flat rate	\$472.77/5 hrs	N/A	N/A
Occupational Therapy Evaluation	\$308 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
SIPT Assessment				
Sensory Integration & Praxis Test – 17 subtests	\$100/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Physical Therapy Evaluation	\$308 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Functional Behavioral Assessment	\$1,155 flat rate	\$609.35/5 hrs.	N/A	N/A
Functional Vocational Evaluation (V5) · Sensory-motor · Strengths · Gross & Fine Motor · Preferences and Interests · Coping/Adaptive Behavior · Work adjustment and Job readiness · Autonomous Living · Memory and Learning Style · an observation of the student in a community based work environment	\$777 flat rate	\$787.95/5 hrs.	N/A	N/A
Transition Assessment (V10) V5 and: · Adaptive Living · Transition · Self-Determination · Social · Employability · Person-Centered Planning	\$1,210 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Observational Assessment	\$603 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cognitive/Intelligence Testing – Three Year Evaluations	\$78/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Psychological Evaluation · Bender Visual-Motor Gestalt Test · Connors' Rating Scales · Rey-Osterreith Complex Figure · Drug Use Screening Inventory · BASC Progress Monitor · Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory · Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, 2nd Ed. · Behavioral Assessment for Children, 2nd Ed. · Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 4th Ed. · Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, 4th Ed. · Wechsler Preschool & Primary Intelligence Scale, 4th Ed.	\$78/hr. 2 hrs minimum depending on assessments requested	N/A	N/A	N/A
Team Meeting Attendance	\$93/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Travel Rate	Federal mileage reimbursement rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Restraint Training	\$150/person not to exceed \$1,500 a day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Products	Valley	CREST	SEEM	NEC
Transition Planning Package (20 Person Centered Planning Tools with 2 hours of consult with our Transition Specialist)	\$265 per pkg.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Person Centered Planning Tool	\$4.93 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Experiential Physical Education: Field Manual	\$40.00 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Experiential Physical Education: Comprehensive Curriculum Guide	\$75.00 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Experiential Physical Education: Leadership Development (2 days, 1 night)	\$3500 per 10 students	N/A	N/A	N/A

N/A: No comparison data available.

Valley has the most cost effective rates for all of these services.



Contract Services - Non Valley Students

The cost effectiveness of 2015-2016 Non Member Districts Rates compared to the other Collaboratives in the region.

Hourly Services	Valley	CREST	SEEM	NEC
Therapy (Speech, Occupational & Physical)	\$117/hr.	\$94.55/hr.	\$93/hr.	\$105/hr.
Transition Specialist	\$117/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Augmentative and Alternative Communication Specialist	\$117/hr.	\$132.38/hr.	N/A	N/A
Social Work	\$117/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Home School Facilitator	\$113/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ABA Therapist	\$60/hr.	N/A	\$82/hr.	N/A
Board Certified Behavior Analyst	\$119/hr.	\$126.07/hr.	\$118/hr.	\$130/hr.
Psychiatrist	\$394/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
School Psychologist	\$125/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tutoring	\$50/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
One-on-one Transitional Aide	\$21/hr.	\$158/day	\$192.64/day	\$201.60/day
One-on-one Behavioral Aide	\$39/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Restraint Training	\$200/per person not to exceed \$1500 a day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Extended Day Programming	\$25/day (1:5 ratio) \$45/day (any other ratio)	N/A	N/A	N/A
One-on-one Nurse	Contingent on qualifications	LPN \$254/day RN \$297/day	N/A	N/A
Assessments	Valley	CREST	SEEM	NEC
Speech Language Evaluation	\$374 flat rate	\$567.32/5 hrs.	N/A	N/A
Occupational Therapy Evaluation	\$374 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
SIPT Assessment <i>Sensory Integration & Praxis Test – 17 subtests</i>	\$150/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Physical Therapy Evaluation	\$374 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Functional Behavioral Assessment	\$1,410 flat rate	\$731.22/5 hrs.	N/A	N/A
Functional Vocational Evaluation (V5) · <i>Sensory-motor</i> · <i>Strengths</i> · <i>Gross & Fine Motor</i> · <i>Preferences and Interests</i> · <i>Coping / Adaptive Behavior</i> · <i>Work adjustment and Job readiness</i> · <i>Autonomous Living</i> · <i>Memory and Learning Style</i> · <i>an observation of the student in a community based work environment</i>	\$816 flat rate	\$945.54/5 hrs.	N/A	N/A
Transition Assessment (V10) V5 and: · <i>Adaptive Living</i> · <i>Transition</i> · <i>Self-Determination</i> · <i>Social</i> · <i>Employability</i> · <i>Person-Centered Planning</i>	\$1,270 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Observational Assessment	\$827 flat rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cognitive/Intelligence Testing – Three Year Evaluations	\$100/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Psychological Evaluation · <i>Bender Visual-Motor Gestalt Test</i> · <i>Connors' Rating Scales</i> · <i>Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure</i> · <i>Drug Use Screening Inventory</i> · <i>BASC Progress Monitor</i> · <i>Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory</i> · <i>Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, 2nd Ed.</i> · <i>Behavioral Assessment for Children, 2nd Ed.</i> · <i>Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 4th Ed.</i> · <i>Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, 4th Ed.</i> · <i>Wechsler Preschool & Primary Intelligence Scale, 4th Ed.</i>	\$100/hr. 2 hrs. minimum depending on assessments requested	N/A	N/A	N/A
Team Meeting Attendance	\$116/hr.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Travel Rate	Federal mileage reimbursement rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Restraint Training	\$200/per person not to exceed \$1,500 a day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Products	Valley	CREST	SEEM	NEC
Transition Planning Package (20 Person Centered Planning Tools with 2 hours of consult with our Transition Specialist)	\$310 per pkg.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Person Centered Planning Tool	\$4.93 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Experiential Physical Education: Field Manual	\$40.00 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Experiential Physical Education: Comprehensive Curriculum Guide	\$75.00 ea.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Experiential Physical Education: Leadership Development (2 days, 1 night)	\$3500 per 10 students	N/A	N/A	N/A

N/A: No comparison data available.

Valley has the most cost effective rates for all of these services.