

Executive Summary: Champions Before and After School Care

Meridian CUSD 223 is evaluating a partnership with Champions (a member of the KinderCare Education family of brands) to provide comprehensive before-school, after-school, and summer camp programs across our two elementary school buildings. Champions brings decades of experience, Cognia accreditation, and research-backed curricula to deliver a safe, engaging, and turn-key solution for our district's families.

Key Value Propositions for District #223

1. Turn-Key & Customized Operations
 - Champions handles all aspects of administration, staffing, curriculum, and family billing, allowing district staff to remain focused on core academic operations.
 - Programs will be tailored to align directly with our mission, goals, and culture.
2. Accredited, Research-Based Curriculum
 - Cognia Accredited: Champions is the largest national extended-learning provider to meet these rigorous quality and operational standards.
 - Focus Areas: Curriculum emphasizes 21st-century 4-Cs skills (communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking), hands-on STEM activities, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), character development, and literacy.
3. Inclusion & Student Support Services
 - Dedicated Inclusion Services Teams provide guidance, accommodation recommendations, and individualized tools for students with special needs, working in partnership with school staff and IEP teams.
4. Staffing & Recruitment Advantages
 - Recruitment Platform: Champions utilizes dedicated recruiters to hire high-quality educators.
 - Retention & Benefits: Benefits offered at 25 hours per week incentivize staff retention, creating stable employment models that frequently feed qualified talent back into client districts.
5. Industry-Leading Health & Safety
 - Meticulous safety and hygiene standards designed to safeguard both physical and emotional well-being.

Program Design & Financial Model

- Location & Scope: Services will be hosted at both Highland Elementary and Monroe Center Grade School, serving grades K–5.
- Flexible Parent Options: Families can choose full- or part-time schedules with weekly billing, single-day rates, or drop-in care.
- Financial Subsidies & Discounts:

- Champions maintains an in-house subsidy team to help families access state and local financial assistance.
- Standard 10% discounts offered for District Employees, Military Families, and Multi-Child enrollments.

Summary of Tuition & Fee Structure

- Registration: \$60/child or \$100/family (\$20 re-enrollment).
- Before-School Care: \$35 (1–2 days) | \$52 (3–5 days)
- After-School Care: \$60 (1–2 days) | \$95 (3–5 days)
- Full-Day Breaks / Summer Camp: \$135 (1–2 days) | \$225 (3–5 days) | \$56 single non-school day
- Early Release Day Add-on: \$21/day | Drop-In: \$32 (before/after) or \$74 (breaks/summer)

Implementation Timeline & Next Steps

- Letter of Intent: The district and Champions have negotiated the expansion of services since July 2026 and have established a Letter of Intent.
- Target Execution Date: Formal execution of the Expansion of Extended Day Services Agreement is targeted for completion in October.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Education consider the approval of the proposal with KinderCare to implement the Champions program. Partnering with Champions provides Meridian CUSD 223 families with a high-quality, flexible, and affordable extended learning option while relieving the district of operational oversight.