

Approval of Purchase of “Classworks” Instructional Software Package

May 12, 2009

SUMMARY:

- This item requests approval of the purchase of *Classworks* instructional software solutions package from Curriculum Advantage, Inc. for K-8th grades.

BOARD GOAL

- I. Vision...In pursuit of excellence, the district will:
 - b. remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus
- II. Teaching & Learning...In pursuit of excellence, the district will:
 - b. expect full curriculum implementation on each campus by instructional leaders
 - d. stay abreast of and incorporate best practices into teaching, learning and leadership
 - e. advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

- *Classworks* was the topic of a workshop item at the April 28, 2009 board meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- *Classworks* was researched and demonstrated to curriculum coordinators, central office administrators, assistant principals, principals, teachers, and technology department staff over a number of meetings in December, January, and April. The solutions package includes access to the software, customized planning, professional learning, appliances, and technical support. See detailed attachment.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

-The 2007 Bond Committee included the purchase of instructional software in the 2007 Bond.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 2007 Bond: \$1,575,000
- ARRA Stimulus Funds: \$593,750
- Cost of action over 5 years is estimated to be \$64,000/year, 2010-2014

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

- Allows student access to over 250 software titles
- Supports Response to Intervention, progress monitoring
- Individualizes for students based on imported test data
- Provides equity at each school
- Schools that use the product with a recommended minimum amount of computer time should expect to receive a benefit in student performance

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

- Application and rollout plan begins as soon as summer school 2009 for student use. The remainder of schools will start up in Fall 2009.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

- None

ALTERNATIVES:

- No alternative actions are proposed

OTHER COMMENTS:

- Thank you for bringing *Classworks* to Paloma Creek El yesterday. I spoke to several teachers and they were very impressed. I think it is so much better than Study Island. It goes into much more depth. I really like the fact that it aligns with our TEKS and we can Benchmark students when they come in and find out exactly where they are. That is fabulous. I think it will be a big help to the regular classroom teacher as well as ESL. Thank you again. I truly hope that the board approves it and we can start using it in the fall. I look forward to learn more about it soon. Sandi Schwartz

- I just thought I would take a moment to let you know that I am very impressed with the *Classworks* program. It is exciting to see a program that allows for differentiation of instruction. The possibility of utilizing TAKS data and/or benchmark scores to drive individual instruction is powerful. The mini lesson component fulfills a gap that I feel is missing in the software we are currently utilizing. Overall, I think this product offers many possibilities for the future growth of student learning. I will be anxiously awaiting an affirmative vote from the board in May! Kimberly Mills, Third Grade

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION: The superintendent recommends that the Denton ISD Board approve the purchase of the *Classworks* software solutions package.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Dr. Mike Mattingly, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology
- Mr. Ernie Stripling, Technology Information Officer

ATTACHMENT:

- *Classworks* by Curriculum Advantage Customized Educational Solutions, Terms & Conditions (4 pages)

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____