



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: March 21, 2024

TOPIC: 3-year | Kindergarten through Third Grade Literacy Program Adoption | HMH Education Company

PREPARED BY: Dominick Lupo

Recommended for:

- ☒ Action
- ☒ Discussion
- ☒ Information

Purpose/Background:

The Board of Education approves all curricular adoptions and contracts.

As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing early literacy instruction and improving academic outcomes for all students, we are recommending the adoption of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's IntoReading literacy curriculum for our kindergarten through second-grade students. After a comprehensive review of several curricula, we are confident that IntoReading provides the research-based, differentiated, and engaging resources our teachers need to effectively support young learners as they build foundational literacy skills.

IntoReading stood out due to its strong alignment with state and national standards, as well as its proven effectiveness in helping students develop essential reading skills. This curriculum integrates key elements of early literacy development, including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, fluency, and comprehension. These foundational skills are critical at the early elementary level, where students can see their literacy journey move from learning to read to reading to learn.

A significant strength of IntoReading is its ability to differentiate instruction. The curriculum offers a wide range of resources, such as leveled readers, interactive activities, and assessments, that meet the diverse needs of our student population. Whether students are struggling with early literacy skills or

are ready to advance, IntoReading provides the tools for teachers to tailor instruction to each child's needs. This flexibility is particularly valuable in our district, where students enter kindergarten with varying levels of readiness.

Although IntoReading has an early strong focus on teaching the foundations of reading, it also fosters a love of reading through its engaging, age-appropriate texts and its focus on building vocabulary through rich content. The curriculum includes both fiction and nonfiction texts that engage students with real-world topics, making learning relevant and exciting. By providing students with a variety of high-interest texts, the curriculum promotes critical thinking, comprehension, and discussion—skills that are foundational for academic achievement.

In addition to supporting students, IntoReading offers continuous professional development and teacher support. The curriculum provides educators with clear lesson plans, instructional guides, and continuous formative assessments that allow for ongoing progress monitoring. These resources empower teachers to adjust instruction in real-time based on student performance, ensuring that every student receives the support they need to succeed. This continuous support is crucial as we aim to equip our teachers with the tools they need to be successful in fostering early literacy development.

By adopting the IntoReading literacy curriculum for kindergarten through second grade, our district will provide students with a high-quality, research-based program that promotes strong literacy foundations. The curriculum's emphasis on differentiation, engaging content, and teacher support makes it a great choice for meeting the various needs of our young learners.

The District's Legal Counsel reviewed all documents and is still in the process of reviewing the privacy policy and terms and conditions.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of the 3-year adoption will be \$124,246.26 for all materials and professional development.

Recommendation:

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this Contract from *HMH Education Company* for the adoption of the K-5 math curriculum in the amount of \$124,246.26 from the 2025-2026 school year to the 2027-2028 school year.