



Sharon Williams, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*

To: RIMSD 41 Board of Education  
From: Dr. Sharon Williams  
Cabinet Champion: Scott Vance, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning  
Date: July 22, 2025  
Re: Newsela Software Licence Renewal

Newsela has served as the basis for the District's K-8 Social Studies Curriculum and as a supplemental learning resource for teachers in grades 9-12 since the 2021-2022 school year. Newsela takes authentic, real world content from trusted sources and makes it instruction ready across multiple subject areas. Texts are published at several different reading levels, making content both challenging to and supportive of every learner.

Newsela currently aligns with much of our curriculum. Since its adoption, Newsela has expanded to include additional online resources in English Language Arts, Social Studies (including the role and contributions of ethnic groups), Social Emotional Learning, Civics, and LGBTQ+ curriculum integration.

Rooted in research and learning science, Newsela has licensing agreements with *The Washington Post*, Tribune Content Agency, *Scientific American*, *The Guardian*, and others. Because of these licensing agreements, students are able to read authentic news articles and primary source documents and learn more about the world we live in.

Newsela includes attention to vocabulary study, formative assessment through short quizzes, reading comprehension activities, as well as writing prompts. It contains many pre-loaded lesson ideas as well as has the ability for teachers to customize to meet students' needs.

It is recommended the Board of Education approve the contract for service for the 2025-2026 school year to renew the online software license from Newsela, located at 500 5th Avenue, FL 28 New York, NY at a cost of **\$100,915.32**.

**Investment Period: August 1, 2025 - July 31, 2026**

**Total Investment: \$100,915.32**

**Funding Source: Federal Funds (\$70,055.01) and District Funds (\$30,860.31)**

#### **Rock Island-Milan School District #41**

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