



## Governing Board Agenda Item

---

Meeting Date: September 11, 2025

From: Denise Linsalata, Assistant Superintendent

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding with Scholastic

Priority: To provide rigorous, relevant, and innovative academics

Consent ☐ Action ☒ Discussion ☐

---

### Background:


The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Scholastic and the Marana Unified School District (MUSD) is to allow for participation in a research study, whereby MUSD will provide Scholastic with anonymized demographic and achievement data for participating students and schools, and anonymized formative assessment data already in use.

Districts participating in the study will receive a virtual professional learning package determined by the needs of the District.

The Memorandum of Understanding has been approved by District legal counsel.

### Recommended Motion:

I move that the Governing Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Scholastic and the Marana Unified School District.

Approved for transmittal to the Governing Board:   
Dr. Daniel Streeter, Superintendent

*Questions should be directed to: Denise Linsalata, Assistant Superintendent*  
*Phone: (520) 682-4757*

---

## Literacy Pro Comparison Study Memorandum of Understanding

Scholastic is pleased to partner with Marana Unified School District to participate in a comparison study on Literacy Pro, a blended reading management tool and ebook library. This study will be facilitated by independent 3rd party evaluators to examine the impact of the Scholastic Literacy Pro on literacy achievement of K-6th graders. The study may also examine the influence of self-selecting text on engagement and literacy outcomes. This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) outlines the mutual understanding of the parties in the study.

### Research Activities

The following data collection activities will take place as determined by the external research team (LXD Research) after the completion of a Data Sharing Agreement between Marana Unified School District and LXD Research:

- Provision of demographic and achievement data for all students in grades K-6 for school year 2024-2025 and 2023-2024, and others as requested by the research team
- Provision of formative assessment data or administration of a formative assessment (examples: universal screeners, benchmark assessments, and other district assessments) for school year 2024-2025 and 2023-2024, and others as requested by research team
- Research team will conduct school administration and teacher interviews to gather program implementation feedback

The research team will follow the district’s research review and approval processes before conducting any study activities.

### Analysis and Reporting

- As part of the research study, the research team will also analyze school selected universal screener and/or benchmarking data to evaluate the impact of Literacy Pro on literacy achievement for grades K-6 during the 2024/2025 school year. The report with key findings for this analysis will be made available after data collection.
- The research team will meet with and update the district as needed throughout the study with preliminary findings and plans for upcoming research activities. A schedule for these meetings will be arranged at the project kickoff meeting, with a tentative outline of events included below.

## Participating Schools and Districts-

**Incentives:** Scholastic provides an incentive package for each district/school that participates through the entire study. The incentive package includes:

- District/schools participating in the study receive: A virtual professional learning package determined by the needs of the district. The package may include virtual training for digital tools or virtual data driven discussions, valued up to \$5,000.

**Expectations:** Participation in the following study data collection activities:

- Provision of anonymized demographic and achievement data for participating students and schools;
- Provision of anonymized formative assessment data already in use

Scholastic appreciates this opportunity to partner with you on this important study. We firmly believe that through participation in the study, your district will have a clear understanding of the impact of Literacy Pro on your students. Additionally, we are confident that teachers within the district will be fulfilled knowing that they will directly contribute to expanding the overall research base of child and literacy development.

## Study Contacts

- Dr. Amy Boza, VP of Research and Validation at Scholastic ([aboza@Scholastic.com](mailto:aboza@Scholastic.com))
- Morissa McQuide, Research Manager at Scholastic ([mmcquide@Scholastic.com](mailto:mmcquide@Scholastic.com))
- Isabella Ilievski, Senior Research Associate at LXD Research ([isabella@lxdresearch.com](mailto:isabella@lxdresearch.com))

## Study Timeline

Estimated Month	Research Activity
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome meeting</li><li>• MOU/DSA signed</li><li>• Data sharing meeting (if desired)</li></ul>
October/ November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data sharing</li><li>• Data analyzing</li><li>• Administrator interviews (can be earlier if more convenient)</li><li>• Preliminary results</li></ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final results</li><li>• Reporting</li></ul>