

Board Review Cover Sheet: Defined Learning Implementation

Date: April 9, 2026

Subject: Three-Year Review of Defined Learning Integration (K-12)

Status: Evaluation of Impact & Continuation

Executive Summary

Defined Learning is a versatile online platform designed to enhance our existing curriculum through Project-Based Learning (PBL) and career exploration. Rather than serving as a standalone curriculum, it acts as a pedagogical tool that bridges the gap between classroom theory and real-world application. Over the past three years, it has become a staple of both our standard academic year and our Summer Programs.

Core Objectives

- **Real-World Application:** Engaging students through authentic scenarios that mirror professional environments.
 - **Career-Connected Learning:** Introducing K-12 students to diverse career pathways early and often.
 - **Interdisciplinary Integration:** Breaking down "silos" by connecting math, science, ELA, and social studies through hands-on projects.
-

Implementation Timeline & Professional Growth

The district has prioritized a "people-first" rollout to ensure the tool is used effectively rather than just sitting on a digital shelf.

- **Spring 2023:** Initial leadership phase; administrators and teacher leaders received intensive foundational training.
 - **Fall 2023:** Full District Inservice Kick-Off; all K-12 staff trained for classroom implementation.
 - **2023–Present:** Ongoing, consistent professional development cycles for both teachers and administrators to refine PBL instructional strategies.
-

Key Performance Indicators & Impact

The adoption of Defined Learning has led to measurable improvements in school culture and student sentiment. Notable outcomes include:

1. **Increased Student Engagement:** Higher levels of participation in hands-on, career-aligned projects.
2. **Improved Attendance:** A visible correlation between PBL-heavy units and student presence.
3. **Collaborative Culture:** Enhanced cross-subject planning among staff members.

Student Perception Data

We track student sentiment via our biannual survey. The following data represents responses to the statement: *"I believe what I learn in school will have an impact on my future."*

Survey Period	Average Score (5.0 Scale)	Trend

Spring 2024	3.28	Baseline
Spring 2025	3.48	+0.20 Growth

Note: This significant jump in student "buy-in" underscores the success of Defined Learning in making education feel relevant and purposeful for our students.

Recommendation

Based on the steady growth in student survey scores and the successful integration into K-12 and Summer Program workflows, it is recommended that the district continues its partnership with Defined Learning to further solidify our career-connected learning goals and approve a 4 year contract totaling \$149,460 paid in three installments (approx \$49,820 per year for three years, includes 4th year at no cost)