



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: March 20, 2025

TOPIC: Third Grade through Fifth Grade Literacy Program Adoption | American Reading Company

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Recommended for:

- ☒ Action
- ☒ Discussion
- ☒ Information

Purpose/Background:

The Board of Education approves all curricular adoptions and contracts.

Executive Summary

As we continue to focus on enhancing the literacy skills of our students, it is essential that we provide a curriculum that is both rigorous and responsive to their diverse learning needs. After a thorough evaluation of available literacy program options, our nineteen member Literacy Committee recommends adoption of the American Reading Company (ARC) literacy curriculum for students in grades 3 through 5. This curriculum offers a comprehensive, research-based approach that is aligned with our District's goals and ensures that all students have the opportunity to succeed in reading and writing.

The ARC literacy curriculum stood out due to its critical components of literacy development, including vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and student choice, all of which are essential for student success. ARC supports the development of both struggling readers and more advanced learners through continuous assessments built into the curriculum. This allows teachers the ability to monitor student progress, identify areas for improvement, and adjust instruction to meet students' evolving needs. This data-driven approach also allows for targeted interventions when and where necessary.

ARC also stood out because it provides a wide array of resources, including leveled texts and flexible lesson plans. The incorporation of both print and digital resources provides students with multiple modes of learning, ensuring that we can reach learners with different learning preferences and styles.

Another significant benefit of ARC is the comprehensive support it offers to teachers. The curriculum includes detailed lesson plans, professional development, and ongoing instructional support, all of which equip educators to deliver high-quality, engaging lessons.

Furthermore, the ARC curriculum emphasizes the importance of literacy across content areas, encouraging students to develop the skills they need not only for reading and writing but also for success in subjects such as science, social studies, and mathematics.

Adopting the American Reading Company's literacy curriculum for grades 3 through 5 will provide our district with a proven, flexible, and comprehensive tool to enhance student literacy. It is a curriculum that supports differentiation, fosters teacher effectiveness, and equips students with the literacy skills they need for academic success. The goals of this program are also aligned with our District's strategic plan of developing high school ready learners with cutting edge resources. Through implementation of this resource, we have confidence that this program will positively impact our students' reading and writing proficiency, thus strongly preparing them for the next level of education.

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:

Year 1	<i>\$244,920 for all materials and professional development.</i>
Year 2	<i>\$21,300 consumable and digital literacy platform</i>
Year 3	<i>\$21,300 consumable and digital literacy platform</i>
Ongoing Professional Development	<i>Not to exceed \$40,000 in years 2 & 3 combined</i>

The fiscal impact of the 3-year adoption amount not to exceed \$327,520 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 *American Reading Company* for the adoption of the grades 3-5 literacy curriculum in the amount not to exceed \$327,520 from the 2025-2026 school year to the 2027-2028 school year.