

MEMO

To: Superintendent Gina Butters, Board President Paul Widdison, WSD Board Members

From: Heather Neilson, Curriculum & Instruction Director

Subject: Elementary Language Arts Resource Adoption Process in Response to Utah Senate Bill 127

Date: April 22, 2024

On January 22, 2024, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was initiated in response to Utah Senate Bill 127. This bill stipulates that by the beginning of the 2024-25 school year “a school district or charter school shall provide instructional materials that are evidence-informed for core instruction and evidence-based for intervention and supplemental instruction.” Our current elementary English Language Arts curriculum, *Journeys*, does not meet these requirements. Consequently, an RFP process was initiated to ensure compliance with the law.

Four companies submitted proposals in response to the RFP. As outlined in WSD Policy 8800, an Instructional Materials Review Committee was established and tasked with evaluating the submissions against predefined criteria. This committee comprised representatives from all relevant departments and schools within the district, including 27 K-5 teachers, two student advocacy representatives, two instructional coaches, two administrators, and four parents. Additionally, key personnel such as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, the Elementary ELA Curriculum Specialist, the Director of Technical Services, Assistant Superintendent Dave Hales, and Jan Burrell, a WSD Board Member, participated in the committee.

During the first stage of the adoption process, a District Instructional Material Review Committee, comprised of the Elementary English Arts Content Specialist, the Curriculum Director, two teachers, an instructional coach, the Technical Services Director, and one administrator, assessed submissions to ensure compliance with the Minimum Mandatory Requirements outlined in the RFP. Notably, the *Super Kids Foundational Skills Kit K-2 (2020)* was disqualified from further consideration due to its limited curriculum scope, which only covered grades K-2.

The remaining vendors—Houghton Mifflin Harcourt- *Into Reading*, *Amplify- CKLA*, and McGraw Hill - *Wonders*—advanced to stage two. The entire Instructional Review Committee was provided with sample materials from each remaining vendor. On Tuesday, March 5th, the committee convened to hear formal presentations from each vendor. After the presentations, the committee was given the next steps: reviewing the evaluation rubric, reading and assessing the technical proposals from each vendor, piloting the materials from each program in their classroom, and sharing the insights from their experiences with their colleagues and other committee members.

To guarantee broad stakeholder engagement, public open houses took place on March 20, 2024, and April 17, 2024. These events were a crucial component of the evaluation process, enabling all stakeholders to interact directly with the materials, ask questions to vendor representatives, and use a Google Form to offer feedback to the Instructional Review Committee.

On April 17, 2024, the Instructional Material Review Committee reconvened to discuss all aspects of the evaluation process. Each committee member had the opportunity to share their thoughts on program preference and the strengths and weaknesses of each program. Following the meeting, members were assigned to complete the evaluation rubric for each program. This entailed assessing technical proposals, vendor presentations, feedback from open houses, and classroom pilots. All final evaluations for the three programs were due by 4:00 PM on Friday, April 19, 2024.

Vendors achieving a score of 70% or higher advanced to the cost evaluation phase. In this phase, the rubric scores were combined with the cost assessment to determine the vendor with the top overall score. McGraw Hill *Wonders* led with 4,086 points, followed closely by Amplify- *CKLA* with 3,803 points, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt- *Into Reading* with 3,614 points. McGraw Hill-*Wonders* provided a quote of \$3,344,340.15 for an eight-year adoption, including professional development. Amplify- *CKLA* offered an eight-year adoption package priced at \$5,194,382.72, with the option for professional development at an additional cost of \$3,200.00. This cost includes six hours of training for up to 30 teachers.

Based on our thorough assessment of both the comprehensive scores and pricing details, we respectfully seek your approval to acquire the McGraw Hill-*Wonders* core english language arts program for grades K-5. We extend our sincere gratitude for your consistent support, which enables us to furnish our students and educators with top-tier instructional materials.