

Memo



Date: June 17, 2025

To: Dr. Karla Guseman, Superintendent

From: Dianne McDonald, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services

Re: Partnership with READ en español, Inc.

The purpose of this memo is to seek Board approval for a professional development partnership with READ en español, Inc. to provide targeted training for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers in support of Multilingual Learners (MLs) for the 2025–2026 school year.

JTHS District 204 serves a diverse student population:

- 58% of students identify as Hispanic
- 17% of students are classified as English Learners
- 66% of students are considered low-income

The district has experienced a notable increase in Newcomer students, resulting in a need to support faculty in delivering accessible, culturally responsive instruction within CTE programs. This partnership supports the district's strategic goal to improve equitable access to content and skill-based learning for Multilingual Learners.

READ en español, Inc. will provide the following services during the 2025–2026 academic year:

- **Eight in-person professional development sessions** (Sept. 2025 – April 2026)
- **Ongoing project development and planning** with administrators
- **Curation of digital and instructional resources** specific to ML support in CTE
- **Two days of classroom observations** and a staff survey
- **Coaching and follow-up** with administrators and instructional coaches during “application of learning” phases

The focus will be on implementing high-impact strategies that simultaneously develop English proficiency and technical skills through real-world, hands-on tasks aligned to CTE pathways.

The total cost for Year 1 of this professional development series is **\$30,000**. Funding will be provided through appropriate CTE and Title III allocations. A separate contract will be considered for Year 2 pending a successful review of implementation outcomes.

It is recommended that the Board approve the Statement of Work between Joliet Township High School District 204 and READ en español, Inc., effective August 2025 through June 2026, in the amount of \$30,000.

Thank you for this consideration.