



## Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: May 19, 2022

TOPIC: Newsela Essentials Renewal 2022-2023

PREPARED BY: David Russo

### **Recommended for:**

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

### **Purpose/Background:**

The Board approves all contracts.

Newsela is a website that provides a range of articles on current events or relevant topics in English/language arts, science, math, and social studies. Articles are presented in five different reading levels; which students can select to best meet their needs. Vocabulary is adjusted to allow the information to be more accessible to students. Articles contain information that is high interest, which can supplement students' understanding of a topic.

Newsela Essentials allows teachers to track performance on reading assignments, create custom instructions and activities, annotate articles for students, and access professional development. Additionally, this subscription affords access to teacher resources for all current events articles and student activities to build comprehension and engagement. Students read 23,000 articles on the platform in the 2021-2022 school year.

District Legal Counsel reviewed the Customer Agreement and supporting documentation and found no changes were necessary. Since the inception of the subscription, an automatic subscription renewal clause was eliminated from the Terms along with clauses related to arbitration, changing the state law governing the Agreement to Illinois, and the venue of any potential litigation to the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. Additionally, an Amendment addressing the Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA) signed last year remains valid.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

The cost of a one-year subscription to Newsela Essentials for Todd Hall, Rutledge Hall, and Lincoln Hall is \$9,600. The subscription cost \$9,600 in the 2021-2022 school year as well.

### **Recommendation:**

It is the Administrative recommendation that the Finance Committee concurs to recommend to the Board of Education to approve this Customer Agreement from Newsela for Newsela Essentials in the amount of \$9,600 from August 6, 2022 to August 5, 2023.