

**Denton Independent School District**  
**Newsela Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA) Purchase**

April 9, 2024

**SUMMARY:**

This item requests approval of the quote from Newsela in the amount of \$166, 854.88 for the purchase of a two-year agreement for digital access to Secondary ELA TEKS-aligned literacy instructional and assessment resources.

**BOARD VALUE:**

Growth & Management... In pursuit of excellence, we value demonstrating effective and efficient management of district resources and providing leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal and regulatory requirements.

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:**

None

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Secondary ELA courses utilize Newsela as an instructional resource to support program goals and student learning outcomes. A one-year Newsela agreement was approved for the 23-24 school year by the Technology and Instructional Materials Allotment Committee. The quote for the proposed renewal is for a two-year Newsela agreement (school years 24-26) in order to provide uninterrupted access at a lower price point per student. Newsela takes authentic, multi-genre, grade-level content from trusted, vetted sources and makes it instruction-ready for Secondary ELA classrooms. Texts are published at five reading levels, so content can be both challenging and supportive of every learner. This product provides free “caregiver accounts,” whereby parents and guardians are able to create an account that allows them to see and print all articles and quizzes their student sees.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:**

This vendor is awarded on the District’s local RFP# 2303-01. This purchase is being brought for approval in accordance with the District’s CH (local) policy.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The cost will be borne through the Instructional Materials Allotment budget.

**BENEFIT OF ACTION:**

The approval of this purchase will allow the District to provide continuity of service to support Secondary ELA instructional priorities. Approximately 16,800 students in grades 6-12 per year will have access to this resource at a cost of \$4.96 per student.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the quote from Newsela be approved.

**STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:**

Natalie Nash, Secondary ELA Coordinator  
Dr. Lisa Thibodeaux, Executive Director Secondary Curriculum  
Lesli Guajardo, Director of Student Support Services  
Cindy Willis, Director of Purchasing

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**APPROVAL:**

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_