



**Board Meeting:** July 14, 2025

**Title:** Elementary Literacy Adoption Update: Benchmark Advance 2026 Edition

**Type:** Consent

**Presenter(s):** Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching and Learning; and Bethany Van Osdel, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning

**Background:** On March 3rd, the Board reviewed and approved the elementary literacy adoption recommendation of Benchmark Advance totaling \$547,287.32.

At the time of this approval, the most current version available from the vendor was the 2022 edition. However, within the last two months, the vendor released the updated 2026 edition.

Recognizing the importance of providing students and educators with the most current and relevant instructional resources, collaboration with the vendor occurred to secure the 2026 edition for an additional cost. The new cost totals \$575,591.88. This is an additional \$28,304.56 above the original approved cost.

The attached quote has two parts:

- The first part is the cost to update the 2022 edition of Benchmark Advance resources used this year in early implementation. The cost to update 2022 materials to the 2026 edition for early implementers is \$10,264.8.
- The second part is the cost to purchase the 2026 Benchmark materials for all other staff for the first time. This cost is \$565,327.08.
- The total of the two parts is \$575,591.88 which is \$28,304.56 more than the first approved cost of \$547,287.32.

In addition to collaborating with the vendor on securing the 2026 edition, Teaching and Learning leadership has been:

- Reviewing the new edition to ensure an understanding of differences.
- Planning for communication and professional development to support the limited, yet important changes instructionally aligned with best practices.
- Understanding and supporting the impact on the different instructional models in Edina (French Immersion, Spanish Dual Language, and Continuous Progress).

It is important to note that the March 3rd, 2025 Board Report articulated that Benchmark Advance has a Spanish resource, Adelante, to serve Edina Spanish Dual Language programming at Countryside Elementary. Spanish Dual Language 2nd grade teachers were early implementers of the most recent 2023 edition of Adelante during the 2024-25 school year. There is not a plan for the vendor to update the 2023 edition at this time. It has, however, been confirmed that the 2023 Adelante edition will align with the 2026 Benchmark Advance edition and we will be providing our Spanish Dual Language students with the most current and relevant resources that still include:

- Congruence and cohesiveness of parallel content and grade level topics provide ample variety and variance for a broad range of texts in both English and Spanish.
- Small Group Texts in English and Spanish provide content knowledge support for Science and Social Science at student's level of reading in L1 and L2 across the reading continuum.
- English and Spanish Language Development differentiated support is embedded in each lesson and are aligned in tandem with English and Spanish Language Arts Literacy and Language Instruction.

**Recommendation:** Review and approve the increase in cost of \$28,304.56 to purchase the 2026 edition of Benchmark Advance.

**Desired Outcomes For The Board:** Review and approve the increase in cost of \$28,304.56 to purchase the 2026 edition of Benchmark Advance.

**Attachments:**

[March 3rd Board Report:](#) Elementary Literacy Curriculum Adoption Recommendation: Benchmark Advance - Action

[2026 Copyright Benchmark Quote](#)

[FAQ Regarding 2026 Benchmark Copyright](#)