

Lyon County School District Board Memo

Date: April 22, 2025
To: Board of School Trustees
From: James Gianotti, Executive Director for Educational Services
Re: Renewal of NewsELA

Recommendation

That the Board of Trustees approve the renewal of NewsELA as a supplemental instructional material for teachers in grades K-12.

Background Information

NewsELA is a supplemental instructional material and resource for educators in grades K-12. Lyon CSD initially contracted with NewsELA in 2021 as an additional resource. NewsELA is a content and assessment platform that compliments some of our district adopted curriculum, such as FOSS, Study Sync, and HMH. There have been some new additions to the platform in recent years that have enhanced the learning experiences for students and teachers.

Formative allows teachers to create assessments that can be used to track student progress toward grade level standards which can be shared among departments and Professional Learning Communities. This can be utilized to house and ensure the integrity of the districtwide Civics Exam required by the state.

NewsELA Writing is the newest feature that assists students with improved writing. Utilizing rubrics and tools to ensure students produce quality writing while receiving targeted, immediate, practical feedback, ensuring students can obtain ongoing support prior to submitting final work.

With the approval of this renewal, LyonCSD could add the Writing and Formative pieces, allowing teachers and students greater flexibility and support with these tools until 2030. This platform is one that can assist in improved data when utilized as a complement to our district adopted curriculum. It is one of the few K-12 supplemental materials that can be used at each grade level and in every core content area. Differentiating lexile levels for students that struggle to comprehend challenging text, offering high interest and engaging articles in specific content areas to enhance daily instruction. This platform has been used district wide and at all levels, supporting teachers and students.

To get a sense of what NewsELA can offer, please visit their website at [Newsela.com](https://newsela.com)

***Mission Statement** Lyon County School District fosters learning for life, empowers connected learners, promotes student ownership, and encourages discovery learning for success in a rapidly evolving world.*

Options	Outcome	Discount	Year 1	Year 2 2% uplift	Year 3 2% uplift	Year 4 1% uplift	Year 5 1% uplift	Total Cost
1. Blending Learning Suite (Current)	Continue differentiated instruction across the curriculum	Multi-year avoids annual uplift of 5-10%	\$121,627	\$124,060	\$126,541	\$127,806	\$129,084	\$629,118
2. Newsela Writing Add-On (plus current)	Write across the curriculum & provide immediate feedback	50% off (\$1.50) for licensing >3k students	+\$4,773= \$126,400	\$128,928	\$131,506	\$132,821	\$134,150	\$653,805
3. Formative (plus one & two)	Provide one place for assessment, gathering actionable leading data	43% off bundling discount	+\$31,694= \$158,094	\$161,255	\$164,480	\$166,125	\$167,787	\$817,741

Budget Considerations

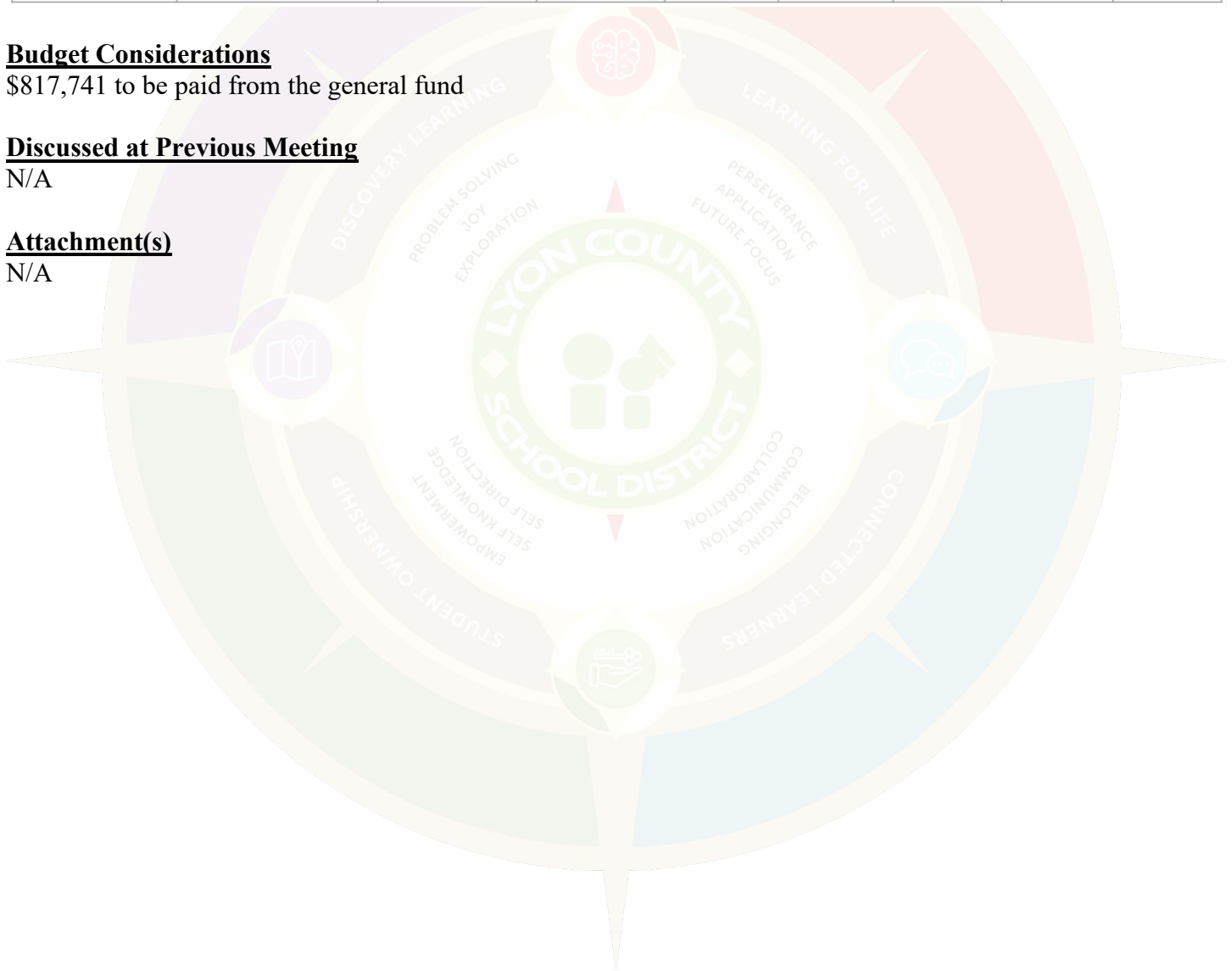
\$817,741 to be paid from the general fund

Discussed at Previous Meeting

N/A

Attachment(s)

N/A



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