

## **7.1 PRESENTATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM ADOPTION**

### **A. SUBJECT**

This item is included on the agenda so that the new elementary school literacy curriculum for grades 3-5 can be presented to the Board of Education.

### **B. INFORMATION**

#### **Background Information**

The current elementary literacy curriculum materials were purchased in 2015. Since that time, the state has adopted more rigorous standards and updated the instructional practices for teaching literacy. In addition, our current Ready Gen curriculum is sunsetting. The company will no longer be supporting our current curriculum after June 2026, meaning the books and digital resources will no longer be available.

At this time, we are recommending the adoption of a 3rd - 5th grade curriculum only. Over the past several years we have worked hard to develop a Kindergarten - 2nd grade curriculum aligned with current literacy standards. We have spent time developing the primary curriculum utilizing a variety of resources to increase knowledge around phonics in order to help students learn to read. This work has led to growth in students' literacy achievement at the primary levels. For this reason, we have made the decision to continue with our current K-2 curriculum and proceed with adopting a new 3rd-5th grade curriculum only.

Last fall, a team of elementary teachers, instructional coaches, the Director of Elementary Curriculum and Assistant Superintendent for Early Childhood and Elementary Education met to establish a literacy adoption committee. An EdReports rubric was utilized to ensure that all critical components were included in any literacy curriculum that would be reviewed. After reviewing various elementary literacy programs, it was concluded that there were 4 programs that met the identified criteria in the EdReports rubric, and they were invited to present their programs to the committee. The vendors included Benchmark Advance/Adelante, Amplify CKLA/Caminos, My View/Mi Vision by Savvas, and American Reading Company Core. After the presentations, teachers were able to review the material and decided to further investigate the materials published by Benchmark Advance/Adelante.

There are various other school districts currently using Benchmark Advance/Adelante, including Huntley School District 158, Oswego District 308, and Yorkville District 115. These districts commented how the program provides support for all types of learners. It has cohesive writing and grammar instruction, and students in grades 3-5 continue to build on and develop word study and vocabulary skills. It also helps to build knowledge in both science and social studies.

**Program Adoption:**

The Benchmark Advance/Adelante curriculum will be implemented in the Fall of 2025 at 2 elementary schools - Olson Elementary School and Prairiewood Elementary School. By implementing at only 2 schools the first year, this will allow us to focus our support for the new curriculum on a smaller scale and determine any needs as we roll it out to the other 4 buildings during the 2026-2027 school year. Benchmark Advance/Adelante will provide training sessions for teachers prior to the 2025-2026 school year. In addition, follow up professional development will be provided during the 2025-2026 school year. Individual coaching sessions will be provided to our teachers to help them improve their ability to implement the program. Continued internal professional development and team coaching during PLCs will help our grade level teams implement the new material with fidelity. This team time will allow staff to collaborate to review lessons as well as the common assessments that teachers will use to collectively measure student progress.

**Program Cost:**

Benchmark Advance/Adelante will be purchased using the Title I, School Improvement Grant funds, as well as the Teaching and Learning budget.

6 year license (MEES, Dean, WWE, GWE)	\$276,005.82
7 year license (Olson and PWE)	\$187,826.49
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COST</b>	<b>\$463,832.31</b>

No Board action is required at this time. Final adoption approval will be recommended by the administration at the June 17, 2025 Board of Education meeting.