

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

February 12, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Approval of the Curriculum and Instructional Materials for Pre-K–5
English Language Arts

Montgomery County Board of Education Policy IFA, *Curriculum*, requires review of curriculum content areas on five-year cycles. The 2017–2018 school year marked the review period for English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum for Pre-K–8. In July 2017, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) contracted with the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy to perform an assessment of Pre-K–8 English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum, which yielded a recommendation to purchase externally created curricular and instructional materials.

In response to this recommendation, MCPS issued Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 4478.1, English Language Arts and Mathematics Curricular and Instructional Materials Elementary and Middle School, to purchase externally created curricular and instructional materials for an initial term of three years with three one-year renewal options. A curriculum selection process was developed that included extensive input and feedback from MCPS stakeholders in evaluating the responses to RFP No. 4478.1, attending in-person vendor presentations, reviewing online vendor materials, and conducting vendor interviews. The curriculum selection process identified certain Pre-K–8 curricular and instructional materials and professional development that would best meet the needs of MCPS students and staff. On January 8, 2018, based on the outcome of the curriculum selection process, the Board approved the purchase of curricular and instructional materials for Pre-K–5 Mathematics, Grades 6–8 English Language Arts, and Grades 6–8 Mathematics.

MCPS staff now has completed the curriculum selection process for Pre-K–5 English Language Arts and recommends the purchase of Benchmark Advance by Benchmark Education Company, LLC, for Pre-K–5 English Language Arts curricular and instructional materials and professional development.

A three-year rollout of the new curricular and instructional materials has been designed so that each school has an introduction to the materials in spring, intense professional learning in summer, and full implementation in fall of the implementation year. All students in MCPS will continue to receive high quality instruction aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

I recommend the following resolution for your approval:

WHEREAS, Board of Education Policy IFA, *Curriculum*, requires review of curriculum content areas on five-year cycles; and

WHEREAS, The 2017–2018 school year marked the review period for English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum for Prekindergarten through Grade 8; and

WHEREAS, In July 2017, Montgomery County Public Schools contracted with the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy to perform an assessment of Prekindergarten through Grade 8 English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum, which yielded a recommendation to purchase externally created curricular and instructional materials; and

WHEREAS, In response to this recommendation, Montgomery County Public Schools issued Request for Proposal No. 4478.1, English Language Arts and Mathematics Curricular and Instructional Materials Elementary and Middle School, to purchase externally created curricular and instructional materials for an initial term of three years with three one-year renewal options; and

WHEREAS, A curriculum selection process was developed that included extensive input and feedback from Montgomery County Public Schools stakeholders, in evaluating the responses to Request for Proposal No. 4478.1, attending in-person vendor presentations, reviewing online vendor materials, and conducting vendor interviews; and

WHEREAS, The curriculum selection process identified certain Prekindergarten through Grade 8 curricular and instructional materials and professional development that would best meet the needs of Montgomery County Public Schools students and staff; and

WHEREAS, On January 8, 2018, based on the outcome of the curriculum selection process, the Board of Education approved the purchase of curricular and instructional materials for Prekindergarten through Grade 5 Mathematics, Grades 6 through 8 English Language Arts, and Grades 6 through 8 Mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools staff now has completed the curriculum selection process for Prekindergarten through Grade 5 English Language Arts and recommends the purchase of Benchmark Advance by Benchmark Education Company, LLC, for Prekindergarten through Grade 5 English Language Arts curricular and instructional materials and professional development; and

WHEREAS, A three-year rollout of the new curricular and instructional materials has been designed so that each school has an introduction to the materials in spring, intense professional learning in summer, and full implementation in fall of the implementation year; and

WHEREAS, All students in Montgomery County Public Schools will continue to receive high quality instruction aligned with the Common Core State Standards; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the purchase of Benchmark Advance by Benchmark Education Company, LLC, for Prekindergarten through Grade 5 English Language Arts curricular and instructional materials and professional development, based on estimated student counts, not to exceed the amounts set forth below:

Company	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Benchmark Education Company, LLC	\$4,397,642	\$6,251,049	\$4,274,603

and be it further

Resolved, That the president of the Board of Education and superintendent of schools be authorized to negotiate and execute an agreement with Benchmark Education Company, LLC, for the purchase of Benchmark Advance for Prekindergarten through Grade 5 English Language Arts curricular and instructional materials and professional development; and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to execute all other documents and grant any approvals necessary for this transaction.

JRS:MVN:ss