

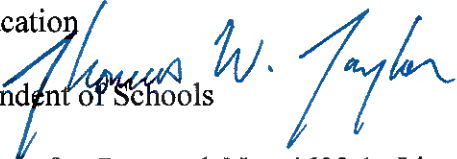
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

June 10, 2025

APPROVED BY BOARD

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Thomas W. Taylor, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Contract Approval for Request for Proposal No. 4609.1, Literacy Intervention Materials for Secondary and Elementary School Grades Pre-K–12

☐ Information ☒ Action

Superintendent Recommendation:

The superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the contract under Request for Proposal No. 4609.1, Literacy Intervention Materials for Secondary and Elementary School Grades Pre-K–12, for the first year of the initial three-year term.

This is a request to approve a new contract and the related expenditures under Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 4609.1, Literacy Intervention Materials for Secondary and Elementary School Grades Pre-K–12, for the purchase of literacy intervention materials and services. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve this contract for one year through June 30, 2026.

Background

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is committed to ensuring that all students achieve at the highest levels and are prepared to succeed in postsecondary study, careers, and the community. Our student achievement data has identified significant gaps in performance of our Black/African American students, Hispanic/Latino students, students in poverty, as well as students receiving special education and English Language Development services. The pursuit of closing these gaps and improving educational outcomes for all students fuels MCPS' dedication to continuous improvement.

In response to the research and as a result of COMAR 13A.03.08 (Students at Risk for Reading Difficulties): Each Pre-K–3 student who exhibits difficulties in reading shall receive supplemental instruction aligned to their identified needs through a reading program aligned to the science of reading. Thus, MCPS issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 4609.1, Literacy Intervention Materials for Secondary and Elementary School Grades Pre-K–12, to purchase externally

created materials. The RFP contained the following detailed requirements for the requisite intervention materials:

- Allow for flexibility in meeting the needs of a wide range of students, including students who dually are identified as receiving special education services and as English language learners requiring accommodations.
- Include tools, resources, and documents that provide parents/guardians and others with the necessary resources to provide transparency into the intervention, and provide support in academic content subject areas.
- Include a range of materials and resources for students who are verbal, nonverbal, or require Assistive Technology and Augmentative and Alternative Communication.
- Be grounded in high-interest texts with a range in Lexile levels, both informational and literary, that are diverse in terms of perspective, topic, genre, and time period.

An intervention selection process was developed that included extensive input and feedback from more than 100 MCPS stakeholders in evaluating the responses to RFP No. 4609.1; pre-vetting for mandatory requirements based on comparable external reviews; reviewing materials using well-designed rubrics; attending vendor presentations; and conducting vendor interviews. The selection process identified literacy intervention materials and professional development that would best meet the needs of MCPS students and staff.

Literacy Intervention Materials

As a result of the selection process, MCPS staff recommends the purchase of literacy intervention materials from the following vendors/suppliers to address the specific needs of MCPS students in the areas of reading instruction and development. This recommendation comes after careful consideration and a rigorous RFP process.

- OxEd & Assessment Ltd
- Nido Learning Company (RAV-O)
- Teach the World to Read, LLC, aka EBLI
- Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE)
- Really Great Reading Company LLC
- Teacher Created Materials (TCM)
- Gateway Education Holding LLC, aka SAVVAS Inspire Literacy (iLit)

Rationale:

MCPS seeks evidence-based Tier 3 literacy intervention programs to address the diverse needs of students in Grades Pre-K–12. The following chart provides information as to each vendor's target grades, strengths, features, and alignment with MCPS students' needs.

Vendor	Target Grades	Key Strengths	Notable Features	Alignment with MCPS Needs
OxEd & Assessment Ltd	PreK–1	Oral language development, EML effectiveness, Tier 2 support	Language screener, 20-week structure, who-class add-on	Strong EML support, research-based, teacher-accessible
Nido Learning Company's Rave-O	1–2	Speech-to-print model, orthographic mapping, fluency focus	Strong professional development resources, continuity across grades	Tier 3 intensive support, dyslexia-aligned
Teach the World to Read, aka Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI)	4–12	Similar to Rave-O, targets dyslexia and Developmental Language Disorder	Orthographic mapping, gradual release, professional development for parents and teachers	Duplicate content with Nido, recommended merging or clarifying unique elements
Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE)	K–12	Multisensory, explicit instruction in morphology and vocabulary	Decodable texts, cross-linguistic connections, diagnostic assessments	Tier 2 and 3 support, structured-literacy aligned
Really Great Reading (RGR)	2–3	Teacher familiarity, Spanish-English transfer, handwriting and fluency	Adaptable for older students, user-friendly materials	Strong foundation skills, good for scalability
Teacher Created Materials (TCM) - Vocabulary	4–5	Vocabulary-focused, accessible, low preparation	Professional development webinars, aligned to Tier 1 morphology, flexible pacing	Good fit for Tier 2, lacks Tier 3 research support
SAVVAS Learning Company LLC's Inspire Literacy (iLit)	4–12	Blended learning model, EML focus, formative assessments	High-interest leveled texts, embedded writing, interactive reader	Strong secondary engagement, technology-rich

After thorough review and consideration of multiple literacy intervention options, the aforementioned selections are the most appropriate options to support our students' literacy development and academic success. We recommend the following resolution for your approval:

WHEREAS, In response to staff recommendation, Montgomery County Public Schools issued Request for Proposal No. 4609.1, Literacy Intervention Materials for Secondary and Elementary School Grades Pre-K–12, to purchase externally created materials for an initial term of three years, with three, one-year renewal options; and

WHEREAS, A 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. 4609.1, attending vendor presentations, reviewing digital and print vendor materials, and conducting vendor interviews; and

WHEREAS, The selection process identified certain literacy intervention materials and professional development that best would meet the needs of Montgomery County Public Schools students and staff; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools staff recommends the purchase of the identified literacy intervention materials and professional development; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the purchase of the aforementioned literacy interventions, for prekindergarten through Grade 12 and professional development, based on estimated student counts, not to exceed a total of \$674,100 for elementary schools and \$452,442 for secondary schools; 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 the aforementioned vendors, for the purchase of the literacy intervention materials for prekindergarten through Grade 12, as well as the necessary 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; and be it further

Resolved, That having been duly advertised, the following contracts be awarded to the most responsive and responsible bidders meeting specifications as follows:

- 4609.1 Literacy Intervention Materials for Secondary and Elementary
School Grades Pre-K–12
Responsible Office: Office of the Chief Academic
Officer—Department of Pre-K–12 Curriculum
This is to request approval of a new contract and the
expenditures under RFP No. 4069.1, Literacy Intervention
Materials for Secondary and Elementary School Grades
PreK–12 for the purchase of literacy intervention materials
and services. The literacy interventions recommended will
take the place of or extend the current literacy interventions
used for student performing below grade level, needing literacy
intervention through our Multi-tiered Systems of Support
process, and students receiving special education services.
This RFP was cross-office, serving the Office of Special
Education, Department of English Learners and Multilingual
Education, and Department of Pre-K–12 Curriculum and
Districtwide Programs.

Procurement Authority: Annotated Code of Maryland,
Education Article §5-112 and Montgomery County Public
Schools Regulation DJA-RA, *Procurement of Equipment,
Supplies, and Services*.

Awardees

Gateway Education Holding LLC, aka SAVVAS Learning
Company, LLC, Paramus, New Jersey

*Institute for Multi-Sensory Education, Southfield, Michigan

Nido Learning Company, Sacramento, California

OxEd & Assessment Ltd., York YO30 4XG, United Kingdom

Really Great Reading Company, Inc., Cabin John, Maryland

*Teach the World to Read, LLC, aka EBLI, Flushing, Michigan

*Teacher Created Materials, Inc., Huntington Beach, California

Total

\$1,126,542

*Denotes Minority-, Female-, or Disabled-owned Business

Note: Contract amounts will be based on individual requirements.

TWT:IAW:RR:amd