

Action Item

Subject:

Universal screener and progress monitoring assessment

Background:

An information item for the Board meeting on March 14, 2017 discussed teachers' and administrators' need for a range of information about student performance at their fingertips to deliver the best instruction possible for each student.

A universal screener is needed to identify the student learning problems so that educators can intervene to improve instructional quality and close achievement gaps. Universal screeners are typically assessments used in RTI (Response to Intervention) to pinpoint the specific reading and math skills or concepts that students are struggling with so that teachers can address these needs with targeted interventions.

Progress monitoring assessments are administered frequently throughout instruction to check if students are responding to the instructional adjustments (interventions). They function as "dipsticks" to check student progress and must be sensitive to small changes in student growth.

The district currently does not use a universal screener nor a progress monitoring assessment.

Administration's Analysis:

The current district assessments such as SAT practice tests and common interim course assessments provide data about student proficiency related to Common Core State Standards and the SAT Suite of Assessments' College and Career Readiness Benchmarks. However, these are not finely-grained enough to assess the basic reading and math skills that students might need. In accordance with the district goal to enhance academic achievement, a universal screener and progress monitoring assessment is needed to identify students who need instructional interventions to close achievement gaps and help pass their courses to stay on track for graduation.

An RFP process for five interrelated assessment components was used. Ideally we wanted a single system that could fill all five needs. The vendors below responded to the universal screener and progress monitoring components. Their proposal cost sheets are attached.

Vendor	Assessment	Proposal cost per student
Illuminate	FastBridge	\$ 6.00
Renaissance Learning	Star Reading & Star Math	\$ 11.87 for universal screener/progress monitoring and teacher-designed assessments (\$ 8.18 for the universal screener/progress monitoring only)

A comprehensive review of the assessments offered by each vendor was conducted and other districts that use the vendors were contacted for their recommendations. Star Reading and Star Math by Renaissance Learning were identified as the assessments that best meet the district’s needs based on the following:

- Short (approximately 15 to 25 minutes), computer-based, adaptive assessments of basic skills in reading and math for grades K-12.
- Math assessments available in Spanish.
- Valid and reliable for universal screening and progress monitoring with high marks from National Center on Intensive Intervention, National Center on Response to Intervention, National Center on Student Progress Monitoring, and Hanover Research Report.
- Nationally normed.
- Culturally sensitive and relevant for high school students.
- Linked to instructional resources based on student performance levels, including Edgenuity, Khan Academy, and Empower3000 among others.

Statute, Administrative Policy or Board Rules Statement:

Board Policy 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program states that the district should provide information for determining individual student achievement and instructional needs; curriculum and instruction effectiveness; and school performance measured against District student learning objectives and statewide norms.

The Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.21) and Board Policy 4:60 Purchases and Contracts require that all contracts for supplies, materials, or work involving expenditure in excess of \$25,000 shall be made in accordance with State law bidding procedure, unless specifically exempted. Contracts will be awarded by the Board of Education at an official meeting.

Implementation or Assessment Plan:

The universal screener will be administered at Proviso East, Proviso West, and PMSA to English and math regular education and cross-categorical classes for Grade 9 students. In addition, two junior-level math classes at Proviso East and Proviso West will participate to determine if universal screening for basic skills is able to help teachers identify student needs in preparation for the SAT.

Once screening results are reported, students identified by the screener will receive interventions to close their achievement gaps. Teachers will use Star Reading and Star Math to monitor the progress of these students and to assess to what extent individual students are benefiting from the interventions. Schools will determine the frequency of teacher use of the progress monitoring tools during the periods between the district test windows. As with the universal screening data, building and district administrators will use the progress monitoring data to track student progress and to identify additional supports for teachers and students that might be needed.

Implementation would take place in phases as follows:

- SY17 Semester 1 System set-up and professional development for administrators and Grade 9 teachers.
- SY17 Semester 2 Implementation in Grade 9 with evaluation of implementation and planning for SY18.
- Summer 2018 Professional development as per SY18 plan.
- SY18 Semester 1 Anticipated continuation of Grade 9 implementation with additional implementation in Grades 10 and 11.
- SY18 Semester 2 Program evaluation and planning for SY19.

Administration's Recommendation:

That the Board of Education of Proviso Township High Schools District 209 accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the contract with Renaissance Learning, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$36,706.06 pending legal review.