

## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

July 12, 2022

### SUBJECT:

K-8 Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI) Program

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 23, 2021, the school board approved administration's request to use ESSER II funding to purchase a software program to offer Computer-Assisted Instruction for 4K-8th grades. As part of the motion, the Board requested that additional information be brought back for discussion prior to the purchase of a program.

Computer-Assisted Instruction (CAI) involves the use of computers to supplement or assist classroom instruction. CAI relies on software that presents information and guides learners through a series of activities and tasks which include animated computer tools, videos, text, and simulations to provide students multiple opportunities and modalities to master content. Computer-Assisted Instruction does not replace teacher-directed instruction, but instead offers crucial opportunities for students to obtain customized instructional support aligned to state standards and classroom instruction. Student pathways are personalized to ensure each student is working on the individual skills and concepts needed to provide remediation, review, and enrichment, as appropriate. It allows students to proceed through material at their own pace while also challenging students to tackle more complex tasks as appropriate.

### ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

A needs assessment was conducted to obtain input from teachers and administrators on the need for a district-wide Computer-Assisted Instruction program and to identify the goals and priority functions of such a program. Following a review of the input data, the Instructional Services Division facilitated the evaluation and selection process outlined below:

- 1.) Evaluation criteria was identified based on input data, and a rubric was created.
- 2.) CAI adoption committees were created to evaluate and select a CAI program for each of the following:
  - K-2 ELA
  - 3-5 ELA
  - 6-8 Math
  - 6-8 ELA

Each principal was asked to select one classroom teacher to serve on each of the committees.

*Note: Dreambox is the CAI program funded by the SC Department of Education for all K-5 Math. We will continue to utilize Dreambox as our K-5 Math CAI program through the State-funded contract.*

- 3.) Initial meetings were held on March 21, 2022, to introduce the purpose and process for selecting a CAI program and to establish a common understanding of the criteria for evidence-based Computer-Assisted Programs. Committee members were allowed to make recommendations for modifying the evaluation rubric.

- 4.) Committee members submitted the name of CAI programs that they wanted to include in the review process.
- 5.) Each program vendor was asked to complete and submit a Vendor Evaluation Form that provides the district's Instructional Services and Technology departments with information to ensure the programs met the minimal integration criteria.
- 6.) On April 13th and 14th, vendors for each of the submitted programs provided a personalized presentation to committee members. Following the vendor presentations, access to each program was provided for committee members and other classroom teachers to explore themselves and with their students.
- 7.) Between April 14th and May 20th, all teachers were given access to each of the programs to review, explore, and use with students. Committee members collaborated with their school-based colleagues to review and evaluate each program using the established rubric.
- 8.) On May 20th committee members submitted their evaluation scores for each program on a Microsoft Form.
- 9.) A consensus meeting was held on May 24th where each committee engaged in a collaborate discussion to reach consensus on the recommendations provided to the Board on the attached table.

Please note that the SC State Department of Education is currently funding an ELA CAI program for our Palmetto Literacy Project Schools (Busbee, Greendale, North Aiken, Ridge Spring), and J.D. Lever is participating with these schools as part of their LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) pilot. These five schools will be used as a comparison group.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the purchase of the Computer-Assisted Instruction programs recommended by teacher committees for 16 elementary schools. The cost for these programs annually will run approximately \$450,000. The initial cost is 500,902.23, of which \$450,000 will be paid from ESSER II and the remaining funds out of general fund monies in the Division of Instruction's budget earmarked for this purpose.

#### ATTACHMENT:

Table of recommended CAI programs

#### PREPARED BY:

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## K-8 Computer-Assisted Instruction (CAI) Adoption Recommendations

<b>Grade Band &amp; Content</b>	<b>Recommended Program</b>	<b>Vendor</b>
<b>K-2 ELA</b>	Imagine Language and Literacy	Imagine Learning
<b>3-5 ELA</b>	Exact Path-ELA	Edmentum
<b>6-8 ELA</b>	IXL- ELA	IXL
<b>6-8 Math</b>	DreamBox Math	Dreambox