

BOARD AGENDA ITEM  
August 27, 2019

SUBJECT:

Alternate Language Textbook for Aiken Scholars Academy (ASA)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The District examines and evaluates textbooks adopted by the State for use in the classroom and recommends to the School Board those selected by teacher committees for our district. Aiken County Public Schools' adopted textbooks for English 3 and AP Language Composition are *Collections* from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishers and *The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric, 2nd Edition* from Bedford, Freeman and Worth, respectively.

ASA offers an enriched and accelerated curriculum to ensure that students experience a challenging and developmentally appropriate college-preparatory education that is personally meaningful, while being compressed into two years. The challenge, specifically in English Language Arts, is to accomplish this goal without eliminating foundational texts or oversimplifying the relationships among individuals, society, culture, and ideas.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

ASA's approach for its second-year course is to combine English 3 Honors and Advanced Placement Language Composition. Since 10<sup>th</sup> grade students are less experienced readers than typical AP Language students, it is necessary to build in scaffolds to nurture their development. Administration believes that the textbook, *Writing America: Language and Composition in Context*, edited by Jolliffe and Roskelly, will be a more appropriate resource for helping students master advanced writing and reading skills as they study the American literary tradition in this combined format.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adopt *Writing America: Language and Composition in Context*, edited by Jolliffe and Roskelly for English 3 honors/AP Language Composition at Aiken Scholars Academy

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