

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

January 14, 2022

SUBJECT:

Adoption of Curriculum Resources for Palmetto Literacy Project Schools

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Provisos 1.60 and 1A.53 of the 2021-2022 State Budget direct the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) to provide literacy support to Palmetto Literacy Project (PLP) schools, including professional development and curriculum resources. Schools where one third or more of third grade students scored Does Not Meet on the SC Ready ELA test in 2017-2018 or 2018-2019 were classified as PLP schools. The SCDE requested materials from publishers in the areas of K-5 literacy, had a review team of district and state leaders to evaluate and narrow the selection to five curricula, and then provided an opportunity for school administrators, district staff, literacy coaches, and teachers to review on November 30, 2021. Following the review, the individuals who attended from our district indicated their top three choices to share with their teachers and to review further. The State gave districts a deadline of January 14, 2022, to make their curriculum selection. The four PLP schools are Busbee Elementary, Greendale Elementary, North Aiken Elementary, and Ridge Spring - Monetta Elementary. Teachers in these schools in grades K-3 will also be required to participate in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling, or LETRS, beginning in January 2022, which is currently being piloted at J.D. Lever Elementary.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

On January 5, 2022, a team of twenty-one people from the PLP schools, including principals, teachers, literacy coaches, ELA content interventionists, and district office administration, met to review the top three curriculum choices through vendor presentations. The four PLP schools chose Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Into Reading curriculum. J.D. Lever would also like to purchase this curriculum with its Title I funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Into Reading as the curriculum for the State Department to purchase for the four Palmetto Literacy Project schools and J.D. Lever Elementary School.

PREPARED BY:

Jeanie Glover