

BOARD AGENDA ITEM
May 12, 2015

SUBJECT:

Online Assessment Platform for Benchmarking and Formative Assessment

BACKGROUND:

For ten years Aiken County Public Schools has used MAP assessments up to three times a year to monitor growth and project student achievement on summative assessments. While MAP provided nationally normed data, there is a greater need to provide teachers specific data on students' progress toward mastering South Carolina Standards as well as the need to give students experience in a time bound testing format. With an emphasis on formative assessment and Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) to make data-driven instructional decisions, teachers need a flexible assessment platform that allows them to tailor assessments to the South Carolina standards and collaboratively analyze results.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The Division of Instruction and Accountability sponsored trials of several options and researched others throughout the spring of 2015. Principals and teachers were polled with a strong majority in favor of using an online assessment platform to support formative assessment and professional learning communities. The solution offered by Mastery Connect was deemed to be the most versatile and teacher friendly. With a twenty-five percent discount off the \$7 per student annual cost for a multi-year contract, it is also the most cost effective. Additionally, a five-year contract assures teachers that Mastery Connect will be a consistent and reliable resource.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the five-year contract for Mastery Connect

PREPARED BY:

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