

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

August 25, 2015

SUBJECT:

Universal Screener for Literacy

BACKGROUND:

Aiken County Public Schools' Purpose and Direction includes reading achievement at all grade levels as an area of special academic emphasis. To inform instructional decisions in line with that emphasis, a screening instrument is needed that provides a baseline of students' reading proficiency, that includes growth measures over the course of instruction, that identifies students for targeted intervention, and allows the district to set rigorous reading achievement goals.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Houghton Mifflin – Harcourt's (HMH) SRI College & Career (SRI) assessment program is a research-based, computer-adaptive assessment for Grades K–12 that allows educators to quickly and accurately assess reading comprehension over the course of a student's education to inform instruction and match students to text using the Lexile Framework® for Reading. This assessment is used to set growth goals, monitor progress, forecast performance, and help place students at the best level in a reading program so they will read with success.

SRI has a one-time licensing cost of \$10.00 per student. Professional development for teachers and administrators has a one-time cost of \$48,677.00, which includes twenty-three days of onsite training. The only recurring cost is an unlimited web hosting fee of \$50,000.00 annually. That fee will cover all HMH products in the district. Schools that have individual site licenses for HMH products and pay annual hosting fees will no longer be responsible for those fees.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the purchase of SRI College and Career licenses, professional development, and the unlimited hosting plan.

PREPARED BY:

King Laurence