

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

July 13, 2021

SUBJECT:

K-2 Early Reading Intervention Program Recommendation

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 23, 2021, the school board approved administration's request to use ESSER II funding to employ twenty-one, K-2 reading interventionists for students in grades 2, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. As part of this proposal, Instructional Services Division indicated a team was in the process of researching evidence-based intervention programs to target primary skill deficiencies for grades K-2. For students who are most at risk, these areas include explicit phonics instruction and phonemic awareness. In order to ensure systemic support and training, the need for one universal program was considered to be a strategic focus.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

A team of approximately 37 educators (22 teachers, 6 interventionists, 2 principals, 2 literacy coaches, and 5 district staff) met to review four intervention programs, which were narrowed from a larger list based on the following criteria: 1) program's research base; 2) tier 2 support versus core instruction curriculum option; and 3) face-to-face, teacher driven versus computer-based implementation. The following four programs were reviewed:

- 1) SIPPS by Collaborative Classroom
- 2) Blast Foundations by Really Great Learning
- 3) Passport by Voyager Sopris
- 4) Sound Partners by Voyager Sopris

The team was provided demonstrations of the intervention programs and were given three days to share with their school-level teams to receive input. Team members submitted rubrics, and the scores indicated Passport by Voyager Sopris as the program indicated as first choice by the majority (20 people out of 29, or 68.9%). There were three people whose evaluation rubrics indicated a two or three-way tie. All three of these individuals indicated Passport as one of their top choices in the tie. The five district office staff members did not submit rubrics.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the administration's recommendation of the purchase of Voyager Passport as the intervention for K-2 reading interventionists beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

PREPARED BY:

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