

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendation to Approve Agreement – 56-007V Apex Learning Digital Curriculum and Professional Development

In the fall of 2013, the District implemented a new online curriculum for all schools. The program provided students access to courses across the K-12 core content areas. Its expressed intent in the workforce schools was for the purpose of high school course credit recovery. In the spring of 2014, the principals in the workforce schools analyzed student success rates and programmatic concerns with the selected credit recovery platform, in comparison to their previous use of the Apex Learning platform. Their efforts resulted in the creation of an 8-page position paper requesting to return to the Apex Learning platform.

The credit recovery program in the workforce schools is designed to provide an alternative education to students who are not meeting success in the traditional school setting. The curriculum, instructional delivery, course pacing, and teaching methodology must be different than the students' previous school experiences. Therefore, these schools must utilize a different academic platform from the traditional schools that allows for a customized approach to credit recovery. In school years 2011-2013, students demonstrated an average success rate of 92 percent in the Apex Learning platform (82%, 97%, and 98%, respectively).

In a May 4, 2015, memorandum to the Board, staff advised of its intent to return to the Apex Learning platform, on a smaller scale in the workforce schools for the 2015 summer term, and presented the Board with an item for full implementation in the workforce schools only for the 2015-2016 school year. Specifically, these schools are Community Schools North, Community Schools South, Dave Thomas Education Center, Hallandale Adult and Community Center, Off-Campus Learning Centers, Seagull Alternative High School, and Whiddon-Rogers Education Center.

The contract presented is for a three (3) year period, with the ability to extend for two (2) additional one-year periods. In addition to access to the online curriculum, professional development for teachers is included for each year. The use of the program will consistently be monitored to ensure there is accountability and academic integrity for credits earned.

Costs for the Subscriptions and Professional Development

Subscriptions

12-month single enrollment subscription for 2,000 units @ \$63.75 each:	\$127,500/year
Total for Subscriptions:	3 years x \$127,500 = \$382,500

Professional Development

1 six-hour on-site session:	\$2,200
1 three-hour online session (can be broken down into three one-hour sessions):	\$ 600
1 three hour on-site Functionality Training and Best Practices:	<u>\$1,500</u>
Total for Professional Development:	\$4,300/year; 3 years x \$4,300 = \$12,900
Total award amount for three (3) years:	\$395,400

Each year, the District receives additional teachers and Apex Learning performs updates to its curriculum and platform.