

CONTINUATION OF SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND

In order to educate today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world, the District must prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to become aware of, explore, and make decisions for post-secondary opportunities. Although this preparation should commence as early as possible in a student's educational career, direct postsecondary advisement becomes a priority in 6th grade, as students are exposed to a comprehensive secondary school counseling program that is aligned to national standards for academic, college/career, and social/emotional learning. The school's Annual School Counseling Plan provides developmentally appropriate activities to continuously guide students through college/career exploration and decision-making each year until graduation.

Additionally, middle school students are required by Florida statute to complete a Career and Education Planning course to become eligible for promotion to high school. The course must address college/career preparation standards, be delivered partially online, and result in a high school course plan that aligns to the student's post-secondary goals. This software will serve as the primary instructional materials for this statutorily required course.

Not only do students benefit from developing plans for success in tomorrow's world, but school grades, funding, and reputation are also significantly impacted by students completing rigorous coursework, earning industry certifications, achieving a standard high school diploma, meeting college readiness assessment scores, receiving scholarships and awards, and gaining admission to prestigious colleges and universities. This information is regularly utilized to market and promote the District, schools, and individual programs' success.

In order to provide the necessary tools and resources for school staff and families to properly research and plan for students to reach their highest potential, the State provides a free online platform for college and career advisement. During the 2015-16 school year, the State of Florida will transition to a new platform/system provided by Kuder.

Although the new system allows students to create portfolios to organize information for usage in the college/career admissions process, provide generic postsecondary information, and allow for students to explore their interests, values, and skills, it is not a personalized management system for students.

In addition, the system will allow students and family's greater access to school counselors, BRACE Advisors, and related stakeholders to obtain postsecondary support. Moreover, the system will allow for staff and stakeholders to work more effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of their students and communities by offering a central location for all postsecondary advisement and comprehensive process management.

This cost includes subscriptions for all students in grades 6-12 in both traditional and most center schools, professional development, technology integration, consultation, pre-paid travel, an online curriculum, and future functionalities. The estimated cost for this program will be \$1,764,737 over a three (3) year period. Please see Exhibit A for further details on cost breakdown.