

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendation \$500,000 or Less 56-104E – Software for Vocabulary and Comprehension Improvement

Vocabulary.com uses new techniques and systematic approaches to learn vocabulary. No more flash cards and memorizing definitions. Vocabulary.com teaches you words by systematically exposing the student to a wide array of question types and activities that will help the student understand the meanings and nuances of every word the student is learning. Even after the student achieves mastery, Vocabulary.com continues to reinforce what the student has learned so that the vocabulary stays fresh in the student's memory.

Vocabulary.com is currently being used by the Houston Independent School District in Texas, as well as Newark City and Monroe County schools to improve vocabulary and comprehension. This software will be used to improve the vocabulary of students across the District, grades 6-12, as part of the Balanced Literacy Framework. This software aligns with two of our re-calibrated strategic goals to:

- (1) Improve middle school student achievement; and
- (2) Ensure college and career readiness for all of our graduates.

The Digital Classrooms Plan (DCP), Item FF-4, BCPS Digital Classrooms Plan 2015-2016, was approved by the Board on March 1, 2016. The DCP identified three software applications for purchase, Vocabulary.com is one of the applications. In accordance with School Board Policy 3320, Purchasing Policies, Part II, Section H, for this purchase states, "The requirement of requesting competitive solicitations from three or more sources is hereby waived as authorized by Chapter 6A-1.012, (F.A.C.) State Board of Education Administrative rules for the purchase of educational services and any type of copyrighted materials including, without limitation, educational tests, textbooks, printed instructional materials, computer software, films, filmstrips, videotapes, DVDs, disc or tape recordings, digital recordings, or similar audio-visual materials, and for library and reference books, and printed library cards where the such materials are purchased direct from the producer or publisher, the owner of the copyright, and exclusive agent within the state, a governmental agency, or a recognized educational institution. Purchases in excess of \$50,000 for commodities or services, which competitive solicitations have been waived, require School Board approval."

In accordance with School Board Policy 3320, Purchasing Policies, Part VI (Technology), Section (C) (5c), Direct Negotiation, using this option, specifications, projected quantities and terms and conditions is a basis for negotiation of this contract which best fits the needs of the District. This procurement is brought to the Board for approval.

This software program is being selected because it combines the world's smartest dictionary with an adaptive learning game that has proven to help students master new words in a short period of time. The funds to pay for this software application is coming from the Digital Classrooms Plan allocations. This procurement meets with the District's Strategic Plan goal for high-quality instruction.

Information about professional development will be sent out to principals via PIVOT with a schedule of multiple opportunities for participation via webinar and/or face-to-face.