

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendation to Approve First Amendment and Renewal 57-129E - Software for Reading, Comprehension and Fluency Development

Introduction

Responsible: Procurement & Warehousing Services (PWS)

This request is to approve the First Amendment and Renewal between Newsela Inc. and The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC), that started on August 9, 2017, and expires on July 31, 2019. The agreement provides a cloud-based platform that supports and enhances each students' reading ability by providing individualized non-fiction content catered to their reading level. The agreement was approved on August 8, 2017, SBOM item EE-5 with an approved spending authority of \$737,200.

The purpose of this Amendment is to renew for an additional year bringing the expiration date to July 31, 2020.

Goods/Services Description

Responsible: Innovative Learning

This request brings Newsela to Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) for the fourth consecutive year. Newsela, Inc. has created Newsela Pro, a cloud-based platform that supports and enhances each students' reading ability by providing individualized non-fiction content catered to their reading level. This software was designed from the ground up to strengthen reading skills and habits through routine use. Newsela Pro uses engaging daily news and other non-fiction content to help students become better readers. Newsela is currently implemented in all BCPS elementary, middle, and high schools. Students and teachers receive up to eight (8) new articles every day, published in both English and Spanish. Newsela's software content is adaptable for different levels of reading difficulty, which allows teachers to personalize instruction for every student. To date, BCPS students have read over 7,000,000 articles under the BCPS Newsela PRO subscription.

Detailed reports and averages based on the usage of this software over the past year are included further in this document. However, a few highlights were included and shown below:

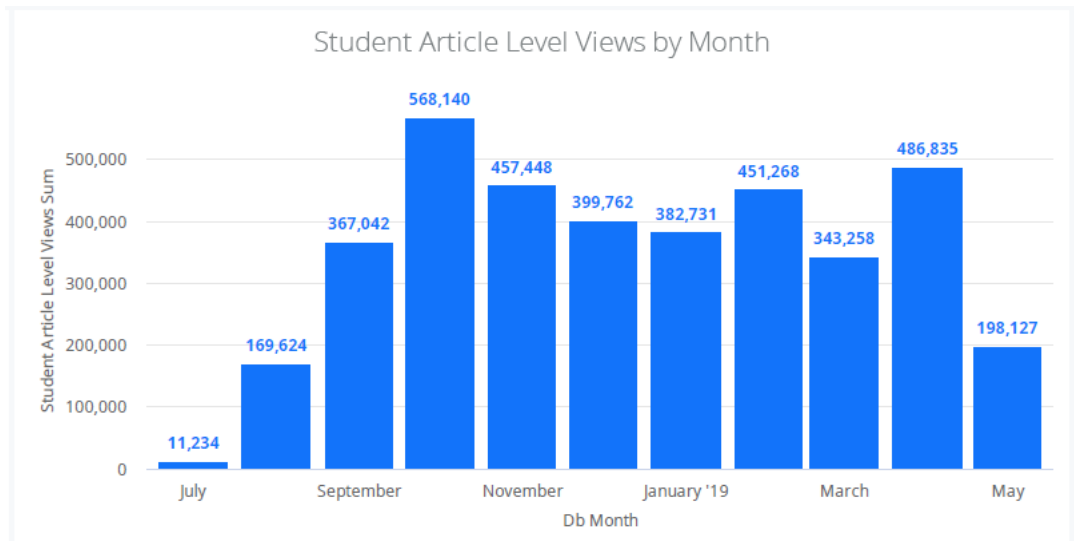
- ✦ BCPS students spent more than 451,000 hours reading more than 3,800,000 Newsela articles during the 2018-2019 school year.
- ✦ Students completed more than 1,500,00 Newsela Quizzes and 315,000 Power Word Activities
- ✦ BCPS teachers viewed the Newsela teacher binder more than 237,000 times and created more than 7,400 annotations within the Newsela platform.
- ✦ To date, one hundred and eleven (111) BCPS teachers have completed professional learning activities to earn recognition as a Newsela Certified Educator as part of Broward's Digital Army initiative.

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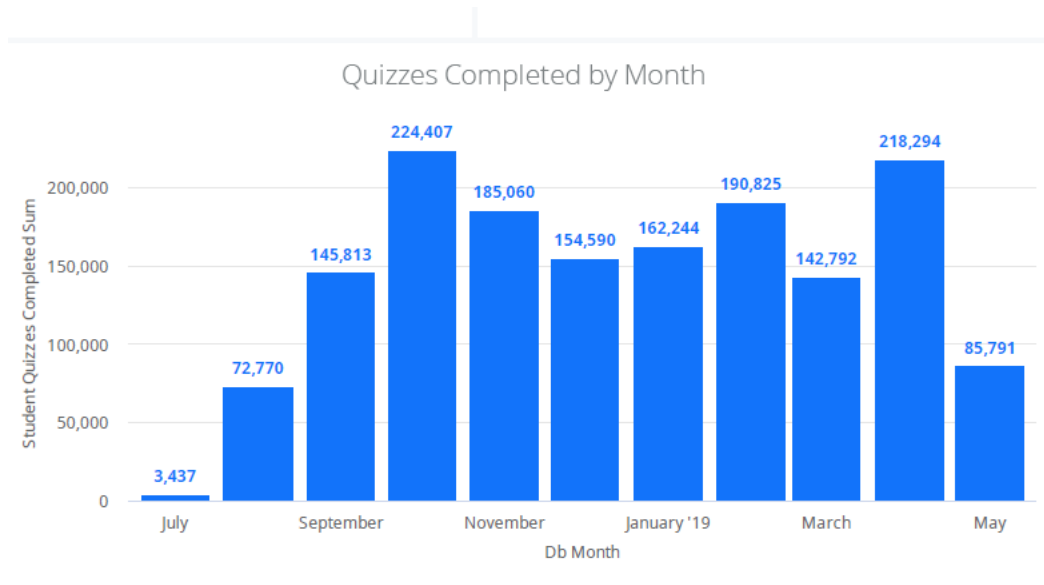
Newsela Highlights and Updates 2018/2019

As mentioned above, please find data extracted regarding our usage of the software over the past year.

Student Article Views by Month

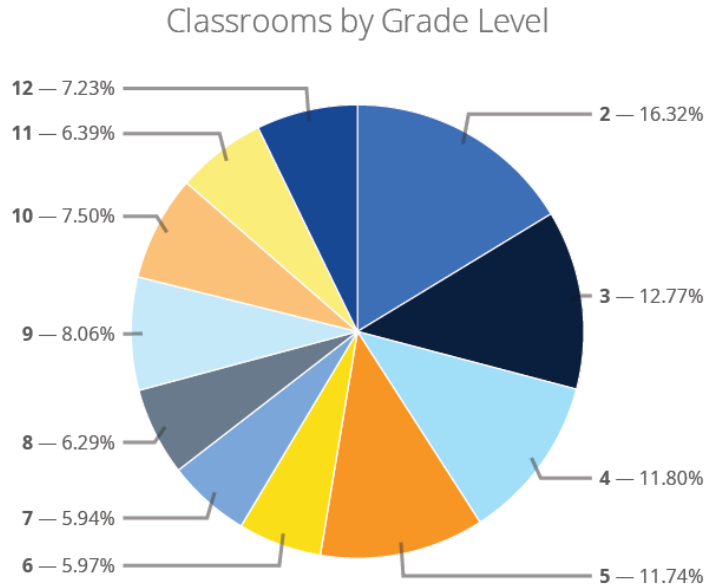


Student Quizzes Completed by Month



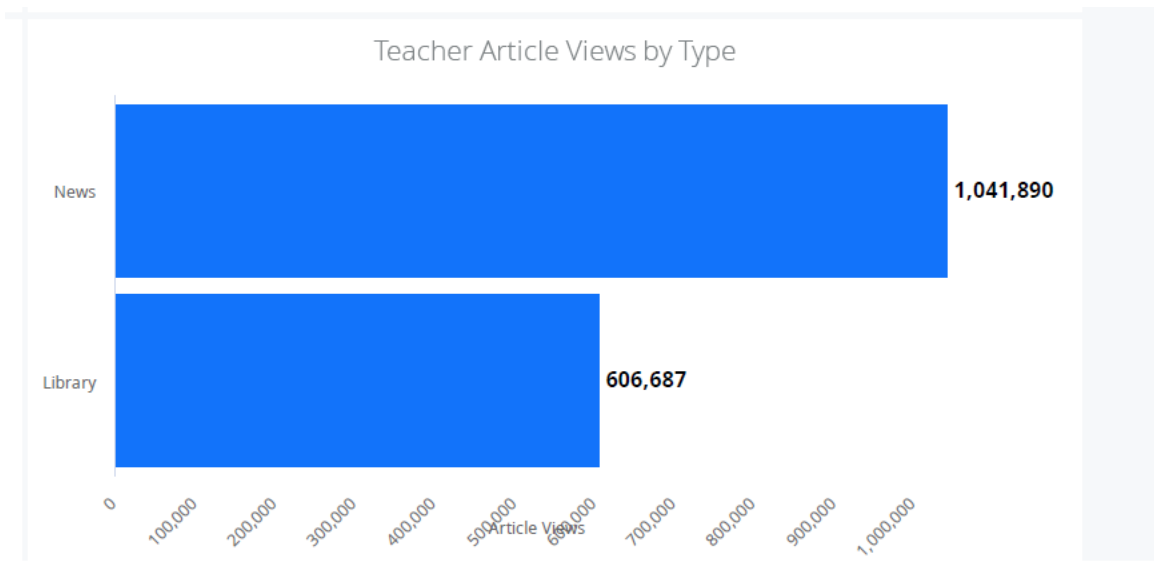
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Classroom Use by Grade Level



This chart illustrates Newsela’s ability to support Strategic Goal 1- High-Quality Instruction with Literacy and Early Learning (as demonstrated in use in grades 2,3,4,5).

Teacher Article Views by Type



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**Procurement Method
Responsible: PWS**

Direct negotiation was conducted with the vendor based on Purchasing Policy 3320. Pursuant to the Department of Education, Rule 6A-1.012, 11(b), Florida Administrative Code as authorized by Section 1010.04(4)(a), Florida Statutes, and Purchasing Policy 3320, Section II, H, the requirement for requesting competitive solicitation for commodities or contractual services from three or more sources is hereby waived as for the SBBC's purchase of educational services.

**Financial Impact
Responsible: PWS and Department**

The spending authority being requested is \$368,600 based on the original negotiated prices as detailed below:

District-wide licenses (two hundred thirty-six (236) schools * \$1,561)	\$368,396
Total Amount (Rounded)	<u>\$368,600</u>

The funding source will come from the State for the Digital Classroom Plan.

Upon approval of this item, the spending authority will be \$1,105,800.

The financial impact amount represents an estimated contract value; however, the amount authorized will not exceed the contract award amount.