Recommendation to Approve Agreement
FY21-117 – Software for Reading, Comprehension, and Fluency

Introduction
Responsible: Procurement & Warehousing Services (PWS)

This request is to approve the Agreement between Newsela, Inc. and The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC), for one (1) year starting August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021, with an option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year periods. The agreement provides a cloud-based platform that supports and enhances each students' reading ability by providing individualized, nonfiction content catered to their reading level.

The spending authority being requested is $368,600.

Goods/Services Description:
Responsible: Innovative Learning

Newsela, Inc., an Instructional Content Platform which publishes ten plus (10+) high-interest nonfiction articles daily at five (5) reading levels of complexity for grades 2-12 through their proprietary, rapid text-leveling process also, partners with premier daily news sources and eminent nonfiction publishers to bring teachers of all subject areas new content every day.

Newsela content covers a range of topics and exposes students to different types of texts, including news/current events, famous speeches, primary sources, biographies, careers, myths and legends, and issue spotlight. Eminent nonfiction publishers, including The Washington Post, Scientific American, the Big History Project, and the Smithsonian, bring teachers of all subject areas daily content in both English and Spanish that is culturally responsive and covers a range of topics. Newsela's growing library contains over ten thousand (10,000) informational texts with more added on a daily basis, ensuring teachers access to fresh, relevant content that covers a breadth of topics across all content areas.

Newsela is available to all Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) teachers and students via the Clever Launchpad. Newsela partners with Elementary and Secondary Learning to align their product with the scope and sequences for elementary, middle, and high school courses. The use of this product allows the teacher to seamlessly integrate highly engaging instructional activities for students during the COVID-19 quarantine and future distance learning activities. Newsela's Learning Tool Integration allows teachers to create Canvas assignments for students to work within the Newsela platform, and for their grades to be passed back to Canvas with one (1) click into Pinnacle.

Newsela is currently implemented in all BCPS elementary, middle, and high schools. 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 fifteen million (15,000,000) articles under the BCPS Newsela subscription.
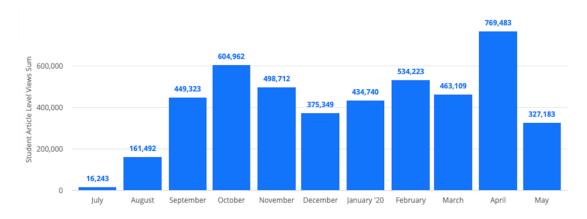
Detailed reports and averages based on the usage of this software over the past year are included further in this document; however, a few highlights were included and shown below:

✦ BCPS students spent more than five hundred seventy-five thousand (575,000) hours reading more than four million six hundred thousand (4,600,000) Newsela articles during the 2019-2020 school year.
✦ Students completed more than two million (2,000,000) Newsela Quizzes and submitted one million one hundred ninety thousand (1,190,000) annotations.
✦ BCPS teachers viewed the Newsela teacher binder more than three thousand eighty-six (386,000) times and created more than ten thousand (10,000) annotations within the Newsela platform.
✦ To date, one hundred sixty-three (163) BCPS teachers have completed professional learning activities to earn recognition as a Newsela Certified Educator as part of Broward's Digital Army initiative.
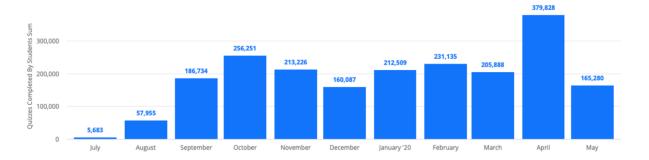
Newsela Highlights and Updates 2019-2020

As mentioned above, please find data extracted regarding the usage of the software over the past year.
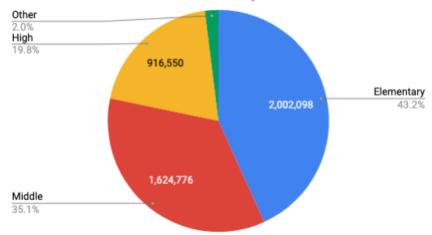
Student Article Views by Month

Student Quizzes Completed by Month

Student Use by School 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).

Most Popular Newsela Articles in Broward County 2019-2020

1. Writing a thank, you note
2. Kobe Bryant's legacy
3. Closing for coronavirus
4. Songs stuck in our heads
5. Tracking a deadly virus
6. New coronavirus outbreak
7. How to navigate virtual learning
8. Schools battle vaping crisis
9. Historic hurricane hits Bahamas
10. Coronavirus answers for kids
11. Fear is normal, but keep it in check
12. Super Bowl has first woman coach
13. Board games for quarantine
14. The negative effects of video games
15. Lockdown entertainment goes viral
16. Keeping kids off their phones
17. Creating an at-home school schedule
18. Grieving Kobe Bryant
19. Sewing needed face masks
20. U.S. schools prepare for coronavirus

Procurement Method
Responsible: PWS

Pursuant to Purchasing Policy 3320, Section II, H, and pursuant to the Department of Education, Rule 6A-l.012, 1 l(b), Florida Administrative Code as authorized by Section I010.04(4)(a), Florida Statutes, the requirement for requesting competitive solicitation for commodities or contractual services from three (3) or more sources is hereby waived as for the SBBC's purchase of computer software.

Financial Impact

The spending authority being requested is $368,600 for District-wide licenses for grades 6-12. The funding source will come from the CARES Act.

District-wide licenses (# of schools)	236
Price Per license	x $ 1,561
Total Price (rounded)	**= $368,600**

The total price remained consistent for this Agreement. The previous agreement 57-129E started on August 9, 2017 through July 31, 2020, with an approved spending authority of $1,105,800 for three (3) years. The financial impact amount represents an estimated contract value; however, the amount authorized will not exceed the estimated contract award amount.