

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendation to Approve Agreement FY21-190 – Scholastic Rising K

Introduction

Responsible: Procurement & Warehousing Services (PWS)

This request is to approve the Agreement between Scholastic, Inc., and The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC), starting upon execution by both parties through June 30, 2021. The agreement will provide webinars to teachers and administrators, digital learning and high-quality eBooks, and physical books to families participating in the Rising Kindergarten Launch and Learn Program.

The spending authority being requested is \$652,175.

Goods/Services Description

Responsible: Elementary Learning

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) firmly believes in order to close learning gaps, students should be provided developmentally appropriate grade-level instruction with just-in-time support and intervention to accelerate learning and close any gaps. Instruction will be aligned to Benchmarks for Excellent Student Teaching (BEST) Standards for kindergarten and follow an explicit, systematic approach to instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, language, vocabulary, listening comprehension, to include read-alouds/think-alouds. The curriculum will be designed to engage incoming kindergarten students in developing reading, writing, and critical thinking skills via multisensory instruction and methodologies, including visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile strategies.

Learning to read is the foundation for all other learning to take place, and it begins with many interrelated steps that do not come naturally to most students. BCPS teachers will implement **Scholastic F.I.R.S.T.™** (Foundations in Reading, Sounds & Text) to transform the way students learn foundational reading skills so they can become confident, fluent readers and advance from learning to read to reading to learn. F.I.R.S.T. is an instructional robust, highly adaptive digital adventure on Ooka Island that teaches the five (5) foundational reading skills: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Through developmentally appropriate and highly personalized practice, F.I.R.S.T. builds a solid foundation for students to become confident readers.

BCPS teachers will also implement **Scholastic Literacy Pro®**, a digital classroom management tool for independent reading, providing students choice and ownership of their reading while providing educators with detailed reports on their reading progress and comprehension. By using Literacy Pro, students will have unlimited, simultaneous access to nearly twenty-four hundred (2400) diverse and culturally relevant e-books they can choose to read throughout the duration of the *Kindergarten Acceleration Launch and Learn* program. Within Literacy Pro, students will have access to optional Think More Comprehension Checks, which provide teachers with a clear understanding of students' strengths and challenges across ten (10) key skills, as well as the Scholastic Reading Measure, which provides students with a valid and reliable Lexile® Reading Measure. The program also supports students in setting and monitoring progress towards their own personal reading goals.

Teachers will provide scaffolding and support following a gradual release model to foster student independence. The curriculum selected is designed to cover essential pre-requisite skills and accelerate student learning. This is especially important for beginning ELLs and students with disabilities. Students from diverse backgrounds do not come to school with equal background knowledge on most topics. By introducing new topics first with real-world, nonfiction resources, teachers can change the way students' comprehension grow – helping them learn the vocabulary and develop a mental model of a topic prior to instruction.

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With full equity in English and Spanish, Scholastic’s **Watch & Learn Library** will assist with leveling the playing field of comprehension in classrooms by providing over two hundred thirty (230) videos aligned to content-area instruction, allowing students to gain a better understanding of the learning concepts that will be addressed by the teachers. By being available 24/7 on any device, students can continue to extend their learning in school or at home. Watch & Learn will supplement teacher instruction, ensuring all students gain a deeper comprehension of instructional topics.

Kindergarten students will also be provided with six (6) authentic book selections aligned to grade-level Benchmarks in Excellent Student Thinking (BEST) standards and will enrich the independent reading lives of these students. Family guides and journals will accompany the books to provide scaffolded family support and meet grade-level expectations.

Procurement Method
Responsible: PWS

Pursuant to Rule 6A -1.012, 11(b), and 14, Florida Administrative Code, and Purchasing Policy 3320, Section II.H, authorizes the purchase of any type of copyrighted materials, instructional materials, and computer software without competitive solicitations.

Financial Impact
Responsible: PWS and Elementary Learning

The spending authority being requested is \$652,175 as detailed below:

DESCRIPTION	# Of Schools	LIST PRICE	10% Off New Business	Full Year amount	Ten (10) percent Broward Grant
Watch & Learn Schools with one hundred (100) or more (full year)	144	\$599.00		\$86,256.00	\$77,630
Literacy Pro	144	\$3,500	\$3,150	\$453,600.00	\$271,412
FIRST	144	\$2,500.00	\$2,250.00	\$324,000.00	\$240,005
Subtotal Digital					\$589,048
PL Webinars	8	\$799.00		\$6,392.00	\$6,392
Rising K (6 Best Books for 3,050 students)	144	\$109,542.19	(Book \$52,809.47	\$56,732.72	\$56,732
TOTAL					\$652,172

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Funding for this agreement will be taken from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund and Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act via the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County to address the impact of COVID-19 on Kindergarten students and the Innovative Learning Department's budget. The financial impact amount represents an estimated contract value; however, the amount authorized will not exceed the estimated contract award amount.