

**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD AGENDA BACKUP**

Regular Meeting of September 12, 2023

ITEM: **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION FOR THE
TK-5TH GRADE LITERACY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM, *GETTING READING RIGHT***

PREPARED BY: **MICHELLE SINCLAIR, SENIOR DIRECTOR,
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT**

TYPE OF ITEM: **REVIEW AND ACTION**

PURPOSE: For the Board of Trustees to review and approve the Independent Contractor Services Agreement with the Los Angeles County Office of Education for the TK-5th Grade Literacy Professional Development Program, *Getting Reading Right*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Research is clear about what is important for early literacy instruction and indicates that key concepts at the core of effective reading programs include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. In addition, instruction must go hand-in-hand with a comprehensive assessment system to allow educators to adjust instruction to meet the specific needs of students. We must support all students in reading, including students with struggles, challenges, and learning difficulties. It is critical that educators understand the research behind how students learn to read and what they need in order to be skillful readers. In order for teachers to help more children learn to read, their own learning must be a valued and integral part of their work. Studies show that three of four elementary teacher-preparation programs don't adequately cover all the core components of reading instruction, which is why we are offering professional development for teachers and other staff on the components of a comprehensive literacy instructional program.

For more information, below are links to the materials presented to the Board at the May 9, 2023 meeting: [Backup Information on the TK-5TH Grade Literacy Professional Development Plan](#) and the [Professional Learning Focus on TK-5 Literacy presentation to the Board](#).

DETAILS:

Our literacy data shows that approximately twenty-five percent of our students in Albany are not proficient in English Language Arts, and this number is as high as fifty-six percent for certain

subgroups. Curriculum review reports of our currently adopted Reading curriculum shows that it does not meet expectations, lacking in the areas of phonics and fluency; text complexity and language development; building background knowledge and vocabulary; and English language learner supports. Knowing that many teachers did not receive adequate literacy training in their teaching programs and need support for teaching all of the essential components of a strong literacy program, we are offering professional development. During the 2023-2024 school year. All TK-5th grade teachers, specialists, and administrators will participate in the professional development program, *Getting Reading Right (GRR)*, offered by the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The training provides knowledge and resources in all components of a strong literacy program. It will support staff in providing quality Tier 1 and 2, evidence based reading instruction. Sessions will focus on identifying and utilizing quality universal screeners, analyzing data to inform instruction, providing explicit and systematic instruction, and effectively using current adopted curriculum. Getting Reading Right training will be offered during district staff development days and after school collaboration days: 8/10/23, 9/20/23, 10/9/23, 11/29/23, 1/10/24, 2/7/24, 3/15/24, and 4/17/24. Paraeducators will receive training and support and administrators will participate in a monthly state-wide administrators' literacy collaborative.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: Training cost is \$200 per participant with 95 participants, totalling \$19,000.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED:



Objective #1: *Assess and Increase Academic Success. Goal: We will provide a comprehensive educational experience with expanded opportunities for engagement, assessment, and academic growth so that all students will achieve their fullest potential.*

<p>RECOMMENDATION: For the Board to review and approve the Independent Contractor Services Agreement with The Los Angeles County Office of Education for the TK-5th Grade Literacy Professional Development Program, <i>Getting Reading Right</i></p>
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