

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Tanzy Kilcrease, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

SUBJECT: Purchase of REWARDS Intervention Curriculum

Summary

In the month of July, the Bibb County School District will submit a recommendation for the Bibb County Board of Education to approve the purchase of the REWARDS intervention curriculum to be implemented with sixth and ninth grade Targeted Remediation students. The cost of the purchase is \$159, 079.45, which will come from Title I funds.

Background

During the 2019-2020 school year, BCSD implemented Targeted Remediation to improve reading outcomes for struggling students in the sixth and ninth grade. These students were served in our Remedial Education Program (REP). Most of the schools chose a computer-based platform that was difficult to implement with fidelity, making it difficult for students to improve their skills. Moreover, even when implemented with fidelity, the possible gains purported by the company were not enough to catch students up. Additionally, middle and high school teachers are content specialists, but have not had the necessary training to teach pre-requisite foundational reading skills, which are more germane to early elementary teachers. As such, students did not make substantial gains.

In an effort to address these issues, an exhaustive search for a viable, research-based curriculum was conducted. REWARDS is a program that can be implemented within the time constraints of secondary class schedules. The program provides students with direct instruction from the teacher, which is necessary for our struggling secondary students. In addition, this scripted curriculum will support teachers with the implementation of the program. A strategic blend of training, follow-up support and coaching, and print and online materials will assist teachers with implementing the curriculum with fidelity.

Points to Consider

1. With the uncertainty of COVID-19, we will make sure we work with the REWARDS' consultants to create an e-learning plan for FY 21 if we have to begin school remotely.
2. There will be training for teachers to ensure they know how to implement the curriculum with fidelity prior to the beginning of the school year.

Superintendent's Comments and Approval

<u>Superintendent's Comments</u>	
Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Jr.	Approved