Chronology for Board Agenda Item

Waterford – Supplemental Instructional Resource

DCSD's - Pre-K (3&4) Scholars

Scope

Given the increased number of Pre-K (3&4) scholars and parents/guardians within the DeKalb County School District who are projected to utilize the Waterford - supplemental instructional resource within the classroom and home settings, the district anticipates that the expenditure for services that will be paid out of the Bright From the Start grant for our Pre-K4 scholars will exceed $100,000 for the vendor during the 2025-2026 school year.

To fulfill the legal obligations associated with Board Policy DJE, Board approval is being requested for the Waterford – supplemental instructional resource and professional learning services. The request covers the following vendor listed below, with the individual contract exceeding $100,000 for site licenses that will be used by young scholars and professional learning experiences that will be offered to staff members during the 2025-2026 school year.

- Waterford

This approval will expand the overall scope, implementation, and impact of the Waterford – supplemental instructional resource within the classroom and home settings of all Pre-K (3&4) scholars throughout the district. Once approved, students will have access to the online Waterford platform which is aligned to goal areas listed below for total transparency.

Goal Area 1

- 1.4 – Ensure all students have equitable access to and support for academic programs and career pathways.
- 1.6 – Enhance student proficiency in digital literacy skills using innovative technology.

Contract/Terms

The contract term that is highlighted in **Section C: Term**, will be effective from Monday, August 18th, 2025, through Monday, August 17th, 2026. The contract period will commence upon Board approval and execution of the contract. Please note that the Independent Contract Agreements (ICAs) that are provided within the packet highlights the contractual amount under **Section D: Service Fees**.

Background

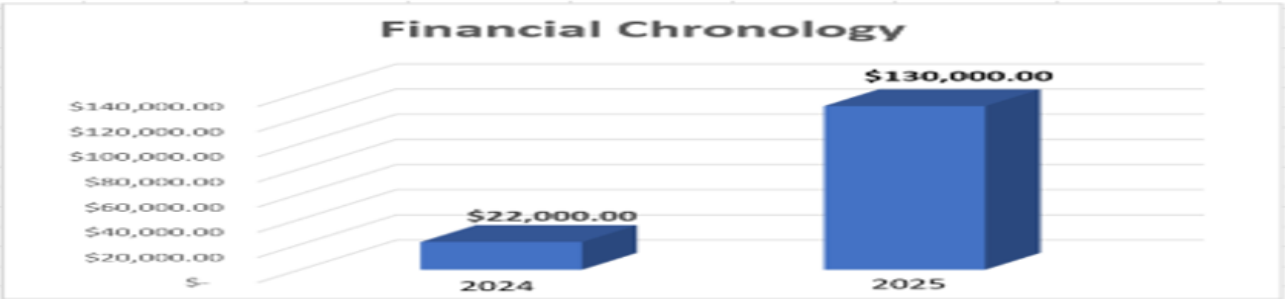
The Division of Student Services is seeking annual Board approval to expand the overall scope, implementation, and impact of the Waterford – supplemental instructional resource within the classroom and home settings of all Pre-K (3&4) scholars throughout the district. As a recipient of the Bright From the Start grant, funds have been earmarked to be utilized to fully fund the deployment of the Waterford platform for all Pre-K (3&4) scholars.

The Waterford supplemental instructional platform is a diagnostic adaptive program for Pre-K scholars that has a strategic focus on the development of early literacy and early numeracy skills while being aligned to the Georgia Early Learning Developmental Standards, (GELDS). The programs' systematic and explicit approach to learning that supports the gradual release model with target support for remediation and/or acceleration is aligned to each student's learning pathway that's highlighted by research based instructional practices. The skills that are developed in partnership with the instructional experience within the classroom setting with the utilization of the Waterford platform helps to enhance the development of early literacy, early numeracy, and foundation of school skills within our Pre-K (3&4) scholars. The recommended usage of the Waterford platform for Pre-K (3&4) scholars is (15) minutes per day and (300) minutes per month.

During the 2024-2025 school year, the Waterford platform was piloted across all our Pre-K3 expansion sites and Pre-K4 classes that are designated at the same schools. There was a total of 550 students utilizing the platform within the various Pre-K (3&4) expansion and piloted classrooms. Effective communication with our families is essential with ensuring that the Waterford platform is accessible and utilized at home during the school year to support our students' instructional journey. The utilization of the platform within their classroom settings is an added value to the instructional offering that they receive form their teachers and paraprofessionals. In accordance with Board Policy DJE, Board approval is being requested for the Waterford – supplemental instructional resource to be deployed across the district within all Pre-K (3&4) classrooms.

Financial Chronology

The increased tentative funds allocated via the Bright From the Start Grant to be spent for the 2025-2026 school year is highlighted below as a point of reference.



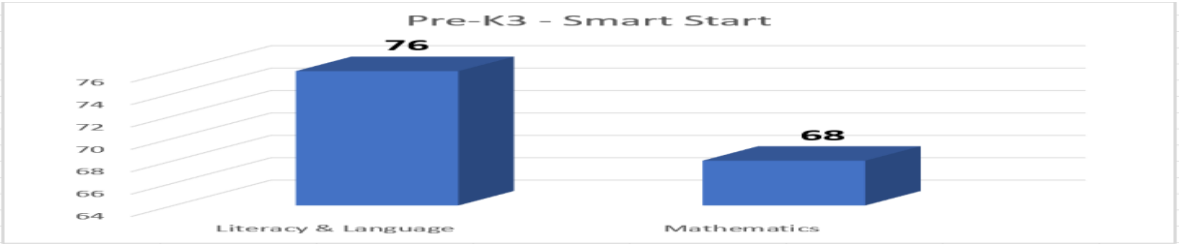
Pre-K (3&4) Expansion & Piloted Classrooms – Sites

The schools highlighted in the chart represent a sample size of the whole who utilized the Waterford platform within the Pre-K3 expansion sites and the Pre-K4 piloted classrooms. The maximum class size for Pre-K3 is (15) students and for Pre-K4 is (20) students.

School	Pre-K3	Pre-K4
Austin ES	(1) class	(2) classes
Briar Vista ES	(1) class	(3) classes
Indian Creek ES	(1) class	(3) classes
John Lewis ES	(1) class	(2) classes
Marbut Theme ES	(1) class	(2) classes
Peachcrest ES	(1) class	(2) classes
Princeton ES	(1) class	(1) class
Rainbow ES	(1) class	(1) class
Rockbridge ES	(1) class	(1) class
Smoke Rise ES	(1) class	(2) classes

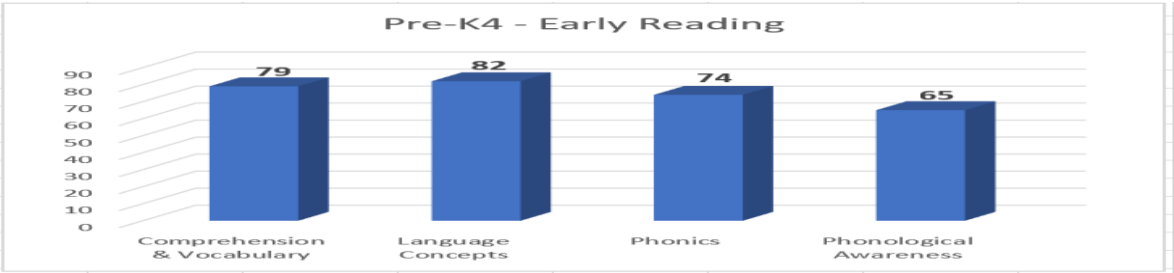
Waterford Platform – Pre-K3 Achievement Data

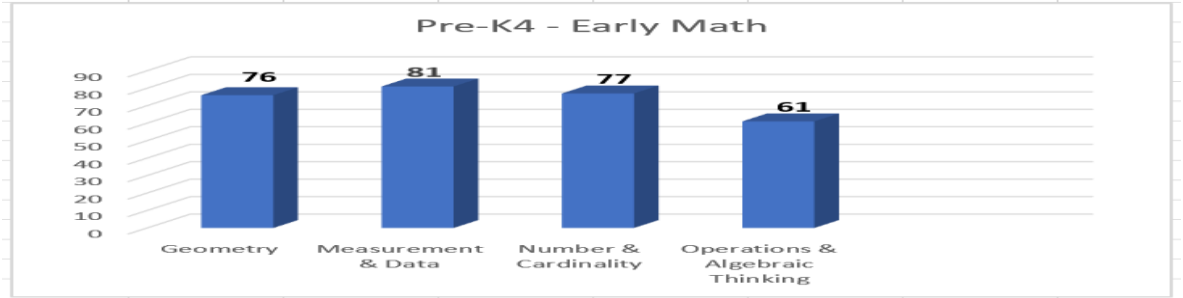
The scores listed below represent the achievement data for the content areas of literacy and numeracy Pre-K3 scholars during the 2024-2025 SY.



Waterford Platform – Pre-K4 Achievement Data

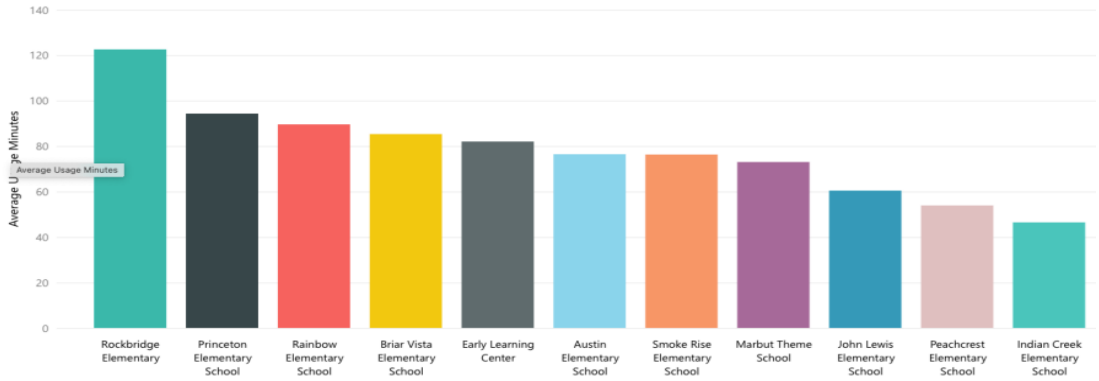
The scores listed below represent the achievement data for the content areas of literacy and numeracy Pre-K4 scholars during the 2024-2025 SY.





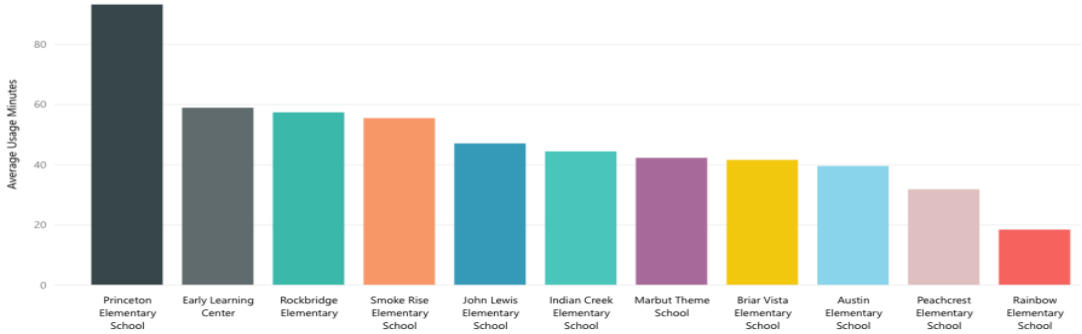
Waterford Platform – Pre-K3 Usage Data

SmartStart Average Usage by School

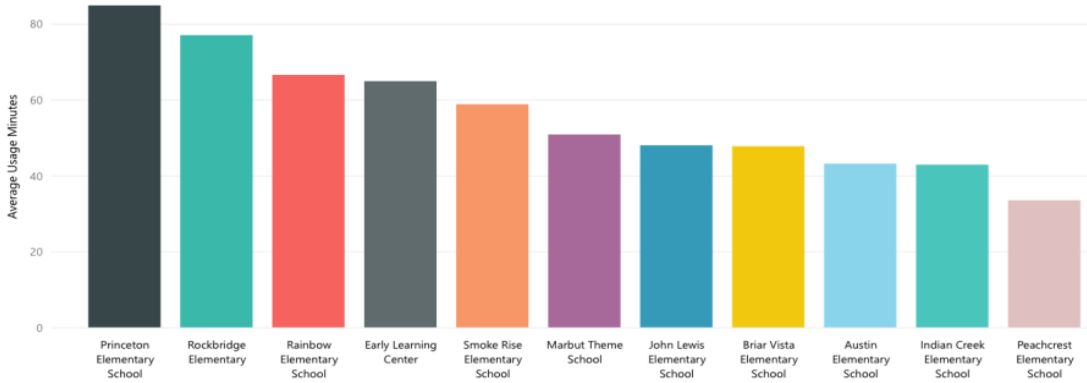


Waterford Platform – Pre-K4 Usage Data

Early Reading -Average Usage Per School



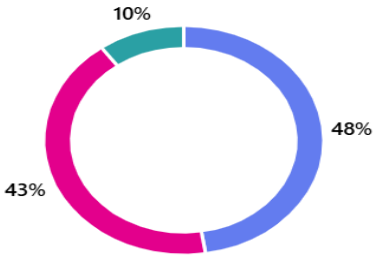
Early Math-Average Usage by School



Waterford – Teacher Survey Data

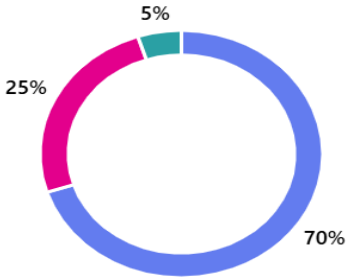
How easy was it for you to monitor and assess your students' progress using the Waterford platform?

Extremely easy	19
Somewhat easy	17
Neutral	4
Somewhat difficult	0
Very difficult	0



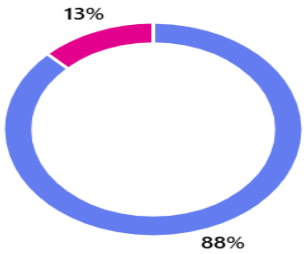
How effective was the Waterford platform in supporting your students' learning in reading and math?

Very effective	28
Somewhat effective	10
Neutral	2
Not very effective	0
Not at all effective	0



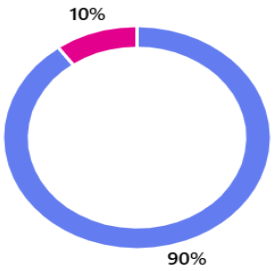
Do you like utilizing the instructional resources embedded within the Waterford platform?

Yes	35
No	5



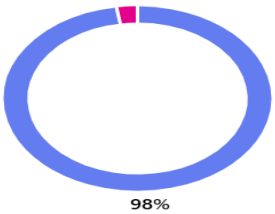
Did you see value in utilizing the different reports within the Waterford platform to assist you with making data driven instructional decisions with your students?

Yes	36
No	4



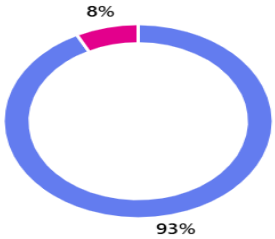
Do you feel that Waterford compliments the instructional standards that you teach daily within your classroom settin g?

Yes	39
No	1



Would you like for you and your students to continue to have access to the Waterford platform for the upcoming sch ool year?

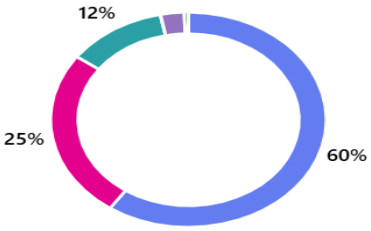
Yes	37
No	3



Waterford – Parent Survey Data

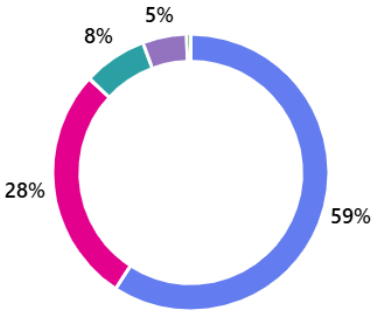
How effectively did the Waterford platform help your child improve his or her skills in reading and math?

Very effectively	127
Somewhat effectively	54
Netural	25
Not very effectively	6
Not at all effectively	1



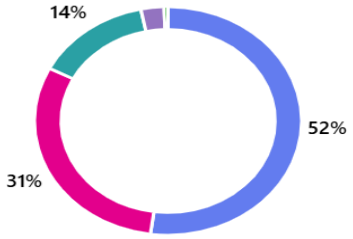
How easy was it for you child to access and navigate the Waterford Platform?

Extremely easy	126
Somewhat easy	59
Neutral	16
Somewhat not easy	11
Extremely not easy	1



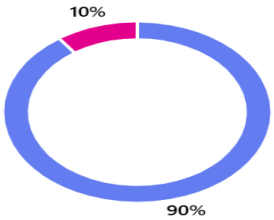
How satisfied were you with the overall quality of the Waterford platform in supporting your child's learning this year?

Very Satisfied	111
Satisfied	65
Neutral	30
Dissatisfied	6
Very dissatisfied	1



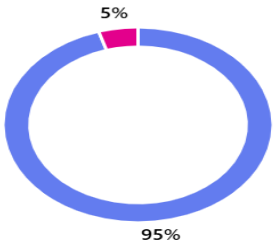
Do you see value in having your child utilize the Waterford platform within his or her classroom or at home on a daily basis?

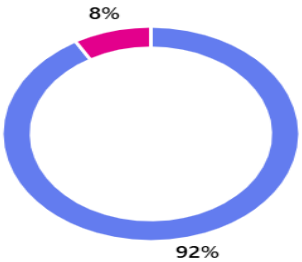
Yes	192
No	21



Do you feel that Waterford complimented the instructional standards being taught in the classroom setting on a daily basis?

Yes	203
No	10



Would you want you child to have access to the Waterford platform over summer break?

Yes	195
No	18