

Renewal: ReThink Autism, Inc.

Requested Action

It is requested that the DeKalb County Board of Education approve the renewal to purchase **Rethink Autism, Inc.** High School Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum for an amount not to exceed **\$99,654.00**.

Summary

Districts implementing RethinkEd's SEL solutions curriculum with fidelity can expect to achieve positive outcomes, including:

- **Fewer Discipline Referrals:** In a study with 21,259 students, those who engaged in the RethinkEd SEL platform showed significantly more improvement in all SEL competencies compared to the students who did not.
- **Higher Academic Achievement Scores:** SEL skills are conducive to learning; students who can self-regulate, focus, and deal with stress have better academic outcomes.
- **Increased Attendance:** Implementing SEL can improve attendance by encouraging prosocial behaviors that create a sense of community and make all students feel welcome and engaged.
- **Fewer Suspensions & Expulsions:** RethinkEd lessons reduce the risk of problem behaviors like fighting and bullying that lead to suspensions and expulsions.
- **Bullying Prevention:** Helping students manage emotions reduces the risk of impulsive and aggressive behaviors and fosters a culture of trust where students support each other.
- **Increased College and Career Readiness:** RethinkEd provides tools for students that strengthen their emotional intelligence in preparation for higher education, employment and adulthood. Our SEL and Mental Wellness Solutions help students develop the skills that lead to success after graduation.
- **Equitable & Inclusive Learning Community:** RethinkEd's culturally sensitive curriculum embraces diversity and is accessible to all learners.

The RethinkEd SEL curriculum is an excellent program for our high school students and teachers, offering a comprehensive approach to developing essential social and emotional skills. For students, it fosters emotional resilience, positive relationships, and responsible decision-making, preparing them for success both in and beyond the classroom. For teachers, it supports a positive learning environment, enhances classroom management, and promotes professional growth. By integrating RethinkEd, we can cultivate a supportive school culture that empowers students and teachers to thrive.

Details

The RethinkEd SEL Curriculum for high schools is aligned with the DeKalb County School District's (DCSD) Student Code of Conduct and Culture and Climate Strategic Plan Goals. In DCSD, our goal is to empower students to grow emotionally, socially, and academically by providing targeted interventions and facilitating the development of essential life skills. Through this program, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate a positive change in attitude and behavior with the support of educators providing targeted interventions and employing various approaches to address disciplinary incidents. We strive to transform challenges into opportunities for personal growth and successfully reintegrate high school students into the school community with renewed confidence and resilience.

Implementation of the high school RethinkEd SEL Program will help the district achieve the following goals:

- Decrease instruction time loss.
- Decrease out-of-school (OSS) for students.
- Decrease in-school suspension (ISS) for students.
- Improve students' social emotional skills.
- Improve student academic and behavior outcomes.
- Decrease behavior referrals/suspensions.
- Increase the fidelity of behavior intervention support practices.
- Improve student attendance rates.

Supporting Documents

-  [RethinkEd - Safe and Caring Classrooms - Behavior PD v1.2 20230214](#)
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-  [RethinkEd Infraction to SEL Matrix](#)
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-  [RethinkEd MentalHealth Lessons and Objectives](#)
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-  [RethinkEd certificate of Liability Insurance 05.04.2026](#)
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-  [RethinkEd Independent Contract Agreement \(2026-2027 SY\)](#)
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Financial Impact

The annual cost to renew the **RethinkEd** Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum shall not exceed **\$99,654.00** and will be paid from Purchased Prof/Tech Services account code: 100.2100.530000.00011.7560.9990.8010.090.0000.

Contacts

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Quick Summary / Abstract

Presented by:

Dr. Kishia Towns, Chief, Division of Wrap Around Services

Dr. Darnell Logan, Director of Student Relations, Division of Wrap Around Services

Mrs. Brandy Woolridge, PBIS Coordinator II, Student Relations, Division of Wrap Around Services

Rationale

The DeKalb County School District requires a robust and comprehensive social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum for high school students, which can also support the In-School Suspension (ISS) Intervention Program. The RethinkEd Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Solution equips students with critical SEL skills essential for success in school and life.

Implementation Date(s)

Upon Board approval.

Cognia Standards

Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems

Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement

Status

Pending approval from the Office of Legal Affairs.

Goals

- 4. Strategic Goal Area: Culture and Climate