

CHRONOLOGY OF THE AGENDA ITEM

Instructional Resources

Scope

The Department of Exceptional Education requests Board of Education approval to purchase supplemental instructional resources in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.00. This initiative aligns with Board Policy DJE (III.D.3.g) and is intended to enhance the academic achievement of students with disabilities within the DeKalb County School District, as supported by the Division of Student Services.

For the 2026-2027 school year, the department may acquire research-based supplemental instructional resources and materials from approved vendors. Some of these purchases may individually exceed \$100,000, ensuring that the department can secure high-quality resources necessary to meet the diverse needs of students with disabilities and comply with district and federal requirements.

Contract/Lease Terms

Contracts will be effective from July 2026, through July 2027. The contract period will begin upon Board approval and execution of the contract.

All contracts will be initiated only after receiving Board approval and completion of the required contractual agreements.

Background

The Department of Exceptional Education is seeking Board approval for the purchase of supplemental instructional resources. This request reflects a shift from prior years, when such purchases were consolidated under the Curriculum and Instruction Division for Board approval. With the establishment of the Division of Student Services by Superintendent Horton, the Department of Exceptional Education now operates within this division and is submitting its resource request independently.

The selected instructional resources have been carefully reviewed for their alignment to evidence-based practices, their ability to increase access to grade-level curriculum, and their effectiveness in supporting specially designed instruction (SDI). These materials are intended to address the diverse learning needs of students with disabilities across the DeKalb County School District and to ensure the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in accordance with IDEA.

All recommended resources are research-based and designed to support improved student outcomes through targeted interventions, progress monitoring, and differentiated instruction. Funding for these resources will be supported through a combination of federal IDEA funds and general funds, as applicable. Approval of this request will allow the district to strengthen instructional support, maintain compliance with federal and state requirements, and continue advancing academic outcomes for students with disabilities.

Financial Chronology

Year	Cost
2025-2026	Department of Exceptional Education request of \$1,100,000.00
2026-2027	Department of Exceptional Education request of \$1,100,000.00

Exceptional Education- Instructional Materials and Resources 2026-2027					
Department	Vendor	Grade Level(s)	Content Area	Notes	Amount (SY26-27)
Exceptional Education	Goalbook	Grades Pk-12	IEP Goals and Progress Monitoring	Goalbook Toolkit is an online platform that supports special education teachers in developing high-quality, standards-aligned IEPs. The platform provides standards-based goal banks, instructional strategies aligned to Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and guided tools to support accurate development of students' IEPs, strengthens IEP compliance, instructional planning, and differentiation, improving access to rigorous, standards-based instruction for all students.	\$716, 900.63
Exceptional Education	Everway/News2You	Grades 1-12	Extended Content Standards	Everway is an integrated instructional program that combines News2you, and the Unique Learning System (ULS) to support high-quality, standards-based instruction for students with disabilities. Everway delivers accessible, differentiated curriculum and current events content through symbol-supported texts, interactive activities, and classroom resources that build literacy, communication, and real-world connections for diverse learners.	\$220, 107.68
Exceptional Education	Stages Learning	Grades Pk-K	Communication and Developmental Needs	Stages Learning (ARIS Platform) is an evidence-based special education program designed to support students with autism, language delays, and developmental needs by building foundational academic, language, social, and functional skills. The program provides a comprehensive, structured curriculum that integrates assessment, IEP goal development, individualized lesson planning, behavior supports, and progress monitoring within a single system. Stages Learning also includes hands-on and digital instructional resources (e.g., visual supports, language-building materials) to support personalized learning for diverse learners in school, clinical, and home settings.	\$153, 252.75
Total					\$ 1,090,261.06