



## YPI CHARTER SCHOOLS

May 21, 2018

**TO:** YPI Charter Schools  
Board of Directors

**FROM:** Yvette King-Berg  
Executive Director

**SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve software, instructional materials and resources and communication tools for all sites**

### BACKGROUND

There are a number of software site licenses, other instructional materials and resources, and communication tools that all the YPICS sites utilize on a regular basis. Prior to the start of the school year, the tech staff works to have all licenses updated and signed to ensure that all necessary upgrades and information are in place.

### ANALYSIS

*One Call Now and Remind* are the automated broadcast messaging notification systems the YPICS schools utilize to send out messages to parents via the telephone. These tools has been effective in communicating emergency closures, changes in schedules, attendance calls, informational messages, and reminders via a phone blast to all 900 students. Both services are free.

*Achieve 3000* provides daily differentiated instruction for nonfiction reading and writing that are precisely tailored to each student's Lexile<sup>®</sup> reading level. YPICS began to use Achieve 3000 as part of the GEAR UP program. Some of the YPICS schools will not need to pay to have access to these resources as it is part of the grant. However, some licenses we will need to pay to continue to have access to these services as the grant cohort moves forward to the next grade levels.

The other materials listed on the attached list reflect the variety of programs utilized by site and the related costs.

*Aleks Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces* is a Web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system. ALEKS uses adaptive questioning to quickly and accurately determine exactly what a student knows and doesn't know in a course. ALEKS then instructs the student on the topics she is most ready to learn. As a student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses the student to ensure that topics learned are also retained. ALEKS courses

are very complete in their topic coverage and ALEKS avoids multiple-choice questions. A student who shows a high level of mastery of an ALEKS course will be successful in the actual course she is taking.

*iObservation* is the only system where you can find Charlotte Danielson's teacher evaluation framework, Dr. Robert Marzano's official research-based strategies for teacher effectiveness, and Dr. Douglas Reeves' standards-based dimensions for leadership performance.

Electronic access to Danielson's Framework for Teaching, Dr. Marzano's Art and Science of Teaching Observation and Feedback Protocol, and Dr. Reeves' Leadership Performance Matrix can only be found on iObservation, helping districts use data that connect effective classroom instruction and leadership practices to student learning gains.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the contracts and expenditures presented here to maintain continuity and ongoing use of communication, management and instructional tools for the YPICS.

***Attachments: Invoices for Achieve3000 and Aleks; instructional materials and resources list for organization by site***