



Memorandum

To: J.J. Lewis, Superintendent & CEO
From: Kasey Wingate, Director of Staff Support
Date: March 26, 2022
RE: Proposal for Purchase of myON and Accelerated Reader

Item Requested: 2-year subscription to myON and Accelerated Reader, for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

Purpose: These subscriptions provide access to a large library of ebooks with corresponding quizzes to support reading comprehension, literacy development, vocabulary development, and reading for enjoyment.

Background Information: MyON is a digital library of over 7,000 books; the books are matched to each individual scholar's interests, grade, and reading level. We can align reading selections to the reading/lexile level of each scholar, which is available through our benchmark - STAR Renaissance. Accelerated Reader (AR) provides the quiz that scholars take after reading books in myON. The AR reports provide insights into scholars' progress, through pairing with STAR reading, to track mastery of focus skills aligned to state-specific learning standards.

Scholars will also have access to myON news, which gives them weekly age-appropriate articles. Additionally, it provides scholars with an equitable opportunity to learn and grow, reading books that match their interests and ability levels, across special populations. MyON provides an adaptive placement to deliver personalized recommendations and, subsequently, scholars will potentially enjoy reading more. MyON also has embedded supports to increase literacy and connect meaningfully with reading texts, such as highlighters, audio, annotation tools, and a dictionary.

AR works in tandem with myON, as scholars would read a book based on their reading level and interest, and complete an assessment to check understanding, giving teachers insight to make informed decisions, namely setting important personalized reading goals. AR has over 220,000 quizzes for titles in English and Spanish, as well as 2,000 nonfiction articles to support development of reading skills outlined in the Common Core State Standards. AR gives scholars the ability to take their quizzes synchronously and asynchronously, while providing immediate feedback. The teachers will be able to use this data from the reports to adjust goals, and personalize lesson plans.



We currently do not have a tool like myON/AR; we have a slightly similar subscription, Listenwise (contract ends in June and is ~\$16,000 to renew), though Listenwise targets *listening* comprehension (not reading), and it does not serve TK-1-grade scholars. We have not seen the expected usage we anticipated for Listenwise, unfortunately, despite our Supervising Teachers (STs), instructional coaches, and other staff promoting its use.

We are currently piloting myON through our partner, Renaissance, and our pilot ends next month (April 2022). Through the California myON 'Gift of Literacy' program, the California Department of Education and Renaissance provided free, statewide access to myON for all pre-K to grade twelve scholars in California for a limited time. Part of that pilot also included access to AR, which promotes reading outside of school, fostering a love of reading while supporting reading comprehension.

So far, we have seen higher usage for myON/AR than we did for comparable programs. The current usage for myOn from January, 1, 2022 through March 13, 2022 reflects the following: 805 books, 21,500 pages, and 10,400 minutes read by our scholars.

The benefits of myON and AR include, as highlighted by Common Sense Media: supporting authentic, interest-driven reading; providing real-time data on scholars' reading activities, which would help teachers motivate, differentiate, and celebrate their growth; books can also be found related to standards; and, when teachers select a standard, a list of books will show the book cover, the title, the Lexile level, lower and upper grade levels, guided reading level, page count, and the length of the recorded audio. This is important, as teachers will be able to ensure scholars are meeting grade level expectations, while also personalizing their suggested reading. Each scholar can have individual goals set for their reading.

Research: Ortlieb, Sargent, & Moreland (2014) assert that scholars who use myON digital reading outperformed their peers who did not. Engaging children in reading has been scientifically proven to increase reading comprehension in children (Metz, 2020). Providing access to books for children to read has been shown to increase academic achievement on reading assessments (Allington et al., 2010). Though AR alone does not necessarily have a direct link to improved scores, it has been a favorite of children for many years and promotes reading, not just for classes, for enjoyment (Solley, 2011). The more children read, the better their vocabulary; when aligned to a Lexile score slightly above their current levels, children's reading levels continue to increase.

Cost: The cost of myON and AR is \$194,254.20 for a 2-year subscription.



Recommendation: Due to the fact that AR is a well-known and accepted resource, current research supports access to myOn, the usage we have seen in access to the myON catalog of resources, the integration with Renaissance, the success we noted in the pilot with just a soft rollout, and the equitable access these programs provide, the recommendation is to move forward with purchasing.

References

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- Mete, G. (2020). The Impact of the Reading Engagement Model on the 6th Graders' Reading Comprehension Achievement. *African Educational Research Journal, 8*(3), 499–510.
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