Memorandum

To: J.J. Lewis, Superintendent & CEO
From: Janae Smith, Director of Online Learning
Date: May 21, 2022
RE: Proposal for the Renewal of our Accelerate Education Online Curriculum

Item Requested: 1-year contract for the Accelerate Education Online Curriculum, for the 2022-23 school year.

Purpose: This contract provides access to the Accelerate Education (AE) learning management system (LMS) that includes the AE online curriculum. This online curriculum is utilized by the scholars enrolled in our Online Learning Program for their primary, standards-based curriculum, and for high school scholar enrolled in our Options Learning program to complete up to three online courses to earn credits towards graduation.

Background Information: Through a thorough curriculum audit and pilot conducted during the 2019-20 school year and continued informal curriculum audits during the 2021-22 school year, AE continues to provide a common-core aligned, standards-based online curriculum that meets the needs of scholars at Compass. Through updates within the system, teachers can continue to personalize learning through various customization features that ensure alignment with Compass' mission and vision. Further, to meet our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goal, LCAP 1.1b, AE provides scholar access to core curriculum aligned to common-core standards. Research supports that familiarity with an online learning system supports scholar success, so continuing to use this system will be a benefit to our scholars (Darby & Lang, 2019).

In addition to the LMS, AE also provides physical workbooks that help enrich the curriculum and provide additional hands-on learning opportunities for scholars in grades K-5. The Online K-5 Team collected and analyzed data to determine the efficacy of these workbooks and the impact on scholar academic achievement. The team determined that there was a continued need to provide the English/Language Arts and math workbooks through AE to provide this additional learning for scholars in grades K-5.

Along with the LMS, AE provides on-demand and live, synchronous professional learning through their year 2+ Implementation/PD package that provides teachers and administrators training and support to further personalize learning for scholars. This professional learning also ensures that the teachers and administrators are current on the recommended best practices from AE to implement the online curriculum to the fullest extent.

Cost: The cost of Accelerate Education for the 2022-23 scholar year is $190,433.

Recommendation: I recommend to continue to use and implement the AE LMS for the Online Learning Program. The continued use and implementation will meet the learning needs of Compass scholars enrolled in our Online Learning Program.

Please see the Accelerate Education Quote.

References:

Darby, F. and Lang, J. (2019). Small teaching online: Applying learning science in online classes. Wiley & Sons.