

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

22-155



135 Berkshire Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

June 21, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

CONTRACT: Professional Development

RECOMMENDATION:

That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Period of Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Lexia Learning Systems LLC 300 Baker Avenue, Suite 320 Concord, MA 01742	7/1/22 – 6/30/23	\$50,000.00

DESCRIPTION: This contract is for professional development. **LETRS**® (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) is a professional learning program designed to support educators' understanding of the science of reading and reading instruction. See the attached Supplemental Information for additional details.

SUPPORTING DATA, RULES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Chapter III, Section 12..." motions calling for the appropriation or expenditure of money require the affirmative vote of four members."

BUDGET REFERENCE:

Fund		Account		Dept.	
15000	General Fund	53107	Professional Development	868660	Academics & Schools/Professional Development

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria L. Greer, PhD

Superintendent of Schools

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Lexia Learning Systems

Purpose: LETRS® (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) is a professional learning program designed to support educators' understanding of the science of reading and reading instruction— phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and language. Developed by renowned literacy experts Dr. Louisa Moats, Dr. Carol Tolman, and Dr. Lucy Hart Paulson, LETRS is considered the "gold-standard" in PD on the science of reading. The program incorporates best practices for adult professional learning including autonomy, choice, practical application and engagement. Approximately 80 educators will participate in this professional learning.

Amount of Contract: \$50,000 with 1-year option to renew for an additional year at \$50,000

Description/Scope of Services:

LETRS is not a curriculum, and the knowledge gained can be used to support greater success with existing programs. It is professional learning designed to develop deep knowledge and expertise in:

- The most current research regarding what, when, and how language skills need to be taught
- How the brain learns to read, and how to prevent and address reading difficulties
- Ways to assess student language development for prevention and intervention
- Guidance on how to plan and balance word recognition and comprehension instruction
- How to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students

The program has been modified for CPS to extend the (typical) 12-month LETRS program to an 18-month timeline to provide CPS educators with 3 additional months to pace their learning. In addition, the 18-month program spans 2 school years, limiting educator time outside of the classroom. The program will include synchronous and asynchronous learning, with most synchronous sessions held virtually to provide greater access and flexibility to participants.

Different from other science of reading PD programs, LETRS includes *Bridge to Practice* activities that provide educators with ongoing practice of learned strategies. Full-day PD address and discuss authentic classroom scenarios with small groups of educators with the support of an expert facilitator.

Educator Interest:

In the fall of 2021, literacy coaches and instructional support staff were invited to attend a LETRS information session. In June 2022, information about this opportunity was shared with educators. To date, 115 educators have expressed significant interest in participating in the program. **The following applicants will be prioritized:**

- Educators in grades K, 1, 2
- Educators in Title I Schools
- Special Education Teachers
- Interventionists & Coaches
- ESL / SEI Educators