

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

22-74



135 Berkshire Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

April 26, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

CONTRACT: Instructional Materials

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.

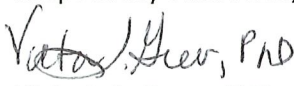
<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Period of Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Scholastic, Inc. 5 Broadway New York, NY 10012	5/1/22 – 6/30/22	\$27,716.52

DESCRIPTION: This contract is for the purchase of reading books for students currently in grades JK - 4. See 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 I require the affirmative vote of four members."

BUDGET REFERENCE:

Fund		Account		Dept.	
15000	General Fund	55103	Instructional Materials	869148	Instructional Support

Respectfully Submitted,

 Victoria L. Greer, PhD
 Superintendent of Schools
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Scholastic, Inc.

Purpose: During the summer of 2022, the ELA Department will support our 12 elementary schools in offering an initial shared summer reading experience for all students in grades JK-4 by purchasing grade-level "Summer Reading Collections"--assorted selections of titles, from Scholastic for distribution to students.

Amount of Contract: \$27,716.52

Description/Scope of Services: The ELA department is in Year 1 of a multi-year strategic planning process, currently focused on defining clear, consistent, districtwide literacy practices that are grounded in research and directly contribute to equitable student outcomes. Research shows that reading over the summer can "stem the loss in reading achievement", and that increasing student's access to reading materials correlates to increased reading achievement (Kim 2004; Halle, Kurtz-Costes, and Mahoney 1997).

Through the work of the Literacy Leadership team, the ELA department has determined that the majority of CPS educators favor a common summer reading experience in grades K-5. This would likely yield many benefits for students, educators and families, allowing us to develop stronger resources and scaffolds for ELLs, students with disabilities and new or transferring students and families. That said, establishing common, district-wide expectations (including texts and/or assignments) requires thoughtful, collaborative planning that is inclusive of impacted schools, staff, students and families. This is a goal we can establish for the school year 2022-2023.

To enable us to move forward toward this goal in summer 2022, the ELA Department will provide all schools with 2 high quality, grade-appropriate books per student (rising K-5) that students will be able to keep. Schools will receive boxes of books for each grade-level that contain a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts that students can choose from to read over the summer and to add to their home book collections.

This builds upon the successful distribution of books to students during the summers of 2020 and 2021 which alleviated some concerns with students' lack of access to texts during the height of the pandemic. As mentioned previously, research shows that summer reading programs, access and ownership of texts, and choice in reading material all have positive effects to stem summer reading loss and to engage students in joyful reading opportunities.