

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

22-95



135 Berkshire Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

May 17, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

CONTRACT: Computer Software

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> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| McGraw Hill Education PO Box 182605 Columbus, OH 43218-2605 | 7/1/22 – 6/30/23 | \$30,582.72 |

DESCRIPTION: This contract is for the Mathematics ALEKS (Assessment and Learning Knowledge Spaces) Program. 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 | 55804 | Computer Software | 851635 | Education Technology/Mathematics |

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria L. Greer, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: McGraw-Hill: Illustrative Math & ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces)

Purpose: Curriculum & Assessment System Support and Strategic Intervention

Amount of Contract: \$30,582.72

Description/Scope of Services:

This contract will enable the district to continue use of ALEKS Software at all upper schools as part of a comprehensive math system to support students in heterogeneously grouped classrooms. ALEKS will be used as a tool in a systematic approach to equitably serving students with unique learning needs.

ALEKS is a Web-based, artificially intelligent, learning management system that provides a comprehensive assessment and instructional solutions to support teachers in identifying and targeting student needs, as well as, individualizing instruction based on assessment data. Through adaptive questioning, ALEKS accurately assesses a student's procedural knowledge then delivers targeted instruction on the exact topics the student is most ready to learn. It will be used by faculty to provide targeted math support to all upper school students for skill development and extension opportunities. ALEKS has item banks of assessment questions tagged by standards that teachers can use to enhance learning for students that have gaps in math skills. Educators will use ALEKS as part of a data tracking and assessment system to identify students' needs and address those needs. ALEKS offers a robust course library for use by parents, students, homeschoolers and tutors.

Illustrative Mathematics is a Middle School Problem-Based Instruction Math Curriculum that our five Cambridge Upper Schools use as a primary math resource to support heterogeneously grouped students.

Students learn best when they solve problems. Decades of research show that traditional models of direct instruction and follow-up practice are flawed. Students tend to forget procedural skills and do not develop strategies for tackling non-routine problems or engage in productive struggle.

Illustrative Mathematics, a problem-based curriculum, is designed to address content and practice standards to foster learning for all. Students are encouraged to take an active role to see what they can figure out before having things explained or being told what to do. Teachers can shift their instruction and facilitate student learning with high-leverage routines that guide them in understanding and making connections between concepts and procedures.

This contract supports digital and online interactive use of the Illustrative Mathematics Curriculum.