

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- 22-96



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>
Aperture Education P.O. Box 1279 Fort Mill, SC 29716	10/1/22 – 9/30/23	\$30,459.00

DESCRIPTION: This contract is for the purchase of DESSA, a universal Social Emotional Learning (SEL) screener. 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 require the affirmative vote of four members."

BUDGET REFERENCE:

Fund		Account		Dept.	
15000	General Fund	55804	Computer Software	851815	Educational Technology/Research, Evaluation & Assessment

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria L. Greer, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Aperture Education

Purpose: Social Emotional Learning Screener

Amount of Contract: \$30,459.90

Description/Scope of Services:

This is for the purchase of [Aperture Education's DESSA](#), a universal Social Emotional Learning (SEL) screener, to be implemented in our schools next year in grades K-10. Having an SEL screener in place will allow us to proactively identify students who need additional SEL supports. The data will also inform class-wide and school-wide SEL Tier 1 curriculum and expectations. Our focus on SEL and mental and behavioral health is even more important than ever given the pandemic. We believe that having this tool in place, alongside professional learning about SEL and the data, will ensure more students are supported in these critical areas. We have certainly felt the absence of not having a tool in place these last few years.

This tool meets our established criteria of being: asset-based, culturally responsive, validated, action-oriented with built-in SEL professional learning. The Morse School piloted this tool in 2019. We have been working with them to understand how the pilot went and whether they would recommend the tool district-wide, which they have endorsed. We also have been working with the state through being a participant in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Academy for SEL/Mental & Behavioral Health to plan for the use of the data.

This product distinguishes itself by being asset based and rooted in a resiliency model, which is very much in-line with our values, especially as we frame anti-bias, culturally responsive practices. This product also distinguishes itself by the professional learning, support, and resources that wrap around the product.