



135 Berkshire Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

May 7, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

CONTRACT: Computer Software (FY25 Contract)

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	10/1/24 – 9/30/25	\$37,395.00

DESCRIPTION: This contract is for the renewal subscription for DESSA, a universal Social Emotional Learning (SEL) screener.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

## **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Aperture Education**

**Purpose:** Social Emotional Learning Screener

**Amount of Contract:** \$37,395.00

### **Description/Scope of Services:**

This is for the renewal of [Aperture Education's DESSA](#), a universal Social Emotional Learning (SEL) screener, to allow for continued usage in our schools next year in grades K-10. For three years now, we screened students in the fall and spring and this data has been critical to informing our SEL work. Having an SEL screener in place allows us to proactively identify students who need additional SEL supports and track the impact of these interventions. The data also informs 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.

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. Aperture has integrated additional features to elicit youth voice, most importantly the addition of a student self report that provides real-time data to students about their strengths, areas of growth, as well as ideas and supports to assist them in growing their SEL competencies. This product also distinguishes itself by the professional learning, support, and resources that wrap around the product.