

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON AWARD FOR TEXTBOOKS
FOR THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

August 6, 2007

Background Information:

On behalf of the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, the Purchasing Department is requesting approval to award a contract to Harcourt School Publishers, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL, 32887, in the amount of \$299,700.00, plus shipping, for reading/language arts textbooks and related instructional materials for the kindergarten program in all elementary schools.

Discussion:

The implementation of full day kindergarten has reinforced the need for an expansion of the early childhood curriculum. The Offices of Early Childhood and English/Language Arts and Reading have collaborated to identify a recommended reading/language arts curriculum. The parameters for the selection of the researched-based Integrated Language Arts curriculum materials included an emphasis on comprehension, phonics word work, and integrated writing.

A committee reviewed the program that is being recommended and found the curriculum appropriate for kindergarten and in alignment with the existing Grade 1-5 reading/language arts curriculum and the Voluntary State Curriculum. The curriculum offers multiple types of intervention for under- and over-achieving students, as well as English Language Learners.

Copyright material is not a competitively bid commodity and pricing is established by the publisher; hence, materials are sold to all schools at the same cost per book.

Additionally, Harcourt School Publishers has offered a reduced shipping cost, as well as the following complimentary materials for each kindergarten teacher:

- Teacher's edition,
- Online teacher's edition and planning resources,
- Instructional routine cards,
- Sound spelling cards, read aloud anthology edition
- Literacy center kits,
- Strategic intervention materials,
- Challenge resource kit,
- English Language Learner kit, and

- Leveled reader system kit.

The total market value of the complimentary material is: \$1,007,671.25.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the award of the contract in the amount of \$299,700.00, plus shipping, to Harcourt School Publishers.