



**Board of Education**

**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Director of Student Services, Krissy Goebbert  
**DATE:** 5/7/26  
**RE:** TeachTown

**This memo is:**

- Information only.
- Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.
- Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: \_\_\_ May 21, 2026 \_\_\_\_\_

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- in previous Board packet(s) dated. \_\_\_\_\_
- or attached to this memo

**Basic information:**

Our self-contained classrooms are currently using Unique Learning System and Equals Math as their core instructional resources. However, SASED has moved away from these programs and adopted TeachTown as its primary curriculum. With this shift, SASED is no longer providing training or support for Unique Learning System or Equals Math.

Although teachers have sought out and implemented supplemental reading and math resources, the existing core curriculum continues to lack critical foundational skill instruction, particularly in early literacy and mathematics. As a result, there is a growing need for a more comprehensive, research-based core program that fully addresses these essential learning components.

**Background or historical information:**

Unique Learning System lacks comprehensive phonics instruction, requiring teachers to rely on supplemental resources to effectively teach foundational early literacy skills. In contrast, TeachTown provides structured, research-based instruction aligned with the science of reading, including explicit teaching of phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

Similarly, Equals Math does not provide sufficient opportunities for students to develop mastery of basic math concepts. As a result, teachers are supplementing with additional materials to build a stronger mathematical foundation. TeachTown addresses this gap through highly scaffolded instruction that incorporates visual supports, consistent routines, and repeated practice, which are key components for supporting students with significant learning needs.

Additionally, TeachTown integrates Discrete Trial Training (DTT), grounded in Applied Behavior

Analysis (ABA), and embeds literacy, math, and social-behavioral instruction within a cohesive and systematic learning framework.

**Previous decisions, actions or parameters that relate to this topic or issue: (Options) 3 options**

**Option 1: Purchase and Implement TeachTown in Self-Contained Classrooms (Districtwide)**

- TeachTown provides a structured, research-based approach designed to improve the academic, behavioral, and adaptive functioning of students with disabilities. It offers a comprehensive curriculum aligned with the science of reading and includes scaffolded math instruction to address current gaps in both literacy and mathematics.
- **Financial Impact:**
  - Licenses \$ 21,273 (Paid yearly)
  - K-2 Physical materials \$ 14,397.00 (One-time cost)
  - 3-5 Physical materials \$ 16,197.00 (One-time cost)
  - 6-8 Physical materials \$ 6,199.00 (One-time cost)
  - Virtual Training \$ 10,000.00 (One-time cost)

**Option 2: Maintain Current Curriculum with Added Reading Intervention (Foundations)**

- Continue using Unique Learning System and Equals Math while providing teacher training in Foundations (a structured, phonics-based reading intervention). While this would strengthen early literacy instruction, significant gaps in math instruction would remain, and teachers would likely continue to rely on supplemental resources.
- **Financial Impact:** Approximately \$5,000 in addition to Unique \$14,689.49/year

**Option 3: Continue Current Implementation of Existing Resources**

- Maintain the use of Unique Learning System and Equals Math. Current curricular resources have resulted in slow academic progress and are not adequately meeting the diverse learning needs of students in self-contained classrooms.
- **Financial Impact:** \$14,689.49/year

**Recommendations: (Recommendations) and (Evaluate)**

**Option 1: Purchase and Implement TeachTown in Self-Contained Classrooms (Districtwide)**

- TeachTown provides a structured, research-based approach designed to improve the academic, behavioral, and adaptive functioning of students with disabilities. It offers a comprehensive

curriculum aligned to the science of reading and includes scaffolded math instruction, addressing current gaps in both literacy and mathematics.

- **Financial Impact:** Approximately \$71,000 (funded through IDEA grant)

Effectiveness will be evaluated through student progress and staff feedback.

**Other questions? What else does the Board wish to know?:**

Paid for out of IDEA Grant funds