



MEMO

TO: Superintendent Gina Butters, Board President Paul Widdison, and WSD Board Members

FROM: Alicia Mitchell Curriculum & Instruction Director

DATE: March 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of CommonLit School Essential PRO Plus Contract Renewal for August 2026-June 2029

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to request Board approval to renew the district's contract for CommonLit Essentials PRO Plus and continue its implementation as the primary curriculum resource for secondary English Language Arts (ELA) instruction in grades 6–12. Renewal of this agreement will ensure continued access to high-quality, standards-aligned texts, instructional units, and assessment tools that support strong literacy instruction and improved student outcomes across the district's middle and high schools.

Funding

The proposed renewal for CommonLit Essentials PRO Plus is a three-year contract totaling \$777,600 (approximately \$259,200 annually). As with the original purchase, the curriculum will be funded through the Capital Textbook Fund. To support strong implementation and encourage consistent use of the instructional resources within CommonLit, participating schools will contribute a portion of the overall cost. This shared funding approach promotes school-level ownership while ensuring teachers actively utilize the platform to support high-quality literacy instruction across grades 6–12.

Benefits to Students and Educators

CommonLit Essentials PRO Plus provides students with consistent access to high-quality, grade-level texts and standards-aligned instructional units designed to strengthen reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. The platform includes built-in supports such as guided reading assistance, vocabulary tools, and differentiated resources to help all students engage with complex texts.

In addition, CommonLit offers frequent formative assessments and writing opportunities that provide timely feedback and support the development of essential literacy skills. For educators, the platform provides ready-to-use units, aligned assessments, and real-time data tools that help teachers monitor student progress, identify learning gaps, and adjust instruction. These resources support instructional consistency across schools while allowing teachers to respond to the diverse needs of their students.

Recommended Action

Approval to renew the CommonLit Essentials PRO Plus contract for August 2026 through June 2029.