

Executive Summary: Software Needs

Success Maker, Nova Net and Performance Plus

Proposal:

The Success Maker (SME) software has been used to supplement elementary instruction for the past several years. It allows for remediation, acceleration and simply extra practice of skills taught to students in the classroom. It has also been used for tutoring purposes. We are proposing the continuation of the maintenance agreements for this software so that we can continue to receive updates and technical support which make for smooth utilization of the program.

For secondary students, we have used the Nova Net software for similar purposes. Nova Net allows for remediation, credit recovery, acceleration and extra practice to support instruction. We have also used Nova Net to support tutoring for the past several years. At the time we were considering the QZAB, there was some discussion of looking at a new online learning product called Odyssey. We have examined that software as well as looking at the updated web-based Nova Net programs. We are satisfied that the updated Nova Net will meet the learning needs of our students. In addition, we have spent a lot of District resources in aligning the Nova Net software to our curricula and specific courses. In addition, there has been a lot of time and money invested in staff training in how to use and administer the Nova Net program. At this point, it makes the most sense to continue using the Nova Net product to meet the software needs of our secondary students.

The third software product, Performance Plus, is a tool for the teaching staff. There are two components to this product. One is software for curriculum mapping which allows us to align our curricula both vertically and horizontally. In addition, it provides opportunities to identify appropriate topics for cross-curricular planning. Curriculum which is input into the system is searchable and can be aligned with resources, materials, and standards. Teachers will be able to share lesson plans and resources easily between buildings and classroom. The second component of this product is related to assessment. Student scores for PSSA, 4-Sight, District assessments and any other testing data that we would like to include are housed in one place. This data is then accessible to the classroom teachers who can use this information to plan lessons and guide instruction based upon the strengths and weaknesses of the individual students in their classrooms.

Financial Implications:

The SME maintenance agreement has been quoted at a cost of up to \$15,642.00 and is budgeted within the District technology budget.

Nova Net has been traditionally purchased by Title I funds. There are sufficient funds in the Title I budget to support that again this year at a cost of \$81, 300.

Performance Plus is available to us at a cost of \$31,600 and there is funding available in the Title I account for this purchase.

Recommendations:

That the Board of School Directors approves the purchase of the SME maintenance agreements.

That the Board of School Directors approves the purchase of the Nova Net Software.

That the Board of School Directors approves the purchase of Performance Plus Software.