



BOARD MEETING MEMORANDUM

Board Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

From: Anita Hernandez, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Re: K-5 English Language Arts Pilot

Attachments: Arts & Letters Quote | CKLA Quote

Agenda Location: Consideration to Approve: Action Items

Rationale

Administration is seeking approval to pilot two elementary school English Language Arts (ELA) instructional programs at Hillcrest, Oakland, and W.C. Petty during the 2026–2027 school year. The proposed pilot programs are *Great Minds, Arts & Letters*, and *Amplify, Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)*.

The purpose of this pilot is to evaluate instructional materials that align with the Illinois Learning Standards for English Language Arts and support the district's Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum. Through this process, teachers will be able to examine how each program supports rigorous reading, writing, speaking, and language instruction while providing opportunities for student engagement, differentiation, and formative assessment.

During the pilot, participating teachers will implement one instructional unit from each program with their students. Teachers will collect feedback throughout the process and collaborate to evaluate how each program supports instructional practices and student learning. The pilot process will help ensure the district selects instructional resources that best meet the needs of elementary school students and staff.

Following the pilot period, the administration will bring a recommendation for program adoption to the Board of Education at a later date.

Recommendation/Motion

The administration recommends that the Board approve the purchase of pilot materials and related supports for two language arts programs: *Great Minds Arts & Letters*, at a cost not to exceed \$30,048.29, and *Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)*, at a cost not to exceed \$16,524.