



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: April 23, 2026

TOPIC: 6-year | Middle School Literacy Program Adoption | CommonLit

PREPARED BY: Dominick Lupo

Recommended for:

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

Purpose/Background:

The Board of Education approves all curricular adoptions and contracts.

Lincoln Hall Middle School is seeking approval to adopt CommonLit Essentials Pro Plus as its core reading curriculum resource in order to strengthen literacy outcomes and ensure alignment with rigorous academic standards. This platform offers a comprehensive, research-based approach to reading instruction, anchored in high-quality, standards-aligned texts and paired with integrated writing tasks, formative assessments, and scaffolded supports. By providing a vertically aligned curriculum with clear pacing and unit structures, the program will ensure consistency across grade levels while supporting the District's vision of developing high-school-ready learners with cutting-edge resources. CommonLit Essentials Pro Plus is particularly well-suited for middle school literacy teachers due to its variety of instructional features. The platform includes differentiated supports such as guided reading mode, annotation tools, text-to-speech, translation options, and leveled discussion questions, enabling teachers to meet the needs of diverse learners, including English learners and students with varying reading levels. Teachers also benefit from ready-to-use lesson plans, vocabulary supports, and paired text sets that promote critical thinking and cross-text analysis. Additionally, the embedded assessments—ranging from comprehension checks to extended writing prompts—are automatically graded where applicable, providing immediate feedback and saving valuable instructional time.

This recommendation is the result of a thorough and deliberate evaluation process conducted by the District's curriculum committee over the course of two years. During this time, the committee reviewed multiple high-quality literacy programs, engaged in structured comparisons, and conducted site visits to neighboring Districts

to observe implementation in real classroom settings. The committee also collaborated closely with the District's literacy consultant to analyze program alignment, instructional impact, and long-term sustainability. Through this comprehensive process, CommonLit Essentials Pro Plus emerged as the clear choice to best meet the needs of Lincoln Hall students and teachers, and the committee confidently brings this recommendation forward for approval.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of the 6-year adoption will be \$35,100 for all materials and professional development.

Recommendation:

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this contract from *CommonLit © 2025* for the adoption of the 6-8 reading curriculum in the amount of \$35,100 from the 2026-2027 school year to the 2031-2032 school year.