



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: April 23, 2026

TOPIC: 6-year | Middle School Literacy Program Adoption | Simplify Learning

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 Simplify Writing® as its core writing curriculum resource in order to strengthen student writing proficiency and ensure alignment with grade-level standards and expectations. This program provides a structured, skill-based approach to writing instruction that breaks complex writing tasks into clear, manageable components, enabling students to build confidence and mastery over time. Through its focus on explicit instruction, modeling, and application, *Simplify Writing*® supports consistent, high-quality writing instruction across classrooms while advancing the district’s commitment to academic excellence and equitable outcomes for all students.

Simplify Writing® is particularly well-suited for middle school language arts teachers due to its highly practical and instructional-centered design. The program emphasizes “bite-sized” lessons, typically 10–15 minutes, that allow teachers to model writing skills before students immediately apply them in their own work, reinforcing learning in real time. It also includes a comprehensive intervention library, grammar resources, and supports for English learners, enabling teachers to differentiate instruction effectively for diverse learners. Additionally, its skill-based pre- and post-assessments provide actionable data that help teachers identify specific gaps in student writing more precisely than traditional rubrics. The inclusion of writing tasks across multiple genres, and both digital and printable resources ensures that teachers have the tools needed to support students in mastering narrative, informational, and argumentative writing.

The key factor in this recommendation is that the Lincoln Hall language arts teachers valued the program's balance of structure and flexibility. Simplify Writing® provides a clear, standards-aligned framework while still allowing teachers the professional autonomy to tailor instruction, incorporate their own materials, and foster creativity in the classroom. This flexibility empowers teachers to meet the unique needs and interests of their students. As a result, the program not only strengthens writing outcomes but also enhances teacher ownership and engagement.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of the 6-year adoption will be \$3,952 for all materials and features.

Recommendation:

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this contract from *Simplify Learning*® for the adoption of the grades 6-8 reading curriculum in the amount of \$3,952 from the 2026-2027 school year to the 2031-2032 school year.