



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: April 23, 2026

TOPIC: 6-year | Middle School Literacy Program Adoption | Panorama Education Class Companion

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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 Class Companion as a core instructional support tool to enhance student writing, feedback cycles, and overall literacy development. This platform leverages AI to provide immediate, rubric-aligned feedback on student work, allowing students to revise and improve in real time while maintaining full teacher oversight. By embedding frequent, high-quality feedback opportunities into daily instruction, Class Companion strengthens student engagement, promotes mastery-based learning, and supports the district's commitment to rigorous, standards-aligned instruction.

Class Companion is particularly valuable for middle school language arts teachers due to its ability to dramatically increase instructional efficiency while deepening student learning. The platform provides instant feedback and scoring on writing tasks, paired with an AI tutor that guides students through revisions without giving away answers, fostering independence and critical thinking. Teachers can create or upload assignments aligned to their curriculum, apply customized rubrics, and allow multiple attempts so students can learn through revision and reflection. Additionally, the platform includes built-in accommodations such as text-to-speech, translation, and adjustable reading levels, along with academic integrity tools that detect copied or AI-generated text. Real-time data dashboards give teachers insight into student strengths, misconceptions, and engagement, enabling more targeted and responsive instruction.

A key factor in this recommendation is the strong support from Lincoln Hall's language arts teachers, who value the program's ability to enhance, rather than replace, their instructional practice. Class Companion allows teachers to maintain full control over assignments, rubrics, and grading decisions while significantly reducing time spent on routine feedback and assessment tasks. This creates more opportunities for small-group instruction, conferencing, and relationship-building with students. Teachers appreciate that the platform supports their professional autonomy and creativity while providing a powerful, standards-aligned structure to improve student writing outcomes. As a result, Class Companion represents a high-impact, sustainable solution that aligns with both teacher needs and district priorities.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this program will be \$3,000 for the 2026-2027 school year for all access and features. This program does not offer multi-year contracts, therefore, this will need to be renewed year to year through the District purchasing update process and guidelines.

Recommendation:

The Finance Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this contract from *Panorama Education © 2026* for the adoption of grades 6-8 writing curriculum tool in the amount of \$3,000 for the 2026-2027 school year.