

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

159 THORNDIKE STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141

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16-127



June 7, 2016

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

CONTRACT AWARD: Instructional Materials

RECOMMENDATION: That the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Science Curriculum; funds to be provided from the General Fund. Procurement procedures for this contract have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

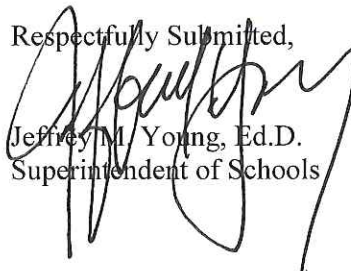
<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Period of Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
TCi Brings Learning Alive P.O. Box 1327 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741	7/1/16 – 6/30/17	\$200,000.00

DESCRIPTION: This contract is Science Curriculum materials for Bring Science Alive program in Grades 1-4.

SUPPORTING DATA: RULES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Chapter III, Section 12..."motions calling for the appropriation or expenditure of money shall require the affirmative vote of four members."

BUDGET REFERENCES:

ACCOUNT:	55103	Instructional Materials
FUND:	15000	General Fund
ORG:	891148	Elementary Education/General Instructional Support
PROJ:		

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey M. Young, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

The Cambridge Public Schools is putting forth the next purchase of the elementary science program, Bring Science Alive! published by TCI. The science department entered into a district curriculum review cycle in 2013. Over the past three years teachers have developed a curricular framework aligned to new MA standards and then sought out a product that could be used to address the understandings, knowledge, and essential questions that students need to know. TCI presented this resource to teachers across grades and schools during the 2014-2015 school year. Teachers expressed great excitement about the tool and the curriculum development teams were impressed by how well the program aligned to the curricular framework developed. During the 2015-2016 school year teachers in grades 1 and 4 pioneered the instructional materials purchased from TCI! and worked alongside district staff to align the tool to our curricular documents.

TCI's Bring Science Alive is a unique program for a number of reasons. First, it was developed alongside the national creation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and therefore is more closely aligned than other products. Unlike most science programs that are modular in nature (FOSS, Insights, STC, and Delta for example), Bring Science Alive! is a program that spirals from K-5 allowing content to develop and carefully build on prior units. Most science curricular tools are modular and therefore can be used in any order. Although this is convenient from a publishing standpoint, it means that the units can assume no prior knowledge and therefore cannot build on each other. Bring Science Alive! does the opposite of that, it carefully builds so that students have a cohesive experience – content and practices build across each year horizontally and vertically throughout elementary school. Another unique feature of its programmatic approach is that student texts are aligned to Common Core Lexile expectations. As students progress across a grade the complexity of the texts increase. The digital platform for content delivery allows teachers to access up to the date publishing changes without the district purchasing new teacher's guides.

The 2016-2017 purchase of approximately \$200,000 is to roll out materials to grades 1 and 4 district wide. This figure includes all classrooms that may have a first or fourth grader next year, including sub-separate classrooms. SEI classes at Graham and Parks and Kennedy Longfellow have been included in this count.

The department is rolling out the instructional materials district wide in grades 1 and 4 during the 2016-2017 school year. The three-year roll out is as follows:

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
JrK/K			Science
1	Science		
2		Science	
3			Science
4	Science		
5		Science	

The department is providing all day professional development in the summer, fall and spring (three days in total) as well as a ten hour choice course that teachers can take throughout the year for continued support. Teachers that pioneer are provided the same structured support. District science instructional coaches will prioritize time with grade-levels rolling out new content and curriculum as well.

Throughout the pioneering process teachers have provided feedback on the tool. Through the curriculum review process the science department will continue to evaluate the effect of our new instructional materials in meeting the expectations outlined in our curriculum, which was developed by teachers through a collaborative process. Data from performance assessments will be reviewed with teachers to ensure that the curriculum and instructional materials are aligned.