

The 6-8 English Language Arts Adoption Committee

November 30, 2023

I. The meeting began with the following updates:

- A. **Look-fors added to criteria documents:** Kathleen Vasquez shared slight changes made to the criteria documents, explaining that some of the criterion as written were too specific. To maintain the spirit in which the criteria was written, Kathleen Vasquez and Molly Montague created a companion look-for document, so that the interests of the committee were maintained.
- B. **Weighting of categories:** Kathleen Vasquez informed the committee that the Purchasing Department requested a pricing category added to the list of identified categories as determined by the committee, including Anti-bias and Sensitivity, Pedagogy and Supports, Standards Aligned Instruction, Usability and Accessibility and Assessments. Pricing would only be 10 percent of the total weight. The five categories were adjusted proportionally to accommodate the 10 percent addition.
- C. **Vendor responses to the Request for Proposal for 6-8 English Language Arts:** There were 11 submissions in response to the proposal. Some were not viable as stand-alone tier 1 core instruction. Some were supplementary, while others were tier 2 supports. The committee will be reviewing 8 vendors.

II. To prepare for the day, committee members centered on the goals, purpose and outcomes of the day.

A). Goal: Screen all vendors submissions for anti-bias and sensitivity

B). Purpose: To review instructional resources for misconceptions, inaccuracies and stereotypes about marginalized people

C). Outcome: Make a recommendation to eliminate any vendor whose text collection lacks sufficient diversity and/or contains multiple examples of misconceptions, inaccuracies and stereotypes about marginalized people

III. Committee members first reviewed [SPS Washington State aligned Anti-bias and Sensitivity tool](#) to ensure clarity about the criteria and to establish calibration in terms of the rating scale. Committee members were put into teams. Each team was assigned two vendors whose texts and titles they would explore using the Anti-bias and Sensitivity Screener. After each team explored a vendor and texts, members calibrated their findings using evidence and examples to support their ratings. Teams then presented to the membership at large.

III. Committee members then applied the [committee designed Anti-bias and Sensitivity criteria](#) as an additional process to enhance understanding of diversity, equity, anti-bias and sensitivity. Each vendor's submission was evaluated through the second tool. Committee members will examine each vendor's standing after the Anti-bias and Sensitivity review on Saturday, December 2, 2023, when they continue

to apply the remaining categories for evaluation: Pedagogy and Supports, Standards Aligned Instruction, Usability and Accessibility, and Assessments