

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY

FROM: MICHAEL A. GREGO, Ed. D., SUPERINTENDENT

Please approve the following for submission for funding at the School Board Meeting of:
June 11, 2013.

E. Title of Project: Contract with Learning Sciences International (LSI) for Pilot Evaluation Project

If this is a contractual agreement requiring bids or formal quotes, the director of purchasing has authorized this agreement according to purchasing requirements.

 X The "**Checklist for Contractual Agreements**" form has been signed by the Project Manager and the Director of Purchasing, and submitted to the Director of Special Projects.

 N/A

Amount of Project: \$978,463.00

Status of Project:

New: X Renewal: Amendment:

If Amendment:

Additional Funds: Reduced Funds: Time Extension: Other:
Fund Source:

State: Federal: X Race to the Top Other:

Length of Project: 12 Months

Starting Date: June 12, 2013 Ending Date: June 30, 2014

Strategic Direction(s): Managing Productive Systems and Technology

Program Description: The contract with Learning Sciences International (LSI) supports the development and implementation of the Teacher Evaluation Pilot project. The purpose of the pilot evaluation is to create a developmental evaluation model that accurately and fairly measures teacher performance while supporting the continued development of instructional practices with the overall purpose of raising student achievement.

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) approved the pilot evaluation system and has expressed interest in the process and results as a potential state model. The Pinellas County Teachers Association (PCTA) has been a collaborative partner in the pilot development process and attended all school presentations with district staff and building administrators.

The pilot will be conducted in five schools: Boca Ciega High School, Azalea Middle School, Gulfport Elementary, Seventy-Fourth Street Elementary, and Westgate Elementary School.

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Following a presentation and an opportunity to understand the pilot, Instructional staff members in these five schools voted, all with over 80% approval, to participate in the pilot.

The funding includes professional development for administrators and instructional staff; technology integration; iObservation licenses; calibration; and development of the student performance measurements. The pilot is focused on building a meaningful evaluation system supporting Common Core State Standards (CCSS) implementation and the continual improvement of teacher practice. In addition, it is designed to build district and school capacity for lesson planning, unit development, use of formative assessment, and a culture of professional learning and continual development of instructional and leadership practice. The contract also includes the development of the student performance metric using multiple measures.

Rationale: The pilot evaluation project offers Pinellas County Schools the opportunity and support to develop a meaningful and effective teacher evaluation system that meets statutory requirements and provides for the continual development of teachers and leaders resulting in increased student learning. The pilot also provides for significant teacher involvement in the development of the units that will be used as a portion of their evaluations, giving teachers a larger control and influence over the student data and practice portions of their evaluation. The pilot, while focused on the target schools initially, also offers the potential for expansion across all schools in the future.

Usage in other districts: Yes No X

Visits by PCS Staff: NA Date: Person:

Students to be served/Target Audience: Teachers and administrators at Boca Ciega High School, Azalea Middle School, Gulfport, Westgate, and 74th Street elementary schools

Performance Data, Research Findings, or Improvement Results: The pilot evaluation is based upon sound research principles and the Florida Department of Education approved Marzano framework for teacher evaluation. It is also supported by research indicating that multiple measures, including formative measures that inform practice, are more meaningful and effective measures of teacher performance than lagging indicators, such as the Value-Added score based upon FCAT, used alone. The project will be evaluated using quantitative and qualitative measures including teacher and administrator evaluation results, student performance results, teacher focus groups and student perception surveys.

Contact Person: Dr. Ron Ciranna, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Grant Proposal/Contract Developer(s): Lisa Grant, Director, Professional Development

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NO COST TO DISTRICT OPERATING FUNDS

Target Schools:

Boca Ciega High School, Azalea Middle School, Gulfport, Westgate,
and 74th Street elementary schools

Budget

Purchased Services \$ 978,463.00

- Learning Sciences International

TOTAL \$ 978,463.00

SUPERINTENDENT TO SIGN 2 COPIES AS MARKED

BOARD CHAIRMAN TO SIGN 2 COPIES AS MARKED