

AUTHORIZE PAYMENTS TO APEX LEARNING FOR ONLINE TUITION FEES**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

Authorize tuition payments to Apex Learning for tuition fees for the Summer 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009 semesters at a cost not to exceed \$135,000. Vendor was selected pursuant to Board Policy Section 605.11 (Granting Credit Toward High School Graduation For Courses Taken Through Internet-Based Delivery) and the previous experience with the Chicago Public Schools' Distance Learning Program. No written agreement is required for tuition payments. Information pertinent to this program is stated below.

VENDOR: Apex Learning
315 Fifth Avenue – South, Suite 600
Seattle, Washington 98104
Contact Person: James Russo / Brian Sharp
Phone: 206-381-5601
Vendor # 98804

USER: Graduation Pathways/ CPS-VHS Distance Learning
Office of High Schools and High School Programs
125 S. Clark, 12th floor
Chicago, IL 60603
David G. Gilligan
(773) 553-3540

PAYMENT PERIOD: Tuition payments are authorized for Apex course enrollments scheduled from June 30, 2008 through June 29, 2009.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Apex Learning is an Internet educational service delivering a wide range of quality high school class content using the Internet and related educational technologies to expand student access to challenging high school curricula aligned to National and Illinois Learning Standards. Apex Learning is accredited through the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools and has been providing online curriculum to schools since 1999.

PARTICIPANTS: This summer, Graduation Pathways will serve 600 students in an online credit recovery summer school pilot program. CPS-VHS citywide Distance Learning serves 1,500 – 2,000 students yearly, and last year provided about 90 Apex-provided courses. Overall success rates for online courses have been over 75% (78% with Apex). Tuition costs range from \$125 per student for online curriculum alone or \$299 per student annually with an Apex teacher. Apex Learning will provide reduced rates with volume. Most materials are provided.

OUTCOMES: This approval will result in tuition paid for online curriculum for students in the CPS-VHS Distance Learning city-wide program and the Graduation Pathways Online Credit Recovery Pilot who take online classes to meet their individual educational needs and Office of High Schools and High School Program requirements.

COMPENSATION: Tuition payments (\$125 per participant in fall, spring, and summer terms when licensing only the curriculum and \$299 per participant for courses taught by Apex teachers) to vendor during the payment period shall not exceed \$135,000.

AUTHORIZATION: The Chief Officer of High Schools and High School Programs is authorized to direct payments to be made to the vendor as costs are incurred.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Pursuant to section 3.7 of the Revised Remedial Plan for Minority and Women Business Enterprise, contract participation (M/WBE) this contract is exempt from review because the contract is for tuition payments.

LSC REVIEW: Local School Council approval is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: Charge to Office of High Schools and High School Programs
Department of Graduation Pathways
Fiscal Year: 2009
Budget Classifications: 13722-115-54305-110004-000000: \$ 20,000
13722-332-54305-211209-430067: \$115,000

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Inspector General – Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts – The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness – The Board’s Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics – The Board’s Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Contingent Liability – The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

Approved for Consideration:

Barbara Eason-Watkins

Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer *HW*

Approved:

Arne Duncan D.P.

Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:

Pedro Martinez

Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approve as to legal form:

June

Patrick J. Rocks

Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel