

**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 Fall, 2009 and Spring and Summer, 2010 semesters at a cost not to exceed \$30,000. 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, 12<sup>th</sup> floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
Paige A. Ponder  
(773) 553-2078

**PAYMENT PERIOD:** Tuition payments are authorized for Apex course enrollments scheduled from September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010.

**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:** Enrollment is based upon school or student need; we anticipate serving 100 students each semester. There have been over 6000 online enrollments in Chicago Public Schools over the past 5 years, some of which have been provided by Apex Learning through the Illinois Virtual High School. This past year, 46 students took one year of music using Apex Learning with a success rate of 75%. Tuition costs range from \$125 per student for online curriculum alone or up to \$300 per student annually with an Apex teacher. Apex Learning will provide reduced rates with volume. Most materials are provided, although science manuals and novels are additional.

**OUTCOMES:** This approval will result in tuition paid for online curriculum for students in the CPS-VHS Distance Learning city-wide program 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 using only the Apex curriculum and \$299 per participant for courses taught by Apex teachers) to vendor during the payment period shall not exceed \$30,000.

**AUTHORIZATION:** The Chief Officer of 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 (new school).

**FINANCIAL:** Charge to Office of High Schools and High School Programs  
Department of Graduation Pathways  
Fiscal Year: 2010  
Budget Classifications: 13722-115-54305-110004-000000: \$ 30,000

**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**  
Chief Education Officer

**Approved:**

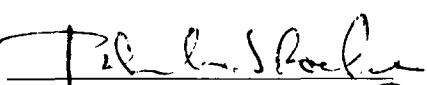


**Ron Huberman**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**

  
**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

Approve as to legal form. 

  
**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel 