

To: Board of Education

From: Terry McEwen, director, curriculum, instruction & assessment, ext. 2613

Re: Purchase of Pre-ACT for Grades 9 & 10

Date: June 22, 2017

Background:

**2014-2015** - With input from high school principals, we administered the online version of the Pre-ACT (purchased from Pearson Publishing) known as Aspire. Multiple issues arose with this administration, and this assessment was abandoned because of problems reported across the nation.

**2016-2017** - With increased need for additional high school assessment data beyond the state assessment, and at the request of high school principals, we investigated the use of the more traditional Pre-ACT assessment (paper/pencil assessment). The Pre-ACT was successfully administered in the fall of 2016 to ninth- and tenth-grade students in both high schools and at Lawrence Virtual School.

Rationale:

Pre-ACT is an assessment aligned to the ACT assessment. Pre-ACT results have predictive values for students as they prepare for their first ACT. Pre-ACT is useful in guiding students to career exploration in addition to its academic value. This assessment will be administered to ninth- and tenth-grade students in the late fall.

Recommendation:

Administration recommends the payment of \$25,000 for Pre-ACT. Funding of this payment has been budgeted and will be paid from the assessment account.

Motion:

"I move the Board of Education approve payment in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for the purchase of the Pre-ACT for 2017-2018."