

Thank you for submitting your application materials. If you have any questions or need to update any responses or attachments prior to the application deadline, please contact Mandy Christensen at Christensen_A@cde.state.co.us.

ESSER K-8 Mathematics Curricula & K-3 READ Act Instructional Program Application Submission

LEA/BOCES Name	Douglas County RE-1
Lead Applicant Code	0900
Mailing Address	620 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, CO 80104
Requested Funding	\$21,747.69
Total Cost of Curriculum/Instructional Program Purchase	\$21,225.55
Applicant Type	District Charter School(s)
Region	Metro
Recipient Schools	Platte River Academy Charter (7047)

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1. Indicate which approved core K-8 mathematics curricula and/or K-3 READ Act-approved instructional programs (including publication year) you intend to purchase by content area, grade level and, if the purchase is not for district-wide implementation, by school. For each, indicate what curricular resources are currently being used and when they were adopted. (no more than 500 words)

Platte River Academy Charter School has used the Saxon curriculum to teach Math since opening in 1997. It is not typical for a school to stick with one program for over 20 years, but as they say, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." However, we have become aware of Saxon's deficiencies when we review iReady and CMAS data; even though Saxon provides an excellent foundation for our students, it's time to adjust our course. As the standards continue to evolve, Saxon has not kept up; the reality that this curricula series will no longer update underscores this shortcoming. We cannot continue to utilize a dated program that is no longer available. Our teachers certainly appreciate the need to select a new program, and they embrace the opportunity to expand their instructional approaches to support students' mastery of math concepts and skills.

Platte River Academy has selected Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Into Math as the Elementary standards-aligned CED-approved core mathematics curriculum. Platte River Academy's Kindergarten - 3rd grades will be transitioning from the Saxon Math curriculum beginning in August of 2022. Saxon Math has been used for core mathematics instruction since opening its doors in 1997. Saxon Math is currently out of print, so it has become increasingly challenging to obtain consumable materials. Although our students have experienced success in the area of mathematics (as evidenced by i-Ready data) at all grade levels, we recognize that programs like Into Math are developed based on the latest educational research with current standards in mind. We see the transition to Into Math as an important step in supporting the development of strong critical thinkers and problem solvers at Platte River Academy.

2. Describe how teachers, school leaders, parents/guardians/families, and/or community members were engaged in the selection of the chosen core mathematics curricula and/or READ Act-approved instructional programs. (no more than 500 words)

Platte River Academy assembled a committee of educators, community leaders and parents to determine which approved Math curriculum best serves our elementary students. Over the summer Susan Shaw, PRA's math specialist, conferred with professional colleagues and consulted EdReports.org to select four viable research-based, standards-aligned mathematics curricula. This fall, Susan Shaw and Becky Bonner, Director of Academics, called a number of schools/administrators/teachers who currently use each of the four programs to gather anecdotal information about the usability and effectiveness of each program.

Through these fact-finding interviews, we discovered that other Douglas County charter schools who had been using Saxon Math were also looking at making the move to a more updated

program. Having close ties within similar school settings involved in the same process provided a lot of guidance for our selection process. As charter schools, we were able to compare experiences and information beyond what we may have uncovered on our own.

Selection Process Presentation

Math Selection Committee met on the following dates:
 Wednesday, Feb. 9 (2:00 - 4:30pm) ~ Discuss process, philosophy, and priorities
 Wednesday, Feb. 16 (2:00 - 4:30pm) ~ Overview & Website Tours of each program
 Wednesday, Feb 23 (2:00 - 4:30pm) ~ Review & Determine top two programs
 Wednesday, Mar 2 (7:15 - 7:45am) ~ Present top two programs to teachers at morning meeting // Share form to solicit input from teachers
 Wednesday, Mar 2 (2:00 - 4:30pm) ~ Develop communication / presentations for Board, SAC, & parents
 Wednesday, March 9 (2:00 - 4:30pm) ~ Finalize presentations & communications after determination of final selection is made.
 Wednesday, March 23 (2:00 - 4:00pm) ~ Select committee members will meet with our new vendor rep to place the order for K-3 curriculum materials.
 Presentations to community leaders and parents:
 Teachers hear about the top two programs - March 2, 2022
 Committee members presented selection & information to PRA's Governing Board - March 10, 2022
 Committee members presented selection & information to PRA's SAC - March 24, 2022
 Committee members presented information about Into Math to parents at "Spring Forward" curriculum event - April 5, 2022

PRA teachers and administrators will continue to offer informational meetings and send communications to parents regarding Into Math. We want to make sure every family feels informed about the shift in math instruction and is aware of family resources at PRA.

3. Will the core mathematics and/or READ Act curricular/instructional program(s) purchased through this program be provided to specific schools or adopted district-wide? If specific schools, describe how specific schools will be identified to receive supports in a way that ensures that students most impacted by the pandemic have access to high-quality, standards-aligned curricular and instructional resources. (no more than 500 words)

A charter school is a public school of choice. They are an independent, semi-autonomous public school created under Colorado's Charter Schools Act of 1993. Charter schools operate under a contract with a local school district, in Platte River Academy's case, we are authorized by Douglas County School District. Charter school academic programs utilize a wide variety of models. Each Charter school has a unique focus and selects their own curriculum design so they can establish achievement-oriented cultures and choose staff to best support these structures. Platte River Academy follows the Core Knowledge Sequence and selects and implements all curriculum, independent of our authorizing school district.

Like every public school in Colorado, Platte River Academy is held accountable for providing quality instruction that prepares students to meet or exceed the academic standards across all subject areas. Our highly effective teachers use a collection of curricula in each of the core subjects to provide an academically rigorous education for all students who attend our school, regardless of ability.

Every PRA educator who works with students in Kindergarten - 3rd grade, including interventionists, our learning specialist, GT facilitator, ELD teacher, and instructional assistants will have access to all print and digital materials available within the Into Math curriculum. Additionally, all educators will be invited to

4. Describe how the district intends to implement the core mathematics and/or READ Act curricula/instructional programs purchased through this program, including how the district and/or schools will ensure that teachers participate in curriculum-based professional learning opportunities. (no more than 500 words)

participate in professional development opportunities as they develop their understanding and expertise with this new curriculum.

The following are specific plans we have made, or have already implemented, to promote ongoing professional learning opportunities for educators who will be involved in implementing Into Math at Platte River Academy:

K-3 Professional Development by a HMH trainer on how to use the curriculum - Spring 2022 prior to leaving for the school year (proposed date: 5/31/22). Teachers will have printed and digital resources to review over the summer.

Weekly planning and observations with PRA's math coach to ensure differentiation to meet the needs of all students. Co-teaching with our math coach to support implementation of new strategies and best student outcomes.

Ongoing relationship with the teachers and administration at Parker Core Knowledge. PCK transitioned from Saxon and implemented Into Math about five years ago, and they have developed many strategies and instructional structures that we believe will serve our students well. Teachers have already been to observe math instruction at PCK, and they have developed relationships with partner teachers for ongoing support and collaboration.

Early Release Days added to school calendar to afford additional data review and professional collaboration specific to math:
First Semester Book Study - Mathematical Mindsets, by Jo Boaler

Second Semester Book Study - Number Talks: Whole Number Computation, by Sherry Parrish, 2014

Collaboration with grade level teammates as well as with vertical teams to refine approaches to differentiate math instruction.

Professional time provided for data dives and investigation of various teacher tools within Into Math.

We are prepared to add or adjust to these scheduled events as needed throughout the school year. Our 4th and 5th grade teachers will be included in all professional development opportunities so that they feel prepared to transition to Into Math according to PRA's implementation plan.

Platte River Academy has selected Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Into Math for our core mathematics curricula. We intend to implement Into Math in Kindergarten through 3rd grades in 2022-2023, and then add 4th grade and 5th grade in subsequent years, for a total K-5 implementation by 2024.

5. Describe how the implementation of the chosen core mathematics curricula and/or READ Act instructional programs will support the acceleration of student learning – particularly for those most impacted by the pandemic. (no more than 500 words)

One of the central reasons we selected Into Math is the program's focus on building a strong number sense. Teachers have recognized that Saxon Math's emphasis on computation and memorization rather than on developing strong conceptual understanding and number sense, affects our students' ability to engage in higher level thinking in mathematics. Our data shows that the instructional interruptions caused by COVID quarantines and isolations have led to a greater gap in the domain of number sense. We feel an urgency to respond to this deficiency in all levels of learners. By focusing on the primary grades, we are setting the stage for acceleration of student learning as they grow through the grades at Platte River Academy.

Another key reason for selecting Into Math for Platte River Academy is how readily teachers can use the instructional materials to differentiate for various learners in their classroom. Into Math structures scaffolded math lessons for whole group, small group, student-led and teacher-led collaborations.

Additionally, Into Math affords teachers with strategies to enrich or review concepts based on student readiness. This optimizes

teachers' time while expanding their toolboxes as they strive to meet individual students' needs.

Beyond these critical instructional elements, we believe the digital resources available within the Into Math curricula will create seamless integration between school and home. While we hope that there will not be a need for widespread school closures, we certainly learned how valuable accessible digital platforms for students and parents to use at home are to support student learning. Into Math offers a robust digital platform that will help parents support their children at home and better understand the classroom instruction. These resources also provide teachers and parents with valuable data through ongoing curriculum online assessments.

Over the last two years, we have learned how vital consistent instructional programming is for students to maintain mathematical understanding. Into Math offers a balance of print and digital tools for students, teachers and families, enabling us to withstand any absences -- by student(s) or teacher(s). This is a powerful tool!

6. How many students are expected to be served through the program annually once these mathematics curricula and/or READ Act instructional programs are implemented?




206 Kindergarten - 3rd grades will utilize Into Math beginning 22-23 school year; 54 4th grade students will begin in 23-24; and 54 5th graders will begin 24-25 for a total of 315 Kdg-5th grades.

7. Describe how your program meets any or all the priority criteria outlined on page 5. (no more than 500 words)

Platte River Academy is a charter school in Douglas County School District currently serving 485 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. PRA students have continually demonstrated academic excellence over the 25 years the school has been in operation, and we consistently exceed state expectations for achievement, receiving the Performance rating on our School Performance Framework. We attribute our students' success to PRA's adherence to the Core Knowledge Sequence. In addition to the Core Knowledge Sequence, PRA's teachers plan instruction which aligns with the Colorado Academic Standards.

While the students at Platte River Academy do not meet any of the priority criteria based on demographic data, we know that our students will benefit from receiving high quality standards-aligned instruction in Math. In the last few years, PRA teachers have observed an expanding gap between PRA's selected Math curriculum (Saxon Math) and the grade level skills and expectations listed within the standards. This gap is often not revealed until students begin participating in CMAS in 3rd grade. We believe that by adopting Into Math, a research-based high quality instruction in the primary grades, we will impact our students moving forward.

File Attachments

-  **Program Assurances Form - PRA.pdf** (104k)
-  **Math Curriculum Presentation.pdf** (109k)
-  **Platte River_ESSER Curricula Grant Program Budget Workbook 4.11.2022 Final.xlsx** (222k)