# This is a decision paper

**MEMO TO:** Members of the Board of Education

**FROM:** Nannette Johnston, Superintendent

**DATE:** December 18, 2014

**RE:** Memorandum of Understanding between Hardin County Schools and Scholastic for *iRead* Impact and Implementation Study

Hardin County Schools and Scholastic, Inc. have an opportunity to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2014-2015 school year that will be mutually beneficial to both parties, and will require no monetary commitment. As set forth in the MOU, Hardin County Schools and Scholastic, Inc. agree to work together on the 2014-2015 *iRead* Impact and Implementation Study. The MOU shall be in effect from December 15, 2014 through May 26, 2015, or as may be extended by agreement by the parties.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of *iRead* in Hardin County Schools. *iRead* is a digital foundational reading program, specifically designed for students in Grades K–2, that provides explicit, systematic instruction and individualized ongoing practice in the foundational literacy skills. In addition to the student software, *iRead* provides a comprehensive system of support for teachers including Scholastic Central, a digital environment that provides actionable data and reports, strategic grouping tools, and point-of-use instructional resources.

During the 2014–2015 school year, Scholastic will partner with Hardin County Schools to conduct a secondary analysis on the impact of *iRead* across the 2013–2014 and 2014–2015 school years. This study will examine the implementation of *iRead* in classrooms across the District, through analysis of students’ use of the *iRead* Software across the 2013–2014 and 2014–2015 school years. This study will also examine the *iRead* implementation “dosage” levels to further explore the relationship between *iRead* use and student growth on literacy outcome measures, such as NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and NWEA Measures of Academic Progress for Primary Grades (MPG).

Participants include students in Grades K–2 attending *iRead* implementation schools who used *iRead* as a supplement to their regular English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. In addition, literacy outcome data will be collected for Grade 3 students in the 2014–2015 school year, who used *iRead* the prior school year, while enrolled in Grade 2.

This study will be very beneficial to our district, as we will be able to work with Scholastic to determine the gains that are made as a result of the *iRead* product that we have purchased and implemented in 12 of our 13 elementary schools. We will also be able to use this data to inform instructional decisions at the elementary level. The data provided as a result of this study will be invaluable for our district, and it will not cost the district any money to attain it.

# Recommended motion

I move that the board of education approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Hardin County Schools and Scholastic, Inc. for the *iRead* Impact and Implementation Study during the 2014-2015 school year.