

**AUTHORIZE TUITION PAYMENTS TO NATIONAL-LOUIS UNIVERSITY
FOR THE STRIVING READERS GRANT**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Authorize tuition payments for Chicago Public School teachers taking courses at National-Louis University (University) under the Striving Readers Grant awarded by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) at a cost not to exceed the aggregate amount of \$341,000 for a period beginning October 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2011. National-Louis was selected on a non-competitive basis because of its course offerings and its previous participation with the Striving Readers project (the Project). No written agreement is required for these tuition payments. Information pertinent to this matter is stated below.

UNIVERSITY: National-Louis University
National College of Education
122 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Contact Person: Camille Blachowicz
(312) 261-3380
Vendor Number: 48030

USER: Office of Literacy
125 South Clark Street, 9th floor
Audrey Cooper-Stanton, Ph.D.
(773) 553-3550

PAYMENT PERIOD: Tuition payments are authorized for University courses scheduled from October 1, 2006 through June 30, 2011.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The overall Project is designed to support the implementation of a comprehensive model of school-wide literacy development that draws on best practices in three key areas of teachers' work:

- Classroom-based assessment;
- High quality instruction based on diagnostic assessments; and
- Whole school curriculum development and alignment.

The Project is compatible with CPS Office of Literacy goals and is aligned to the CPS and Illinois State standards. The specific goals of the Project are:

- To improve and accelerate the reading skills of all children;
- To improve the quality of reading instruction and curriculum provided by all teachers in cohorts of schools; and
- To document the impact of replicable models of reading instruction for study by other schools and partner organizations.

PARTICIPANTS: Under this Board Report, approximately 32 participants (teachers, Striving Readers coordinators, and or principals) from the 32 participating schools will take 24 semester hours of coursework that will apply to a State of Illinois endorsement as a Reading Teacher on regular or special certificates. Each participant from this project shall sign an application or agreement that commits him/her to comply with the Board's tuition support policy. Participants who fail to fulfill their respective requirements will be required to repay the Board for tuition payments made on their behalf under the project in accordance with the Board's tuition support policy.

All courses will lead to more highly qualified individuals prepared to take on lead literacy teacher and reading specialist roles in the targeted schools.

OUTCOMES: University coursework will result in improved school-wide literacy programs; improvement in the quality of reading instruction and curriculum; and an increased use of classroom based assessment. Teachers who complete the 24 semester hours may apply to the State of Illinois for an endorsement as a Reading Teacher on regular or special certificates. This requires prior certification, passing the Reading Teacher Content test and all other testing and other requirements of the state of Illinois.

COMPENSATION: Tuition payments to University during the payment period shall not exceed \$341,000. Invoices shall be paid as submitted.

AUTHORIZATION: The Chief Literacy Officer is authorized to direct payments to be made to the University as necessary.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Pursuant to section 3.7 of the Revised Remedial Plan for Minority and Women Business Enterprise Contract Participation (M/WBE Plan) these contracts are exempt from review because the vendor is a university.

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

FINANCIAL:	Charge to Office of Literacy: \$66,000	Fiscal Year: 2007
	Charge to Office of Literacy: \$105,600	Fiscal Year: 2008
	Charge to Office of Literacy: \$105,600	Fiscal Year: 2009
	Charge to Office of Literacy: \$63,800	Fiscal Year: 2010

Budget Classification: 0925 – 264 - xxx* – 2437 – 5560 (* Project numbers TBD)
Source of Funds: Striving Readers Grant awarded by USDOE

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.

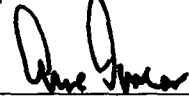
Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

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:


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:


John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approve as to legal form: 


Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel