Recommendation: Expand classroom libraries at the elementary level (Life-long Literacy Project)

Advisory Team: ELA Steering Committee
Advisory Team Chair: Karen Crebase

Total Cost Impact Estimate: $180,000 remaining over 3 years (at $60,000 per year)
Number of Fiscal Years Required to Fulfill Strategy: 3 years, ending in FY2018

Description (Program and/or Position Description):
Implementation of Lifelong Literacy- Beyond the Basal initiative began during the 2013-2014 school year. The district is tracking student achievement and we expect to see increased student achievement and teacher growth. The district would like to continue implementation of the program.

Justification and Impact on Student Achievement:
As a district, we need to advance the reading achievement for all students. Students need to read more. Reading more and varied books expands students' vocabulary and provides practice for using reading strategies and skills. Students need to read beyond the scripted, basal text and need more choice in their reading selections, to reflect students' interests, and to encourage independent reading. To provide a richer, expanded, and varied reading library, we need to invest in classroom libraries at elementary level.

Independent reading has been shown to have a positive effect on students' comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, spelling, writing ability, and overall academic achievement. (Krashen, 2004; Miller, 2009). The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) correlated positive results for extensive reading with scoring proficient in reading achievement on the NAEP.

Research by Richard Allington (What Really Matters Most for Struggling Readers) revealed that struggling readers, students in remedial settings did not get to read much. One study showed that students in the 10th percentile read on average 1.6 minutes per day whereas students in the 90th percentile read for 40.4 minutes a day.

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