

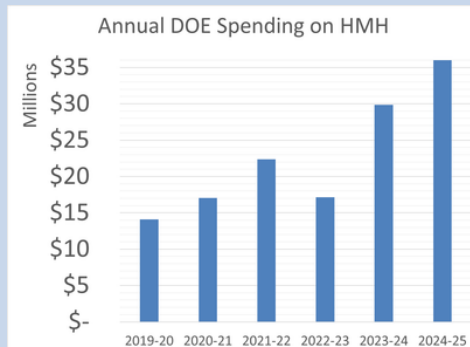
HMH: A Trojan Horse for AI in NYCPS

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Former NYC Mayor Eric Adams's literacy education reforms began in the fall of 2023 as a competition among three vendors: **Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH)**, Great Minds, and EL Education.

The winner, HMH, is now used as the mandated curriculum in 22 of the city's 32 school districts. As the DOE pauses on delivering coherent AI policy, HMH is quietly flooding NYCPS with student-facing AI.



HMH cost NYCPS over \$35,000,000 in FY 2025, and costs go up each year

The increasing costs implicit to the Software-as-a-Service business model make dependence on these services increasingly unsustainable.

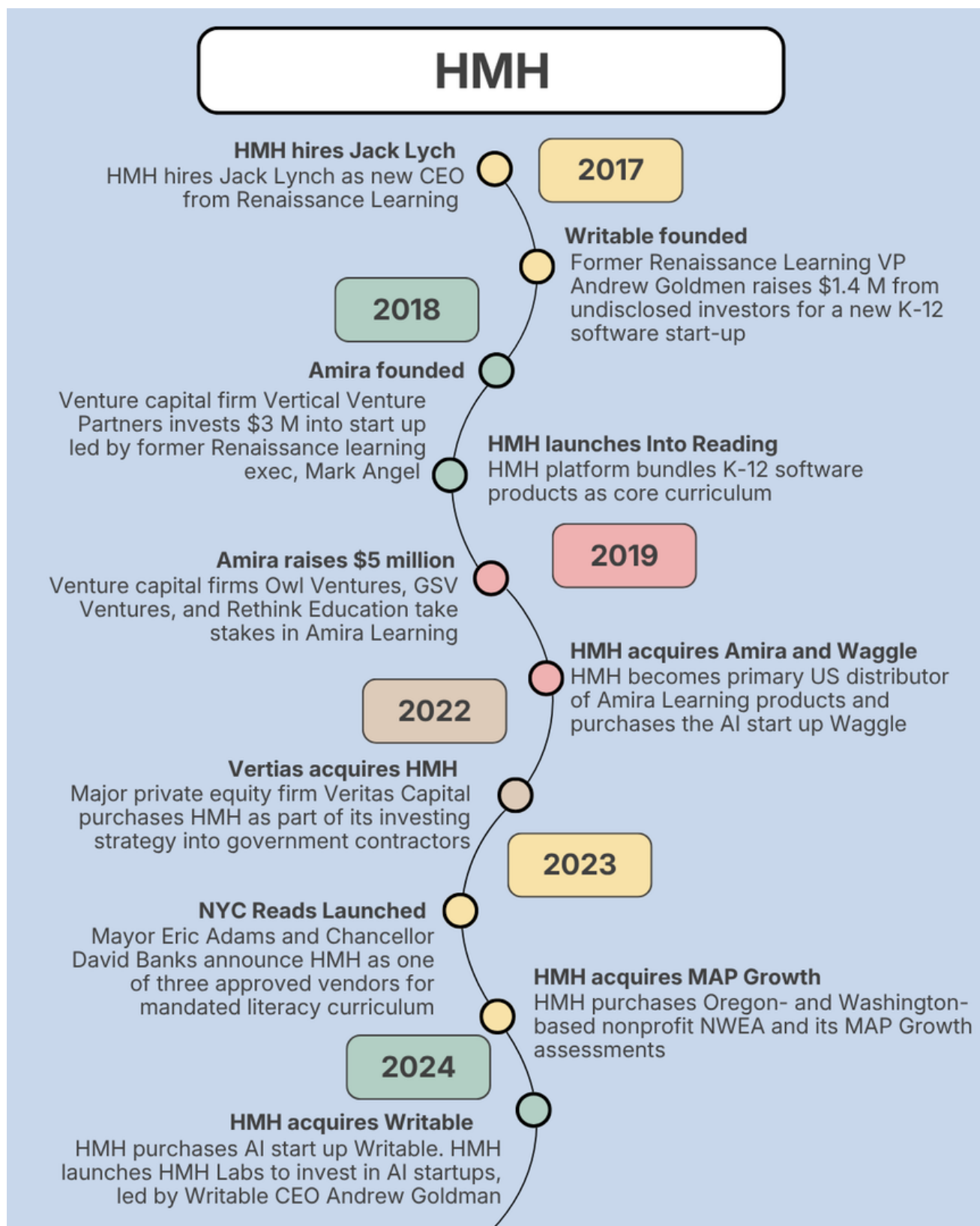
NYC Schools Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos left the DOE in 2026 to become HMH's Executive in Residence for Innovation and Analytics, a lucrative position that screams conflict of interest.

HMH's AI Gambit

In 2021, HMH sold its books and media division under the leadership of CEO Jack Lynch, who previously served as CEO of both Pearson Technology Group and Renaissance Learning, completing the publisher's transformation into a digital-first company with a subscription-based business model.

The Trump administration named HMH in its AI pledge because of its many AI products such as Waggle, Writable, and Amira, all of which are included in its Into Reading curriculum. Writable and Amira collect student writing samples and voice recordings, respectively, to train their models, despite the DOE prohibiting this practice in its preliminary AI guidelines. HMH's AI add-ons also subvert the DOE's vetting process for the safety and security of AI tools, called ERMA, as curriculum vendors approved through master contracts are not subjected to DOE AI oversight.

The explosion of ed tech procurement after the Covid-19 pandemic renders the jobs of Data Protection Officers virtually impossible and functionally symbolic. HMH's decision to quietly slip AI integration into a curriculum that the DOE is mandating schools to adopt is aggressively undemocratic, and takes advantage of parents, educators, and children who have had no choice but to accept it.



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In May the Mayor's office announced that "NYC Reads will expand to middle schools in 11 additional districts and, for the first time, to high schools in four districts, bringing high-quality, academically rigorous literacy instruction to more than 104,000 new students."