

**Mississippi Department of Education
Comprehensive Early Learning Assessment/Screener
RFx Number: 3120001110
Questions and Answers
May 12, 2017**

1. **How many students statewide will use the selected Comprehensive Early Learning Assessment/Screener?** Approximately 5,000 students are expected to use the selected tool.
2. **On page 5 of the RFP, Section D (Scope of Work and Responsibilities) Part 1.b. of the Process section states: “Scoring should be completed via both electronic and paper/pencil methods.” What is the estimated breakdown on the percentage of assessment administrations that will be scored via paper/pencil and via electronic methods?** Local sites will determine whether to administer and score the assessment via paper/pencil or electronically, but all scores must be available electronically as required in Section G (Contractor Requirements) Part 5 (Online Data Collection and Reporting).
3. **On page 5 of the RFP, Section D (Scope of Work and Responsibilities) Part 2.b. of the Process section states: “Different languages including English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.” Must the proposed program currently have Vietnamese, or can this be a proposed customization if adopted?** As outlined in Section D, the selected tool should meet described criteria to the greatest extent possible.
4. **On page 6 of the RFP, Section G (Contractor Requirements) Part 1 (Overview) states: “Description of how the tool aligns with the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Three- and Four-Year-Old Children and the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for Kindergarten, First, Second, and Third grades...” Must bidders provide a full correlation to standards from pre-K through grade 3, or can a sample grade-level correlation be provided, followed by a full correlation upon adoption?** In accordance with Section G (Contractor Requirements) Part 1 (Overview), proposals shall include a description of how the tool aligns with the standards from pre-k to grade 3.
5. **On page 7 of the RFP, Section G (Contractor Requirements) Part 2 (Training and Technical Assistance) states: “Provide in-depth train-the-trainer training for a minimum of 25 early childhood staff members on the use of the tool and related reports with dates in August 2017, and at least two additional training dates and two webinars with follow up technical assistance, if requested by OEC. One of the trainings will need to be specifically offered to train staff on how to use the reporting functionality.” If the minimum is 25 staff members, what is the potential maximum number of personnel to be trained? What number should bidders assume in preparing their cost proposals?** It is anticipated that a maximum of 35 staff members will participate in the train-the-trainer sessions.

6. **On page 10 of the RFP, Section M (Available Budget) states: “At this time, we anticipate this procurement will not exceed \$70,000 for the 2017-18 school year.” Does this \$70,000 budget cover professional development and as well as materials and shipping? Yes. This is an all-inclusive cost.**
7. **On page 14 of the RFP, Section S (Qualifications) states: “The age of the offeror’s business and average number of employees over a previous period of time, as specified in the Request for Proposal;” and also “A listing of other contracts under which services similar in scope, size, or discipline to the required services were performed or undertaken within a previous period of time, as specified in the Request for Proposal.” Both statements reference a “period of time” specified in the RFP, but no time period is indicated in the RFP. What is the period of time that bidders should use to provide these answers? Bidders should provide this information based on the last five years.**
8. **Does the 125-page limit include the forms, attachments, and materials that must be submitted, such as the Proposal Transmittal Form, Budget, Standards Terms & Conditions, and Acknowledgement of Amendments form? The 125-page limit applies to the proposal Parts I through VIII, which includes Attachments A-E described above. The complete set of materials required in Section G (Contractor Requirements) Part 1 (Overview) is not a part of the 125-page limit.**
9. **Will the State screen all incoming students with the same comprehensive early learning assessment/screener?**
It is anticipated that the comprehensive early learning assessment/screener will be used with all incoming pre-kindergarten students.
10. **On page 7 of the RFP, Section G (Contractor Requirements) Part 2 (Training and Technical Assistance) states: “Vendor will participate in benchmark setting if the OEC desires attendance.” Please define “benchmark setting” in this scenario. Please clarify what is required for this deliverable.** The benchmark setting will consist of the assembly of a team of educators to establish an identified score desirable for four-year-old children to reach at the end of pre-k to be successful in kindergarten. As a part of the benchmark setting, it is desirable that a growth score also be identified.
11. **On page 6 of the RFP, Section G (Contractor Requirements) Part 1 (Overview), states: “Vendor will provide at least one complete set of materials with submission.” The assessment materials are housed at and shipped from a different location from where we will be shipping our proposal from. Must all materials arrive in a single package? It is not necessary for all materials to arrive in a single package, but all materials must be appropriately labeled and delivered by the deadline as described on pages and 3 of the RFP.**

12. On page 18 of the RFP, Section W (Standard Terms and Conditions), Part 7 (Copyrights) states: **“Further, Contractor hereby grants to MDE a royalty-free, nonexclusive, irrevocable license to reproduce, translate, publish, use and dispose of, and to authorize others to do so, all copyrighted (or copyrightable) work not first produced or composed by Contractor in the performance of this agreement, but which is incorporated in the material furnished under the agreement. This grant is provided that such license shall be only to the extent Contractor now has, or prior to the completion of full final settlements of agreement may acquire, the right to grant such license without becoming liable to pay compensation to others solely because of such grant.”** What is the intent of this language, and how does the State see it applying when a vendor is offering a proprietary, copyrighted product that is not-custom developed for Mississippi, but rather involves an annual license fee? This is standard language from the Mississippi Personal Service Contract Review Board, not subject to alteration. Questions about this language should be directed to legal counsel.