



Office of
Procurement Services
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NUMBER: CSP902814
INDEX NUMBER: EDU060
UNSPSC CATEGORY: 80100000

The state of Ohio, through the Department of Administrative Services, Office of Procurement Services, on behalf of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Office of Curriculum and Assessment, is requesting Proposals for:

TITLE: QUALITY ASSURANCE OF THE OHIO STATEWIDE TESTS

OBJECTIVE: To assure the technical quality of newly developed tests, including use of technology for the new assessments; provide independent quality control over the processes to be used and products produced by various test vendors who develop and implement statewide achievement tests for ODE; and to guide and advise the State in the transition of current assessment to the new assessments, including possible change of test vendors as well as the change of assessments, and its application of test results for student promotion/graduation, educator evaluation, and school and district accountability measures. The Contractor selected will provide documentation of oversight directly to ODE, not to the various test vendors chosen through other competitive solicitation for development and implementation of statewide assessment as mandated by state and federal laws.

RFP ISSUED: June 10 2013
INQUIRY PERIOD BEGINS: June 10, 2013
INQUIRY PERIOD ENDS: July 3, 2013 at 8:00 AM
PROPOSAL DUE DATE: July 10, 2013 by 1:00 PM

Offeror must submit both a "Technical Proposal" and a "Cost Proposal" as a part of its Proposal package. These are two separate components which shall be submitted in separate sealed envelopes/packages, clearly identified on the exterior as either "Technical Proposal" or "Cost Proposal" with the respective RFP Number and due date on each. Offeror must submit this signed cover page with its technical Proposal.

Submit Sealed Proposals to:

Department of Administrative Services
Office of Procurement Services
Attn: Bid Desk
4200 Surface Road
Columbus, OH 43228-1395

Note: Please review the [Proposal Instructions](#) on our Web site.

Offeror Name and Address: _____ _____ _____ _____ E-Mail Address: _____ Phone Number: () _____-_____, Ext. _____	Name/Title: _____ _____ Signature: _____ By submitting a response to this RFP, and signing above, Offeror acknowledges, understands and agrees to comply with the RFP requirements and confirms all the instructions and links have been read and understood.
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RFP GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AA:	Affirmative Action
Contractor:	Vendor after Award
CSP:	Competitive Sealed Proposal
DAS:	Department of Administrative Services
EOD:	Equal Opportunity Division
FEI:	Federal Employer Identification
Mandatory:	Must, Will, Shall
NCLB:	No Child Left Behind
OAC:	Ohio Administrative Code
OAKS:	Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (Ohio's Accounting System)
OBG:	Ohio Business Gateway
ODE:	Ohio Department of Education
Offeror:	Vendor Submitting Proposal
OGT:	Ohio Graduation Tests
OPS:	Office of Procurement Services
ORC:	Ohio Revised Code
PARCC:	Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers
RFP:	Request for Proposal
SOS:	Secretary of State
TAC:	Technical Advisory Committee
UNSPSC:	The United Nations Standard Products and Services Code

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION This is a Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals (RFP) under Section 125.071 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Section 123:5-1-08 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). The Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Office of Procurement Services, on behalf of the Ohio Department of Education, (ODE) Office of Curriculum and Assessment (the Agency), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals (Proposals) for Quality Assurance of the Ohio Statewide Tests. If a suitable offer is made in response to this RFP, the state of Ohio (State), through DAS, may enter into a contract (the Contract) to have the selected Offeror (the Contractor) perform all or part of the Project (the Work). This RFP provides details on what is required to submit a Proposal for the Work, how the State will evaluate the Proposals, and what will be required of the Contractor in performing the Work.

This RFP also gives the estimated dates on page one, for the various events in the submission process. While these dates are subject to change, prospective Offerors must be prepared to meet them as they currently stand.

1.2 CONTRACT PERIOD

Once awarded, the term of the Contract will be from the award date through June 30, 2015. The State may solely renew all or part of this Contract at the discretion of DAS for a period of one month and subject to the satisfactory performance of the Contractor and the needs of the Agency. Any other renewals will be by mutual agreement between the Contractor and DAS for any number of times and for any period of time. The cumulative time of all mutual renewals may not exceed four (4) years and are subject to and contingent upon the discretionary decision of the Ohio General Assembly to appropriate funds for this Contract in each new biennium.

1.3 BACKGROUND The Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Office of Curriculum and Assessment administers the statewide testing program for the 614 public school districts and approximately 300 community schools and 500 chartered non-public schools in the state of Ohio. Currently, the Office of Curriculum and Assessment administers the statewide Achievement test program in grades 3-8 and the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) for high school students. These tests meet the federal mandates required for "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) and state of Ohio mandates. The new statewide assessments will be awarded as a result of this RFP. The current state test vendor is American Institutes for Research (AIR). AIR has subcontracted with Pearson for Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA) and Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for OGT.

Ohio is a Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) state in the multi-state consortium. It is expected that the current Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA) and Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) will be replaced by the assessments developed by the PARCC consortium starting in school year 2014-2015. In addition, the State will develop other assessments specifically for Ohio for Science, Social Studies, and high school End-of-Course Exams that may or may not be in the same format of PARCC assessments. Attached is Supplement A for references to applicable State Law and reference Supplement B for the test implementation schedule.

It is expected that the new statewide assessments will be delivered online and administered electronically. The high school End-of-Course Exams will be part of student course grade, in addition to being part of high school graduation requirements for an Ohio high school diploma and used for purposes of educator performance evaluation.

1.3.1 OBJECTIVES The State has the following objectives that it wants this Work to fulfill, and it will be the Contractor's obligation to ensure that the personnel the Contractor provides are qualified to perform their portions of the Work.

The Ohio Department of Education, Office of Curriculum and Assessment, has established the following objectives for the project:

- 1) Assure the technical quality of newly developed tests, including use of technology for the new assessments
- 2) Provide independent quality control over the processes used and products produced by various test vendors who develop and implement statewide achievement tests for ODE.
- 3) Guide/advise State in the transition of current assessments to the new assessments, including possible change of promotion/graduation, educator evaluation, and school/district accountability measure.

This RFP concerns the assurance of technical quality of newly developed statewide assessments, the exercise of independent quality assurance over the processes/procedures used by test vendors who develop and implement the assessments reported to the State as part of our accountability system, safe guidance when the state transfers from current assessments to the new assessments including a possible change of vendors with the new assessments.

The Contractor selected through this RFP will provide documentation of oversight directly to ODE, not to the various test vendors chosen through other competitive bidding for development and implementation of statewide assessment as mandated by State and Federal Laws.

1.3.2 Certification of contractual independence. Offeror shall certify that the Offeror is not presently under contract to perform work for a testing vendor on an Ohio contract and also that Offeror will not enter into such contracts for the duration of a contract awarded through this RFP.

1.4 SCOPE OF WORK The Contractor will be responsible for independent quality assurance on the technical quality and proper procedure in all aspects of state assessments.

- A. The processes involved in this RFP for quality assurance will include the following:
1. Participate in meetings with ODE, contractors and selected on-going committees;
 2. Monitor item and test development;
 3. Monitor development and maintenance of item bank;
 4. Monitor standard setting activities;
 5. Check accuracy of test equatings;
 6. Review reports and state summaries for accuracy;
 7. Respond to psychometric challenges and inquiries
 8. Advise the State on matters related to;
 - a) the development of items,
 - b) the development of online tests,
 - c) scoring,
 - d) score reporting,
 - e) transition to the new Common Core State Standards,
 - f) transition to new assessments developed by the multi-state consortium (PARCC),
 - g) transition of test delivery from paper-pencil mode to computer-based mode,
 - h) handover from one state testing vendor to another,
 - i) And other matters that arise in the conduct of the previously described assessments.

1.4.1 CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCES The Offeror must demonstrate and provide proof of experience, education and references to meet these minimum qualifications:

- A. The Offeror shall describe three or more prior work experiences of similar scope to the services being procured under this RFP and submit that data on Forms 5.2.4
- B. The Offeror shall provide three references for projects of similar scope and scale. A short description of the services provided to each reference shall be included.
- C. Familiarity and significant work experience (minimum of five years) with large scale assessments. Offeror shall describe the work experience and services provided in more detail than required for compliance to forms 5.2.4.
- D. Specific experience with Ohio or working with other state departments to independently review the work of other vendors. Subparagraph 1.4.1. C does not specifically elicit experiences with state agencies; Subparagraph 1.4.1. D is for reporting of specific work experiences with state agencies.
- E. Specific experience with Ohio or working with at least one other State to adjust item banks, test specifications, etc., after initial item development has occurred.
- F. Psychometric expertise, i.e., experience with the following:
1. Bookmark or other standard-setting procedure as the leader of standard setting sessions and/or as observer of standard setting sessions.
 2. Item Response Theory / Rasch modeling including Partial Credit Model (PCM) (Masters, 1982) used with open-ended items.
 3. Reporting (presentation and reports) to a technical advisory committee.
 4. Software programs such as WINSTEPS® (Rasch Analysis and Rasch Measurement Software).
 5. Guiding committees and agencies to understand the difficulties of groups of individual items and the ramifications for building item banks and operational forms of the tests.

Offeror is encouraged to provide descriptions of services for Subparagraph 1.4.1 F, items 1 through 5.

1.4.2 CONTRACTOR STAFFING PLAN

- A. Contractor shall provide a list of personnel that would be responsible for the conduct of a contract awarded under this RFP and include for each listed person:
1. Person's name
 2. Person's function in the performance of a contract issued as a result of this RFP
 3. The person's relevant years of experience in the capacity for this contract as well as person's educational background and professional publication accomplishments
- B. For each person listed, the Offeror shall indicate the proportion of time the staff will be committed to the performance of a contract that might results from this RFP.

1.4.3 DELIVERABLES/STATEMENT OF WORK

- A. Deliverable One: Participate in meetings with ODE, Contractors and selected on-going committees, as requested by ODE
1. Task 1 - Initial meeting with ODE – One day initial year only
 2. Task 2 - Planning meeting with ODE – One day twice a year during successive years, may combine with planning meeting with various ODE vendors.
 3. Task 3 – Planning meetings with ODE and various test vendors – if required.
 4. Task 4 – Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings – up to three (3) two-day meetings each year
 5. Task 5 – Observe standard setting committee meetings for achievement assessments, diagnostic assessments and alternate assessments as they occur or as requested by ODE.
 6. Information pertaining to Deliverable One: The responsibility of the Contractor chosen through this RFP process will be to attend meetings, not to convene or organize meetings. All meetings will be in Columbus, Ohio. All costs associated with Contractor staff attending the meetings will be borne by the Contractor. The Contractor will maintain written summaries of all Ohio meetings attended, discussions and decisions made related to the elements of this RFP with periodic (quarterly) reporting to ODE, written and submitted electronically.
 7. Offeror shall write a description of the proposed process used in fulfilling the tasks for Deliverable One. In particular, the Offeror shall indicate any exceptions taken to Deliverable One. It is anticipated that Contractor shall be physically present for the meetings in Deliverable One.
- B. Deliverable Two: Monitor Test Development in the context of online assessments
1. Task 1 – Monitor item development for consistency in item difficulty and conformance with test specifications
 2. Task 2 – Attend early review meetings to focus test vendor on required difficulty level and match to test specifications
 3. Task 3 – Monitor item development before and after field testing
 4. Task 4 – Prepare a report after field testing on the success of items detailing further development needs and the difficulty of bank and bank sections
 5. Task 5 – Review test forms for conformance to test specifications and item difficulty requirements in the online testing environment
 6. Task 6 – Confirm ODE’s review of final test version including Rasch values, item codes, reporting standards and answer keys
 7. Task 7 – Review all sampling procedures for field tests and other purposes
 8. Information pertaining to Deliverable Two: The Contractor chosen through this RFP will help ODE ensure that item and test development remain consistent to established performance standards and online testing or, in the case of tests where initial development is occurring, that balanced item development is being practiced and a suitable inventory of items are available for the operational administrations
 9. Offeror shall write a description of the proposed process used in fulfilling the tasks for Deliverable Two. In particular, Offeror shall describe the inputs the firm requires to do Deliverable Two, the processes proposing firm will use to add value to the inputs and the form and features of the proposing firm’s outputs in performance of Deliverable Two.
- C. Deliverable Three: Monitor Development and Maintenance of Item Bank
1. Task 1 -Check the item parameters for accuracy and maintain independent records of item parameters
 2. Task 2 - Monitor the input of new item parameters and statistics
 3. Task 3 – Ensure the completeness of the item bank for equating and test development purposes (i.e., ensuring that parameters such as item step values of constructed response items are included in the bank)
 4. Task 4 – Check the distribution of item parameters for newly developed assessments against current test specifications
 5. Task 5 – Estimate the raw score to scale score relationship on new test forms during test development, and ensure the raw score cut is within tolerable range
 6. Task 6 – Verify that item usage history and disqualifications are clearly recorded in the item bank
 7. Information pertaining to Deliverable Three: The Contractor chosen through this RFP process will confirm to ODE that appropriate development against established standards continues and is maintained in the item bank.
 8. Offeror shall write a description of the proposed process used in fulfilling the tasks for Deliverable Three. In particular, Offeror shall describe the inputs the firm requires to do the Deliverable Two, the processes proposing firm will use to add value to the inputs and the form and features of the proposing firm’s outputs in performance of Deliverable Three.

- D. Deliverable Four: Monitor standard setting activities (preparation for, procedures followed in meetings, review of oversight committees, and development of final reports)
1. Task 1 – Monitor standard setting activities to ensure accuracy of the standard setting process and all calibrations used in that process.
 2. Task 2 – Participate in the discussion and development of all standard setting plans
 3. Task 3 – Comment on any perceived deficiencies in the process as outlined in the standard setting plan
 4. Task 4 – Monitor the implementation of the standard settings by observing the standard setting activities
 5. Task 5 – Produce a report documenting the standard setting meetings
 6. Task 6 – Check all calibrations including, but not limited to:
 - a) Item ordering for bookmark standard setting procedure;
 - b) Raw score to scale score development resulting from standard setting; and
 - c) All impact data used in standard setting.
 7. Information pertaining to Deliverable Four: The timeline for standard setting activities involved in this RFP will be determined by the State Board of Education during the course of the Contract. Results of the standard setting will be provided to the State Board at a time to be determined during the course of the Contract. The Contractor will be available by phone or email to help ODE personnel in the development of the standard setting presentation for the oversight committees and for the State Board of Education.
 8. Offeror shall write a description of the proposed process used in fulfilling the tasks for Deliverable Four. It is anticipated that the testing vendor will conduct the meetings and document the results, outcomes, or conclusions of these meetings. The Contractor providing quality assurance services shall provide an independent report on the services Contractor performed during these activities and commentary that is constructive to the State of Ohio.
- E. Deliverable Five: Check accuracy of equating
1. Task 1 – verify the item parameters; check the equating of the assessments based on preliminary data from demographic samples provided by the various test vendors.
 2. Information pertaining to Deliverable Five: Verification of equating of the assessments will be accomplished by replicating the equating procedure. The actual procedure of equating is defined by ODE and reviewed by TAC. Equating activities can be pre-administration and/or post administration.
 3. Offeror shall write a description of the proposed process used in fulfilling the tasks for Deliverable Five. In particular, Offeror shall describe the inputs the firm requires to do the Deliverable Two, the processes proposing firm will use to add value to the inputs and the form and features of the proposing firm's outputs in performance of Deliverable Five. The description shall outline both the philosophical approach the Offeror proposes as well as the techniques the Offeror proposes including a list of properties checked in performing the quality assurance function. The Offeror is encouraged to list software that the firm might use in performing Deliverable Five.
- F. Deliverable Six: Review reports and state summaries for accuracy
1. Task 1 – Develop a written plan for quality control with review steps and submit to Office of Assessment
 2. Task 2 – Participate in and/or direct the qualify review process at test vendor's site
 3. Task 3 – Replicate report data independently
 4. Task 4 – Prepare a summary of quality control activities
 5. Task 5 – Review final technical reports from each test administration
 6. Task 6 – Review technical manuals (development and data documentation for a testing program)
 7. Information pertaining to Deliverable Six: The Contractor chosen through this RFP will ensure that preliminary data from various test vendors in Deliverable Six gets rolled up into classroom level, school level, and district level reports accurately and into statewide summaries accurately. Statewide summaries are delivered by various test vendors to the State within 45 days of the end of the make-up testing; results to districts are required by Ohio Law to be delivered within 60 days of the end of the make-up testing. Except for Grade 3 reading and OGT (both Grade 3 and OGT will have tests in fall, spring and summer), all achievement tests are once a year tests administered in spring currently. The new Ohio high school End-of-Course Exams (American Government, American History, Biology, and Physical Science) may be administered more than once a year. Ohio will also administer State assessments in Science (grades 5 and 8) and Social Studies (grades 4 and 6). PARCC end of course exams are subject to revision. The Contractor will also review the final technical reports for each administration for accuracy, technical quality, and completeness.
 8. Offeror shall write a description of the proposed process used in fulfilling the tasks for Deliverable Six. In particular, Offeror shall describe the inputs the firm requires to do the Deliverable Six, the processes proposing firm will use to add value to the inputs and the form and features of the proposing firm's outputs in performance of Deliverable 2

- G. Deliverable Seven: Respond to Psychometric Challenges and Inquiries
1. Task 1 – Consult with State on psychometric issues
 2. Task 2 – Respond to critics of the program and questions for more information as requested by the State
 3. Task 3 – Prepare materials for TAC review if requested
 4. Task 4 – Advise ODE for the benefit of the State in the process of transition from one testing vendor to another if it is the case
 5. Task 5 – Advise ODE in the transition from current assessments to the new assessments delivered online.
 6. Information pertaining to Deliverable Seven: The Contractor chosen through this RFP process will help the State deal with written materials describing the testing program to various audiences including stakeholder groups and legislative groups. The tasks in Deliverable Seven are not routine work. They will be needed as they occur.
 7. Offeror shall write a description of proposed services that may reference past efforts under other contracts to illustrate how the Offeror could fulfill Deliverable Seven to the State of Ohio.
- H. Deliverable Eight: Alignment Studies
1. Task 1 – Contractor shall propose an independent alignment study of State of Ohio developed assessments in Science and Social Studies, including end of course examinations in High School and science tests in Grade 5 and 8, and social studies tests in Grade 4 and 6.
 2. Task 2 – Contractor shall propose an independent alignment study of State of Ohio developed assessments for use as alternative assessments in Grades 3 through 8 and for high school.
 3. Task 3 – Contractor shall propose an independent alignment study of PARCC or State of Ohio developed Assessments in English Language Arts and in Mathematics for use in grades 3 through 8 and for end-of-course examinations in high school. State of Ohio assessments in Reading and Math may be required in future Ohio law.
 4. Information pertinent to Deliverable Eight: The Offeror shall propose a method for the conduct of alignment studies for Deliverable Eight, Tasks 1, 2, and 3. Task 1 is for assessment developed unique to Ohio as is Task 2. Task 2 tests are operational but in transition. It is anticipated that Task 2 assessments shall be stable no later than the spring of 2015. Task 3 may not be exercised pending the level of success of PARCC in securing approval under ESEA or similar and if providing continuity in testing. The Offeror shall propose the method for alignment study as well as the level of expertise and independence of the panelists or judges used in the conduct of the study.
 5. Offeror shall write a description of the proposed process used in fulfilling the tasks for Deliverable Eight. In particular, Offeror shall describe the inputs the firm requires to do the Deliverable Eight, the processes proposing firm will use to add value to the inputs (such as the method used to perform the alignment study) and the form and features of the proposing firm's outputs in performance of Deliverable Eight.

1.4.4 TIMELINE The schedule for the work; the State may change this schedule at anytime

1. Established Dates:
2. For the extant OAA and OGT testing programs, Ohio Revised Code requires that individual student test results must be reported to school districts within 60 days after the end of the make-up testing. Except for the fall and summer administrations of Grade 3 Reading and OGT, all of the achievement tests will be once a year tests administered in spring with results reported back to school districts in within 60 days, but no later than June 15.
3. Possible standard setting activities on new Ohio Achievement Tests and for high school End-of-Course Exams may occur after field testing or the initial operational administration. Assessments developed by PARCC consortium may have standard setting activities based on the discretion of the State Board of Education.
4. The new assessments will start field testing in School Year 2013-2014. Operational administration of the new assessments will start in School Year 2014-2015. The number of high school End-of-Course Exams may take additional years to fully develop.
5. Technical reports are due to ODE by June 30 each year from assessment vendors, deadlines are subject to change for ORC.

1.5 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION The process to procure goods and services by DAS is open to inspection by the public. DAS makes available prices (offered and accepted), terms of payment, Proposal materials, evaluation scores, product information, and other types of information DAS uses in evaluating and/or awarding the Contract, consistent with Ohio's public records law. DAS will seek to open the Proposals in a manner that avoids disclosing their contents. Additionally, DAS will seek to keep the contents of all Proposals confidential until the Contract is awarded. Further, the DAS will open for public inspection all Proposals provided to the DAS in response to this RFP after award.

1.6 REGISTRY OF OFFERORS DAS will prepare a registry of Proposals containing the name and address of each Offeror. The registry will be on the Office of Procurement Services Web site and open for public inspection after the Proposals are received.

1.7 INSTRUCTIONS
Link to Web site for Instructions is available in Section 5.1.

1.8 REQUIRED REVIEW
Offerors shall carefully review the entire RFP and all the referenced Web links. Offerors shall promptly notify DAS through the inquiry process of any ambiguity, inconsistency, or error they discover. Notifications must be received by the deadline for receipt of questions in the inquiry process.

1.9 NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO SUBMIT Offeror must submit one (1) original, completed and signed in blue ink, and six (6) copies for a total of seven (7) Proposal packages. The Offeror must also submit a complete copy of the Proposals on a CD in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, or Project) 2003 or higher, format and/or PDF format as appropriate. Five on the team from ODE + me = 6 team members and one original.

2.0 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

2.1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS The following Table 1 contains items that are Mandatory Requirements for this RFP.

Determining the Offeror's ability to meet the Mandatory Requirements is the first step of the DAS evaluation process. The Offeror's response must be clearly labeled "Mandatory Requirements" and collectively contained in Tab 2 of the Offeror's Proposal in the "Offeror Required Information and Certification" section.

DAS will evaluate Tab 2 alone to determine whether the Proposal meets all Mandatory Requirements (accept/reject). If the information contained in Tab 2 does not clearly meet every Mandatory Requirement, the Proposal may be disqualified by DAS from further consideration.

2.2 TABLE 1 - MANDATORY PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Mandatory Requirements	Accept	Reject
1. Bidder is not currently working for an Ohio test vendor on an Ohio contract and bidder agrees to not contract with a test vendor for work on an Ohio contract for the duration of the work specified in this RFP. Under para.1.3.1.1		
2. Bidder of this RFP cannot be a current testing vendor for the State of Ohio, is not bidding any Ohio RFP for the state test development and operation.		
3. Winner of the RFP cannot bid any Ohio RFP for the state test development and operation for the duration of the contract.		

If the State receives no Proposals meeting all of the mandatory requirements, the State may elect to cancel this RFP.

2.3 PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA If the Offeror provides sufficient information to DAS in its Proposal, demonstrating it meets the Mandatory Requirements; the Offeror's Proposal will be included in the next step of the evaluation process which involves the scoring of the Proposal Technical Requirements (Table 3), followed by the scoring of the Cost Proposals. In the Proposal evaluation step, DAS rates the Proposals based on the following listed criteria and the weight assigned to each criterion. The possible points allowed in this RFP are distributed as indicated in the Table 2 - Scoring Breakdown. Each Proposal passing the Mandatory Requirements will be evaluated by an evaluation committee made up of a representative(s) from DAS, Agency team members, and potentially a subject matter expert or an independent consultant.

2.4 TABLE 2 - SCORING BREAKDOWN

Criteria	Maximum Allowable Points
Proposal Technical Requirements	1476 Points
Proposal Cost	720 Points
Total	2196 Points

The following scale (0-9) will be used to rate each Proposal on the criteria listed in the Technical Proposal Evaluation table.

DOES NOT MEET 0 POINTS	MEETS 5 POINTS	EXCEEDS 7 POINTS	GREATLY EXCEEDS 9 POINTS
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DAS will score the Proposals by multiplying the score received in each category by its assigned weight and adding all categories together for the Offeror's Total Technical Score in Table 3. Representative numerical values are defined as follows:

DOES NOT MEET (0 pts.): Response does not comply substantially with requirements or is not provided.

MEETS (5 pts.): Response generally meets the objectives (or expectations).

EXCEEDS (7 pts.): Response indicates the objectives will be exceeded.

GREATLY EXCEEDS (9 pts.): Response significantly exceeds objectives (or expectations) in ways that provide tangible benefits or meets objectives (or expectations) and contains at least one enhancing feature that provides significant benefits.

2.5 TABLE 3 - TECHNICAL PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Each Proposal should be organized in the same manner as the response items are ordered as listed in Instruction in Section 5.1. Offerors shall be scored based on the responses to each of the areas below.

Criterion	Weight	Rating (0 to 9)	Extended Score
Offeror Profile (General Instructions – Company Profile)			
1. Proposal must include a profile of the Offeror’s history, capability, capacity, and relevant experience working on projects comparable to this Work. (complete all areas of Form 5.2.1)	10		
2. Number of years in business, number of employees, financial stability	3		
3. The Offeror demonstrates it has sufficient resources to meet the requirements and deadlines.	5		
Offeror’s Prior Project Experiences			
1. Similar scope and size, (at least one and up to 3 previous projects or more) Forms 5.2.4 per 1.4.1.A	10		
2. Applicable references are provided to confirm experience per 1.4.1 B	8		
3. Description of work with large scale assessments per 1.4.1 C	10		
4. Experience working with other state departments to independently review the work of other vendors for a similar testing program per 1.4.1 D.	10		
5. Experience working with at least one other state to adjust item banks, test specifications, after initial item development has occurred per 1.4.1 E.	10		
6. Psychometric experience as stated in qualifications per 1.4.1 F	5		
Offeror’s Staffing Plan (General Instructions – Personnel Profile)			
1. Staff Qualifications including function, relevant experiences and formal education	10		
2. Staff commitment to the project solicited in this RFP	5		
Deliverables One through Eight, Statement Of Work, Section 1.4.3 (Offeror will explain how they will accomplish each of the tasks as detailed)			
1. Participation in meetings: description of proposed efforts under paragraph 1.4.3 A 7	5		
2. Monitoring of Test development: description of proposed efforts under paragraph 1.4.3 B 9	8		
3. Monitoring of Item Bank: description of proposed efforts under paragraph 1.4.3 C 8	5		
4. Monitoring of Standard setting: description of proposed efforts under paragraph 1.4.3 D 8	10		
5. Verification of equating: description of proposed efforts under paragraph 1.4.3 E 3	15		
6. Reviewing of reports: description of proposed efforts under paragraph 1.4.3 F 8	7		
7. Response to Psychometric inquiries: description of proposed efforts under paragraph 1.4.3 G 7	8		
8. Alignment Studies: description of proposed efforts under paragraph 1.4.3 H 5	20		

Total Technical Score: _____

- 2.6 PRESENTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS DAS may require top Offerors to be interviewed. Such interview will provide an Offeror with an opportunity to present its Proposal and to ensure a mutual understanding of the Proposal's content. This will also allow DAS and the Agency an opportunity to test or probe the professionalism, qualifications, skills, and work knowledge of the proposed candidates. The interviews will be scheduled at the convenience and discretion of DAS and the Agency. DAS or the Agency may record any presentations and interviews. The one (1) to three (3) highest scoring Offerors but, no more than the top three (3), may be required to participate. Interviews, if applicable, will be scheduled to be held in Columbus, Ohio at the vendor's expense.

Criterion	Weight	Rating (0 to 9)	Extended Score
Presentations, Interviews, Demonstrations (Optional)			
1. Oral Presentation and Interview	50		

Total Presentation Score: _____

In this RFP, DAS asks for responses and submissions from Offerors, most of which represent components of the above criteria. While each criterion represents only a part of the total basis for a decision to award the Contract to an Offeror, a failure by an Offeror to make a required submission or meet a mandatory requirement will normally result in a rejection of that Offeror's Proposal. The value assigned above to each criterion is only a value used to determine which Proposal is the most advantageous to the State in relation to the other Proposals that DAS received.

Once the technical merits of a Proposal are evaluated, the costs of that Proposal will be considered. It is within DAS' discretion to wait to factor in a Proposal's cost until after the conclusion of any interviews, presentations, demonstrations or discussions. Also, before evaluating the technical merits of the Proposals, DAS may do an initial review of costs to determine if any Proposals should be rejected because of excessive cost. DAS may reconsider the excessiveness of any Proposal's cost at any time in the evaluation process.

- 2.7 COST PROPOSAL POINTS DAS will use the information Offeror gives on the Cost Summary Form to calculate Cost Proposal Points. DAS will calculate the Offeror's Cost Proposal points after the Offeror's total technical points are determined, using the following method:

Cost points = (lowest Offeror's cost/Offeror's cost) x Maximum Allowable Cost Points as indicated in the "Scoring Breakdown" table. The value is provided in the Scoring Breakdown table. "Cost" = Total Not to Exceed Cost identified in the Cost Summary section of Offeror's Proposal. In this method, the lowest cost proposed will receive the maximum allowable points.

The number of points assigned to the cost evaluation will be prorated, with the lowest accepted Cost Proposal given the maximum number of points possible for this criterion. Other acceptable Cost Proposals will be scored as the ratio of the lowest Cost Proposal to the Proposal being scored, multiplied by the maximum number of points possible for this criterion.

An example for calculating cost points, where Maximum Allowable Cost Points Value = 60 points, is the scenario where Offeror X has proposed a cost of \$100.00. Offeror Y has proposed a cost of \$110.00 and Offeror Z has proposed a cost of \$120.00. Offeror X, having the lowest cost, would get the maximum 60 cost points. Offeror Y's cost points would be calculated as \$100.00 (Offeror X's cost) divided by \$110.00 (Offeror Y's cost) equals 0.909 times 60 maximum points, or a total of 54.5 points. Offeror Z's cost points would be calculated as \$100.00 (Offeror X's cost) divided by \$120.00 (Offeror Z's cost) equals 0.833 times 60 maximum points, or a total of 50 points.

Cost Score: _____

- 2.8 FINAL STAGES OF EVALUATION The Offeror with the highest point total from all phases of the evaluation (Technical Points + Cost Points) will be recommended for the next phase of the evaluation.

Technical Score: _____ + Cost Score: _____ = Total Score: _____

If DAS finds that one or more Proposals should be given further consideration, DAS may select one or more of the highest-ranking Proposals to move to the next phase. DAS may alternatively choose to bypass any or all subsequent phases and make an award based solely on the Proposal evaluation phase.

- 2.9 REJECTION OF PROPOSALS DAS may reject any Proposal that is not in the required format, does not address all the requirements of this RFP, or that DAS believes is excessive in price or otherwise not in the interest of the State to consider or to accept. In addition, DAS may cancel this RFP, reject all the Proposals, and seek to do the Work through a new RFP or by other means.



Office of
Procurement Services
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3.0 COST SUMMARY

3.1 SUBMISSION The Cost Summary shall be submitted with the Proposal (under separate cover labeled as the Cost Proposal). All prices, costs, and conditions outlined in the Proposal shall remain fixed and valid for acceptance for 120 days, starting on the due date for Proposals. No price change shall be effective without prior written consent from DAS, Office of Procurement Services.

The Offeror's total cost for the entire Work must be represented as the firm, fixed price. All costs for furnishing the services must be included in the Cost Proposal.

3.2 THE OFFEROR'S FEE STRUCTURE The Contractor will be paid as proposed on the Cost Summary after the Agency approves the receipt of product(s)/services and continued completion of all deliverables. All costs must be in U.S. Dollars.

3.3 REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES None; there will be no additional reimbursement for travel or other related expenses. The State will not be responsible for any costs not identified.

3.4 BILL TO ADDRESS

Ohio Department of Education
c/o Jim Wright, Director
Curriculum & Assessment Office
25 S. Front Street, MS 509
Columbus, OH 43215

3.5 COST SUMMARY (CONT'D)

Quality Assurance of the Ohio Statewide Tests
CSP902814
UNSPSC CATEGORY CODE: 80100000

Deliverable	Task	Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1	Participate in meetings with ODE, contractors and selected on-going committees, as requested by ODE:							
	1	Initial Meeting with ODE – One day initial year only	\$					
	2	Planning meeting with ODE – One day twice a year during successive years, may combine with planning meeting with various ODE vendors.		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	3	Planning meetings with ODE and various contractors, if required.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	4	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – up to three (3) two-day meetings each year.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	5	Observe standard setting committees for achievement assessments, diagnostic assessments and alternate assessments as they occur or as requested by ODE.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	6	Information for Deliverable One; the responsibility of the Contractor upon award will be to attend meetings, not to convene or organize meetings. All meetings will be held in Columbus, Ohio. All costs associated with the Contractor staff attending the meetings will be borne by the Contractor. The Contractor will maintain written summaries of all Ohio meetings attended, discussions and decisions made related to the elements of the RFP with periodic (quarterly) reporting to ODE in electronic format.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

All costs must be in U.S. Dollars.

All Offerors who seek to be considered for a contract award must submit the above information in the format specified. The Original Cost Summary must be included in a separate, sealed envelope/package labeled on the exterior as "Cost Proposal" with the RFP Number and due date.

3.5 COST SUMMARY (CONT'D)

Deliverable	Task	Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
2	Monitor Test Development in the context of online assessments:							
	1	Monitor item development for consistency in item difficulty and conformance with test specifications.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	2	Attend early review meetings to focus Contractor on required difficulty level and match to test specifications.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	3	Monitor constructed response item development before and after field testing.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	4	Prepare a report after field testing on the success of items detailing further development needs and the difficulty of bank and bank sections.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	5	Review test forms for conformance to test specifications and item difficulty requirements in the online testing environment.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	6	Confirm ODE's review of final test version including Rasch values, item codes, reporting standards and answer keys.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	7	Review all sampling procedures for field tests and other purposes.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	8	Information for Deliverable Two; The Contractor upon award will help ODE ensure that item and test development remain consistent to established performance standards and online testing, or in the case of tests where initial development is occurring, that balanced item development is being practiced and a suitable inventory of items are available for the operational administrations.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

All costs must be in U.S. Dollars.

All Offerors who seek to be considered for a contract award must submit the above information in the format specified. The Original Cost Summary must be included in a separate, sealed envelope/package labeled on the exterior as "Cost Proposal" with the RFP Number and due date.

3.5 COST SUMMARY (CONT'D)

Deliverable	Task	Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
3	Monitor Development and Maintenance of Item Bank:							
	1	Check the existing item parameter for accuracy and maintain independent records of item parameter.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	2	Monitor the input of new item parameters and statistics.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	3	Ensure the completeness of the item bank for equating and test development purposes (i.e., ensuring that parameters such as item step values of constructed response items are included in the bank).	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	4	Check the distribution of item parameters for newly developed assessments against current test specifications.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	5	Estimate the raw score to scale score relationship on new test forms during test development, to ensure the raw score cut is within tolerable range.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	6	Verify that item usage history and disqualifications are clearly recorded in the item bank.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	7	Information for Deliverable Three; The Contractor upon award will confirm to ODE that appropriate development against established standards continues and is maintained in the item bank.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

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3.5 COST SUMMARY (CONT'D)

Deliverable	Task	Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
4	Monitor standard settings activities (preparation for, procedures followed in meetings, review of oversight committees, and development of final reports):							
	1	Monitor standard setting activities to ensure accuracy of the standard setting process and all calibrations used in that process.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	2	Participate in the discussion and development of all standard setting plans.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	3	Comment on any perceived deficiencies in the process as outlined in the standard setting plan.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	4	Monitor the implementation of the standard settings by observing the standard setting activities.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	5	Produce a report documenting the standard setting meetings.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	6	Check all calibrations including, but not limited to: a) Item ordering for bookmark standard setting procedure; b) Raw score to scale score development resulting from standard setting; and c) All impact data used in standard setting.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	7	Information for Deliverable Four; The timeline for standard setting activities involved in this RFP will be determined by the State Board of Education during the course of the Contract. Results of the standard setting will be provided to the State Board at a time to be determined during the course of the Contract. The Contractor will be available by phone or email to help ODE personnel in the development of the standard setting presentation for the oversight committee and for the State Board of Education.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

All costs must be in U.S. Dollars.

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3.5 COST SUMMARY (CONT'D)

Deliverable	Task	Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
5	Check accuracy of equating:							
	1	Verify the item parameter; check the equating of the assessments based on preliminary data from demographic samples provided by the various Contractors.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	2	Information for Deliverable Five; Verification of equating of the assessments will be accomplished by replicating the equating procedure. The actual procedure of equating is defined by ODE and reviewed by TAC. Equating activities can be pre-administration and/or post administration.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

All costs must be in U.S. Dollars.

All Offerors who seek to be considered for a contract award must submit the above information in the format specified. The Original Cost Summary must be included in a separate, sealed envelope/package labeled on the exterior as "Cost Proposal" with the RFP Number and due date.

3.5 COST SUMMARY (CONT'D)

Deliverable	Task	Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
6	Review reports and state summaries for accuracy:							
	1	Develop a written plan for quality control with review steps and submit to Office of Assessment.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	2	Participate in and/or direct the quality review process at Contractor site.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	3	Replicate report data independently.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	4	Prepare a summary of quality control activities.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	5	Review final technical reports from each test administration.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	6	Review technical manuals (development and data documentation for a testing program.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	7	Information for Deliverable Six; The Contractor upon award will ensure that preliminary data from various Contractors in Deliverable Six gets rolled up into classroom level, school level, and district level reports accurately and into statewide summaries accurately. Statewide summaries are delivered by various Contractors to the State within 45 days of the end of the make-up testing; results to districts are required by Ohio Law to be delivered within 60 days of the end of the make-up testing. Except for Grade 3 reading and OGT (both Grade 3 and OGT will have tests in fall, spring, and summer), all achievement tests are once a year tests administered in spring currently. The new high school End-of-Course exams may be administered more than once a year. The Contractor will also review the final technical reports for each administrative for accuracy, technical quality, and completeness.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

All costs must be in U.S. Dollars.

All Offerors who seek to be considered for a contract award must submit the above information in the format specified. The Original Cost Summary must be included in a separate, sealed envelope/package labeled on the exterior as "Cost Proposal" with the RFP Number and due date.

3.5 COST SUMMARY (CONT'D)

Deliverable	Task	Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
7	Respond to Psychometric Challenges and Inquiries:							
	1	Consult with the State on psychometric issues.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	2	Respond to critics of the program and questions for more information.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	3	Prepare materials for TAC review, if requested.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	4	Advise ODE for the benefit of the State in the process of transition from one testing vendor to another if it is the case.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	5	Advise ODE in the transition from current assessments to the new assessments delivered online.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	6	Review final technical reports from each test administration for every assessment in the statewide assessment program.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	7	Information for Deliverable Seven; The Contractor upon award will help the State deal with written materials describing the testing program to various audiences including stakeholder groups and legislative groups. The tasks in Deliverable Seven are not routine work. They will be needed as they occur.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

All costs must be in U.S. Dollars.

All Offerors who seek to be considered for a contract award must submit the above information in the format specified. The Original Cost Summary must be included in a separate, sealed envelope/package labeled on the exterior as "Cost Proposal" with the RFP Number and due date.

3.5 COST SUMMARY (CONT'D)

Deliverable	Task	Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
8	Alignment Studies:							
	1	Offeror shall propose an independent alignment study of State of Ohio developed assessments in Science and Social Studies include end-of-the-course examinations in high school science tests in Grade 5 and 8, and social studies tests in Grades 4 and 8.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	2	Offeror shall propose an independent alignment study of State of Ohio developed assessments for use as alternate assessments in Grades 3 through 8 and for high school.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	3	Offeror shall propose an independent alignment study of PARCC or State of Ohio developed Assessments in English Language Arts and in Mathematics for use in grades 3 through 8 and for end-of-course examinations in high school.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	4	Information for Deliverable Eight; The Offeror shall propose a method for the conduct of alignment studies for Deliverable 8, Tasks 1, 2 and 3. Task 1 is for assessment developed unique to Ohio as is Task 2. Task 2 tests are operational but in transition. It is anticipated that Task 2 assessments shall be stable no lather then the spring of 2015. Task 3 may not be exercised pending the level of success of PARCC in securing approval under ESEA or similar and if providing continuity in testing. The Offeror shall propose the method for alignment study as well as the level of expertise and independence of the panelists or judges used in the conduct of the study.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

All costs must be in U.S. Dollars.

All Offerors who seek to be considered for a contract award must submit the above information in the format specified. The Original Cost Summary must be included in a separate, sealed envelope/package labeled on the exterior as "Cost Proposal" with the RFP Number and due date.

4.0 AWARD OF THE CONTRACT

- 4.1 CONTRACT AWARD DAS intends to award the Contract based on the schedule in the RFP, if DAS decides the Work is in the best interests of the State and has not changed the award date.

DAS expects the Contractor to commence the Work upon receipt of a state issued purchase order. If DAS awards a Contract pursuant to this RFP and the Contractor is unable or unwilling to commence the Work, DAS reserves the right to cancel the Contract and return to the original RFP process and evaluate any remaining Offeror's Proposals reasonably susceptible of being selected for award of the Contract. The evaluation process will resume with the next highest ranking, viable Proposal.

- 4.2 CONTRACT If this RFP results in a Contract award, the Contract will consist of this RFP including the Terms and Conditions, all forms, written addenda to this RFP, the Contractor's accepted Proposal and written authorized addenda to the Contractor's Proposal. It will also include any materials incorporated by reference in the above documents and any purchase orders and amendments issued under the Contract. The general terms and conditions for the Contract are contained in the following link:

<https://procure.ohio.gov/Zip/RFP%20Instructions/5.3%20Terms%20and%20Conditions.pdf>.

If there are conflicting provisions between the documents that make up the Contract, the order of precedence for the documents is as follows:

1. The one-page Contract Signature Page, Form 5.2.2
2. The RFP, as amended, including the Terms and Conditions;
3. The documents and materials incorporated by reference in the RFP;
4. The Executive Order. EO2011-12K incorporated by reference in the RFP;
5. The Contractor's Proposal, as amended, clarified, and accepted by the State; and
6. The documents and materials incorporated by reference in the Contractor's Proposal.

Notwithstanding the order listed above, amendments issued after the Contract is executed may expressly change the provisions of the Contract. If they do so expressly, then the most recent amendment will take precedence over anything else that is part of the Contract.

5.0 LINKS

To be applicable to all Proposals and subsequent award(s), including sections named below:

5.1 Instructions

- 5.1.1 Proposal Instructions
- 5.1.2 Evaluation of Proposals
- 5.1.3 Proposal Format & Documentation Required

5.2 Forms

- 5.2.1 Offeror Required Information
- 5.2.2 Contract Signature Page
- 5.2.3 Offeror Profile
- 5.2.4 Offeror Prior Projects
- 5.2.5 Offeror's Candidate References
- 5.2.6 Offeror's Candidate Education, Training, Experience
- 5.2.7 Offeror Performance Form
- 5.2.8 Contractor/Subcontractor Affirmation and Disclosure

5.3 Terms and Conditions

- 5.3.1 Performance and Payment
- 5.3.2 Work and Contract Administration
- 5.3.3 Ownership & Handling of Intellectual Property & Confidential Information
- 5.3.4 Representations, Warranties and Liabilities
- 5.3.5 Acceptance and Maintenance
- 5.3.6 Construction
- 5.3.7 Law & Courts

5.4 Additional Resources

EOD Reporting	http://eodreporting.oit.ohio.gov/searchEODReporting.aspx
Office of Budget and Management	http://obm.ohio.gov/LandingPages/Vendor/default.aspx
Office of Procurement Services	http://procure.ohio.gov/proc/index.asp
Ohio Shared Services	http://www.ohiosharedservices.ohio.gov/Home.aspx
Ohio Business Gateway	http://business.ohio.gov/
Ohio Secretary of State	http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/Businesses.aspx

All links are subject to change in accordance with state of Ohio laws, Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code, Executive Orders or any other updates issued by the state of Ohio, Department of Administrative Services, and the Office of Procurement Services. It is the Offeror's responsibility to read and be aware of any changes, corrections, updates or deletions to any information included in the link(s) above.

SUPPLEMENT A

Implementation Schedule of Statewide Tests
House Bill 3/Senate Bill 2/House Bill66

State Law

Section 3301.079

(C) The state board shall develop achievement assessments aligned with the academic standards and model curriculum for each of the subject areas and grade levels required by divisions (A)(1) and (B)(1) of section [3301.0710](#) of the Revised Code.

When any achievement assessment has been completed, the state board shall inform all school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and nonpublic schools required to administer the assessment of its completion, and the department shall make the achievement assessment available to the districts and schools.

(D)

(1) The state board shall adopt a diagnostic assessment aligned with the academic standards and model curriculum for each of grades kindergarten through two in reading, writing, and mathematics and for grade three in reading and writing. The diagnostic assessment shall be designed to measure student comprehension of academic content and mastery of related skills for the relevant subject area and grade level. Any diagnostic assessment shall not include components to identify gifted students. Blank copies of diagnostic assessments shall be public records.

(2) When each diagnostic assessment has been completed, the state board shall inform all school districts of its completion and the department shall make the diagnostic assessment available to the districts at no cost to the district. School districts shall administer the diagnostic assessment pursuant to section [3301.0715](#) of the Revised Code beginning the first school year following the development of the assessment.

(E) The state board shall not adopt a diagnostic or achievement assessment for any grade level or subject area other than those specified in this section.

(F) Whenever the state board or the department consults with persons for the purpose of drafting or reviewing any standards, diagnostic assessments, achievement assessments, or model curriculum required under this section, the state board or the department shall first consult with parents of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade and with active Ohio classroom teachers, other school personnel, and administrators with expertise in the appropriate subject area. Whenever practicable, the state board and department shall consult with teachers recognized as outstanding in their fields.

If the department contracts with more than one outside entity for the development of the achievement assessments required by this section, the department shall ensure the interchangeability of those assessments.

(G) Whenever the state board adopts standards or model curricula under this section, the department also shall provide information on the use of blended or digital learning in the delivery of the standards or curricula to students in accordance with division (A)(4) of this section.

(H) The fairness sensitivity review committee, established by rule of the state board of education, shall not allow any question on any achievement or diagnostic assessment developed under this section or any proficiency test prescribed by former section [3301.0710](#) of the Revised Code, as it existed prior to September 11, 2001, to include, be written to promote, or inquire as to individual moral or social values or beliefs. The decision of the committee shall be final. This section does not create a private cause of action.

SUPPLEMENT A (CONT'D)

3301.0712 College and work ready assessment system.

(A) The state board of education, the superintendent of public instruction, and the chancellor of the Ohio board of regents shall develop a system of college and work ready assessments as described in divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this section to assess whether each student upon graduating from high school is ready to enter college or the workforce. The system shall replace the Ohio graduation tests prescribed in division (B)(1) of section [3301.0710](#) of the Revised Code as a measure of student academic performance and a prerequisite for eligibility for a high school diploma in the manner prescribed by rule of the state board adopted under division (D) of this section.

(B) The college and work ready assessment system shall consist of the following:

(1) A nationally standardized assessment that measures college and career readiness selected jointly by the state superintendent and the chancellor.

(2) A series of end-of-course examinations in the areas of science, mathematics, English language arts, American history, and American government selected jointly by the state superintendent and the chancellor in consultation with faculty in the appropriate subject areas at institutions of higher education of the university system of Ohio. For each subject area, the state superintendent and chancellor shall select multiple assessments that school districts, public schools, and chartered nonpublic schools may use as end-of-course examinations. Subject to division (B)(3)(b) of this section, those assessments shall include nationally recognized subject area assessments, such as advanced placement examinations, SAT subject tests, international baccalaureate examinations, and other assessments of college and work readiness.

(3)(a) Not later than July 1, 2013, each school district board of education shall adopt interim end-of-course examinations that comply with the requirements of divisions (B)(3)(b)(i) and (ii) of this section to assess mastery of American history and American government standards adopted under division (A)(1)(b) of section [3301.079](#) of the Revised Code and the topics required under division (M) of section [3313.603](#) of the Revised Code. Each high school of the district shall use the interim examinations until the state superintendent and chancellor select end-of-course examinations in American history and American government under division (B)(2) of this section.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2014, the state superintendent and the chancellor shall select the end-of-course examinations in American history and American government.

(i) The end-of-course examinations in American history and American government shall require demonstration of mastery of the American history and American government content for social studies standards adopted under division (A)(1)(b) of section [3301.079](#) of the Revised Code and the topics required under division (M) of section [3313.603](#) of the Revised Code.

(ii) At least twenty per cent of the end-of-course examination in American government shall address the topics on American history and American government described in division (M) of section [3313.603](#) of the Revised Code.

(C) The state board shall convene a group of national experts, state experts, and local practitioners to provide advice, guidance, and recommendations for the alignment of standards and model curricula to the assessments and in the design of the end-of-course examinations prescribed by this section.

(D) Upon completion of the development of the assessment system, the state board shall adopt rules prescribing all of the following:

(1) A timeline and plan for implementation of the assessment system, including a phased implementation if the state board determines such a phase-in is warranted;

(2) The date after which a person entering ninth grade shall meet the requirements of the entire assessment system as a prerequisite for a high school diploma under section [3313.61](#), [3313.612](#), or [3325.08](#) of the Revised Code;

(3) The date after which a person shall meet the requirements of the entire assessment system as a prerequisite for a diploma of adult education under section [3313.611](#) of the Revised Code;

(4) Whether and the extent to which a person may be excused from an American history end-of-course examination and an American government end-of-course examination under division (H) of section [3313.61](#) and division (B)(2) of section [3313.612](#) of the Revised Code;

(5) The date after which a person who has fulfilled the curriculum requirement for a diploma but has not passed one or more of the required assessments at the time the person fulfilled the curriculum requirement shall meet the requirements of the entire assessment system as a prerequisite for a high school diploma under division (B) of section [3313.614](#) of the Revised Code;

(6) The extent to which the assessment system applies to students enrolled in a dropout recovery and prevention program for purposes of division (F) of section [3313.603](#) and section [3314.36](#) of the Revised Code.

SUPPLEMENT B**Implementation Schedule: Implication for Standard Setting Activities for Non-Alternate Assessments?**

Tentative Implementation Schedule of Ohio Statewide Assessments

School Year 2013-2014 to School Year 2018-2019

School Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
K-2 Diagnostic	1st year operation	Continuing (no develop. planned)				
PARCC ELA and Math (Grade 3 to 8)	Field Testing	First Year Operation	Continuing/ possible development			
OAA Reading/ Math (Grade 3 to 8)	Last Year of Operation	Replaced by PARCC ELA/Math				
OAA Science (Grade 5 and 8)	Last Year of Operation	Replaced by New Ohio Science Tests				
New Ohio Science Test (Grade 5 and 8)	Field Testing with Standard Setting	1st Year Operation, replacing OAA Science	Continuing/ possible development			
New Ohio Social Studies Test (Grade 4 and 6)	Field Testing with Standard Setting	1st Year Operation (replacing OAA SS which is currently suspended)	Continuing/ possible development			
High School End of Course Exams – ELA/Math	PARCC Field Testing	1 st Year PARCC ELA (I, II, III) Math (ALG I, GEO, ALG II, or Math I, II, III)	Continuing/ possible development			
Ohio EOC Science Exams	Fielding Test/ Standard Setting	1 st year Operation: Physical Sci. Biology	Continuing/ possible development			
Ohio EOC Social Studies	Fielding Test/ Standard Setting	1 st year Operation: US History US Government	Continuing/ possible development			
OGT (R, M W, S, SS)	Continuing Operation Only	Phasing Out	Phasing Out	TBD		



6.0 Guide for Proposal Submission.

This guide outlines steps for submission of a Proposal in response to the advertised Request for Proposal. This guide does not contain the complete instructions for preparing and submitting a Proposal and anything stated herein shall not be considered a term or condition of the Contract. The complete instructions can be found in section 5.1.1, Proposal Instructions.

- 6.1 _____ Read the entire document, including all Web site links. Note critical items such as: Mandatory Requirements; goods or services required, submittal date and time; number of copies to submit; contract requirements; reporting requirements; minimum qualifications; read and understand the terms and conditions.
- 6.2 _____ Take advantage of the “question and answer” period specified in the schedule of events. Questions must be submitted on-line in the Inquiry Process as explained in the Instructions. See section 5.1.1, Proposal Instructions.
- 6.3 _____ Follow the format required in the RFP Instructions when preparing the response in chronological order. Provide point-by-point responses to all sections in a clear and concise manner. See section 5.1.3, Proposal Format & Documentation Required.
- 6.4 _____ Use the forms provided; i.e. Signed RFP Cover Page, Offeror Required Information, Contract Signature Page, Offeror Profile and Prior Projects, Key Personnel forms, Disclosure Form, and Cost Summary Form, See section 5.2, Forms.
- 6.5 _____ Provide complete answers/descriptions. Do not assume the State or any evaluation committee member will know what the Offeror’s capabilities are or what items/services the Offeror can provide, even if previously contracted with the State. The Proposals are evaluated based solely on the information and materials provided in the Offeror’s response.
- 6.6 _____ Check the State’s Web site for RFP addenda. It is the responsibility of the Offeror to be aware of additional information posted on the Web.
- 6.7 _____ The following documents may be submitted with the Proposal or within five (5) business days of request from the Office of Procurement Services: Secretary of State Certification, Affirmative Action, proof of insurance. No award will be made without this documentation. Offeror’s Proposal may be eliminated from further consideration upon failure to submit within the specified time frame
- 6.8 _____ If not a current vendor of the state of Ohio, the Offeror will download both the W-9 and Vendor Information Form and submit to Ohio Shared Services (OSS) at vendor@ohio.gov. See section 5.4, Additional Resources.
- 6.9 _____ Review and read the RFP Document again to make sure that you have addressed all requirements. Read and understand Supplements, if applicable. Offeror’s original response and the requested copies must be identical and be complete. The copies are provided to the evaluation committee members and used to score the response.
- 6.10 _____ Offeror’s response must be submitted on time. Late Proposals are never accepted. Make sure the response is labeled on the exterior of the envelope/package with the RFP# and due date, and whether the packet is for the Technical Proposal or the Cost Proposal. Do not place the Cost Proposal in the Technical Proposal.