

**Acknowledgment of Amendments**

***Request for Information (Q&A)***

**Dyslexia Screener Request for Qualifications**

**Amendment Number One**

**Friday, January 7, 2022**

1. Would the state consider extending the submission deadline by one week to ensure vendors have adequate time to field a strong response?

The attached Tentative Timeline of Activities is incorporated fully and take precedence over dates listed in Section 4.3.

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| **Monday, December 27, 2021** | Request for Proposals release date |
| **Wednesday, January 5, 2022** | Deadline to submit questions and request for clarification |
| **Friday, January 7, 2022** | Responses to questions and request for clarification posted |
| **Thursday, January 27, 2022** | Proposal submission deadline by 2:00 PM CST |
| **Friday, March 18, 2022** | Anticipated Date of the Notice of Intent to Award |
| **Thursday, March 17, 2022** | State Board of Education (SBE) Meeting |
| **Friday, March 18, 2022** | State Board Approval effective date |

1. Page 8, section 4.2 – “A signed proposal packet shall be submitted via RFXS.” For vendors submitting their response electronically, is the preferred method of submission via email to [RFXS@mdek12.org](mailto:RFXS@mdek12.org), or via the MAGIC portal?

The signed proposal packet should be submitted via email at [rfxs@mdek12.org](mailto:rfxs@mdek12.org) or an original signed proposal packet mailed to 359 North West Street Jackson, MS 39201.

1. Page 6, section 3 – "The Program Office staff, and the Office of Procurement must be able to contact two (2) trade references within five (5) business days of proposal opening to ensure the Offeror is responsible. (See Appendix C)." Should two copies of Appendix C be submitted?

In leu of trade references provide a minimum of three (3) clients for whom your company has performed services similar to those requested in this solicitation.

1. Pages 5-6, Sections 2.2 and 2.23 – Is the state looking for a one step screening process (overall score across all six of the identified areas) or are they willing to use a two-step process? For instance, could all students be administered an initial screener for most components, then based on that performance, be administered the Rapid Naming tasks as needed?

According to MS Code § 37-173-15, <https://law.justia.com/citations.html> the dyslexia screeners must contain the following components: phonological awareness and phonemic awareness, sound symbol recognition, alphabet knowledge, decoding skills, encoding skills, and rapid naming. It does not make allowances for a two-step process.

1. Page 9, Section 4.3 – Please confirm whether districts will begin using approved screeners in the 2022-2023 school year.

Districts will be able to begin using the state board approved screeners once they have been approved at the state board of education meeting.

1. Page 9, Section 4.3 – What is the expected contract length for awarded vendors?

The MS Approved List of Dyslexia Screeners will be released and posted on the MDE Dyslexia website once it receives State Board of Education Approval. The approved list will be posted until May 2024 and at that time the dyslexia screeners will be re-evaluated.

1. Is MDE looking only to serve students in grades K-1 with the Dyslexia Screener? Or would the state also use the Screener for older elementary students performing below grade level?

According to MS Code § 37-173-15, <https://law.justia.com/citations.html> students will be screened in the spring of kindergarten and the fall of Grade 1. Districts may choose to screen additional grades; however additional grades are not included in this request for qualifications.

1. In the RFQ in section 5.7 "Proposal Evaluation", one of the required screening components is "encoding skills". Can you provide a definition for this requirement: Does this mean putting sounds together to form words orally? Does this require a written response by the student themselves? Would the student providing an oral response that the test administrator records or the student selecting an answer choice in the test as alternative response options for the student be acceptable?

The request for qualifications does not specify how the student will demonstrate encoding skills, however the screener would need to include a process of hearing a sound and being able to write a symbol to represent that sound.

1. In Appendix A – Proposal Cover Sheet states “That the pricing submitted will remain firm for the term?” What is the initial term of the contract? Are there any extensions? Is there a separate form for vendors to complete their cost proposal?

The MS Department of Education has established this process to provide a state board approved dyslexia screener list for school districts. All pricing will be negotiated with the school districts.

1. Section 6.4 – Are you able to provide us with a sample of the Memorandum of Understanding?

The MOU will be executed with the local school districts. The MS Department of Education will not require this document.

## Section 6 – Award states “Funds will not be awarded by the state/federal government.” Please clarify if a district were to use an assessment for both dyslexia and kindergarten readiness screening, will the state continue to reimburse districts for the K-3 screening funds?

The local school districts will work with the companies that have been state board approved to determine pricing. The state will continue to reimburse districts for the K-3 screening funds, however this is a different process.

1. Is there any state level reporting required?

School districts provide the MS Department of Education with the name of the dyslexia screener utilized, the number of students screened, and the total number of students that failed the dyslexia screener each school year.

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**NOTE:** *This amendment one is hereby made a part of the Mississippi Department of Education’s Request for Proposals/Applications/Qualifications. The Vendor acknowledges receipt of said amendment and is made aware of the changes contained therein. By signing this form, the Offeror accepts the changes as part of the contract requirement.*

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Authorized Signature Date

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Printed Name