

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
September 14, 2017

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

02. Action: Contract with Public Consulting Group (PCG) to provide a Special Education Data Management System [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Awarded Vendor: Public Consulting Group (PCG)
Boston, Massachusetts

Scope of Project: The purpose of the contract is to retain the services of PCG to provide a Special Education Data Management System. The contract will be effective for five (5) years and shall be contingent upon the successful completion of the preceding year's contract and the availability of funds.

PCG will provide a customizable data management system that does the following:

- Documents and prepares federal reports on special education student information as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Manages student and staff information through file transfers with MSIS as well as local school packages.
- Provides a state-wide Individualized Education Program (IEP) system and allows for immediate electronic data transfers between local education agencies.
- Contains tools for the Office of Special Education to monitor districts' compliance of requirements of the IDEA and tracks dispute resolution issues between parents and districts.

Personnel associated with this contract are not former Department employees or related to any Department employees

Scope of Contract:

- Term of Contract: October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2022
- Total Amount to be Awarded: \$5,550,000
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals through ITS

Funding Source: Federal funds

This item references Goals 1, 2, 4, and 5 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

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Executive Summary

Special Education Data Management System

The Office of Special Education (OSE) and the Office of Technology and Strategic Services (OTSS) have been working with the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) since October 2015 to procure a comprehensive Statewide data management system for special education. This system will gather data from both Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) as well as local student information systems to provide a holistic picture of student performance and compliance at both the local and State levels.

PROCUREMENT SUMMARY

This procurement was conducted through ITS using a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) method. Five proposals were received. None were from companies based in Mississippi. Three proposals did not meet the minimum specifications outlined in the RFP and were not reviewed. The two remaining proposals were reviewed and the vendors came to MDE to give on-site demonstrations and answer questions from the review team. The RFP review team was comprised of:

- Three (3) representatives from OSE,
- Two (2) representatives from OTSS, and
- Three (3) individuals representing local school districts.

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE SYSTEM INCLUDE:

State Education Agency Tools

- Data required for the Annual Performance Report (APR) to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will be gathered and reported through the system.
- Data dashboards will provide access to Federally reported data elements that would allow the State to monitor progress on performance indicators throughout the year.
- Monitoring tools will provide OSE staff with greater access and efficiency in completing general supervisory duties as dictated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
 - The compliance monitoring of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) will be automated for desk top monitoring to minimize the cost of travel and maximize staff resources.
 - The data system will generate monitoring reports to be sent to districts.
- Parent engagement tracking tools will increase access to data as well as improve the work flow for MDE staff.
 - The parent contact log is tied to individual districts and schools.
 - The system will track Formal State Complaint investigations.

- The system will allow remote reviewing of IEPs, decreasing the amount of travel and time needed to gather documentation by MDE staff.
- The data base will track due process hearing timelines and provide document storage for the cases.

Statewide IEP System

- Data dashboards will provide districts access to Federally reported data elements that allow them to monitor progress and correct data on Federal performance indicators throughout the year.
- The system will assist school districts with conducting their own IEP compliance monitoring.
- The progress monitoring tools will allow teachers and administrators to monitor student progress on IEP goals and classroom performance throughout the year.
- The system will provide users and administrators notifications of upcoming and past due deadlines.
- The system will provide a single IEP system for districts across the State which promotes timely record transfers between districts, as well as juvenile detention centers.

Medicaid Reimbursement

- The districts will have the choice of whether to access this optional part of the system.
- This component will assist districts in filing for Medicaid reimbursement for medical services provided at school (ex., physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing services).
- This component will track providers, therapy sessions, and IEP goals for served students.

COST INFORMATION

Contract Year	Item	Cost
Year 1 - 2017-2018	Development and Initial Implementation	\$1,200,000
Year 2 - 2018-2019	Continued Implementation and Annual License and Hosting	\$1,200,000
Year 3 – 2019-2020	Annual License and Hosting	\$1,000,000
Year 4 – 2020-2021	Annual License and Hosting	\$1,050,000
Year 5 – 2021-2022	Annual License and Hosting	\$1,100,000
Grand Total Five Year Cost of Contract		\$5,550,000

VENDOR INFORMATION

PCG is a nationally known company that has been in business for 25 years in the area of special education management and consulting. They have five (5) other states that are currently using their system including Tennessee, New Hampshire, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Washington D.C. North Carolina and Virginia have recently entered contracts and will be implementing their systems in the coming year.