

Mississippi Department of Education
Request for Qualifications
Academic Interventions
Amendment Number One - Vendor Questions and Responses
September 9, 2025

SUBMISSION

QUESTION 1: Does the state require programs to address both reading and math, or would a submission focused solely on foundational literacy skills be considered?

ANSWER 1: The state is seeking intervention programs that are focused on multiple areas. Submissions on one subject area or multiple subject areas will be considered.

QUESTION 2: Is there a rubric or evaluation framework that applicants need to complete or follow?

ANSWER 2: Applicants must follow the requirements as listed in the Academic Interventions Request for Qualifications Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5.

QUESTION 3: Are sample materials required as part of the submission?

ANSWER 3: As listed in Section 5 2d,

The Offeror must provide a detailed plan describing how the scope of services will be planned, implemented, achieved, and the reports provided that will give the MDE the support and results required to verify services were accomplished and complete.

Vendors should include samples in their detailed plan.

QUESTION 4: Could you provide additional clarification regarding the ESSA study requirement? Specifically, does the study need to include data on English Learners, students receiving Special Education services, and other special populations in Tier 2 or Tier 3 settings?

ANSWER 4: According to ESSA, States and districts should include interventions supported by strong or moderate evidence in a similar setting and/or population to the ones being served. Therefore, offerors must show that interventions are supported by strong or moderate evidence of success in working with all students who are receiving Tier 2 and/or Tier 3 supports.

QUESTION 5: Will programs that address reading intervention only (not math) be considered for approval?

ANSWER 5: The state is seeking intervention programs that are focused on multiple areas. Submissions on one subject area or multiple subject areas will be considered.

QUESTION 6: Can you confirm the method of electronic submission is to send the documents in PDF or Word format to the email address

academicintervention@mdek12.org?

ANSWER 6: As listed in Section 7.2,

*For qualifications that are submitted in the academicintervention@mdek12.org portal the qualification shall be electronically submitted using the Required Format in the specified section below. **The complete qualification including all attachments shall be submitted in a searchable Microsoft Office® format, preferably in Word® or Portable Document Format (PDF) only.** “Links” received to obtain a response via the academicintervention@mdek12.org will not be opened and the email will be rejected without further consideration for an award.*

QUESTION 7: Are we permitted to embed links to resources for the reviewers in our documents?

ANSWER 7: Embedded links are permitted.

QUESTION 8: Do reviewers require full online access to the proposed intervention materials? If so, approximately how many reviewers will require access?

ANSWER 8: Yes, access for (5) five reviewers is needed.

QUESTION 9: The specifications seem to focus on Reading. Are there additional specifications for Math Intervention? If so, can those be provided?

ANSWER 9: From Section 2 on page 6 in the RFQ,

“The evidence-based academic intervention must include effective instructional strategies, and appropriate teaching methodologies necessary to assist the student in becoming successful. The program should provide explicit and systematic instruction”.

Math intervention programs must follow these same requirements as appropriate for the teaching of mathematical skills.

QUESTION 10: What solution is the district currently using for intervention?

ANSWER 10: The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Office of Curriculum and Instruction has issued this Request for Qualifications to generate a Pre-Approved Vendor List (PVL) and will be established and serve as the MDE PVL for use by schools throughout the state.

QUESTION 11: Are samples of our materials required with submission? If so, will you accept digital samples?

ANSWER 11: As listed in Section 5 2d,

The Offeror must provide a detailed plan describing how the scope of services will be planned, implemented, achieved, and the reports provided that will give the MDE the support and results required to verify services were accomplished and complete.

Vendors should include samples in their detailed plan. Submissions can be shipped/mailed or submitted electronically. See section 7.2 for submission requirements.

QUESTION 12: Are we required to submit filled out Reference Score Sheets with our proposal, or will those be sent out by MDE when completing reference checks?

ANSWER 12: If the MDE requires additional information, Appendix C will be used to complete reference checks. Applicants must follow the reference requirements listed in Section 3.

QUESTION 13: Are we required to submit our response via mail in addition to submitting via email?

ANSWER 13: Submissions can be shipped/mailed or submitted electronically. See section 6.2 for submission requirements.

QUESTION 14: Can you please confirm the Offeror only needs to complete Appendix B - References, and the MDE will complete Appendix C – Reference Score Sheet?

ANSWER 14: The Offeror will complete Appendix B to meet the requirements of Section 3. If the MDE requires additional information, Appendix C will be used to complete reference checks.

QUESTION 15: Within the Required Format, we do not see a COMPONENT 3. Can you please confirm we only need to include COMPONENTS 1, 2, and 4?

ANSWER 15: The absence of component 3 and tab 4 was a labeling error and has been corrected.

QUESTION 16: Should the Offeror include pricing in the submitted qualification packet? If yes, where in the Required Format should this be included?

ANSWER 16: Pricing information is not needed at this time.

QUESTION 17: Would you accept a submission for a **math-only** intervention program that targets K-5 skills and concepts?

ANSWER 17: The state is seeking intervention programs that are focused on multiple areas for kindergarten to Grade 12. Submissions on one subject area or multiple subject areas, and specific grade spans will be considered.

QUESTION 18: Do you want any physical samples or digital access to materials?

ANSWER 18: As listed in Section 5 2d,

The Offeror must provide a detailed plan describing how the scope of services will be planned, implemented, achieved, and the reports provided that will give the MDE the support and results required to verify services were accomplished and complete.

Vendors should include samples in their detailed plan.

QUESTION 19: In Section 1.1 (Purpose and Goals), the RFQ specifies that the Department is soliciting offers “to provide Reading and Mathematics Interventions for Kindergarten to

Grade 12”. May I ask you to please confirm whether submissions may focus specifically on Grades K–5, or whether all proposed interventions must address the full K–12 span?

ANSWER 19: The state is seeking intervention programs that are focused on multiple areas for kindergarten to Grade 12. Submissions on one subject area or multiple subject areas, and specific grade spans will be considered.

QUESTION 20: Are we permitted to submit contract exceptions and if so, could you provide the RFQ terms and conditions?

ANSWER 20: Contract exceptions are not permitted. This is a no-cost contract with the MDE. Offerors must follow the school district’s terms and conditions.

QUESTION 21: Does the State require pricing at this stage?

ANSWER 21: Pricing information is not needed at this time.

QUESTION 22: Four requirements, on pages 6 and 7 begin with “All schools must receive....” Could the State please provide some clarity on these four requirements? How would the State like vendors to provide this information to the districts? When should this information be delivered – pre or post submittal?

Will the State be providing a list of contacts that need to receive this information?

ANSWER 22: These requirements will be included in the offerors detailed plan for how the program will be implemented and services solicited will be achieved. The requirements will be made available to schools upon request after the Pre-Approved Vendor List has been approved and made available on the Office of Curriculum and Instruction website.

QUESTION 26: For the RFQ's diagnostic assessment requirement described on page 7, would MDE consider an embedded continuous diagnostic approach for approval on this list?

For example, our solution includes embedded, lesson-level diagnostics that continuously assess understanding, provide just-in-time foundational support connected to new learning, and monitor progress as students engage in grade-level content.

ANSWER 26: Embedded diagnostic assessments will be considered and must determine the appropriate starting place for individual intervention plans.

QUESTION 27: Could you kindly clarify whether vendors are required to submit samples as part of this RFQ process? If samples are indeed required, would you please advise on the following:

ANSWER 27: As listed in Section 5 2d,

The Offeror must provide a detailed plan describing how the scope of services will be planned, implemented, achieved, and the reports provided that will give the MDE the support and results required to verify services were accomplished and complete.

Vendors should include samples in their detailed plan.

QUESTION 28: Should the samples be provided in physical format, digital format, or both?

ANSWER 28: Samples may be provided in a physical or digital format depending on the submission format of the offeror.

QUESTION 29: If digital, should samples be included as part of the electronic submission in PDF format, or would another format be preferred?

ANSWER 29: Please refer to Section 6.2 for submission requirements regarding format.

QUESTION 30: If physical copies are needed, how many copies should be submitted?

ANSWER 30: Please refer to Section 6.2 for submission requirements.

The Offeror shall provide the following:

a. one (1) original signed copy of the complete qualification including all attachments.

QUESTION 31: We are looking for clarity in two areas:

That the MS State Pre-Approved Vendor List is for both Mathematics and ELA.

ANSWER 31: The state is seeking intervention programs that are focused on multiple areas. Submissions on one subject area or multiple subject areas will be considered.

QUESTION 32: Additionally, can vendors submit for only one subject, or must they submit for both Math & ELA?

ANSWER 32: The state is seeking intervention programs that are focused on multiple areas. Submissions on one subject area or multiple subject areas will be considered.

QUESTION 33: Can you confirm that we can submit via email only and do not have to additionally send two printed copies to the address noted on p. 11?

ANSWER 33: Please refer to Section 6.2 for Submission Requirements. Qualifications can be shipped/mailed or submitted in the academicintervention@mdek12.org portal.

QUESTION 34: Can you confirm that MDE does not wish vendors to submit product pricing, as it is not explicitly mentioned in the requirements?

ANSWER 34: Pricing information is not needed at this time.

QUESTION 35: Under the References section, should vendors have their references complete Appendix C (Reference Score Sheet) and include it with the proposal, or is this form intended for MDE's internal use during evaluation?

ANSWER 35: The Offeror will complete Appendix B to meet the requirements of Section 3. If the MDE requires additional information, Appendix C will be used to complete reference checks.

QUESTION 36: Can you please confirm that vendors are not required to submit pricing or rates with this RFQ response and that pricing will instead be negotiated at the district level?

ANSWER 36: Pricing information is not needed at this time.

QUESTION 37: Could you confirm whether the MDE has a preferred progress monitoring system or benchmark assessment required for this solicitation, or if vendors may propose their own evidence-based tools (such as NWEA MAP Growth) in the Plan of Action?

ANSWER 37: Please refer to Section 2.1 Requirements,

- *The program should include progress monitoring that assess students' performance over time, quantifies students' rate of improvement or responsiveness to instruction, and evaluates instructional effectiveness.*
- *The program should also include a placement or diagnostic assessment that identifies students' areas of deficiency and determines the entry point of the intervention program.*

QUESTION 38: Can MDE provide clarification around the four criteria on pp. 6–7 that begin with “All schools must receive...”?

- a. Should each of those four responses be on their own separate document?
- b. Is it correct that those responses should also be included in the main proposal narrative document that contains the responses to the other criteria on pp. 6–7?

ANSWER 38: These requirements will be included in the offerors detailed plan for how the program will be implemented and services solicited will be achieved. The requirements will be made available to schools upon request after the Pre-Approved Vendor List has been approved and made available on the Office of Curriculum and Instruction website.

QUESTION 39: Can vendors apply for a specific grade level or band for a particular literacy component (e.g., phonics)?

ANSWER 39: The state is seeking intervention programs that are focused on multiple subject areas for kindergarten to Grade 12. Submissions on one subject area or multiple subject areas, and specific grade spans will be considered.

QUESTION 40: If a program is accepted for the approved list of Tier 2/Tier 3 interventions, does that prevent a district from using that same program as a Tier 1 supplemental program?

ANSWER 40: This will not be an all-inclusive or exhaustive list. Districts may choose from this list or choose their own evidence-based academic intervention. The purpose of this list is to provide districts with state-approved, evidence-based academic interventions that can be used to improve students' deficit areas with adaptability to a traditional, hybrid, or virtual school model.

QUESTION 41: Is pricing required for this submission?

ANSWER 41: Pricing information is not needed at this time.

QUESTION 42: Are samples required for submission?

ANSWER 42: As listed in Section 5 2d,

The Offeror must provide a detailed plan describing how the scope of services will be planned, implemented, achieved, and the reports provided that will give the MDE the support and results required to verify services were accomplished and complete.

Vendors should include samples in their detailed plan.

QUESTION 43: *Submissions can be either emailed or mailed?*

ANSWER 43: Please refer to Section 6.2 for Submission Requirements. Qualifications can be shipped/mailed or submitted in the academicintervention@mdek12.org portal.

QUESTION 44: *Will our application be deemed eligible if we apply solely for the K-2 grade band?*

ANSWER 44: The state is seeking intervention programs that are focused on multiple subject areas for kindergarten to Grade 12. Submissions on one subject area or multiple subject areas, and specific grade spans will be considered.

QUESTION 45: *Is the narrative response restricted to a certain number of pages?*

ANSWER 45: Please refer to Section 2.1 Requirements:

- *All schools must receive a narrative that provides an overview of the intervention, required time for instruction, and guidance for the intervention implementation process (two-page limit, double spaced, 12-point Arial font).*

QUESTION 46: On page 10 (within the formatting instructions), Tab 3 shifts to Tab 5 without any indication of a Tab 4. Likewise, Component 2 moves to Component 4 without any sign of a Component 3 section. Are there absent component and tab sections, or are these merely errors in labeling?

Required Format:

Programs shall develop this section in accordance with the scope of services and requirements

The Offeror shall provide the following:

- a. one (1) original signed copy of the complete qualification including all attachments.*

Section components must be clearly distinguished as follow:

1. COVER PAGE - Qualification Cover Sheet (Appendix A)

2. COMPONENT 1 – PLAN OF ACTION

- a. Tab 1 – Production/Detailed Service Plan shall provide clear and concise plan of action to encompass the minimum qualifications, implementation, deliverables, and expected outcomes/results to achieve the scope of work. Any required information that is omitted and not addressed in the minimum qualifications section will disqualify submission and will not*

be considered for an award.

3. COMPONENT 2 - ADMINISTRATION

a. Tab 2 – Resume(s) for Key Personnel must include qualifications and experiences for all key personnel assigned to this project.

b. Tab 3 – References must meet the requirements as set forth in the References section. (See Section 3)

4. COMPONENT 4 – OTHER

a. Tab 5 – Any additional relevant information (not to exceed five (5) pages).

b. Tab 6 – Signed Contingent Fee/MS Secretary of State Registration

ANSWER 46: The absence of component 3 and tab 4 were a labeling error and have been corrected.

QUESTION 47: Are physical product samples required? If so, please provide details regarding the number desired and mailing address for shipment.

ANSWER 47: As listed in Section 5 2d,

The Offeror must provide a detailed plan describing how the scope of services will be planned, implemented, achieved, and the reports provided that will give the MDE the support and results required to verify services were accomplished and complete.

Vendors should include samples in their detailed plan.

Please refer to Section 6.2 for Submission Requirements. Qualifications can be shipped/mailed or submitted in the academicintervention@mdek12.org portal.

QUESTION 48:

Can you clarify whether an electronic proposal submission is sufficient, or whether physical print copies of the proposal must also be sent?

ANSWER 48: Please refer to Section 6.2 for Submission Requirements. Qualifications can be shipped/mailed or submitted in the academicintervention@mdek12.org portal.

QUESTION 49: We intend to submit three (3) different intervention programs for consideration. Can you clarify if we should submit three (3) separate proposals, or if they can be combined into one submission with distinct separation between each program?

ANSWER 49: Offerors will need to submit each intervention program proposal separately.

QUESTION 50: Are you looking for vendors to provide pricing at this time?

ANSWER 50: Pricing information is not needed at this time.

QUESTION 51: Can you provide a list of the current approved vendors?

ANSWER 51: There is not a current approved vendors list for academic interventions.

QUESTION 52: Should the awarded vendor(s) plan to begin service implementation at the time of award? If no, what are the steps post-award for vendors to begin services?

ANSWER 52: This will not be an all-inclusive or exhaustive list. Districts may choose from this list or choose their own evidence-based academic intervention. The purpose of this list is to provide districts with state-approved, evidence-based academic interventions that can be used to improve students' deficit areas with adaptability to a traditional, hybrid, or virtual school model.

QUESTION 53: Is Appendix C – Reference Score Sheet intended for MDE use when contacting our references? There is no action we should take to complete that form, correct?

ANSWER 53: The Offeror will complete Appendix B to meet the requirements of Section 3. If the MDE requires additional information, Appendix C will be used to complete reference checks.

QUESTION 54: The RFQ states on pg. 5 that MDE is looking for vendors to provide “Reading AND Mathematic Interventions.” Would MDE approve a vendor that specializes in a K-8 Math product only, or does the vendor need to provide products for both subject areas in order to be approved?

ANSWER 54: The state is seeking intervention programs that are focused on multiple subject areas for kindergarten to Grade 12. Submissions on one subject area or multiple subject areas, and specific grade spans will be considered.

QUESTION 55: Pg. 10 of the RFQ states that vendors need to supply “one (1) original signed copy” of the proposal. If we are choosing the e-submit option, are electronic signatures acceptable to meet this requirement?

ANSWER 55: Please refer to Section 6.4 Qualification Submission Period:

*A signed qualification packet shall be electronically submitted via academicintervention@mdek12.org no later than **Friday, September 26, 2025, by 2:00 PM Central Standard Time (CST).***

and Section 7.10 Rejection of Qualifications #5:

- 5. The qualification cover sheet does not have an original or electronic authentication signature by the authorized representative;*

QUESTION 56: Can MDE point to or provide the “Standard Terms and Conditions” doc referenced on pg. 14 of the RFQ?

ANSWER 56: This is a no-cost contract with the MDE. Offerors must follow the school district's terms and conditions.

QUESTION 57: Could the State please clarify what is required for references? Is the completion of Appendix B sufficient? 2 “trade references” are mentioned on page 7. Is the State saying that we should provide the three required for Appendix B and that at least 2 of these references would need to reply within 5 business days of qualification? Or should these “trade references” be in addition to the customers listed on Appendix B?

ANSWER 57: The Offeror will complete Appendix B to meet the requirements of Section 3. If the MDE requires additional information, Appendix C will be used to complete reference checks.

Provide contact information for two (2) trade references and list up to a minimum of three (3) clients, including government clients, for whom your company has performed services similar to those requested in this solicitation.

QUESTION 58: Appendix C – is this supposed to be completed by our references? Or is this what the State is using to score us when our references are contacted?

ANSWER 58: The Offeror will complete Appendix B to meet the requirements of Section 3. If the MDE requires additional information, Appendix C will be used to complete reference checks.

QUESTION 59: Per Minimum Qualification 2d. "The Offeror must provide a detailed plan describing how the scope of services will be planned, implemented, achieved, and the reports provided that will give the MDE the support and results required to verify services were accomplished and complete" -- could you clarify what sort of services the MDE would like reports on? Is it regarding professional learning support provided by the vendor or individual schools' use of the intervention materials?

ANSWER 59: Please refer to Section 2. The Scope of Services for guidance on providing a detailed plan describing how the scope of services will be planned, implemented, achieved, and the reports provided that will give the MDE the support and results required to verify services were accomplished and complete

QUESTION 60: The RFP mentions math but the scope only focuses on Reading; can the state clarify?

ANSWER 60: From Section 2 on page 6 in the RFQ,
"The evidence-based academic intervention must include effective instructional strategies, and appropriate teaching methodologies necessary to assist the student in becoming successful. The program should provide explicit and systematic instruction". Math intervention programs must follow these same requirements as appropriate for the teaching of mathematical skills.

QUESTION 61: The required formatting on p. 10 of the RFQ seems to have skipped Component 3. Should the proposal formatting state Component 3 instead of Component 4?

ANSWER 61: The absence of component 3 and tab 4 were a labeling error and have been corrected.

QUESTION 62: Is the state interested in receiving Pricing and Professional Development options?

ANSWER 62: Pricing and professional development information are not needed at this time.

QUESTION 63: The 4th bullet under section 2.1 states that “a narrative that provides an overview of the intervention, required time for instruction, and guidance for the intervention implementation process (two-page limit, double spaced, 12-point Arial font)” is required. Is this narrative required by vendors upon submission of a proposal for this RFQ or later upon approval? Is the formatting requirement of a two-page limit, double-spaced, 12-point Arial font applicable to only this narrative request or is this required formatting for the entire proposal response for the ELA and Mathematics Academic Interventions RFQ?

ANSWER 63: Please refer to Section 2.1 Requirements:

The vendor shall be responsible for all tasks required under the Scope of Services. It is anticipated that this shall include but not be limited to:

- *All schools must receive a narrative that provides an overview of the intervention, required time for instruction, and guidance for the intervention implementation process (two-page limit, double spaced, 12-point Arial font).*

Two-page limit, double spaced, 12-point Arial font refers to the narrative.

QUESTION 64: Are vendors required to include digital access to the intervention program to support the state’s review?

ANSWER 64: Vendors are not required to include digital access. Each vendor must determine submission components that will enable RFQ reviewers to accurately analyze submitted programs.

QUESTION 65: Section 3.1, References, states, “The Program Office staff must be able to contact two (2) trade references, if required, within five (5) business days of qualification opening to ensure the Offeror is responsible, if the MDE requires additional information. (See Appendix D)” - Appendix D is the addendum acknowledgement form. Could MDE clarify if there is additional information related to Section 3.1?

ANSWER 65: (See Appendix D) has been updated to (See Appendix B). The Offeror will complete Appendix B to meet the requirements of Section 3. If the MDE requires additional information, Appendix C will be used to complete reference checks.

QUESTION 66: Is Appendix C, Reference Score Sheet, provided just for vendors’ information, or is any action required from vendors?

ANSWER 66: The Offeror will complete Appendix B to meet the requirements of Section 3. If the MDE requires additional information, Appendix C will be used to complete reference checks.

QUESTION 67: Section 2.e on page 8 appears to be incomplete: “The required references as noted in Section 3 – References, and” - is there additional information requested?

ANSWER 67: e. *The required references as noted in Section 3 – References, and 3. Include in your responses the total number of years in business and the company’s experience related to the scope of work.*

4. If federal funds are allocated for payment, Offeror must verify its business is not debarred.

For additional information regarding references, please refer to Section 3.1 References.

QUESTION 68: If reviewers are unable to make contact with a vendor’s reference, will the state notify the vendor so we can ensure the reference responds in a timely manner?

ANSWER 68: The state must be able to contact two of the three references provided by the offeror.

QUESTION 69: That the MS State Pre-Approved Vendor List is for both Mathematics and ELA.

ANSWER 69: Please refer to Section 1.1 Purpose and Goals, *The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Office of Curriculum and Instruction issues this Request for Qualifications to solicit offers from qualified, experienced, responsible and financially sound vendors to provide Reading AND Mathematic Interventions for Kindergarten to Grade 12.*

QUESTION 70: Additionally, can vendors submit for only one subject, or must they submit for both Math & ELA?

ANSWER 70: The state is seeking intervention programs that are focused on multiple areas. Submissions on one subject area or multiple subject areas will be considered.