



STATE OF INDIANA

Request for Services 18-072

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

**On Behalf Of
Indiana Department of Education**

**Solicitation For:
Evaluation of the Charter School Program: *Quality Counts***

Response Due Date: May 1st, 2018 by 3:00 PM EST

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Procurement Division
402 W. Washington St., Room W468
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SECTION ONE

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUESTED PRODUCTS/SERVICES

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Indiana statute, including IC 5-22-6, the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA), acting on behalf of the Indiana Department of Education requires Evaluation Services for the Charter School Program: *Quality Counts* for the Indiana Department of Education Charter School Program. It is the intent of IDOA to solicit responses to this Request for Services (RFS) in accordance with the statement of work, proposal preparation section, and specifications contained in this document.

This RFS is being posted to the IDOA website (<http://www.IN.gov/idoa/2354.htm>) for downloading. A nominal fee will be charged for providing hard copies. Neither this RFS nor any response (proposal) submitted hereto are to be construed as a legal offer.

1.2 DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Following are explanations of terms and abbreviations appearing throughout this RFS. Other special terms may be used in the RFS, but they are more localized and defined where they appear, rather than in the following list.

Award Recommendation	IDOA's summary to the agency being supported, typically in letter format, of the solicitation and suggestion on vendor selection for the purposes of beginning contract negotiations.
IAC	Indiana Administrative Code
IC	Indiana Code
Contract Award	The acceptance of IDOA's Award Recommendation by the agency being supported in conjunction with the public posting of the Award Recommendation.
CUF	Commercially Useful Function – A business function that supports the scope of this solicitation
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	The State defines FTE as a measurement of an employee's productivity when executing the scope of work in this RFS for a specific project or contract. An FTE of 1 would mean that there is one worker fully engaged on a project. If there are two employees each spending 1/2 of their working time on a project that would also equal 1 FTE
Implementation	The successful implementation of the Evaluation Services for the Charter School Program: <i>Quality Counts</i> as specified in the contract resulting from

Installation	The delivery and physical setup of products or services requested in this RFS
Other Governmental Body	An agency, a board, a branch, a bureau, a commission, a council, a department, an institution, an office, or another establishment of any of the following: 1) The judicial branch 2) The legislative branch 3) A political subdivision (includes towns, cities, local governments, etc.) 4) A state educational institution
Products	Tangible goods or manufactured items as specified in this RFS
Proposal	An offer as defined in IC 5-22-2-17
Respondent	An offeror as defined in IC 5-22-2-18. The State will not consider a proposal responsive if two or more offerors submit a joint or combined proposal. One entity or individual must be clearly identified as the respondent who will be ultimately responsible for performance of the contract
Services	Work to be performed as specified in this RFS
State	The State of Indiana
State Agency	As defined in IC 4-13-1, “state agency” means an authority, board, branch, commission, committee, department, division, or other instrumentality of the executive, including the administrative, department of state government
Total Bid Amount	The amount that the respondent proposes on Attachment D that represents their total, all-inclusive price.
Vendor	Any successful respondent selected as a result of the procurement process to deliver the products or services requested by this RFS

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE RFS

The purpose of this RFS is to select a vendor that can satisfy the State’s need for Evaluation Services for the Charter School Program: *Quality Counts*. It is the intent of the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to contract with a vendor that provides quality Evaluation Services for the Charter School Program: *Quality Counts* for the Indiana Department of Education’s Charter School Program.

Funds have been awarded to conduct a research study utilizing school choice data set to evaluate the impact of charter schools on student achievement, families and communities, and share best practices

between charter schools and traditional public schools. The study will include comprehensive analysis of student achievement data to then identify high quality charter schools to participate in a multi case qualitative study to identify specific evidence based best practices within school choice contexts. The outcomes of the study will include a public dissemination of the findings and implementation of relevant findings of IDOE efforts while providing technical assistance and professional development to CSP sub grantees.

1.4 SUMMARY SCOPE OF WORK

Funds have been awarded with the 2017 CSP grant to conduct a research study utilizing school choice data set to evaluate the impact of charter schools on student achievement, families and communities, and share best practices between charter schools and traditional public schools. The study will include comprehensive analysis of student achievement data to then identify high quality charter schools to participate in a multi case qualitative study to identify specific evidence based best practices within school choice contexts. The outcomes of the study will include a public dissemination of the findings and implementation of relevant findings of IDOE efforts while providing technical assistance and professional development to CSP sub grantees. The following information are examples of questions to be answered by the desired research study:

- The effects of CSP funding and CSP administrative activities on later charter school student achievement (as measured by ISTEP+ or ILEARN and the growth model—corresponds to performance indicators);
- The effects of CSP funding and CSP administrative activities in charter schools and closing achievement gaps for minority and free/reduced lunch students (as measured by demographic data, ISTEP+/ ILEARN and subcategories);
- The effects of CSP funding and administrative activities on charter school fiscal stability and fiscal responsibility for long-term viability, including per-pupil costs of running a charter school and the most efficient and effective uses of CSP funds (as measured by monitoring reports and charter renewal);
- What are the connections between the amount of CSP funding received and a school's academic success?
- Are funded charter schools academically successful, and if so, how have CSP funds contributed to their academic success?
- Does CSP funding have an effect on charter schools' closing achievement gaps? If so, to what extent?
- What are per-pupil costs of funding charter schools (in other words, what is the optimal amount of CSP funding to be awarded each year), and what are the most efficient and ultimately effective uses of CSP funds?
- What types of activities should the SEA conduct in order to improve awareness and support?
- The effects of CSP funding and CSP administrative activities on promoting diverse demographics in charter schools
- What are the demographics of charter schools in Indiana? Have those demographics changed over time, and if so, how and why?
- What level of awareness do parents have of charter schools? What additional information do parents need in order to make

informed decisions about charter schools?

- What types of activities should the SEA conduct in order to improve awareness for families?
- **The 5-year project will include interim progress reports to IDOE to be made, at a minimum, on an annual basis with a summative report upon project completion.**

Because federal funds may be associated with the evaluation of the Charter School Program: *Quality Counts* awarded as a result of this RFS, any vendor responding should be familiar with the federal rules regarding contractor suspension, disbarment and exclusion. Before awarding a contract, the State will review the performance and integrity information available from the System for Award Management (SAM) Exclusions.

1.5 RFS OUTLINE

The outline of this RFS document is described below:

Section	Description
Section 1 – General Information and Requested Products or Services	This section provides an overview of the RFS, general timelines for the process, and a summary of the products/services being solicited by the State/Agency via this RFS
Section 2 – Proposal Preparation Instruction	This section provides instructions on the format and content of the RFS including a Letter of Transmittal, Business Proposal, Technical Proposal, and a Cost Proposal
Section 3 – Proposal Evaluation Criteria	This sections discusses the evaluation criteria to be used to evaluate respondents' proposals
Attachment A	M/WBE Participation Plan Form

Attachment B	Sample Contract
Attachment C	Indiana Economic Impact Form - While Indiana Preference is not part of scoring, this form is required.
Attachment D	Cost Proposal Template
Attachment E	Business Proposal Template
Attachment F	Technical Proposal Template
Attachment G	Q&A Template

1.6 PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

A pre-proposal conference will be held on March 26, 2018 at 2:00PM in Indiana Government Center South Conference Center Room 14. At this conference, potential respondents may ask questions about the RFS and the RFS process. Respondents are reminded that no answers issued verbally at the conference are binding on the State and any information provided at the conference, unless it is later issued in writing, also is not binding on the State. Additionally, the State will only be answering RFS process-related questions (i.e. how to fill out IDOA forms, etc.). No scope of work questions will be addressed.

1.7 QUESTION/INQUIRY PROCESS

All questions/inquiries regarding this RFS must be submitted in writing by the deadline of **3:00 p.m. Eastern Time** on April 2, 2018. Questions/Inquiries may be submitted in Attachment G, Q&A Template, via email to RFP@idoa.IN.gov and must be received by the time and date indicated above.

Following the question/inquiry due date, Procurement Division personnel will compile a list of the questions/inquiries submitted by all Respondents. The responses will be posted to the IDOA website according to the RFS timetable established in Section 1.24. The question/inquiry and answer link will become active after responses to all questions have been compiled. Only answers posted on the IDOA website will be considered official and valid by the State. No Respondent shall rely upon, take any action, or make any decision based upon any verbal communication with any State employee.

Inquiries are not to be directed to any staff member of the Indiana Department of Education, or any other participating agency. Such action may disqualify Respondent from further consideration for a contract resulting from this RFS.

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFS, or if additional information is necessary for a clearer interpretation of provisions of this RFS prior to the due date for proposals, an addendum will be posted on the IDOA website. If such addenda issuance is necessary, the Procurement Division may extend the due date and time of proposals to accommodate such additional information requirements, if required.

1.8 DUE DATE FOR PROPOSALS

All proposals must be received at the address below by the Procurement Division no later than **3:00**

p.m. Eastern Time on May 1, 2018. Each Respondent must submit **one original CD-ROM (marked "Original")** and four (4) complete copies **on separate CD-ROMs** of the proposal, including the Transmittal Letter and other related documentation as required in this RFS. The **original** CD-ROM will be considered the official response in evaluating responses for scoring and protest resolution. **The respondent's proposal response on this CD may be posted on the IDOA website, (<http://www.in.gov/idoa/2462.htm>) if recommended for selection.** Each copy of the proposal must follow the format indicated in Section Two of this document. Unnecessarily elaborate brochures or other presentations, beyond those necessary to present a complete and effective proposal, are not desired. All proposals must be addressed to:

Austin Jones
Indiana Department of Administration
Procurement Division
402 West Washington Street, Room W468
Indianapolis, IN 46204

If you hand-deliver solicitation responses:

To facilitate weapons restrictions at Indiana Government Center North and Indiana Government Center South, as of **July 21, 2008**, the public must enter IGC buildings through a designated public entrance. The public entrance to Indiana Government Center South is located at 10 N. Senate Avenue (East side of building). This entrance will be equipped with metal detectors and screening devices monitored by Indiana State Police Capitol Police.

Passing through the public entrance may take some time. Please be sure to take this information into consideration if your company plans to submit a solicitation response in person.

If you ship or mail solicitation responses: United States Postal Express and Certified Mail are both delivered to the Government Center Central Mailroom, and not directly to the Procurement Division. It is the responsibility of the Respondent to make sure that solicitation responses are received by the Procurement Division at the Department of Administration's reception desk on or before the designated time and date. Late submissions will not be accepted. The Department of Administration, Procurement Division clock is the official time for all solicitation submissions.

Regardless of delivery method, all proposal packages must be **sealed** and clearly marked with the RFS number, due date, and time due. IDOA will not accept any unsealed bids. Any proposal received by the Department of Administration, Procurement Division after the due date and time will not be considered. Any late proposals will be returned, unopened, to the Respondent upon request. All rejected proposals not claimed within 30 days of the proposal due date will be destroyed.

No more than one proposal per Respondent may be submitted.

The State accepts no obligations for costs incurred by Respondents in anticipation of being awarded a contract.

1.9 MODIFICATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF OFFERS

Modifications to responses to this RFS may only be made in the manner and format consistent with the submittal of the original response, acceptable to IDOA and clearly identified as a modification.

The Respondent's authorized representative may withdraw the proposal, in person, prior to the due date. Proper documentation and identification will be required before the Procurement Division will release the withdrawn proposal. The authorized representative will be required to sign a receipt for the withdrawn proposal.

Modification to, or withdrawal of, a proposal received by the Procurement Division after the exact hour and date specified for receipt of proposals will not be considered.

1.10 PRICING

Pricing on this RFS must be firm and remain open for a period of not less than 180 days from the proposal due date. Any attempt to manipulate the format of the document, attach caveats to pricing, or submit pricing that deviates from the current format will put your proposal at risk.

Please refer to the Cost Proposal sub-section under Section 2 for a detailed discussion of the proposal pricing format and requirements.

1.11 PROPOSAL CLARIFICATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS, AND CONTRACT DISCUSSIONS

The State reserves the right to request clarifications on proposals submitted to the State. The State also reserves the right to conduct proposal discussions, either oral or written, with Respondents. These discussions could include request for additional information, request for cost or technical proposal revision, etc. Additionally, in conducting discussions, the State may use information derived from proposals submitted by competing respondents only if the identity of the respondent providing the information is not disclosed to others. The State will provide equivalent information to all respondents which have been chosen for discussions. Discussions, along with negotiations with responsible respondents may be conducted for any appropriate purpose.

The Procurement Division will schedule all discussions. Any information gathered through oral discussions must be confirmed in writing.

A sample contract is provided in Attachment B. Any requested changes to the sample contract must be submitted with your response (See Section 2.3.5 for details). The State reserves the right to reject any of these requested changes. It is the State's expectation that any material elements of the contract will be substantially finalized prior to contract award.

1.12 BEST AND FINAL OFFER

The State may request best and final offers from those Respondents determined by the State to be reasonably viable for contract award. However, the State reserves the right to award a contract on the basis of initial proposals received. Therefore, each proposal should contain the Respondent's best terms from a price and technical standpoint.

Following evaluation of the best and final offers, the State may select for final contract negotiations/execution the offers that are most advantageous to the State, considering cost and the evaluation criteria in this RFS.

1.13 REFERENCE SITE VISITS

The State may request a site visit to a Respondent's working support center to aid in the evaluation of the Respondent's proposal. Site visits, if required will be discussed in the technical proposal.

1.14 TYPE AND TERM OF CONTRACT

The State intends to sign a contract with one or more Respondent(s) to fulfill the requirements in this RFS.

The term of the contract shall be for a period of one (1) years from the date of contract execution. There may be four (4) one-year renewals for a total of five (5) years at the State's option.

1.15 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Respondents are advised that materials contained in proposals are subject to the Access to Public Records Act (APRA), IC 5-14-3 *et seq.*, and, after the contract award, the entire RFS file may be viewed and copied by any member of the public, including news agencies and competitors. Respondents claiming a statutory exception to the APRA must indicate so in the Transmittal Letter. Confidential Information must also be clearly marked in a separate folder on any included CD-ROM. The Respondent must also specify which statutory exception of APRA that applies. The State reserves the right to make determinations of confidentiality. If the Respondent does not identify the statutory exception, the Procurement Division will not consider the submission confidential. If the State does not agree that the information designated is confidential under one of the disclosure exceptions to APRA, it may seek the opinion of the Public Access Counselor. Prices are not confidential information.

1.16 TAXES

Proposals should not include any tax from which the State is exempt.

1.17 PROCUREMENT DIVISION REGISTRATION

In order to receive an award, you must be registered as a bidder with the Department of Administration, Procurement Division. Therefore, to ensure there is no delay in the award all Respondents are strongly encouraged to register prior to submission of their response. Respondents should go to www.in.gov/idoa/2464.htm.

1.18 SECRETARY OF STATE REGISTRATION

If awarded the contract, the Respondent will be required to register, and be in good standing, with the Secretary of State. The registration requirement is applicable to all limited liability partnerships, limited partnerships, corporations, S-corporations, nonprofit corporations and limited liability Companies. Information concerning registration with the Secretary of State may be obtained by contacting:

Secretary of State of Indiana
Corporation Division
402 West Washington Street, E018

Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-6576
www.in.gov/sos

1.19 COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

Responses to this RFS serve as a representation that it has no current or outstanding criminal, civil, or enforcement actions initiated by the State, and it agrees that it will immediately notify the State of any such actions. The Respondent also certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently in arrears in payment of its taxes, permit fees or other statutory, regulatory or judicially required payments to the State. The Respondent agrees that the State may confirm, at any time, that no such liabilities exist, and, if such liabilities are discovered, that State may bar the Respondent from contracting with the State, cancel existing contracts, withhold payments to setoff such obligations, and withhold further payments or purchases until the entity is current in its payments on its liability to the State and has submitted proof of such payment to the State.

1.20 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITMENT

Pursuant to IC 4-13-16.5 and in accordance with 25 IAC 5, Executive Order 13-04 and IC 5-22-14-3.5, it has been determined that there is a reasonable expectation of minority, woman, and Indiana veteran business enterprises subcontracting opportunities on a contract awarded under this RFS. Therefore a contract goal of 8% for Minority Business Enterprises and 8% for Woman Business Enterprises have been established and all respondents will be expected to comply with the regulation set forth in 25 IAC 5, Executive Order 13-04 and IC 5- 22-14-3.5.

Failure to address these requirements may impact the evaluation of your proposal.

1.21 MINORITY & WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES RFS SUBCONTRACTOR COMMITMENT (MWBE)

In accordance with 25 IAC 5-5, the respondent is expected to submit with its proposal a Minority & Women's Business Enterprises RFS Subcontractor Commitment Form. The Form must show that there are, participating in the proposed contract, Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women Business Enterprises (WBE) listed in the Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Division (MWBED) directory of certified firms located at <http://www.in.gov/idoa/2352.htm>.

If participation is met through use of vendors who supply products and/or services directly to the Respondent, the Respondent must provide a description of products and/or services provided that are directly related to this proposal and the cost of direct supplies for this proposal. Respondents must complete the Subcontractor Commitment Form in its entirety. The amount entered in **"TOTAL BID AMOUNT"** should match the amount entered in the Attachment D, Cost Proposal Template.

Failure to meet these goals will affect the evaluation of your Proposal. The Department reserves the right to verify all information included on the MWBE Subcontractor Commitment Form.

Prime Contractors must ensure that the proposed subcontractors meet the following criteria:

- Must be listed on the IDOA Directory of Certified Firms, **on or before** the proposal due date
- Prime Contractor must include with their proposal the subcontractor's M/WBE Certification Letter provided by IDOA, to show current status of certification.
- Each firm may only serve as one classification – MBE, WBE, or IVOSB (see section 1.22)
- A Prime Contractor who is an MBE or WBE must meet subcontractor goals by using other listed certified firms. Certified Prime Contractors cannot count their own workforce or companies to meet this requirement.
- **Must serve a Commercially Useful Function (CUF). The firm must serve a value-added purpose on the engagement, as confirmed by the State.**
- Must provide goods or service only in the industry area for which it is certified as listed in the directory at <http://www.in.gov/idoa/2352.htm>
- Must be used to provide the goods or services specific to the contract
- National Diversity Plans are generally not acceptable

MINORITY & WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES RFS SUBCONTRACTOR LETTER OF COMMITMENT (MWBE)

A signed letter(s), on company letterhead, from the MBE and/or WBE must accompany the MWBE Subcontractor Commitment Form. Each letter shall state and will serve as acknowledgement from the MBE and/or WBE of its subcontract amount, a description of products and/or services to be provided on this project, and approximate date the subcontractor will perform work on this contract. The State may deny evaluation points if the letter(s) is not attached, not on company letterhead, not signed and/or does not reference and match the subcontract amount, subcontract amount as a percentage of the **“TOTAL BID AMOUNT”** and the anticipated period that the Subcontractor will perform work for this solicitation.

By submission of the Proposal, the Respondent acknowledges and agrees to be bound by the regulatory processes involving the State's M/WBE Program. Questions involving the regulations governing the MWBE Subcontractor Commitment Form should be directed to: Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Division at (317) 232-3061 or <http://www.in.gov/idoa/2352.htm>.

1.22 INDIANA VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTOR COMMITMENT (IVOSB)

– In compliance of Federal Code 2CFR 200.319 - this RFS/Contract contains federal funds and this preference may not be considered or applied.

1.23 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Respondent specifically agrees to comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.* and 47 U.S.C. 225).

1.24 SUMMARY OF MILESTONES

The following timeline is only an illustration of the RFS process. The dates associated with each

step are not to be considered binding. Due to the unpredictable nature of the evaluation period, these dates are commonly subject to change. At the conclusion of the evaluation process, all Respondents will be informed of the evaluation team's findings.

Key RFS Dates

Activity	Date
Issue of RFS	March 19, 2018
Pre-Proposal Conference	March 26, 2018 at 2:00 PM EST
Deadline to Submit Written Questions	April 2, 2018 by 3:00 PM EST
Response to Written Questions/RFS Amendments	April 9, 2018
Submission of Proposals	May 1, 2018 by 3:00 PM EST
<i>The dates for the following activities are target dates only. These activities may be completed earlier or later than the date shown.</i>	
Proposal Evaluation	TBD
Proposal Discussions/Clarifications (if necessary)	TBD
Oral Presentations (if necessary)	TBD
Best and Final Offers (if necessary)	TBD
RFS Award Recommendation	7/1/2018

1.25 EVIDENCE OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (25 IAC 1.1-1-5)

Removed for this solicitation.

1.26 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Any person, firm or entity that assisted with and/or participated in the preparation of this RFS document is prohibited from submitting a proposal to this specific RFS. For the purposes of this RFS "person" means a state officer, employee, special state appointee, or any individual or entity working with or advising the State or involved in the preparation of this RFS proposal. This prohibition would also apply to an entity who hires, within a one-year period prior to the publication of this RFS, a person that assisted with and/or participated in the preparation of this RFS.

SECTION TWO PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 GENERAL

To facilitate the timely evaluation of proposals, a standard format for proposal submission has been developed and is described in this section. All Respondents are required to format their proposals in a manner consistent with the guidelines described below:

- Each item must be addressed in the Respondent's proposal.
- The Transmittal Letter must be in the form of a letter. The business and technical proposals must be organized under the specific section titles as listed below.
- The electronic copies of the proposal submitted via CD-ROM should be organized to mirror the sections below and the attachments.
- Each item, i.e. Transmittal Letter, Business Proposal, Technical Proposal, Cost Proposal, etc., must be separate standalone electronic files on the CD-ROM. Please do not submit your proposal as one large file.
- Whenever possible, please submit all attachments in their original format.
- Confidential Information must also be clearly marked in a separate folder/file on any included CD-ROM.

2.2 TRANSMITTAL LETTER

The Transmittal Letter must address the following topics except those specifically identified as "optional."

2.2.1 Agreement with Requirement in listed in Section 1

The Respondent must explicitly acknowledge understanding of the general information presented in Section 1 and agreement with any requirements/conditions listed in Section 1.

2.2.2 Summary of Ability and Desire to Supply the Required Products or Services

The Transmittal Letter must briefly summarize the Respondent's ability to supply the requested products and/or services that meet the requirements defined in Section 2.4 of this RFS. The letter must also contain a statement indicating the Respondent's willingness to provide the requested products and/or services subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the RFS including, but not limited to, the State's mandatory contract clauses.

2.2.3 Signature of Authorized Representative

A person authorized to commit the Respondent to its representations and who can certify that the information offered in the proposal meets all general conditions including the information requested in Section 2.3.4, must sign the Transmittal Letter. **In the Transmittal Letter, please indicate the principal contact for the**

proposal along with an address, telephone and fax number as well as an e-mail address, if that contact is different than the individual authorized for signature.

2.2.4 Respondent Notification

Unless otherwise indicated in the Transmittal Letter, Respondents will be notified via e-mail.

It is the Respondent's obligation to notify the Procurement Division of any changes in any address that may have occurred since the origination of this solicitation. The Procurement Division will not be held responsible for incorrect vendor/contractor addresses.

2.2.5 Confidential Information

Respondents are advised that materials contained in proposals are subject to the Access to Public Records Act (APRA), IC 5-14-3 *et seq.* (see section 1.16).

Provide the following information:

- List all documents where claiming a statutory exemption to the APRA;
- Specify which statutory exception of APRA that applies for each document;
- Provide a description explaining the manner in which the statutory exception to the APRA applies for each document.

2.2.6 Other Information

This item is optional. Any other information the Respondent may wish to briefly summarize will be acceptable.

2.3 BUSINESS PROPOSAL

The Business Proposal must address the following topics except those specifically identified as "optional." **The Business Proposal Template is Attachment E.**

2.3.1 General (optional)

This section of the business proposal may be used to introduce or summarize any information the Respondent deems relevant or important to the State's successful acquisition of the products and/or services requested in this RFS.

2.3.2 Respondent's Company Structure

The legal form of the Respondent's business organization, the state in which formed (accompanied by a certificate of authority), the types of business ventures in which the organization is involved, and a chart of the organization are to be included in this section. If the organization includes more than one product division, the division

responsible for the development and marketing of the requested products and/or services in the United States must be described in more detail than other components of the organization.

2.3.3 Company Financial Information

This section must include the Respondent's financial statement, including an income statement and balance sheet, for each of the two most recently completed fiscal years. The financial statements must demonstrate the Respondent's financial stability. If the financial statements being provided by the Respondent are those of a parent or holding company, additional financial information should be provided for the entity/organization directly responding to this RFS.

2.3.4 Integrity of Company Structure and Financial Reporting

This section must include a statement indicating that the CEO and/or CFO has taken personal responsibility for the thoroughness and correctness of any/all financial information supplied with this proposal. The particular areas of interest to the State in considering corporate responsibility include the following items: separation of audit functions from corporate boards and board members, if any, the manner in which the organization assures board integrity, and the separation of audit functions and consulting services. The State will consider the information offered in this section to determine the responsibility of the Respondent under IC 5-22-16-1(d).

The Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002, H.R. 3763, is NOT directly applicable to this procurement; however, its goals and objectives may be used as a guide in the determination of corporate responsibility for financial reports.

2.3.5 Contract Terms/Clauses

A sample contract that the state expects to execute with the successful Respondent(s) is provided in Attachment B. This contract contains both mandatory and non-mandatory clauses. Mandatory clauses are listed below and are non-negotiable. Other clauses are highly desirable. It is the State's expectation that the final contract will be substantially similar to the sample contract provided in Attachment B.

In your Transmittal Letter please indicate acceptance of these mandatory contract terms (see section 2.2.2). In this section please review the rest of the contract and indicate your acceptance of the non-mandatory contract clauses. If a non-mandatory clause is not acceptable as worded, suggest specific alternative wording to address issues raised by the specific clause. If you require additional contract terms please include them in this section. To reiterate it's the State's strong desire to not deviate from the contract provided in the attachment and as such the State reserves the right to reject any and all of these requested changes.

The mandatory contract terms are as follows:

- Duties of Contractor, Rate of Pay, and Term of Contract
- Authority to Bind Contractor
- Compliance with Laws
- Drug-Free Workplace Provision and Certification
- Employment Eligibility
- Funding Cancellation
- Governing Laws
- Indemnification
- Information Technology
- Non-Discrimination Clause
- Ownership of Documents and Materials
- Payments
- Penalties/Interest/Attorney's Fees
- Termination for Convenience
- Non-Collusion and Acceptance

Any or all portions of this RFS and any or all portions of the Respondents response may be incorporated as part of the final contract

2.3.6 References

The Respondent must include a list of at least three (3) clients for whom the Respondent has provided products and/or services that are the same or similar to those products and/or services requested in this RFS. The Respondent must submit references relevant to the complexity of the services required in this RFS, including experience in managing statewide high stakes online testing and the use of the Respondent's specific products proposed to meet the standards outlined in this proposal. Information provided should include the name, address, and telephone number of the client facility and the name, title, and phone/fax numbers of a person who may be contacted for further information. In addition, a summary of the services provided to the client and the time period services were delivered should be included.

2.3.7 Registration to do Business

Secretary of State

If awarded the contract, the Respondent will be required to be registered, and be in good standing, with the Secretary of State. The registration requirement is applicable to all limited liability partnerships, limited partnerships, corporations, S-corporations, nonprofit corporations and limited liability companies. The Respondent must indicate the status of registration, if applicable, in this section of the proposal.

Department of Administration, Procurement Division

Additionally, respondents must be registered with the IDOA. This can be accomplished on-line at <http://www.in.gov/idoa/2464.htm>.

The IDOA Procurement Division maintains two databases of vendor information. The Bidder registration database is set up for vendors to register if you are interested in selling a product or service to the State of Indiana. Respondents may register on-line at no cost to become a Bidder with the State of Indiana. To complete the on-line Bidder registration, go to <http://www.in.gov/idoa/2464.htm>. The Bidder registration offers email notification of upcoming solicitation opportunities, corresponding to the Bidder's area(s) of interest, selected during the registration process. Respondents do need to be registered to bid on and receive email notifications. Completion of the Bidder registration will result in your name being added to the Bidder's Database, for email notification. The Bidder registration requires some general business information, an indication of the types of goods and services you can offer the State of Indiana, and locations(s) within the state that you can supply or service. There is no fee to be placed in Procurement Division's Bidder Database. To receive an award, you must be registered as a bidder. Problems or questions concerning the registration process or the registration form can be e-mailed to Amey Redding, Vendor Registration Coordinator, aredding@idoa.in.gov, or you may reach her by phone at (317) 234-3542.

IVOSB entities (whether a prime or subcontractor) must have a bidder ID. If registered with IDOA, this should have already been provided (as with MWBEs). IVOSBs that are only registered with the Federal Center for Veterans Business Enterprise will need to ensure that they also have a Bidder ID provided by IDOA.

2.3.8 Authorizing Document

Respondent personnel signing the Transmittal Letter of the proposal must be legally authorized by the organization to commit the organization contractually. This section shall contain proof of such authority. A copy of corporate bylaws or a corporate resolution adopted by the board of directors indicating this authority will fulfill this requirement.

2.3.9 Subcontractors

The Respondent is responsible for the performance of any obligations that may result from this RFS, and shall not be relieved by the non-performance of any subcontractor. Any Respondent's proposal must identify all subcontractors and describe the contractual relationship between the Respondent and each subcontractor. Either a copy of the executed subcontract or a letter of agreement over the official signature of the firms involved must accompany each proposal.

Any subcontracts entered into by the Respondent must be in compliance with all State statutes, and will be subject to the provisions thereof. For each portion of the proposed products or services to be provided by a subcontractor, the technical proposal must include the identification of the functions to be provided by the subcontractor and the subcontractor's related qualifications and experience.

The combined qualifications and experience of the Respondent and any or all subcontractors will be considered in the State's evaluation. The Respondent must

furnish information to the State as to the amount of the subcontract, the qualifications of the subcontractor for guaranteeing performance, and any other data that may be required by the State. All subcontracts held by the Respondent must be made available upon request for inspection and examination by appropriate State officials, and such relationships must meet with the approval of the State.

The Respondent must list any subcontractor's name, address and the state in which formed that are proposed to be used in providing the required products or services. The subcontractor's responsibilities under the proposal, anticipated dollar amount for subcontract, the subcontractor's form of organization, and an indication from the subcontractor of a willingness to carry out these responsibilities are to be included for each subcontractor. This assurance in no way relieves the Respondent of any responsibilities in responding to this RFS or in completing the commitments documented in the proposal. The Respondent must indicate which, if any, subcontractors qualify as a Minority, Women, or Veteran Owned Business under IC 4-13-16.5-1 and Executive Order 13-04 and IC 5-22-14-3.5. See Sections 1.21, 1.22 and Attachments A/A1 for Minority, Women, and Veteran Business information.

IVOSB entities (whether a prime or subcontractor) must have a bidder ID. If registered with IDOA, this should have already been provided (as with MWBEs). IVOSBs that are only registered with the Federal Center for Veterans Business Enterprise will need to ensure that they also have a Bidder ID provided by IDOA (please see section 2.3.7, Department of Administration, Procurement Division for details).

2.3.10 Evidence of Financial Responsibility

This section will indicate the ability to provide the mandatory evidence of financial responsibility. See Section 1.25 for details.

Notwithstanding any other provisions relating to the beginning of the term, any contract will not become effective until the evidence of financial responsibility is delivered in the correct form and amount to the address indicated in Section 1.25.

2.3.11 General Information

Each Respondent must enter your company's general information including contact information.

2.3.12 Experience Serving State Governments

Each Respondent is asked to please provide a brief description of your company's experience in serving state governments and/or quasi-governmental accounts.

2.3.13 Experience Serving Similar Clients

Each Respondent is asked to please describe your company's experience in serving clients of a similar size to the State that also had a similar scope. Please provide specific clients and detailed examples.

2.3.14 Indiana Preferences

– In compliance of Federal Code 2CFR 200.319 - this RFS/Contract contains federal funds and this preference may not be considered or applied.

2.4 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

The Technical Proposal must be divided into the sections as described below. Every point made in each section must be addressed in the order given. The same outline numbers must be used in the response. RFS language should not be repeated within the response. Where appropriate, supporting documentation may be referenced by a page and paragraph number. However, when this is done, the body of the technical proposal must contain a meaningful summary of the referenced material. The referenced document must be included as an appendix to the technical proposal with referenced sections clearly marked. If there are multiple references or multiple documents, these must be listed and organized for ease of use by the State. **The Technical Proposal Template is Attachment F.**

2.4.1 Organizational Capacity

1. Please detail your organization's standard process for initiating research studies as part of an overall evaluation framework. Please note any previous examples of providing similar statewide work.
2. Please describe in detail your organization's ability to provide statewide support, a statewide summary, and detail the manner in which findings from the summary will be disseminated. Please note previous examples of providing similar statewide work.

2.4.2 Program Quality Observations

1. Please describe in detail your organization's ability and previous experience in creating procedures for conducting program quality evaluations in addition to communicating observations and results with a diverse set of stakeholders.
2. Please describe in detail your organization's ability and previous experience in evaluating charter school best practices that may specifically address: equal access for students; ensuring demographic diversity; family and community engagement; accountability and transparency; and fiscal responsibility.

2.4.3 Fiscal Evaluation

1. Please describe your organization's procedures and level of experience in facilitating a review of various schools' fiscal management frameworks and fiscal stability.

Preferred Vendor Experience:

- 7+ years of documented experience and success in conducting research centered on the evaluation and support for public schools, including charter schools.

2.5 COST PROPOSAL

The Cost Proposal Template is Attachment D.

The Cost Proposal must be submitted in the original format. Any attempt to manipulate the format of the Cost Proposal document, attach caveats to pricing, or submit pricing that deviates from the current format will put your proposal at risk.

Cost Proposal Narrative

The Respondent should provide a brief narrative (not longer than two pages) in support of each Cost Proposal item. The narrative should be focused on clarifying how the proposed prices correspond directly to the Respondent's Technical Proposal. For example, evaluators will expect detailed explanation of *Maintenance and Support* to correspond to *Maintenance and Support items* if described in the Technical Proposal. **Please compose and return this document in a Microsoft Word format.**

Cost Assumptions, Conditions and Constraints

The respondent should list and describe as part of its Cost Proposal any special cost assumptions, conditions, and/or constraints relative to, or which impact, the prices presented on the Cost Schedules. It is of particular importance to describe any assumptions made by the respondent in the development of the respondent's Technical Proposal that have a material impact on price. It is in the best interest of the respondent to make explicit the assumptions, conditions, and/or constraints that underlie the values presented on the Cost Schedules. Assumptions, conditions or constraints that conflict with the RFS requirements are not acceptable. **Please compose and return this document in a Microsoft Word format.**

2.6 INDIANA ECONOMIC IMPACT

All companies desiring to do business with state agencies must complete an "Indiana Economic Impact" form (Attachment C). The collection and recognition of the information collected with the Indiana Economic Impact form places a strong emphasis on the economic impact a project will have on Indiana and its residents regardless of where a business is located. The collection of this information does not restrict any company or firm from doing business with the state. The amount entered in Line 16 "Total amount of this proposal, bid, or current contract" should match the amount entered in the Attachment D, Cost Proposal Template.

2.7 BUY INDIANA INITIATIVE/INDIANA COMPANY

– In compliance of Federal Code 2CFR 200.319 - this RFS/Contract contains federal funds and this preference may not be considered or applied.

SECTION THREE PROPOSAL EVALUATION

3.1 PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCEDURE

The State has selected a group of personnel to act as a proposal evaluation team. Subgroups of this team, consisting of one or more team members, will be responsible for evaluating proposals with regard to compliance with RFS requirements. All evaluation personnel will use the evaluation criteria stated in Section 3.2. The Commissioner of IDOA or their designee will, in the exercise of their sole discretion, determine which proposals offer the best means of servicing the interests of the State. The exercise of this discretion will be final.

The procedure for evaluating the proposals against the evaluation criteria will be as follows:

- 3.1.1 Each proposal will be evaluated for adherence to requirements on a pass/fail basis. Proposals that are incomplete or otherwise do not conform to proposal submission requirements may be eliminated from consideration.
- 3.1.2 Each proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the categories included in Section 3.2. A point score has been established for each category.
- 3.1.3 If technical proposals are close to equal, greater weight may be given to price.
- 3.1.4 Based on the results of this evaluation, the qualifying proposal determined to be the most advantageous to the State, taking into account all of the evaluation factors, may be selected by IDOA and IDOE for further action, such as contract negotiations. If, however, IDOA and IDOE decide that no proposal is sufficiently advantageous to the State, the State may take whatever further action is deemed necessary to fulfill its needs. If, for any reason, a proposal is selected and it is not possible to consummate a contract with the Respondent, IDOA may begin contract preparation with the next qualified Respondent or determine that no such alternate proposal exists.

3.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based upon the proven ability of the Respondent to satisfy the requirements of the RFS in a cost-effective manner. Each of the evaluation criteria categories is described below with a brief explanation of the basis for evaluation in that category. The points associated with each category are indicated following the category name (total maximum points = 102). For further information, please reference Section 3.2.3 below. If any one or more of the listed criteria on which the responses to this RFS will be evaluated are found to be inconsistent or incompatible with applicable federal laws, regulations or policies, the specific criterion or criteria will be disregarded and the responses will be evaluated and scored without taking into account such criterion or criteria.

Summary of Evaluation Criteria:

Criteria	Points
1. Adherence to Mandatory Requirements	Pass/Fail
2. Management Assessment/Quality (Business and Technical Proposal)	60 available points
3. Cost (Cost Proposal)	30 available points
4. Minority Business Enterprise Subcontractor Commitment	5 (1 bonus point is available, see Section 3.2.6)
5. Women Business Enterprise Subcontractor Commitment	5 (1 bonus point is available, see Section 3.2.6)
Total	100 (102 if bonus awarded)

All proposals will be evaluated using the following approach.

Step 1

In this step proposals will be evaluated only against Criteria 1 to ensure that they adhere to Mandatory Requirements. Any proposals not meeting the Mandatory Requirements will be disqualified.

Step 2

The proposals that meet the Mandatory Requirements will then be scored based on Criteria 2 and 3 ONLY. This scoring will have a maximum possible score of 90 points. All proposals will be ranked on the basis of their combined scores for Criteria 2 and 3 ONLY. This ranking will be used to create a “short list”. Any proposal not making the “short list” will not be considered for any further evaluation.

Step 2 may include one or more rounds of proposal discussions, oral presentations, clarifications, demonstrations, etc. focused on cost and other proposal elements. Step 2 may include a second “short list”.

Step 3

The short-listed proposals will then be evaluated based on all the entire evaluation criteria outlined in the table above.

If the State conducts additional rounds of discussions and a BAFO round which lead to changes in either the technical or cost proposal for the short listed Respondents, their scores will be recomputed.

The section below describes the different evaluation criteria.

- 3.2.1 Adherence to Requirements – Pass/Fail
Respondents passing this category move to Phase 2 and proposal is evaluated for Management Assessment/Quality and Price.

The following 2 categories cannot exceed 90 points.

- 3.2.2 Management Assessment/Quality
60 available points

- 3.2.3 Price
30 available points

Cost scores will then be normalized to one another, based on the lowest cost proposal evaluated. The lowest cost proposal receives a total of 30 points. The normalization formula is as follows:

$$\text{Respondent's Cost Score} = (\text{Lowest Cost Proposal} / \text{Total Cost of Proposal}) \times 30$$

- 3.2.4 Indiana Economic Impact - Deleted

– In compliance of Federal Code 2CFR 200.319 - this RFS/Contract contains federal funds and this preference may not be considered or applied.

- 3.2.5 Buy Indiana Initiative – Deleted

– In compliance of Federal Code 2CFR 200.319 - this RFS/Contract contains federal funds and this preference may not be considered or applied.

- 3.2.6 Minority (5 points) & Women's Business (5 points) Subcontractor Commitment - (10 points).

The following formula will be used to determine points to be awarded based on the MBE and WBE goals listed in Section 1.20 of this RFS. Scoring is conducted based on an assigned 10-point, plus possible 2 bonus-points, scale (MBE: Possible 5 points + 1 bonus point, WBE: Possible 5 points + 1 bonus Point). Points are assigned for respective MBE participation and WBE participation based upon the BAFO meeting or exceeding the established goals.

If the respondent's commitment percentage is less than the established MBE or WBE goal, the maximum points achieved will be awarded according to the following schedule:

%	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%
Pts.	.625	1.25	1.875	2.5	3.125	3.75	4.375	5.0

NOTE: Fractional percentages will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage. (e.g. 7.49% will be rounded down to 7% = 4.375 pts., 7.50% will be rounded up to 8% = 5.00 pts.)

If the respondent's commitment percentage is rounded down to 0% for MBE or WBE participation the respondent will receive 0 points.

If the respondent's commitment percentage is 0% for MBE or WBE participation, a deduction of 1 point will be discounted on the respective MBE or WBE score.

The respondent with the greatest applicable CUF participation which exceeds the stated goal for the respective MBE or WBE category will be awarded 6 points (5 points plus 1 bonus point). In cases where there is a tie for the greatest applicable CUF participation and both firms exceed the goal for the respective MBE/WBE category both firms will receive 6 points.

3.2.7 Indiana Veteran Owned Small Business Subcontractor Commitment - Deleted.

– In compliance of Federal Code 2CFR 200.319 - this RFS/Contract contains federal funds and this preference may not be considered or applied.

3.2.8 Qualified State Agency Preference Scoring

When applicable, pursuant to Indiana Code 5-22-13, a qualified state agency submitting a response to this RFS will be awarded preference points for Minority, Women's, and Indiana Veteran Business Enterprise equal the Respondent awarded the highest combined points awarded for such preferences in the scoring of this RFS.

The Commissioner of IDOA or their designee will, in the exercise of their sole discretion, determine which proposal(s) offer the best means of servicing the interests of the State. The exercise of this discretion will be final.