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April 4, 2022

Stephanie Nelson – RFP 22-70622
Indiana Department of Administration
Procurement Division
402 West Washington Street, Room W468
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: RFP 22-70622

Dear Ms. Nelson,

WestEd is pleased to submit this proposal in response to the RFP for research on the Indiana I AM assessment.

WestEd is a preeminent educational research, development, and service organization with over 800 employees and 14 offices nationwide. WestEd has been a leader in moving research into practice by conducting research and development (R&D) programs, projects, and evaluations; by providing training and technical assistance; and by working with policymakers and practitioners at state and local levels to carry out large-scale school improvement and innovative change efforts.

WestEd brings substantial assessment and special education knowledge to the proposed I AM research work. Our proposed principal investigators, Dr. Marianne Perie and Dr. Jose Blackorby, are nationally-known experts in large-scale assessment and universal design for learning and have worked with multiple states and assessment consortia to design and validate alternate assessments and tools for students with significant cognitive disabilities. They will be supported by WestEd content experts, psychometricians, and special education researchers, ensuring that the Indiana Department of Education benefits from a team that can efficiently and successfully carry out work requiring expertise in multiple areas. Our team understands the landscape of alternate assessment, appropriate and effective design for students with disabilities, and measurement techniques.

WestEd is a result of a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development (FWL) and Southwest Regional Laboratory (SWRL) dated December 1, 1995. Both parent agencies were originally formed under JPAs in 1966. Both FWL and SWRL come under the signature authority of the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. As a Joint Powers Agency, WestEd has been determined by the IRS to be a public agency exempt from income taxes under Section 115 (1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, (EIN 94-3233542). Our NAICS codes are 541611, 611430, and 611710.

WestEd's bidder ID number is 0000026299. WestEd is not currently registered with the Indiana Secretary of State. WestEd is a California public agency authorized by a California Joint Powers Agreement under Section 6500 of the California Government Code. As such, WestEd does not have owners, partners, shareholders or investors and does not have articles of incorporation,



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which requires registration as a business. Furthermore, the Indiana Business Service Division website (INBiz) lists the following entities requiring registration: Corporation, S Corporation, Limited Liability Company, Nonprofit Corporation, Benefit Corporation, Limited Partnership, and Limited Liability Partnership. As none of these categories of business apply to us, WestEd, as Joint Powers Authority, is taking the position that we are exempt from registration. Once we have further confirmation from the Indiana Business Service Division, we will provide that to you. If it is deemed WestEd must register, we will secure the registration certificate.

If you have any technical questions regarding this proposed work, please contact Marianne Perie at mperie@wested.org or 202.409.3358. Mailing address is included at the bottom of this document. For contractual questions, please contact Lauren Wrotniak of the Contracts Management Department at 415.615.3136 or via email at contracts@wested.org.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Wrotniak".

Lauren Wrotniak
Interim Director, Contracts & Grants Management
WestEd