Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services

RFP Questions and Clarifications Memorandum

To: Vendors Responding to RFP Number 4582 for the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE)

From: Craig P. Orgeron, CPM, Ph.D.

Date: August 20, 2024

Subject: Responses to Questions Submitted and Clarifications to Specifications

Contact Name: Solicitations Team

Contact E-mail Address: RFP@its.ms.gov

RFP Number 4582 is hereby amended as follows:

1. **Attachment A, Section III Functional Requirements, J. Psychometric Analysis, Item 60 is being modified to read.**

    60. The Vendor must ensure that the MS Alt-ELP Standards include language proficiency expectations that reflect the language needed for ELs to acquire and demonstrate their achievement of the knowledge and skills identified in the ~~MCCRS~~ MAAAS appropriate to each grade/grade band.

2. **Attachment A, Section III Functional Requirements, J. Psychometric Analysis, Item 61 is hereby deleted.**

    61. ~~A design and development process must be detailed to support comparable interpretations of results for students tested across the assessment's versions (e.g., online versus paper-based delivery within a grade level).~~

3. **Attachment A, Section III Functional Requirements, K. Web-Based Online Test Delivery and Security Requirements, Item 81 is hereby deleted.**

    81. ~~The Vendor's online test delivery interface shall include all the information and resources required to make a test item accessible for students with various disabilities and special needs.~~

Vendor must include in their proposal a response to each amended requirement as listed above. Vendor must respond using the same terminology as provided in the original requirements.

The following questions were submitted to ITS and are being presented as they were submitted, except to remove any reference to a specific vendor. This information should assist you in formulating your response.

Question 1: Will ITS accept a Submission Cover Sheet signed via DocuSign?

Response: **No. The Submission Cover Sheet must be an original signature in blue ink.**

Question 2: *(Attachment A, Item E.23) -* Could you confirm that you are looking for an alignment between the General Summative ELP Assessment and the MS Alt-ELP Standards? Or is this a possible typo in which case the alignment requested is covered in Section E.21 and Section E.22 respectively?

Response: **For Requirement 23, MDE is addressing the Peer Review Critical Element 3.1, Overall Validity, Including Validity Based on Content for Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessments (AELPA). If the State administers an AELPA aligned with alternate ELP achievement standards, the assessment shows adequate linkage to the State's ELP standards in terms of content match (i.e., no unrelated content) and that the breadth of content and linguistic complexity determined in test design is appropriate for ELs students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.**

MDE is asking that the Alternate ELP assessment be aligned with the ELP standards.

Question 3: *(Attachment A, Item J.60) -* Please confirm the standards and assessment asked about in this requirement. The ELPA21 Alt ELP Standards are intended to align with the state's alternate academic standards, in this case the Mississippi Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (MAAAS). Are you asking for us to document the language expectations in the Alt ELP Standards that correspond to the MAAAS instead?

Response: **This should be MAAAS not MCCRS. Please refer to Amendment Number 1 above.**

Question 4: *(Attachment A, Item J.61) -* Is this requirement a duplicate of J.67?

Response: **These are duplicates. Please refer to Amendment Number 2 above.**

Question 5: *(Attachment A, Item K.81) -* Is this requirement a duplicate of K.79?

Response: **These are duplicates. Please refer to Amendment Number 3 above.**

Question 6: When will the screener window open each year?

Response: **The EL screener should be available by the third week of July for districts/schools that have modified schedules. MDE purchased an EL screener for school year 2024 - 2025. The year one screener price should not be included in the proposal budget.**

RFP responses are due on August 30, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time).

cc: ITS Project File Number 47967