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NEWS

 Texas
Education
Agency

1701 NORTH CONGRESS AVENUE

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-1494

(512) 463-9000

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TEA issues Notice of Intent to Award on Contracted Services for Student Assessment

AUSTIN – The Texas Education Agency (TEA) today issued a formal Notice of Intent to Award on its Request for Proposal (RFP) for contracted services for student assessment.

Based on a thorough review of the written proposals by internal and external evaluators, information provided during oral presentations, scoring of the pre- and post-oral presentation/product demonstration, documentation provided during “best and final offer” negotiations, and an analysis of proposed costs compared to historical costs and available funds, the student assessment contract will be split between two vendors – Educational Testing Service (ETS) and Pearson. The contract awards are contingent on final negotiations with each vendor.

TEA released a Request for Proposal for Student Assessment on Sept. 26, 2014. The project allowed proposers to bid on one or more of the following six components:

1. Program Integration
2. State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) Item and Test Development, Administration, Scoring, and Reporting for Grades 3–8 Assessments
3. STAAR Item and Test Development, Administration, Scoring, and Reporting for End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments
4. STAAR Alternate Item and Test Development, Administration, Scoring, and Reporting. STAAR Alternate is an alternate assessment based on alternate academic achievement standards that is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who receive special education services and who also meet the specific participation requirements for this assessment.
5. Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) Item and Test Development, Administration, Scoring, and Reporting. TELPAS includes reading, writing, listening, and speaking assessments for English Language Learners (ELLs).
6. Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) Administration, Scoring, and Reporting. High school students beyond ninth grade in the 2011–2012 school year must pass TAKS exit level tests in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies to be eligible to receive a diploma from a Texas public high school.

Five vendors submitted qualified proposals in response to the RFP: CTB/McGraw Hill, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), ETS, Measured Progress, and Pearson.

ETS provided a stronger response for the first three components of the RFP (Program Integration, STAAR 3–8, and STAAR EOC). The cost for ETS to provide services related to these components over the four-year period is approximately \$280 million.

Pearson provided a stronger response for the last three components of the RFP (STAAR Alternate, TELPAS and TAKS). The cost for Pearson to provide services related to these components over the four-year period is approximately \$60 million.

The Notice of Intent to Award allows TEA to commence contract development with ETS for components 1–3 of the assessment program and with Pearson for components 4–6. Contract development is expected to take at least 30 days. The new contracts are expected to begin Sept. 1, 2015. The term of any contracts resulting from this RFP shall run through Aug. 31, 2019.

A copy of the Request for Proposal can be reviewed on the Texas Education Agency website at http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Agency_Finances/Procurement_and_Historically_Underutilized_Business_Program/.

A copy of the TEA staff recommendation to the Commissioner of Education (including an overview of the RFP process, program and financial reviews of the vendor proposals, as well as scoring results for each proposal) can also be found on the Texas Education Agency website at http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Agency_Finances/Procurement_and_Historically_Underutilized_Business_Program/. Copies of the bid documents will not be available until after the final contracts are signed.

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