



**Request for Proposals
20RFP098
AISD – District Wide Professional Learning Services**

Date	Event
February 4, 2020 and February 11, 2020	Advertise/Issue Date
N/A	Pre-Proposal Conference
February 14, 2020	Due Date for Questions by 5:00 pm
February 19, 2020	Questions and Answers posted on Contract & Procurement Services' Website
March 5, 2020	RFP opening / due date at 2:00 pm CST
May 18, 2020	AISD Board Meeting for review/approval

Deliver Sealed Proposals to: Austin ISD Contract & Procurement Services 4000 S. IH-35 Frontage Road, 4th Floor Austin, TX 78704	Contact: Annie Collier Assistant Director Phone: 512-414-2124 annie.collier@austinisd.org
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- Questions must be submitted via e-mail to the contact person listed above. In the e-mail subject line, type: **Questions 20RFP098, AISD District Wide Professional Learning Services**
- Q & A and Addenda will be posted on our website: www.austinisd.org/cp/bids
- **Proposals are due no later than 2:00 pm on the date indicated.** Your proposals must be delivered by mail or hand delivery in a sealed envelope or carton. Proposals received after the specified time shall not be considered.
- **Please submit the following:**
 - Required**
 - One (1) hard copy marked “original” – include signed “required” forms
 - One (1) digital copy on a flash drive – include signed “required” forms
 - Requested**
 - One (1) additional digital copy on flash drive
 - One (1) additional hard copies – marked “copy”
- FAX, e-mail or other electronic proposals **will not be accepted.**
- Proposals must be plainly marked with:
 - Name and address of the Respondent
 - RFP number and title above

This solicitation is a request for proposals for services under Texas Education Code 44.031.

Checklist and Submission Guidelines

This checklist is provided to help you conform to all form/document requirements stipulated in this solicitation and attached herein.

(This is not a required form, it is not necessary to return this checklist with your proposal.)

Understanding the Proposal

Completed

- Read entire RFP document, appendices and attachments
- Review AISD Policy and Provisions on our website: [Policy and Provisions](#)
- Attend pre-proposal conference (not required)
- Submit questions properly before deadline
- Review addenda, Q&A and other additional attachments
- Review Proposal Format section of RFP

Forms

Completed | Required

- | Bid Certification
- | Notification of Criminal History of Contractor
- | Debarment, Suspension and Ineligibility Certification
- | Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ) – electronic
- | Strategic Partner Profile
- | EDGAR Vendor Certification
- | Software Vendor Certification Form

Submitting the Proposal

Completed

- Prepare the proposal in the format specified and sign all required forms
- Submit required hard copy marked “original”
- Submit requested quantity of digital copies on flash drive
- Submit requested quantity of hard copies marked “copy”
- Package proposal in sealed envelope or carton properly labelled
- Deliver proposal to delivery address by RFP opening / due date and time

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Austin Independent School District (herein after referred to as “AISD” or the “District”) is seeking proposals from firms qualified and experienced in providing District Wide Professional Learning.

The Austin Independent School District (herein after referred to as “AISD” or the “District”) needs to establish master agreements for a catalog of approved service providers qualified and experienced in providing Professional Learning Services for teachers and administrators. Approved service providers will aid in the increase of educator effectiveness for all students within learning communities committed to continuous improvement, collective responsibility, and goal alignment. Such Professional Learning Services will demonstrate how students integrate theories, research, and models of human learning.

NOTE: Contractors awarded under previous Request for Proposals (RFP), P14-034, P15-015, P15-015(a) and P15-015(b) are encouraged to submit a proposal under this new RFP since the term of P15-015(a) and P15-015(b) will expire June 30, 2020 with no options for renewal regarding continuation of services.

Contractors awarded under P16-053, P17-044, 18RFP105 and 19RFP110 should not and do not need to re-apply under this new RFP. Any award and contract made under these previous RFPs for District Wide Professional Learning will remain in effect and unchanged.

Each Bidder, by submitting its proposal, agrees that the proposal is subject to the Austin ISD Policies and Provisions and agrees to comply with those conditions. Acceptance of a proposal will occur only when a contract is executed. Any contract will incorporate the Austin ISD Policies and Provisions and Standard Terms and Conditions and no commitment exists until a contract is executed by both parties.

II. HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The HUB Program promotes and strongly encourages the involvement and participation of Historically Underutilized Businesses in District-wide procurements. According to AISD policies CH (LOCAL) and CV (LOCAL), the HUB Program guidelines are not applicable for this type procurement.

III. PROPOSAL FORMAT

A. Preface

The Proposer shall provide an Executive Summary of two (2) pages or less, which gives in brief, concise terms, a summation of the proposal.

B. Proposal

The vendor’s proposal itself shall be organized in the following format and informational sequence:

Section I – Summary of Experience

This section shall contain the full name and address of the Proposer submitting the proposal and a brief summary of the Proposer’s corporate experience and individual experience for personnel who will provide this product or service.

Section II - Scope of Service

A description of services and capabilities as outlined in the Scope of Service and Performance Requirements sections of this RFP, in the order shown. Clearly state any exceptions taken to the specifications of this RFP, or any conditions of the proposal.

Section III - Financial Proposal

This section shall contain a straightforward, concise delineation of the Proposer's fees to satisfy the requirements of this RFP. It is the vendor's responsibility to specify all costs (i.e. administrative fees, processing fees, etc.) associated with providing the products or services required herein.

Section IV – References

References are to be from government agencies and/or firms, which are substantially serviced by the vendor (references most similar to Austin ISD should be provided). Each reference must contain the reference's name, address, telephone number, and point of contact (including email address). A list of at least three (3) references from current customers must be provided.

C. Required Forms

Forms are required with **Original response & flash drive only**; they can be excluded from additional requested copies.

Contractor shall execute the following required forms (located on our website: [Required Forms link](#)), and return the **signed original** with the proposal:

- Bid Certification
- Notification of Criminal History of Contractor
- Debarment, Suspension and Ineligibility Certification
- EDGAR Vendor Certification
- Strategic Partner Profile
- Software Vendor Certification Form (when applicable)
- Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ). The CIQ is prepared by the Texas Ethics Commission, in compliance with House Bill 914, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code. The form should be submitted on-line at [Conflict of Interest Questionnaire - CIQ](#).

IV. INITIAL REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

Any proposer determined non-responsible or any proposal determined non-responsive will not be evaluated further. The proposer will be notified of a non-responsible or non-responsive determination.

Responsive

In order for a proposal to be responsive:

- ALL required forms listed above shall be included with proposal;
- Proposal shall be received prior to the RFP Opening Date at the address listed on the cover page;
- Proposal shall respond to the entire scope of service and performance requirements as requested.

Responsible

In order for a proposal to be responsible, the proposer shall be in good financial standing with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

V. COMPETITIVE SELECTION / EVALUATION

- A. This is a NEGOTIATED procurement and as such, award will not necessarily be made to the offeror submitting the lowest priced proposal. Award will be made to the firm submitting the best responsive proposal satisfying AISD’s requirements, price and other factors considered.
- B. The District anticipates that the evaluation process may include multiple levels of evaluation, as for example, but not limited to:
Phase 1: Initial review of the proposal by the District’s Evaluation Team.
Phase 2: Interviews and/or presentations of top proposals from Phase 1, followed by administrative review of finalist(s) and award recommendation.

PHASE 1

Points	Item	Detailed Description
30 Points	Proposed Plan	The adequacy and completeness of the plan offered addressing the Scope of Service.
25 Points	Contractor's Capabilities	The demonstrated ability of the Contractor to provide services, including references.
25 Points	Proposed Products	Quality of items as well as their ability to meet specifications and sustainability requirements and preferences.
20 Points	Financial Proposal	Start-up costs, fixed product costs as well as rebate incentives to determine best value.

- C. The committee evaluating the proposals submitted in response to this RFP may require any or all contractors to give an oral presentation in order to clarify or elaborate on their proposal as well as to provide a demonstration. Upon completion of oral

presentations or discussions, Contractors may be requested to revise any or all portions of their proposals and submit a best and final offer (BAFO) for consideration.

- D. If the District determines that additional evaluation steps are required to determine the best value between Proposers, the District reserves the right to consider any or all of the following additional criteria; the proposed price, Proposer's experience, references and record for responsibility, or any other relevant factor that the District deems necessary to determine best value.

VI. SCOPE OF SERVICE AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

The following describes the service and performance requirements that the selected vendor(s) will be required to perform. Failure to address or to fully describe capabilities to accomplish all elements of this section will result in a loss of evaluation points.

Background:

The Austin Independent School District is seeking proof of qualifications from providers qualified and experienced in providing Professional Learning services.

The District and the approved provider will create a Master agreement outlining available services. Secondary Scope of Work Amendments will be created by each individual school or department and the provider outlining the services to be provided and total cost to provide services. Individual campuses and departments may solicit scope of work proposals from as many providers as they deem necessary to ensure best value.

The District will use the objective criteria specified within to review proposals and will prepare a catalog of approved Professional Learning providers. The District will potentially make multiple awards within the Professional Learning category.

The catalog will be maintained by AISD and will indicate approved providers of Professional Learning to AISD campuses and departments. Providers can also be removed for the catalog subject to the conditions specified within, failure to adhere to the responsibilities included, failure to adhere to contract, or debarment or suspension from doing business by any local, state (including the Texas Education Agency), or federal governments.

The following describes the service and performance requirements that the selected Professional Learning Services vendors will be required to meet. Failure to address or to fully describe capabilities to accomplish all elements of this section will result in a loss of evaluation points.

1. Professional Learning/Student Enrichment Services to be provided to Austin Independent School District (AISD) students, teachers, administrators and/or families must be aligned to AISD's Strategic Plan & current initiatives and adhere to the standards

set by Learning Forward and best practices for adult learning. Please use the following link for Learning Forward/Standards for Professional Learning:

[Learning Forward](https://learningforward.org/standards-for-professional-learning)

<https://learningforward.org/standards-for-professional-learning>

2. Strong submissions may include educational services that:

- Provide researched based literacy support and training for teachers to enhance teaching and learning opportunities that support District curriculum and Campus Improvement Plans.
- Provide clearly articulated focus and research based instructional strategies aligned to the District’s curriculum documents and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Strategies should address the needs of one or more of the following groups:
 - Struggling readers
 - At risk students
 - Bilingual/ESL students
 - Students at campuses of AISD private nonprofit partners
 - Students at our alternative and/or residential placement facilities
 - Includes support for student learning in a blended learning environment
- Provide clearly articulated focus and research based instructional strategies that engage students, specifically focusing on drop-out prevention, educational motivation and inspiration through literacy and role playing;
- Provide differentiated instructional strategies to meet the needs of students in various grades and at different instructional levels;
- Support the development of higher level thinking skills;
- Support the development and use of varied assessments;
- Demonstrate writing opportunities for students and teachers;
- Support the work of teacher groups in preparing documents, materials, and presentations;
- Support development of materials for future professional learning opportunities;
- Develop expertise related to sheltered instruction and cooperative learning opportunities.

3. Vendor background experience may include:

- Advanced degree in education or related work experience preferred;
- Demonstrated success in working with adult learners;
- Demonstrated success in working with at risk education students through classroom instruction or counseling;

- Experience in delivery of professional staff development;
- Demonstrated ability to facilitate teacher work groups;
- Excellent oral and written presentation skills;
- Experience in writing educational materials;
- Knowledge of the Texas Essential Skills and Knowledge and State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exams.
- Adherence to technology standards of IMS Global and other best practices for technology integration.

Term

The agreement(s) resulting from this solicitation will be in effect for an initial term of one (1) year from the date of award by the Board of Trustees, or such date established by the agreement. The parties by mutual consent may renew the agreement for up to four (4) additional one (1) year periods. In addition, the District reserves the right to extend the contract for an additional time beyond the final expiration date if necessary to ensure no lapse in service.

VII. APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

- Appendices (Documents included within this proposal):
 - Appendix 1 – Purchasing and Acquisition Vendor Relations Policy CHE-LOCAL
- Attachments (Separate documents available to download):

**Contacting Board
Members**

Vendors shall not contact Board members individually for the purpose of soliciting a purchase or contract during the restricted contract period.

If a vendor violates this prohibition during this time frame, consideration of the vendor for award shall be invalidated. Board members shall be notified of possible violations and actions taken.

**Restricted Contact
Period**

The restricted contact period shall begin upon the date of issuance of a solicitation and shall end upon execution of the awarded contract by all parties.

In an effort to demonstrate its commitment to ethical procurement and contracting standards, and to improve accountability and public confidence, all District purchases of goods and services through competitive methods as provided in CH(LEGAL) and CV(LEGAL) shall be subject to a restricted contact period. Except as provided in this policy communication between a vendor and vendor's representative, and a Board member, the Superintendent, assistant superintendent, chief, officer, executive director, principal, department head, director, manager, project manager, or any other District representative who has influence on or is participating in the evaluation or selection process is prohibited.

*Prohibited
Communications*

A vendor and vendor's representative are prohibited from communications regarding the particular solicitation at issue that are intended or reasonably likely to:

1. Provide substantive information regarding the subject of the solicitation;
2. Advance the interests of the vendor;
3. Discredit the response of any other vendor;
4. Encourage the District to reject a response by a bidder;
5. Convey a complaint about the solicitation; or
6. Directly or indirectly ask, influence, or persuade a Board member, the Superintendent, assistant superintendent, chief, officer, executive director, principal, department head, director, manager, project manager, or any other District representative who has influence on or is participating in the evaluation or selection process, to take action or refrain from taking action on any vote, decision, or agenda item regarding the solicitation at issue.

*Permissible
Communications*

A vendor and vendor's representative are permitted to communicate with the District regarding the following:

PURCHASING AND ACQUISITION
VENDOR RELATIONS

CHE
(LOCAL)

1. Communication to the extent the communication relates solely to a nonsubstantive, procedural matter related to a response or solicitation;
2. Communication that relates solely to an existing contract between a respondent and the District, even when the scope, products, or services of the current contract are the same or similar to those contained in an active solicitation;
3. Communication with the District's Office of Contract and Procurement Services;
4. Communication with the District's Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Program Department to the extent the communication relates to obtaining a listing of HUB subcontractors and general questions regarding HUB program compliance requirements;
5. Communication between an attorney representing a vendor and an attorney representing the District;
6. Communication with the District in the course of attendance at vendor conference;
7. Communication with the District for the purpose of the District's evaluation of the bidder's proposal, negotiating the scope of work, or engaging in contract negotiations;
8. Communication with the District for the purpose of making a public presentation to the Board; and
9. Communication made during the course of a formal protest hearing related to the solicitation.

*Other Vendor
Participation and
Communication*

Regardless of the above time period, a vendor and a vendor's representative who participate in the drafting or development of technical specifications or evaluation criteria for any project are prohibited from competing in the solicitation for such project.

A vendor and vendor's representative shall send all communications, questions, and requests for clarification in writing and addressed to the District's authorized representative identified in the solicitation. The District shall post responses to vendor questions as an addendum to the solicitation.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the District's representative from initiating contact with a vendor, in writing, for the purpose of obtaining clarifying information regarding a solicitation response. The vendor's response shall be in writing and shall be provided to the District's authorized representative.

PURCHASING AND ACQUISITION
VENDOR RELATIONS

CHE
(LOCAL)

- Complaints* Any person who is aggrieved in connection with a HUB program policy decision may file a complaint in accordance with GF(LOCAL).
- Violations* The following are violations subject to sanctions:
1. Falsely conceal or cover up a material fact or make any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements, reports, or representations, or make use of any false writing, document, or electronic report knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement.
 2. Fraudulently obtain, retain or attempt to obtain, or aid another in fraudulently obtaining, retaining, or attempting to obtain certification status as a HUB.
 3. Make false reports regarding payments made to subcontractors or sub-consultants.
- Sanctions* Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to the following sanctions and to the maximum penalties provided by law:
1. The District may bar, suspend, or deem nonresponsive in future District solicitations and contracts, for a period of up to five years, any bidder or proposer, or contractor or subcontractor following notice and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the protest procedures in this policy.
 2. The District may, by contract, and where appropriate and lawful, impose an administrative penalty.
 3. In addition to other sanctions available to the District, the violation of any provision of these program rules may be included as an incident of breach in each contract.
- Request for Proposal and Bid Invitation* Each request for proposal and bid invitation shall include a copy of this policy.