



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
CENTRAL PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR
SUPPORT FOR LITERACY IMPLEMENTATION NETWORKS**

RFQ # 33101-2104233105FAN5

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1. INTRODUCTION

The State of Tennessee, Central Procurement Office, hereinafter referred to as “the State,” issues this Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) to define mandatory goods or services requirements; solicit responses; detail response requirements; and, outline the State’s process for evaluating responses.

Through this RFQ or any subsequent solicitation, the State seeks to buy the requested goods or services at the most favorable, competitive prices and to give ALL qualified respondents, including those that are owned by minorities, women, service-disabled veterans, persons with disabilities, and small business enterprises, the opportunity to do business with the state as contractors or subcontractors.

1.1. Statement of Procurement Purpose

The Tennessee comprehensive literacy plan intends to create sustainable improvements in district and School Leader capacity, teacher practice, and K–12 student achievement. The components of the plan supported directly by proposed grant activities focus on three goals:

1. Increase student achievement in forty-eight (48) underserved districts by utilizing a Regional Network model, national expertise, and mentor districts that ensure sustainable changes in literacy instruction.
2. Capitalize on English Language Arts (“ELA”) adoptions and purchases to ensure that all teachers can effectively implement materials, improve their instructional practice, and deliver high-quality, daily literacy instruction as measured by the Tennessee Instructional Practice Guide, found at: https://openedx.tneducation.net/asset-v1:TDOE+fs101+2020YL+type@asset+block@TDOE_IPG_K-12_FINAL_2.docx
Tennessee Instructional Practice Guide (IPG).
3. Ensure that children served in Zones of Opportunity receive the highest level of instruction, ensuring all students’ literacy proficiency.

Expected Outcomes

Through five (5) years of work with the Implementation support networks and the Tennessee comprehensive literacy plan grounded in high-quality materials, Tennessee aims to see increases of an overall five (5) percentage points in the proportion of K and grade 2 students identified as on track by a diagnostic assessment; five (5) percentage points in the proportion of grades 5, 8, and 9 students identified as on track by statewide literacy assessments; and eight (8) percentage points in the proportion of high school students identified as college and career ready by the national standardized test, the ACT.

Creating Implementation support networks and fostering the expected outcomes requires increased literacy and material Implementation guidance providing intensive and sustainable support to districts in order to improve teacher practice. The State will provide intensive support for forty-eight (48) underserved districts through eight (8) Regional Networks. Regional Networks will be led by highly trained experts, selected through this RFQ, with extensive expertise in Implementation practices. The State applied to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) through their Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant for funding for literacy Implementation networks. The USDOE awarded the State four million dollars a year for five (5) years. As part of the grant award, the USDOE funded the use of trained experts to run Regional Networks. This RFQ seeks to qualify all Respondents included in the State’s Notice of Qualified Respondent(s) to lead the Regional Networks as part of this comprehensive literacy strategy. Contracts will be awarded for up to five (5) years and will result in awardees being placed on a list of qualified suppliers; from which Regional Networks may select a supplier to lead their comprehensive literacy strategy.

- 1.1.1 **RFQ Number**
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1.2. **Pre-Response Conference**

A Pre-Response Conference will be held at the time and date detailed in the RFQ Schedule of Events, RFQ § 2. Pre-Response Conference attendance is not mandatory, and potential Respondents may be limited to a maximum number of attendees depending upon overall attendance and space limitations. Please contact the Solicitation Coordinator, Jonathan Smith, at Jonathan.L.Smith@tn.gov to RSVP for the Pre-Response Conference. The Conference will be held virtually through the Microsoft Teams platform.

1.3. **Notice of Intent to Respond**

Before the Notice of Intent to Respond Deadline detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events, potential Respondents should submit to the Solicitation Coordinator a Notice of Intent to Respond in the form of a simple e-mail. Such notice should include the following information: the business or individual's name (as appropriate), a contact person's name and title, the contact person's mailing address, telephone number, facsimile, number, and e-mail address. Filing a Notice of Intent to Respond is not a prerequisite for submitting a response; however, it is necessary to ensure receipt of notices and communications relating to this RFQ.

1.4. **Definitions and Abbreviations**

- a. **Artifact:** A relevant piece of evidence (e.g., narrative, district work documentation, or Contractor created summative district report) that demonstrates historical use and or experience with a particular document or practice.
- b. **Coach or Coaching:** Refers to instructional Coaching and refers to the process of a School Leader providing support and Feedback on teacher instructional practice using the TN IPG.
- c. **Feedback:** This term refers to the consistent and intentional practice of a School Leader observing a teacher's classroom informally to give them Feedback on their instructional practice. For the purposes of this Contract, Feedback will focus on Implementation of high-quality English Language Arts ("ELA") materials.
- d. **Foundational Reading Skills:** The continuum of skills that research has demonstrated are required to systematically teach reading, including Phonological Awareness, Phonemic Awareness, fluency, Decoding, and vocabulary development.
- e. **High-Quality Instructional Materials ("HQIM")** are defined as a complex set of resources that build conceptually through the yearlong scope and sequence as well as through grade levels that includes comprehensive tools that allow teachers to plan instructional experiences for all learners. ELA HQIM are those materials approved in the 2019 statewide adoption process, found at:
https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/textbook/Adoption_Section.E_2019_Final_01_30_20.pdf
- f. **Implementation:** The process that occurs after a district adopts HQIM and requires district leaders, School Leaders, and teachers to change practices to ensure that instruction is grounded in HQIM.
- g. **Implementation Tool:** Suite of resources that Coaches and School Leaders use consistently to support teacher Implementation of HQIM.
- h. **Regional Network ("Regional Literacy Implementation Network"):** A geographically close network of school districts comprised of six (6) school districts (one (1) mentor district and five (5) participant districts) working together around a pre-determined grade band to solve problems of practice around ELA HQIM Implementation.

- i. School Leader: A School Leader could serve as a principal, assistant principal or instructional Coach and for the purposes of this Contract serves as an instructional leader within a school and provides teacher Feedback on their instruction.
- j. Statewide ELA Adoption: The list of statewide approved curricular materials adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-2202.
- k. Tennessee Comprehensive Literacy Tenets: K-12 ELA instruction should be grounded in regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary; reading and writing grounded in evidence from literary and informational text; and building knowledge through content-rich literary and informational text.
- l. Tennessee Instructional Practice Guide (“TN IPG”): This provides a Coaching framework that is grounded in the tenets of, and should be used to provide, teacher Feedback on Implementation success available at https://openedx.tneducation.net/asset-v1:TDOE+fs101+2020YL+type@asset+block@TDOE_IPG_K-12_FINAL_2.docx.
- m. Tennessee Foundational Skills Curriculum Supplement (“TNFSCS”): An open-source suite of instructional materials and aligned supports for teachers, designed to support the teaching of Tennessee’s foundational skills standards for ELA in grades PK–2. Units of instruction, ancillary materials such as student workbooks and assessment and remediation guides, and professional learning and Implementation supports for teachers are all available at <https://bestforall.tnedu.gov/book/foundational-skills>.
- n. Walk-through: Walk-through refers to a daylong event where a group of educational leaders visits pre-determined classrooms within a district utilizing the TN IPG tool to observe and score classrooms as a vehicle for providing Feedback on Implementation success and challenges.
- o. Webinar: Webinar refers to remote professional learning series that is provided over the Internet using software such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams.
- p. Zone of Opportunity: An economically distressed community where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment as defined by the federal government. A list of qualifying districts can be found at: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/businesses/opportunity-zones#:~:text=Opportunity%20Zones%20are%20an%20economic,providing%20tax%20benefits%20to%20investors>.

2. RFQ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The following schedule represents the State's best estimates for this RFQ; however, the State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to adjust the schedule at any time, or cancel and reissue a similar solicitation. Nothing in this RFQ is intended by the State to create any property rights or expectations of a property right in any Respondent.

EVENT		TIME (Central Time Zone)	DATE (all dates are State business days)
1.	RFQ Issued		March 22, 2021
2.	Disability Accommodation Request Deadline	2:00 p.m.	March 25, 2021
3.	Pre-Response Conference	10:30 a.m.	March 26, 2021
4.	Notice of Intent to Respond Deadline	2:00 p.m.	March 29, 2021
5.	Written "Questions & Comments" Deadline	2:00 p.m.	April 1, 2021
6.	State response to written "Questions & Comments"		April 8, 2021
7.	RFQ Technical Response and Cost Proposal Deadline	2:00 p.m.	April 15, 2021
8.	State Completion of Technical Response Evaluations	2:00 p.m.	April 21, 2021
9.	State Notice of Qualified Respondent(s) Released		April 22, 2021
10.	RFQ Negotiations		April 30, 2021
11.	State Notice of Intent to Award Released and RFQ Files Opened for Public Inspection		May 5, 2021
12.	End of Open File Period		May 12 2021
13.	State sends contract to Contractor for signature		May 14, 2021
14.	Contractor Signature Deadline	2:00 p.m.	May 18, 2021

3. RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

3.1. **Response Contents:** A response to this RFQ should address the following:

- 3.1.1. **Mandatory Requirements:** This section details the mandatory technical, functional, and experience requirements that must be demonstrated in the response to this RFQ in order to be passed on to Phase II of the Technical Response evaluation. A Respondent must duplicate and use RFQ Attachment A as a guide to organize responses for the Mandatory Requirements of the RFQ response. The Respondent should reference the page location of the information within the response in the indicated column of the table. This section is included in the State's evaluation as to whether or not a Respondent meets mandatory qualifications (Phase I).
- 3.1.2. **General Qualifications & Experience:** This section is included in the State's evaluation of Phase II of the Technical Response Evaluation and details general information and qualifications that must be demonstrated in the response to this RFQ. A Respondent must duplicate and use RFQ Attachment B as a guide to organize responses for this portion of the RFQ response. The Respondent should reference the page location of the information within the response in the indicated column of the table.
- 3.1.3. **Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach:** This section is also included in the State's evaluation of Phase II of the Technical Response Evaluation and details technical qualifications, experience, and approach items that must be demonstrated in the response to this RFQ. A Respondent must duplicate and use RFQ Attachment C as a guide to organize responses for this portion of the RFQ response. The Respondent should reference the page location of the information within the response in the indicated column of the table.
- 3.1.4. **Cost Proposal:**
 - 3.1.4.1. The Cost Proposal, containing Not to Exceed rates, must be recorded on an exact duplicate of RFQ Attachment D, Cost Proposal Guide.. Any response that does not follow the instructions included in RFQ Attachment D may be deemed nonresponsive.
 - 3.1.4.2. A Respondent must only record the proposed cost exactly as required by the RFQ Attachment D, Cost Proposal Guide and must NOT record any other rates, amounts, or information.
 - 3.1.4.3. The proposed cost shall incorporate ALL costs for services under the contract for the total contract period.
 - 3.1.4.4. A Respondent must sign and date the Cost Proposal.
 - 3.1.4.5. A Respondent must submit the Cost Proposal to the State separate from the Technical Response.

3.2. **Response Delivery Location**

A Respondent must ensure that the State receives a Response to this RFQ no later than the Response Deadline time and dates detailed in the RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events. All responses must be delivered **via email to:**

Jonathan L. Smith
 State of Tennessee, Central Procurement Office
Jonathan.L.Smith@tn.gov

Hard copy responses will NOT be accepted

3.3. **Response Format**

3.3.1. A Respondent must ensure that the original response meets all form and content requirements detailed within this RFQ.

3.3.2. A Respondent must submit original response documents as specified below.

3.3.2.1. Technical Response

One (1) original Technical Response document clearly labeled:

“RFQ #33101-2104233105FAN5 TECHNICAL RESPONSE ORIGINAL”

3.3.2.2. Cost Proposal:

One (1) original Cost Proposal document labeled:

“RFQ #33101-2104233105FAN5 COST PROPOSAL ORIGINAL”

3.4. **Response Prohibitions:** A response to this RFQ shall not:

3.4.1. Restrict the rights of the State or otherwise qualify the response to this RFQ;

3.4.2. Include, for consideration in this procurement process or subsequent contract negotiations, incorrect information that the Respondent knew or should have known was materially incorrect;

3.4.3. Include more than one response, per Respondent, to this RFQ;

3.4.4. Include any information concerning costs (in specific dollars or numbers) associated with the Technical Response;

3.4.5. Include the respondent’s own contract terms and conditions (unless specifically requested by the RFQ); or

3.4.6. Include the respondent as a prime contractor while also permitting one (1) or more other respondents to offer the respondent as a subcontractor in their own responses.

3.5. **Response Errors & Revisions**

A Respondent is responsible for any and all errors or omissions in its response to this RFQ. A Respondent will not be allowed to alter or revise its response after the Response Deadline time and dates as detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events, unless such is formally requested in writing by the State (e.g., through a request for clarification, etc.).

3.6. **Response Withdrawal**

A Respondent may withdraw a response at any time before the Response Deadline time and date as detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events, by submitting a written signed request by an authorized representative of the Respondent. After withdrawing a response, a Respondent may submit another Response at any time before the Response Deadline time and date as detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events.

3.7. **Response Preparation Costs**

The State will not pay any costs associated with the preparation, submittal, or presentation of any response. Each Respondent is solely responsible for the costs it incurs in responding to this RFQ.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

4.1. Communications

- 4.1.1. Respondents shall reference RFQ #33101-2104233105FAN5 in all communications relating to this solicitation, and direct any such communications to the following person designated as the Solicitation Coordinator:

Jonathan Smith
 State of Tennessee, Central Procurement Office
 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave, Nashville, TN 37243
 615-741-1462
Jonathan.L.Smith@tn.gov

The State will convey all official responses and communications related to this RFQ to the potential respondents from whom the State has received a Notice of Intent to Respond (refer to RFQ Section 1.3.).

- 4.1.2. Potential respondents with a handicap or disability may receive accommodation relating to the communication of this RFQ and participating in the RFQ process. Potential respondents may contact the RFQ Coordinator to request such reasonable accommodation no later than the Disability Accommodation Request Deadline detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events.
- 4.1.3. **Unauthorized contact about this RFQ with other employees or officials of the State of Tennessee may result in disqualification from contract award consideration.**
- 4.1.4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, potential Respondents may also contact the following as appropriate:
- 4.1.4.1. Staff of the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise may be contacted for assistance with respect to available minority-owned, woman-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, businesses owned by persons with disabilities and small business enterprises as well as general public information relating to this request; or
- 4.1.4.2. The following individual designated by the State to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of the State of Tennessee, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and associated federal regulations:

Helen Crowley, Compliance Team Lead
 Central Procurement Office
 Department of General Services
 WRS Tennessee Tower,
 3rd Floor 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
 Nashville, TN 37243-1102
Helen.Crowley@tn.gov

4.2. Nondiscrimination

No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of a contract pursuant to this solicitation or in the

employment practices of the Contractor on the grounds of handicap or disability, age, race, creed, color, religion (subject to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 4-21-401 and 405), sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by federal, Tennessee state constitutional, or statutory law. The Contractor pursuant to this solicitation shall post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.

4.3. **Conflict of Interest**

4.3.1. The State may not consider a proposal from an individual who is, or within the past six (6) months has been, a State employee. For these purposes,

4.3.1.1. An individual shall be deemed a State employee until such time as all compensation for salary, termination pay, and annual leave has been paid;

4.3.1.2. A contract with or a proposal from a company, corporation, or any other contracting entity in which a controlling interest is held by any State employee shall be considered to be a contract with or proposal from the employee; and

4.3.1.3. A contract with or a proposal from a company, corporation, or any other contracting entity that employs an individual who is, or within the past six months has been, a State employee shall not be considered a contract with or a proposal from the employee and shall not constitute a prohibited conflict of interest.

4.3.2. This RFQ is also subject to Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-4-101—105.

4.4. **Respondent Required Review & Waiver of Objections**

4.4.1. Each potential respondent must carefully review this RFQ, including but not limited to, attachments, the RFQ Attachment G, *pro forma* Contract, and any amendments for questions, comments, defects, objections, or any other matter requiring clarification or correction (collectively called “questions and comments”).

4.4.2. Any potential respondent having questions and comments concerning this RFQ must provide such in writing to the State no later than the written “Questions & Comments Deadline” detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events.

4.4.3. Protests based on any objection shall be considered waived and invalid if the objection has not been brought to the attention of the State, in writing, by the written “Questions & Comments Deadline.”

4.5. **Disclosure of Response Contents**

4.5.1. All materials submitted to the State in response to this solicitation become property of the State of Tennessee. Selection for award does not affect this right. By submitting a response, a Respondent acknowledges and accepts that the full contents and associated documents submitted in response to this request will become open to public inspection in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee. Refer to RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events.

4.5.2. The RFQ responses will be available for public inspection only after the completion of evaluation of the RFQ or any resulting solicitation which this RFQ becomes a part of, whichever is later.

4.6. **Notice of Professional Licensure, Insurance, and Department of Revenue Registration Requirements**

4.6.1. All persons, agencies, firms or other entities that provide legal or financial opinions, which a Respondent provides for consideration and evaluation by the State as part of a response to this RFQ, shall be properly licensed to render such opinions.

4.6.2. Before the Contract resulting from this RFQ is signed, the apparent successful Respondent (and Respondent employees and subcontractors, as applicable) must hold

all necessary, appropriate business and professional licenses to provide service as required. The State may require any Respondent to submit evidence of proper licensure.

- 4.6.3. Before the Contract resulting from this RFQ is signed, the apparent successful Respondent must provide a valid, Certificate of Insurance indicating current insurance coverage meeting minimum requirements as may be specified by the RFQ.
- 4.6.4. Before the Contract resulting from this RFQ is signed, the apparent successful Respondent must be registered with the Department of Revenue for the collection of Tennessee sales and use tax. The State shall not approve a contract unless the Respondent provides proof of such registration or provides documentation from the Department of Revenue that the Contractor is exempt from this registration requirement. The foregoing is a mandatory requirement of an award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation. To register, please visit the Department of Revenue's Tennessee Taxpayer Access Point (TNTAP) website for Online Registration and the Vendor Contract Questionnaire. These resources are available at the following:
<https://tntap.tn.gov/eservices/#1>

4.7. **RFQ Amendments & Cancellation**

- 4.7.1. The State reserves the right to amend this RFQ at any time, provided that it is amended in writing. However, prior to any such amendment, the State will consider whether it would negatively impact the ability of potential respondents to meet the deadlines and revise the RFQ Schedule of Events if deemed appropriate. If a RFQ amendment is issued, the State will convey it to potential respondents who submitted a Notice of Intent to Respond (refer to RFQ § 1.3). A response must address the final RFQ (including its attachments) as may be amended.
- 4.7.2. The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel or to cancel and reissue this RFQ in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

4.8. **State Right of Rejection**

- 4.8.1. Subject to applicable laws and regulations, the State reserves the right to reject, at its sole discretion, any and all proposals.
- 4.8.2. The State may deem as nonresponsive and reject any proposal that does not comply with all terms, conditions, and performance requirements of this RFQ. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the State reserves the right to seek clarifications or to waive, at its sole discretion, a response's minor variances from full compliance with this RFQ. If the State waives variances in a response, such waiver shall not modify the RFQ requirements or excuse the Respondent from full compliance with such, and the State may hold any resulting vendor to strict compliance with this RFQ.
- 4.8.3. The State will review the response evaluation record and any other available information pertinent to whether or not each respondent is responsive and responsible. If the evaluation team identifies any respondent that appears not to meet the responsive and responsible thresholds such that the team would not recommend the respondent for potential contract award, this determination will be fully documented for the record. ("Responsive" is defined as submitting a response that conforms in all material respects to the RFQ. "Responsible" is defined as having the capacity in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements, and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance.)

4.9. **Assignment & Subcontracting**

- 4.9.1. The vendor may not subcontract, transfer, or assign any portion of the Contract awarded as a result of this RFQ without prior approval of the State. The State reserves the right to refuse approval, at its sole discretion, of any subcontract, transfer, or assignment.

- 4.9.2. If a Respondent intends to use subcontractors, the response to this RFQ must specifically identify the scope and portions of the work each subcontractor will perform (refer to RFQ Attachment B, Item B.14.).
 - 4.9.3. Subcontractors identified within a response to this RFQ will be deemed as approved by the State unless the State expressly disapproves one or more of the proposed subcontractors prior to signing the Contract.
 - 4.9.4. The Contractor resulting from this RFQ may only substitute another subcontractor for a proposed subcontractor at the discretion of the State and with the State's prior, written approval.
 - 4.9.5. Notwithstanding any State approval relating to subcontracts, the Contractor resulting from this RFQ will be the prime contractor and will be responsible for all work under the Contract.
- 4.10. **Next Ranked Respondent**
- The State reserves the right to initiate negotiations with the next ranked respondent should the State cease doing business with any respondent selected via this RFQ process.

5. **PROCUREMENT PROCESS & CONTRACT AWARD**

- 5.1. The complete supplier selection will be based on Qualification of Technical Responses. Any contract award is subject to successful contract negotiation.
- 5.2. Qualification of Technical Responses: Technical Responses will be short-listed for negotiation if they are apparently responsive, responsible, and within the competitive range. A Technical Response will be deemed within the competitive range based on the following criterion:

The combined total score from the RFQ attachments B and C must be a minimum of 80 points to be in the competitive range.

Phase I: The State will evaluate the Mandatory Requirements set forth in RFQ Attachment A on a pass/fail basis.

Phase II: Following the Phase I evaluation, the State will apply a standard equitable evaluation model, which will represent a qualitative assessment of each response. Each response will be scored by Evaluation Team members according to the Technical Response & Evaluation Guides (See RFQ Attachments B & C).

The Solicitation Coordinator will total the average score from the evaluation team for each responsive and responsible Respondent's Technical Response Points for RFQ Attachments B & C to determine which of the Respondents are considered Qualified and within the competitive range.

- 5.3. Cost Proposals: Respondents must submit a cost proposal with Not to Exceed pricing. The cost proposal will not be scored; but, responses without cost proposals may be deemed non-responsive. The cost proposal will be incorporated into awarded contracts to set the pricing for districts purchasing from contracts qualified through this RFQ.
- 5.4. Clarifications and Negotiations: The State reserves the right to award a contract on the basis of initial responses received; therefore, each response should contain the respondent's best terms from a technical and cost standpoint. However, the State reserves the right to conduct clarifications or negotiations with respondents. All communications, clarifications, and negotiations shall be conducted in a manner that supports fairness in response improvement.
- 5.4.1. Clarifications: The State may identify areas of a response that may require further clarification or areas in which it is apparent that there may have been miscommunications or misunderstandings as to the State's specifications or requirements. The State may seek to clarify those issues identified during one or multiple clarification round(s). Each clarification sought by the State may be unique to an individual respondent.
- 5.4.2. Negotiations: The State may elect to negotiate with Qualified Respondents, within the competitive range, by requesting revised responses, negotiating costs, or finalizing contract terms and conditions. The State reserves the right to conduct multiple negotiation rounds.
- 5.4.2.1. Cost Negotiations: All responsive respondents within the competitive range will be given equivalent information with respect to cost negotiations. All cost negotiations will be documented for the procurement file. Additionally, the State may conduct target pricing and other goods or services level negotiations. Target pricing may be based on considerations such as current pricing, market considerations, benchmarks, budget availability, or other methods that do not reveal individual respondent pricing. During target price negotiations, respondents are not obligated to meet or beat target prices, but will not be allowed to increase prices.

5.4.2.2. If the State determines costs and contract finalization discussions and negotiations are not productive, the State reserves the right to deem the Respondent non-responsive.

5.5. Evaluation Guide

The State will consider qualifications, experience, technical approach, and cost (if applicable) in the evaluation of responses and award points in each of the categories detailed below. The maximum evaluation points possible for each category are detailed below.

Evaluation Category	Maximum Points Possible
Mandatory Requirements (refer to RFQ Attachment A)	Pass/Fail
General Qualifications, Experience, Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach (refer to RFQ Attachment B)	30
Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach (refer to RFQ Attachment C)	70

5.6 Contract Award

- 5.6.1. The Solicitation Coordinator will submit the Evaluation Team determinations and responses scores to the head of the contracting agency, or the agency head's designee, for consideration along with any other relevant information that might be available and pertinent to contract award.
- 5.6.2. The contracting agency head, or the agency head's designee, will review the qualified responses and approve them for the qualified vendor list.
- 5.6.3. The State reserves the right to make an award without further discussion of any responses.
- 5.6.4. The State will issue an Evaluation Notice and make the RFQ files available for public inspection at the time and date specified in the RFQ Schedule of Events.

Notice: The Evaluation Notice shall not create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in either the Respondents identified as qualified or any other Respondents.

- 5.6.5. The Respondents identified as qualified must sign a contract drawn by the State pursuant to this RFQ. The contract shall be substantially the same as the RFQ Attachment G, *pro forma* contract. The qualified Respondents must sign said contract no later than the Respondent Contract Signature Deadline detailed in the RFQ Schedule of Events. If the Respondent fails to provide the signed contract by the deadline, the State may determine the Respondent is non-responsive to this RFQ and reject the response.
- 5.6.6. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the State may, at its sole discretion, entertain limited negotiation prior to contract signing and, as a result, revise the pro forma contract terms and conditions or performance requirements in the State's best interests, PROVIDED THAT such revision of terms and conditions or performance requirements shall NOT materially affect the basis or response evaluation or negatively impact the competitive nature of the RFQ and contractor selection process.

ATTACHMENT A**TECHNICAL RESPONSE & EVALUATION GUIDE**

All Respondents must address all items detailed below and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references). All Respondents must also detail the response page number for each item in the appropriate space below.

The Solicitation Coordinator will review all responses to determine if the Mandatory Requirement Items are addressed as required and mark each with pass or fail. For each item that is not addressed as required, the Evaluation Team must review the responses and attach a written determination. In addition to the Mandatory Requirement Items, the Solicitation Coordinator will review each response for compliance with all RFQ requirements.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:			
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section A— Mandatory Requirement Items	Pass/Fail
		The Technical Response must be delivered to the State no later than the Technical Response Deadline specified in the RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events.	
		The Technical Response must not contain cost or pricing information of any type.	
		The Technical Response must not contain any restrictions of the rights of the State or other qualification of the response.	
		A Respondent must not submit alternate responses.	
		A Respondent must not submit multiple responses in different forms (as a prime and a subcontractor).	
	A.1.	Provide the Statement of Certifications and Assurances (RFQ Attachment E) completed and signed by an individual empowered to bind the Respondent to the provisions of this RFQ and any resulting contract. The document must be signed without exception or qualification.	
	A.2.	Provide a statement, based upon reasonable inquiry, of whether the Respondent or any individual who shall perform work under the contract has a possible conflict of interest (<i>e.g.</i> , employment by the State of Tennessee) and, if so, the nature of that conflict. NOTE: Any questions of conflict of interest shall be solely within the discretion of the State, and the State reserves the right to cancel any award.	
	A.3	Provide documentation disclosing the amount of cash flows from operating activities for the Respondent's most current operating period. Said documentation must indicate whether the cash flows are positive or negative, and, if the cash flows are negative for the most recent operating period, the documentation must include a detailed explanation of the factors contributing to the negative cash flows.	

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:			
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section A— Mandatory Requirement Items	Pass/Fail
		NOTICE: All persons, agencies, firms, or other entities that provide opinions regarding the Respondent's financial status <u>must</u> be properly licensed to render such opinions. The State may require the Respondent to submit proof of such licensure detailing the state of licensure and licensure number for each person or entity that renders the opinions.	
<i>State Use – RFQ Coordinator Signature, Printed Name & Date:</i>			

ATTACHMENT B**TECHNICAL RESPONSE & EVALUATION GUIDE**

SECTION B: GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE. The Respondent must address all items detailed below and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references). The Respondent must also detail the response page number for each item in the appropriate space below. Evaluation Team members will independently evaluate and assign one score for all responses to Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items
	B.1.	Detail the name, e-mail address, mailing address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the person the State should contact regarding the response.
	B.2.	Describe the Respondent's form of business (<i>i.e.</i> , individual, sole proprietor, corporation, non-profit corporation, partnership, limited liability company) and business location (physical location or domicile).
	B.3.	Detail the number of years the Respondent has been in business.
	B.4.	Briefly describe how long the Respondent has been providing the goods or services required by this RFQ.
	B.5.	Describe the Respondent's number of employees, client base, and location of offices.
	B.6.	Provide a statement of whether there have been any mergers, acquisitions, or change of control of the Respondent within the last ten (10) years. If so, include an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.7.	Provide a statement of whether the Respondent or, to the Respondent's knowledge, any of the Respondent's employees, agents, independent contractors, or subcontractors, involved in the delivery of goods or performance of services on a contract pursuant to this RFQ, have been convicted of, pled guilty to, or pled <i>nolo contendere</i> to any felony. If so, include an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.8.	Provide a statement of whether, in the last ten (10) years, the Respondent has filed (or had filed against it) any bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding, whether voluntary or involuntary, or undergone the appointment of a receiver, trustee, or assignee for the benefit of creditors. If so, include an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.9.	Provide a statement of whether there is any material, pending litigation against the Respondent that the Respondent should reasonably believe could adversely affect its ability to meet contract requirements pursuant to this RFQ or is likely to have a material adverse effect on the Respondent's financial condition. If such exists, list each separately, explain the relevant details, and attach the opinion of counsel addressing whether and to what extent it would impair the Respondent's performance in a contract pursuant to this RFQ. NOTE: All persons, agencies, firms, or other entities that provide legal opinions regarding the Respondent must be properly licensed to render such opinions. The State may

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items
		require the Respondent to submit proof of license for each person or entity that renders such opinions.
	B.10.	<p>Provide a statement of whether there are any pending or in progress Securities Exchange Commission investigations involving the Respondent. If such exists, list each separately, explain the relevant details, and attach the opinion of counsel addressing whether and to what extent it will impair the Respondent's performance in a contract pursuant to this RFQ.</p> <p>NOTE: All persons, agencies, firms, or other entities that provide legal opinions regarding the Respondent must be properly licensed to render such opinions. The State may require the Respondent to submit proof of license for each person or entity that renders such opinions.</p>
	B.11.	Provide a brief, descriptive statement detailing evidence of the Respondent's ability to deliver the goods or services sought under this RFQ, including knowledge of the Tennessee Comprehensive Literacy Tenets, high quality materials, and the Instructional Practice Guide (e.g., prior experience, training, certifications, resources, program and quality management systems, etc.).
	B.12.	Provide a narrative description of the proposed project team, its members, and organizational structure along with an organizational chart identifying the key people who will be assigned to deliver the goods or services required by this RFQ.
	B.13.	Provide a personnel roster listing the names of key people who the Respondent will assign to meet the Respondent's requirements under this RFQ along with the estimated number of hours that each individual will devote to that performance. Follow the personnel roster with a resume for each of the people listed. The resumes must detail the individual's title, education, current position with the Respondent, and employment history.
	B.14.	<p>Provide a statement of whether the Respondent intends to use subcontractors to meet the Respondent's requirements of any contract awarded pursuant to this RFQ, and if so, detail:</p> <p>(a) the names of the subcontractors along with the contact person, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address for each;</p> <p>(b) a description of the scope and portions of the goods each subcontractor involved in the delivery of goods or performance of the services each subcontractor will perform; <u>and</u></p> <p>(c) a statement specifying that each proposed subcontractor has expressly assented to being proposed as a subcontractor in the Respondent's response to this RFP.</p>
	B.15.	<p>Provide documentation of the Respondent's commitment to diversity as represented by the following:</p> <p>(a) <u>Business Strategy</u>. Provide a description of the Respondent's existing programs and procedures designed to encourage and foster commerce with business enterprises owned by minorities, women, service-disabled veterans, persons with disabilities, and small business enterprises. Please also include a list of the Respondent's certifications as a diversity business, if applicable.</p>

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items
		<p>(b) <u>Business Relationships</u>. Provide a listing of the Respondent's current contracts with business enterprises owned by minorities, women, service-disabled veterans, persons with disabilities, and small business enterprises. Please include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) contract description; (ii) contractor name and ownership characteristics (<i>i.e.</i>, ethnicity, gender, service-disabled veteran-owned or persons with disabilities); (iii) contractor contact name and telephone number. <p>(c) <u>Estimated Participation</u>. Provide an estimated level of participation by business enterprises owned by minorities, women, service-disabled veterans, persons with disabilities and small business enterprises if a contract is awarded to the Respondent pursuant to this RFP. Please include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a percentage (%) indicating the participation estimate. (Express the estimated participation number as a percentage of the total estimated contract value that will be dedicated to business with subcontractors and supply contractors having such ownership characteristics only and DO NOT INCLUDE DOLLAR AMOUNTS); (ii) anticipated goods or services contract descriptions; (iii) names and ownership characteristics (<i>i.e.</i>, ethnicity, gender, service-disabled veterans, or disability) of anticipated subcontractors and supply contractors. <p>NOTE: In order to claim status as a Diversity Business Enterprise under this contract, businesses must be certified by the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise (Go-DBE). Please visit the Go-DBE website at https://tn.diversitysoftware.com/FrontEnd/StartCertification.asp?TN=tn&XID=9810 for more information.</p> <p>(d) <u>Workforce</u>. Provide the percentage of the Respondent's total current employees by ethnicity and gender.</p> <p>NOTE: Respondents that demonstrate a commitment to diversity will advance State efforts to expand opportunity to do business with the State as contractors and subcontractors. Response evaluations will recognize the positive qualifications and experience of a Respondent that does business with enterprises owned by minorities, women, service-disabled veterans, persons with disabilities, and small business enterprises and who offer a diverse workforce.</p>
	B.16.	<p>Provide a statement of whether or not the Respondent has any current contracts with the State of Tennessee or has completed any contracts with the State of Tennessee within the previous five (5) year period. If so, provide the following information for all of the current and completed contracts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the name, title, telephone number and e-mail address of the State contact knowledgeable about the contract; (b) the procuring State agency name; (c) a brief description of the contract's scope of services; (d) the contract period; and (e) the contract number.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items
	B.17.	<p>Provide customer references from individuals who are <u>not</u> current or former State employees for projects similar to the goods or services sought under this RFQ and which represent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ one (1) accounts Respondent currently services that are similar in size to the State; <u>and</u> ▪ two (2) completed projects. <p>References from at least two (2) different individuals are required to satisfy the requirements above, e.g., an individual may provide a reference about a completed project and another reference about a currently serviced account. The standard reference questionnaire, which <u>must</u> be used and completed is provided at RFQ Attachment F. References that are not completed as required may be deemed nonresponsive and may not be considered.</p> <p>The Respondent will be <u>solely</u> responsible for requesting fully completed reference questionnaires and- providing instructions to references for submitting to Jonathan.L.Smith@tn.gov. In order to obtain and submit the completed reference questionnaires, follow the process below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Add the Respondent's name to the standard reference questionnaire at Attachment F, and make a copy for each reference. (b) Send a reference questionnaire to each reference. (c) Instruct the reference to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) complete the reference questionnaire; (ii) save the file as a document (.DOC or compatible) OR scan the form as a PDF (or compatible); (iii) name the file including the Respondent's name (iv) email the completed questionnaire to JonathanL.Smith@tn.gov. <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The State will not accept late references or references submitted by any means other than that which is described above, and each reference questionnaire submitted must be completed as required. ▪ The State will not review more than the number of required references indicated above. ▪ While the State will base its reference check on the contents of the reference questionnaires included in the Technical Response package, the State reserves the right to confirm and clarify information detailed in the completed reference questionnaires, and may consider clarification responses in the evaluation of references. ▪ The State is under <u>no</u> obligation to clarify any reference information.
	B.18.	<p>Provide a statement and any relevant details addressing whether the Respondent is any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal or state department or agency; (b) has within the past three (3) years, been convicted of, or had a civil judgment rendered against the contracting party from commission of fraud, or a criminal offence in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or grant under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement,

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items
		<p>theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;</p> <p>(c) is presently indicted or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses detailed above; and</p> <p>(d) has within a three (3) year period preceding the contract had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.</p>
<p>SCORE (for <u>all</u> Section B—Qualifications & Experience Items above): (maximum possible score = 30)</p>		
<p><i>State Use – Evaluator Identification:</i></p>		

ATTACHMENT C

TECHNICAL RESPONSE & EVALUATION GUIDE

SECTION C: TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE & APPROACH. The Respondent should explain its approach to providing goods or services to the State. The items listed below represent specific questions the State would request you answer in your response. For ease of review, please annotate your explanation so that it contains references to the items listed below where they are addressed. Respondent should not feel constrained to answer only the specific questions listed below in its explanation and should feel free to provide attachments if necessary in an effort to provide a more thorough response.

The Evaluation Team, made up of three (3) or more State employees, will independently evaluate and score the response to each item. Each evaluator will use the following whole number, raw point scale for scoring each item:

0 = little value 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = satisfactory 4 = good 5 = excellent

The Solicitation Coordinator will multiply the Item Score by the associated Evaluation Factor (indicating the relative emphasis of the item in the overall evaluation). The resulting product will be the item's raw, weighted score for purposes of calculating the section scores as indicated.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:					
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section C— Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach Items	Item Score	Evaluation Factor	Raw Weighted Score
	C.1.	Provide a narrative that illustrates the Respondent's understanding of the State's requirements and project schedule.		2	
	C.2.	Provide a narrative that illustrates how the Respondent will complete the delivery of goods or scope of services, accomplish required objectives, and meet the State's project schedule.		3	
	C.3.	Provide a narrative that illustrates how the Respondent will manage the project, ensure delivery of specified goods or completion of the scope of services, and accomplish required objectives within the State's project schedule.		3	
	C.4.	Provide a proposed outline for a series of regional HQIM Implementation networks that meets monthly for during the school year. The outline should include pre-work, post-work and major topics for each monthly session. The HQIM sessions should be grounded in ELA content, should include the <u>TN ELA IPG</u> , and should support district Implementation practices. (Most districts are in year 1 or 2 of Implementation).		5	
	C.5.	Provide an agenda for a School Leader walk-through using the TN ELA IPG. Include what would occur before, during		5	

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:					
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section C— Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach Items	Item Score	Evaluation Factor	Raw Weighted Score
		and after the walk-through. The agenda should include key questions asked, how the trainer would use the TN IPG and how the trainer would adapt the session for different grade bands and different ELA curricular materials.			
	C.6.	Provide a narrative that demonstrates how research evidence and cognitive science were used in developing the monthly sequence of Webinars and the TN ELA IPG walk-through session.		5	
	C.7.	Provide evidence through narrative and/or Artifacts that the provided services would provide concrete Implementation Tools for educators seeking to understand literacy research and translate it into evidence-based classroom practice using HQIM. Please include research and evidence to support Implementation Tools discussed.		3	
	C.8.	Provide an explanation of how you would expect a district to focus on different parts of the TN ELA IPG (https://openedx.tneducation.net/asset-v1:TDOE+fs101+2020YL+type@asset+block@TDOE_IPG_K-12_FINAL_2.docx) and how you would facilitate shifts in focus. Please include a timeline for expected shifts and clear strategies to help districts focus on sections of the TN IPG. Please include an explanation of how the TN IPG would show progress of a district's Implementation.		3	
	C.9.	Provide evidence of expertise for at least (three)3 ELA curriculum on the <u>2020 K-12 ELA Adoption List</u> (https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/textbook/Adoption_Section.E_2019_Final_01_30_20.pdf)		2	
	C.10.	Provide a narrative describing how the TN IPG can be used for Coaching teachers.		3	

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:					
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section C— Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach Items	Item Score	Evaluation Factor	Raw Weighted Score
	C.11.	Provide an Artifact showing how you have used the TN IPG to track district progress towards a goal.		3	
	C.12.	Provide evidence through narrative and/or Artifacts of how you have successfully impacted literacy achievement in a high needs school or district.		3	
<i>The Solicitation Coordinator will use this sum and the formula below to calculate the section score. All calculations will use and result in numbers rounded to two (2) places to the right of the decimal point.</i>			Total Raw Weighted Score: (sum of Raw Weighted Scores above)		
Total Raw Weighted Score			X 70 (maximum possible score)	=	
Maximum Possible Raw Weighted Score (i.e., 5 x the sum of item weights above)				SCORE:	
<i>State Use – Evaluator Identification:</i>					
<i>State Use – Solicitation Coordinator Signature, Printed Name & Date:</i>					

ATTACHMENT D

Cost Proposal Guide

NOTICE: THIS COST PROPOSAL MUST BE COMPLETED EXACTLY AS REQUIRED

COST PROPOSAL SCHEDULE— The Cost Proposal, detailed below, shall indicate the proposed price for the delivery of specified goods for the entire scope of services including all services defined in the Scope of Services of the RFQ Attachment H, *pro forma* Contract and for the entire contract period. The Cost Proposal shall remain valid for at least 120 days subsequent to the date of the Cost Proposal opening and thereafter in accordance with any contract resulting from this RFQ. All monetary amounts shall be in U.S. currency and limited to two (2) places to the right of the decimal point.

NOTICE: This Cost Proposal must be signed, in the space below, by an individual empowered to bind the entity responding to the provisions of this RFQ and any contract awarded pursuant thereto. If said individual is not responding in an individual capacity or is the *President* or *Chief Executive Officer*, this document must attach evidence showing the individual's authority to legally bind the entity responding to this RFQ.

RESPONDENT SIGNATURE:	
PRINTED NAME & TITLE:	
DATE:	
RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:	
Cost Item Description	Proposed Cost (Not to exceed rate)
Plan and Deliver Day Long Regional Webinars	\$ / Day
Monthly High Touch Technical Assistance	\$ / Half-Day
Plan and support Walk Through Visits and Coaching sessions	\$ / Day
Collaboratively plan and deliver Statewide Regional Convening: 1 full day of delivery	\$ / Day

ATTACHMENT E**STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES**

An individual responding in his or her individual capacity or legally empowered to contractually bind the Respondent must complete and sign the Statement of Certifications and Assurances below as required, and this signed statement must be included with the response as required by the Request for Qualifications.

The Respondent does, hereby, expressly affirm, declare, confirm, certify, and assure ALL of the following:

1. The Respondent will comply with all of the provisions and requirements of the RFQ.
2. The Respondent will provide all specified goods or services as required by the contract awarded pursuant to this RFQ.
3. The Respondent accepts and agrees to all terms and conditions set out in the contract awarded pursuant to this RFQ.
4. The Respondent acknowledges and agrees that a contract resulting from the RFQ shall incorporate, by reference, all Response responses as a part of the contract.
5. The Respondent will comply, as applicable, with:
 - (a) the laws of the State of Tennessee;
 - (b) Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;
 - (c) Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act of 1972;
 - (d) the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued there under by the federal government; and,
 - (e) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued there under by the federal government.
6. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information or belief, the information detailed within the Response to the RFQ is accurate.
7. The Response submitted to the RFQ was independently prepared, without collusion, and under penalty of perjury.
8. No amount shall be paid directly or indirectly to an employee or official of the State of Tennessee as wages, compensation, or gifts in exchange for acting as an officer, agent, employee, subcontractor, or consultant to the Respondent in connection with the request or any potential resulting contract.
9. The Response submitted in response to the RFQ shall remain valid for at least 120 days subsequent to the date of the Response opening and thereafter in accordance with any contract pursuant to the RFQ.
10. The Respondent affirms the following statement, as required by the Iran Divestment Act Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-12-111: "By submission of this bid, each bidder and each person signing on behalf of any bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that each bidder is not on the list created pursuant to § 12-12-106." For reference purposes, the list is currently available online at: <https://www.tn.gov/generalservices/procurement/central-procurement-office--cpo-/library-/public-information-library.html>.

By signature below, the signatory certifies legal authority to bind the responding entity to the provisions of this request and any contract awarded pursuant to it. The State may, at its sole discretion and at any time, require evidence documenting the signatory's authority to be personally bound or to legally bind the responding entity.

DO NOT SIGN THIS DOCUMENT IF YOU ARE NOT LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO DO SO BY THE ENTITY RESPONDING TO THIS RFQ.

SIGNATURE & DATE:

PRINTED NAME & TITLE:

LEGAL ENTITY NAME:

ATTACHMENT F

REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

The standard reference questionnaire provided on the following pages of this attachment MUST be completed by all individuals offering a reference for the Respondent.

The Respondent will be responsible for obtaining completed reference questionnaires as required (refer to RFQ Attachment B, General Qualifications & Experience Items, Item B.17.)

RFQ # 33101-2104233105FAN5REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

RESPONDENT NAME: RESPONDENT NAME (completed by respondent before reference is requested)

The “respondent name” specified above, intends to submit a response to the State of Tennessee in response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) indicated. As a part of such response, the respondent must include a number of completed reference questionnaires (using this form).

Each individual responding to this reference questionnaire is asked to follow these instructions:

- complete this questionnaire (either using the form provided or an exact duplicate of this document);
- name the file including the Vendor name of the company that asked for the reference
- email the completed questionnaire to Jonathan.L.Smith@tn.gov

(1) **What is the name of the individual, company, organization, or entity responding to this reference questionnaire?**

(2) **Please provide the following information about the individual completing this reference questionnaire on behalf of the above-named individual, company, organization, or entity.**

NAME:	
TITLE:	
TELEPHONE #	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	

(3) **What goods or services do/did the vendor provide to your company or organization?**

(4) **What is the level of your overall satisfaction with the vendor of the goods or services described above?**

Please respond by circling the appropriate number on the scale below.

	1	2	3	4	5	
least satisfied						most satisfied

If you circled 3 or less above, what could the vendor have done to improve that rating?

- (5) **If the goods or services that the vendor provided to your company or organization are completed, were the goods or services completed in compliance with the terms of the contract, on time, and within budget? If not, please explain.**

- (6) **If the vendor is still providing goods or services to your company or organization, are these goods or services being provided in compliance with the terms of the contract, on time, and within budget? If not, please explain.**

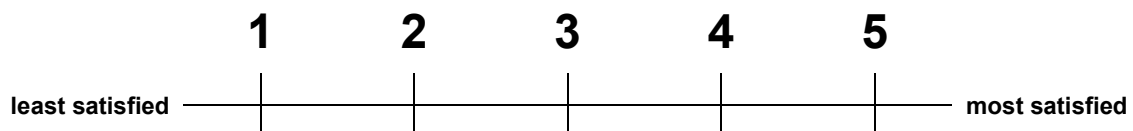
- (7) **How satisfied are you with the vendor's ability to perform based on your expectations and according to the contractual arrangements?**

- (8) **In what areas of goods or service delivery do/did the vendor excel?**

- (9) **In what areas of goods or service delivery do/did the vendor fall short?**

- (10) **What is the level of your satisfaction with the vendor's project management structures, processes, and personnel?**

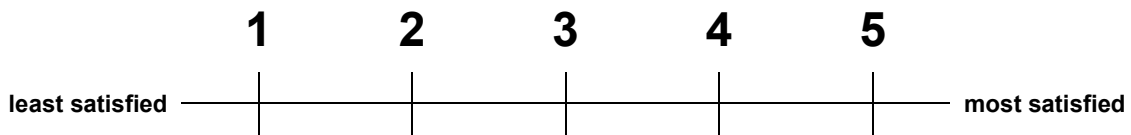
Please respond by circling the appropriate number on the scale below.



What, if any, comments do you have regarding the score selected above?

- (11) **Considering the staff assigned by the vendor to deliver the goods or services described in response to question 3 above, how satisfied are you with the technical abilities, professionalism, and interpersonal skills of the individuals assigned?**

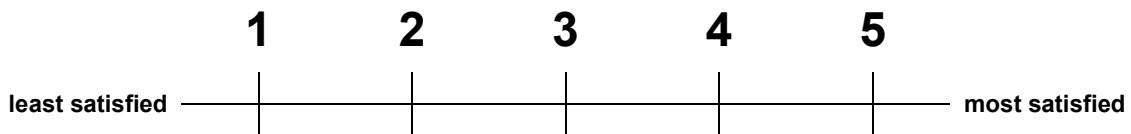
Please respond by circling the appropriate number on the scale below.



What, if any, comments do you have regarding the score selected above?

- (12) **Would you contract again with the vendor for the same or similar goods or services?**

Please respond by circling the appropriate number on the scale below.



What, if any, comments do you have regarding the score selected above?

REFERENCE SIGNATURE:

(by the individual completing this request for reference information)

(must be the same as the signature across the envelope seal)

DATE:

ATTACHMENT H**RFQ # 33101-2104233105FAN5 PRO FORMA CONTRACT**

The *pro forma* contract detailed in following pages of this exhibit contains some “blanks” (signified by descriptions in capital letters) that will be completed with appropriate information in the final contract resulting from the RFQ.

**CONTRACT
BETWEEN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE,
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND
CONTRACTOR NAME**

This Contract, by and between the State of Tennessee, Department of Education ("State") and **Contractor Legal Entity Name** ("Contractor") is for the provision of support for Literacy Implementation Networks, as further defined in the "SCOPE OF SERVICES." State and Contractor may be referred to individually as a "Party" or collectively as the "Parties" to this Contract.

The Contractor is a/an Individual, For-Profit Corporation, Non-Profit Corporation, Special Purpose Corporation Or Association, Partnership, Joint Venture, Or Limited Liability Company.
Contractor Place of Incorporation or Organization: Location
Contractor Edison Registration ID # Number

A. SCOPE OF SERVICES:

A.1. The Contractor shall provide all goods or services and deliverables as required, described, and detailed below and shall meet all service and delivery timelines as specified by this Contract.

A.2. Definitions. For purposes of this Contract, definitions shall be as follows and as set forth in the Contract:

- q. **Artifact:** A relevant piece of evidence (e.g., narrative, district work documentation, or Contractor created summative district report) that demonstrates historical use and or experience with a particular document or practice.
- r. **Coach or Coaching:** Refers to instructional Coaching and refers to the process of a School Leader providing support and Feedback on teacher instructional practice using the TN IPG.
- s. **Feedback:** This term refers to the consistent and intentional practice of a School Leader observing a teacher's classroom informally to give them Feedback on their instructional practice. For the purposes of this Contract, Feedback will focus on Implementation of high-quality English Language Arts ("ELA") materials.
- t. **Foundational Reading Skills:** The continuum of skills that research has demonstrated are required to systematically teach reading, including Phonological Awareness, Phonemic Awareness, fluency, Decoding, and vocabulary development.
- u. **High-Quality Instructional Materials ("HQIM")** are defined as a complex set of resources that build conceptually through the yearlong scope and sequence as well as through grade levels that includes comprehensive tools that allow teachers to plan instructional experiences for all learners. ELA HQIM are those materials approved in the 2019 statewide adoption process, found at:
https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/textbook/Adoption_Section.E_2019_Final_01_30_20.pdf
- v. **Implementation:** The process that occurs after a district adopts HQIM and requires district leaders, School Leaders, and teachers to change practices to ensure that instruction is grounded in HQIM.
- w. **Implementation Tool:** Suite of resources that Coaches and School Leaders use consistently to support teacher Implementation of HQIM.
- x. **Regional Network ("Regional Literacy Implementation Network"):** A geographically close network of school districts comprised of six (6) school districts (one (1) mentor district and five (5) participant districts) working together around a pre-determined grade band to solve problems of practice around ELA HQIM Implementation.

- y. School Leader: A School Leader could serve as a principal, assistant principal or instructional Coach and for the purposes of this Contract serves as an instructional leader within a school and provides teacher Feedback on their instruction.
 - z. Statewide ELA Adoption: The list of statewide approved curricular materials adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-2202.
 - aa. Tennessee Comprehensive Literacy Tenets: K-12 ELA instruction should be grounded in regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary; reading and writing grounded in evidence from literary and informational text; and building knowledge through content-rich literary and informational text.
 - bb. Tennessee Instructional Practice Guide (“TN IPG”): This provides a Coaching framework that is grounded in the tenets of, and should be used to provide, teacher Feedback on Implementation success available at https://openedx.tneducation.net/asset-v1:TDOE+fs101+2020YL+type@asset+block@TDOE_IPG_K-12_FINAL_2.docx.
 - cc. Tennessee Foundational Skills Curriculum Supplement (“TNFSCS”): An open-source suite of instructional materials and aligned supports for teachers, designed to support the teaching of Tennessee’s foundational skills standards for ELA in grades PK–2. Units of instruction, ancillary materials such as student workbooks and assessment and remediation guides, and professional learning and Implementation supports for teachers are all available at <https://bestforall.tnedu.gov/book/foundational-skills>.
 - dd. Walk-through: Walk-through refers to a daylong event where a group of educational leaders visits pre-determined classrooms within a district utilizing the TN IPG tool to observe and score classrooms as a vehicle for providing Feedback on Implementation success and challenges.
 - ee. Webinar: Webinar refers to remote professional learning series that is provided over the Internet using software such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams.
 - ff. Zone of Opportunity: An economically distressed community where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment as defined by the federal government. A list of qualifying districts can be found at: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/businesses/opportunity-zones#:~:text=Opportunity%20Zones%20are%20an%20economic,providing%20tax%20benefits%20to%20investors>.
- A.3. For every Regional Literacy Implementation Network that seeks to utilize this Contract, the Contractor shall provide the following:
- a. Manage ten (10) Webinars in the region each year between August and May of the Contract Term.
 - i. Webinar content shall be tailored to district materials selection and support needs;
 - ii. Webinars shall focus on vision setting, materials Implementation, using teacher and student data, and leader supports; and
 - iii. The Webinar topics shall be outlined collaboratively between districts and the Contractor.
 - b. Coordinate and facilitate ten (10) School Leader Walk-throughs using the TN IPG each year of the Contract Term as follows:
 - i. Walk-throughs shall focus on teacher competencies within the IPG and include 5-8 classrooms;
 - ii. Walk-throughs shall ensure each School Leader participant completes the IPG and norms on expectations;
 - iii. Walk-throughs shall ensure School Leaders can focus on the appropriate indicator for each classroom;
 - iv. Walk-throughs shall include debriefs between classrooms and an overarching debrief at the end of the Walk-through;
 - v. Overarching debrief Feedback should help Coach School Leaders to focus on teacher supports for the following month; and

- vi. Walk-through data shall be tracked by Core Action in the TN IPG to monitor and share progress.
 - c. Provide high touch technical assistance (i.e., Support that includes a high level of involvement from both parties and includes tailored supports designed and delivered specifically for that district) to five (5) regional participant districts and one (1) regional mentor districts. High touch assistance will be collaboratively defined by the district network and the Contractor. High touch support can include elements from the following list. High touch support shall be determined by individual district need:
 - i. Teacher professional learning on specific materials,
 - ii. Additional School Leader Walk-through,
 - iii. Consultancies and school team Coaching or district Coaching,
 - iv. Include Walk-through data reporting and trend analysis,
 - v. Knowledge development strategies, and/or
 - vi. Additional services to support district development.
 - d. Collaboratively coordinate statewide convenings each year of the Contract Term with any other network state contractors and the State.
 - a. Convening content should focus on sharing and highlighting district successes within each regional network.
 - b. Coordinating includes:
 - i. Developing the program for the event
 - ii. Determining the format for the event
 - iii. Securing the location for the event
 - iv. Managing the logistics of the event
 - v. Developing all communications for the event
- A.4. The Contractor shall comply with all State required monitoring and evaluation activities. This includes but is not limited to monitoring completion of services and district satisfaction through bi-annual (two (2) times per year) reviews, as required by the State's federal grant award.
- A.5. Districts in Regional Literacy Implementation Networks will use Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant funding from the State to purchase support services that were qualified and approved by the State via RFQ #33101-2104233105FAN5. Districts will make selections and purchases from qualified vendors, including the Contractor if they so choose, in accordance with their local purchasing policies and procedures. The Contractor shall invoice districts in the Regional Literacy Implementation Network for services provided, in the respective amounts owed by each district, in accordance with the Contractor's cost proposal or finalized costs that may be further determined by each district local purchasing policies and procedures to RFQ 33101-2104233105FAN5, Attachment C, incorporated into the Contract as though set forth verbatim.
- a. If, during the term of this Contract, the Contractor offers to sell or sells any of the services provided under this Contract at a lower rate elsewhere, the Contractor agrees to automatically decrease pricing to purchasing districts in order to match the lowest price offered.
 - b. The terms and conditions of this Contract apply to purchases by Tennessee school districts.
 - c. The Contractor shall address all invoicing processes and disputes directly with the purchasing district.

B. TERM OF CONTRACT:

This Contract shall be effective on **DATE** ("Effective Date"), and extend for a period of sixty (60) months after the Effective Date ("Term"). The State shall have no obligation for goods or services provided by the Contractor prior to the Effective Date.

C. PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

There shall be no cost to the State for the performance of services under this Contract.

D. MANDATORY TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- D.1. Required Approvals. The State is not bound by this Contract until it is duly approved by the Parties and all appropriate State officials in accordance with applicable Tennessee laws and regulations. Depending upon the specifics of this Contract, this may include approvals by the Commissioner of Finance and Administration, the Commissioner of Human Resources, the Comptroller of the Treasury, and the Chief Procurement Officer. Approvals shall be evidenced by a signature or electronic approval.
- D.2. Communications and Contacts. All instructions, notices, consents, demands, or other communications required or contemplated by this Contract shall be in writing and shall be made by certified, first class mail, return receipt requested and postage prepaid, by overnight courier service with an asset tracking system, or by email or facsimile transmission with recipient confirmation. Any such communications, regardless of method of transmission, shall be addressed to the respective Party at the appropriate mailing address, facsimile number, or email address as stated below or any other address provided in writing by a Party.

The State:

Lisa Coons
 Tennessee Department of Education
 Office of Standards and Materials
 11th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
 710 James Robertson Pkwy Nashville, TN 37243
Lisa.Coons@tn.gov
 Telephone # (615) 571-6145
 FAX # (615) 532-4989 ATTN: Lisa Coons

The Contractor:

Contractor Contact Name & Title
Contractor Name
Address
Email Address
Telephone # Number
FAX # Number

All instructions, notices, consents, demands, or other communications shall be considered effectively given upon receipt or recipient confirmation as may be required.

- D.3. Modification and Amendment. This Contract may be modified only by a written amendment signed by all Parties and approved by all applicable State officials.
- D.4. Termination for Convenience. The State may terminate this Contract for convenience without cause and for any reason. The State shall give the Contractor at least thirty (30) days written notice before the effective termination date. Upon such termination, the Contractor shall have no right to any actual general, special, incidental, consequential, or any other damages whatsoever of any description or amount.
- D.5. Termination for Cause. If the Contractor fails to properly perform its obligations under this Contract in a timely or proper manner, or if the Contractor materially violates any terms of this

Contract (“Breach Condition”), the State shall have the right to immediately terminate the Contract. Notwithstanding the above, the Contractor shall not be relieved of liability to the State for damages sustained by virtue of any Breach Condition and the State may seek other remedies allowed at law or in equity for breach of this Contract.

- D.6. Assignment and Subcontracting. The Contractor shall not assign this Contract or enter into a subcontract for any of the services performed under this Contract without obtaining the prior written approval of the State. Notwithstanding any use of approved subcontractors, the Contractor shall be the prime contractor and responsible for compliance with all terms and conditions of this Contract. The State reserves the right to request additional information or impose additional terms and conditions before approving an assignment of this Contract in whole or in part of the use of subcontractors in fulfilling the Contractor’s obligations under this Contract.
- D.7. Conflicts of Interest. The Contractor warrants that no amount shall be paid directly or indirectly to an employee or official of the State of Tennessee as wages, compensation, or gifts in exchange for acting as an officer, agent, employee, subcontractor, or consultant to the Contractor in connection with any work contemplated or performed under this Contract.

The Contractor acknowledges, understands, and agrees that this Contract shall be null and void if the Contractor is, or within the past six (6) months has been, an employee of the State of Tennessee or if the Contractor is an entity in which a controlling interest is held by an individual who is, or within the past six (6) months has been, an employee of the State of Tennessee.

- D.8. Nondiscrimination. The Contractor hereby agrees, warrants, and assures that no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of this Contract or in the employment practices of the Contractor on the grounds of handicap or disability, age, race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by federal or state law. The Contractor shall, upon request, show proof of nondiscrimination and shall post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.
- D.9. Prohibition of Illegal Immigrants. The requirements of Tennessee Code Ann. §12-3-309 addressing the use of illegal immigrants in the performance of any contract to supply goods or services to the state of Tennessee, shall be a material provision of this Contract, a breach of which shall be grounds for monetary and other penalties, up to and including termination of this Contract.
- a. The Contractor hereby agrees that the Contractor shall not knowingly utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract and shall not knowingly utilize the services of any subcontractor who will utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract. The Contractor shall reaffirm this attestation, in writing, by submitting to the State a completed and signed copy of the document at Attachment A, hereto, semi-annually during the Term. If the Contractor is a party to more than one contract with the State, the Contractor may submit one attestation that applies to all contracts with the State. All Contractor attestations shall be maintained by the Contractor and made available to State officials upon request.
 - b. Prior to the use of any subcontractor in the performance of this Contract, and semi-annually thereafter, during the Term, the Contractor shall obtain and retain a current, written attestation that the subcontractor shall not knowingly utilize the services of an illegal immigrant to perform work under this Contract and shall not knowingly utilize the services of any subcontractor who will utilize the services of an illegal immigrant to perform work under this Contract. Attestations obtained from subcontractors shall be maintained by the Contractor and made available to State officials upon request.

- c. The Contractor shall maintain records for all personnel used in the performance of this Contract. Contractor's records shall be subject to review and random inspection at any reasonable time upon reasonable notice by the State.
 - d. The Contractor understands and agrees that failure to comply with this section will be subject to the sanctions of Tennessee Code Ann. § 12-3-309 for acts or omissions occurring after its effective date. This law requires the Chief Procurement Officer to prohibit a contractor from contracting with, or submitting an offer, proposal, or bid to contract with the State of Tennessee to supply goods or services for a period of one year after a contractor is discovered to have knowingly used the services of illegal immigrants during the performance of this Contract.
 - e. For purposes of this Contract, "illegal immigrant" shall be defined as any person who is not either a United States citizen, a Lawful Permanent Resident, or a person whose physical presence in the United States is authorized or allowed by the federal Department of Homeland Security and who, under federal immigration laws and/or regulations, is authorized to be employed in the U.S. or is otherwise authorized to provide services under the Contract.
- D.10. Records. The Contractor shall maintain documentation of services rendered under this Contract. The books, records and documents of the Contractor, insofar as they relate to work performed under this Contract, shall be maintained for a period of five (5) full years from the final date of this Contract and shall be subject to audit, at any reasonable time and upon reasonable notice, by the State, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives.
- D.11. Monitoring. The Contractor's activities conducted and records maintained pursuant to this Contract shall be subject to monitoring and evaluation by the State, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives.
- D.12. Progress Reports. The Contractor shall submit brief, periodic, progress reports to the State as requested.
- D.13. Strict Performance. Failure by any Party to this Contract to require, in any one or more cases, the strict performance of any of the terms, covenants, conditions, or provisions of this Contract shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of any such term, covenant, condition, or provision. No term or condition of this Contract shall be held to be waived, modified, or deleted except by a written amendment signed by the Parties.
- D.14. Independent Contractor. The Parties shall not act as employees, partners, joint venturers, or associates of one another. It is expressly acknowledged by the Parties that such Parties are independent contracting entities and that nothing in this Contract shall be construed to create an employer/employee relationship or to allow either to exercise control or direction over the manner or method by which the other transacts its business affairs or provides its usual services. The employees or agents of one party shall not be deemed or construed to be the employees or agents of the other party for any purpose whatsoever.
- The Contractor, being an independent contractor and not an employee of the State, agrees to carry adequate public liability and other appropriate forms of insurance, including adequate public liability and other appropriate forms of insurance on the Contractor's employees, and to pay all applicable taxes incident to this Contract.
- D.15. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The Contractor agrees that it will be responsible for compliance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("PPACA") with respect to itself and its employees, including any obligation to report health insurance coverage, provide health insurance coverage, or pay any financial assessment, tax, or penalty for not providing health

insurance. The Contractor shall indemnify the State and hold it harmless from any costs to the State arising from Contractor's failure to fulfill its PPACA responsibilities for itself or its employees.

- D.16. State Liability. The State shall have no liability except as specifically provided in this Contract. In no event will the State be liable to the Contractor or any other party for any lost revenues, lost profits, loss of business, decrease in the value of any securities or cash position, time, goodwill, or any indirect, special, incidental, punitive, exemplary or consequential damages of any nature, whether based on warranty, contract, statute, regulation, tort (including but not limited to negligence), or any other legal theory that may arise under this Contract or otherwise.
- D.17. Force Majeure. The obligations of the parties to this Contract are subject to prevention by causes beyond the parties' control that could not be avoided by the exercise of due care including, but not limited to, natural disasters, riots, wars, epidemics, or any other similar cause.
- D.18. State and Federal Compliance. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations in the performance of this Contract.
- D.19. Governing Law. This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee, without regard to its conflict or choice of law rules. The Tennessee Claims Commission or the state or federal courts in Tennessee shall be the venue for all claims, disputes, or disagreements arising under this Contract. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that any rights, claims, or remedies against the State of Tennessee or its employees arising under this Contract shall be subject to and limited to those rights and remedies available under Tennessee Code Ann. §§ 9-8-101-408.
- D.20. Completeness. This Contract is complete and contains the entire understanding between the parties relating to the subject matter contained herein, including all the terms and conditions of the parties' agreement. This Contract supersedes any and all prior understandings, representations, negotiations, and agreements between the parties relating hereto, whether written or oral.
- D.21. Severability. If any terms and conditions of this Contract are held to be invalid or unenforceable as a matter of law, the other terms and conditions of this Contract shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect. The terms and conditions of this Contract are severable.
- D.22. Headings. Section headings of this Contract are for reference purposes only and shall not be construed as part of this Contract.
- D.23. Incorporation of Additional Documents. Each of the following documents is included as a part of this Contract by reference. In the event of a discrepancy or ambiguity regarding the Contractor's duties, responsibilities, and performance of this Contract, these items shall govern in the order of precedence below:
- a. any amendment to this Contract, with the latter in time controlling over any earlier amendments;
 - b. this Contract with any attachments or exhibits (excluding the items listed at subsections c. through f., below), which includes Attachments A, B, and C;
 - c. any clarifications of or addenda to the Contractor's proposal seeking this Contract;
 - d. the State solicitation, as may be amended, requesting responses in competition for this Contract;
 - e. any technical specifications provided to proposers during the procurement process to award this Contract; and
 - f. the Contractor's response seeking this Contract.
- D.24. Insurance. Contractor shall maintain insurance coverage as specified in this Section. The State reserves the right to amend or require additional insurance coverage, coverage amounts, and endorsements required under this Contract. Contractor's failure to maintain or submit evidence of

insurance coverage, as required, is a material breach of this Contract. If Contractor loses insurance coverage, fails to renew coverage, or for any reason becomes uninsured during the Term, Contractor shall immediately notify the State. All insurance companies providing coverage must be: (a) acceptable to the State; (b) authorized by the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (“TDCI”); and (c) rated A- / VII or better by A.M. Best. All coverage must be on a primary basis and noncontributory with any other insurance or self-insurance carried by the State. Contractor agrees to name the State as an additional insured on any insurance policy with the exception of workers’ compensation (employer liability) and professional liability (errors and omissions) insurance. All policies must contain an endorsement for a waiver of subrogation in favor of the State. Any deductible or self insured retention (“SIR”) over fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) must be approved by the State. The deductible or SIR and any premiums are the Contractor’s sole responsibility. The Contractor agrees that the insurance requirements specified in this Section do not reduce any liability the Contractor has assumed under this Contract including any indemnification or hold harmless requirements.

To achieve the required coverage amounts, a combination of an otherwise deficient specific policy and an umbrella policy with an aggregate meeting or exceeding the required coverage amounts is acceptable. For example: If the required policy limit under this Contract is for two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in coverage, acceptable coverage would include a specific policy covering one million dollars (\$1,000,000) combined with an umbrella policy for an additional one million dollars (\$1,000,000). If the deficient underlying policy is for a coverage area without aggregate limits (generally Automobile Liability and Employers’ Liability Accident), Contractor shall provide a copy of the umbrella insurance policy documents to ensure that no aggregate limit applies to the umbrella policy for that coverage area. In the event that an umbrella policy is being provided to achieve any required coverage amounts, the umbrella policy shall be accompanied by an endorsement at least as broad as the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (also known as “ISO”) “Noncontributory—Other Insurance Condition” endorsement or shall be written on a policy form that addresses both the primary and noncontributory basis of the umbrella policy if the State is otherwise named as an additional insured.

Contractor shall provide the State a certificate of insurance (“COI”) evidencing the coverages and amounts specified in this Section. The COI must be on a form approved by the TDCI (standard ACORD form preferred). The COI must list each insurer’s National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) number and be signed by an authorized representative of the insurer. The COI must list the State of Tennessee – CPO Risk Manager, 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., 3rd floor Central Procurement Office, Nashville, TN 37243 as the certificate holder. Contractor shall provide the COI ten (10) business days prior to the Effective Date and again thirty (30) calendar days before renewal or replacement of coverage. Contractor shall provide the State evidence that all subcontractors maintain the required insurance or that subcontractors are included under the Contractor’s policy. At any time, the State may require Contractor to provide a valid COI. The Parties agree that failure to provide evidence of insurance coverage as required is a material breach of this Contract. If Contractor self-insures, then a COI will not be required to prove coverage. Instead Contractor shall provide a certificate of self-insurance or a letter, on Contractor’s letterhead, detailing its coverage, policy amounts, and proof of funds to reasonably cover such expenses. The State reserves the right to require complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, including endorsements required by these specifications, at any time.

The State agrees that it shall give written notice to the Contractor as soon as practicable after the State becomes aware of any claim asserted or made against the State, but in no event later than thirty (30) calendar days after the State becomes aware of such claim. The failure of the State to give notice shall only relieve the Contractor of its obligations under this Section to the extent that the Contractor can demonstrate actual prejudice arising from the failure to give notice. This Section shall not grant the Contractor or its insurer, through its attorneys, the right to represent the State in any legal matter, as the right to represent the State is governed by Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-6-106.

The insurance obligations under this Contract shall be: (1)—all the insurance coverage and policy limits carried by the Contractor; or (2)—the minimum insurance coverage requirements and policy limits shown in this Contract; whichever is greater. Any insurance proceeds in excess of or broader than the minimum required coverage and minimum required policy limits, which are applicable to a given loss, shall be available to the State. No representation is made that the minimum insurance requirements of the Contract are sufficient to cover the obligations of the Contractor arising under this Contract. The Contractor shall obtain and maintain, at a minimum, the following insurance coverages and policy limits.

a. Commercial General Liability (“CGL”) Insurance

- 1) The Contractor shall maintain CGL, which shall be written on an ISO Form CG 00 01 occurrence form (or a substitute form providing equivalent coverage) and shall cover liability arising from property damage, premises and operations products and completed operations, bodily injury, personal and advertising injury, and liability assumed under an insured contract (including the tort liability of another assumed in a business contract).

The Contractor shall maintain single limits not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence. If a general aggregate limit applies, either the general aggregate limit shall apply separately to this policy or location of occurrence or the general aggregate limit shall be twice the required occurrence limit.

b. Workers’ Compensation and Employer Liability Insurance

- 1) For Contractors statutorily required to carry workers’ compensation and employer liability insurance, the Contractor shall maintain:
 - i. Workers’ compensation in an amount not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) including employer liability of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per accident for bodily injury by accident, one million dollars (\$1,000,000) policy limit by disease, and one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per employee for bodily injury by disease.
- 2) If the Contractor certifies that it is exempt from the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 50-6-101 – 103, then the Contractor shall furnish written proof of such exemption for one or more of the following reasons:
 - i. The Contractor employs fewer than five (5) employees;
 - ii. The Contractor is a sole proprietor;
 - iii. The Contractor is in the construction business or trades with no employees;
 - iv. The Contractor is in the coal mining industry with no employees;
 - v. The Contractor is a state or local government; or
 - vi. The Contractor self-insures its workers’ compensation and is in compliance with the TDCI rules and Tenn. Code Ann. § 50-6-405.

c. Automobile Liability Insurance

- 1) The Contractor shall maintain automobile liability insurance which shall cover liability arising out of any automobile (including owned, leased, hired, and non-owned automobiles).
- 2) The Contractor shall maintain bodily injury/property damage with a limit not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence or combined single limit.

d. Professional Liability Insurance

- 1) Professional liability insurance shall be written on an occurrence basis or on a claims-made basis. If this coverage is written on a claims-made basis, then:
 - i. The retroactive date must be shown, and must be on or before the earlier of the Effective Date of the Contract or the beginning of Contract work or provision of goods and services;
 - ii. Insurance must be maintained and evidence of insurance must be provided for at least five (5) full years from the date of the final Contract payment; and
 - iii. If coverage is canceled or non-renewed, and not replaced with another claims-made policy form with a retroactive date on or prior to the Contract Effective Date, the Contractor must purchase "extended reporting" or "tail coverage" for a minimum of five (5) full years from the date of the final Contract payment.
- 2) Any professional liability insurance policy shall have a limit not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per claim and two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in the aggregate; and
- 3) If the Contract involves the provision of services by medical professionals, a policy limit not less than three million (\$3,000,000) per claim and three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in the aggregate for medical malpractice insurance.

D.25. Hold Harmless. The Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Tennessee as well as its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, and causes of action which may arise, accrue, or result to any person, firm, corporation, or other entity which may be injured or damaged as a result of acts, omissions, or negligence on the part of the Contractor, its employees, or any person acting for or on its or their behalf relating to this Contract. The Contractor further agrees it shall be liable for the reasonable cost of attorneys' fees, court costs, expert witness fees, and other litigation expenses for the State to enforce the terms of this Contract.

In the event of any suit or claim, the Parties shall give each other immediate notice and provide all necessary assistance to respond. The failure of the State to give notice shall only relieve the Contractor of its obligations under this Section to the extent that the Contractor can demonstrate actual prejudice arising from the failure to give notice. This Section shall not grant the Contractor, through its attorneys, the right to represent the State in any legal matter, as the right to represent the State is governed by Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-6-106.

D.26. HIPAA Compliance. The State and Contractor shall comply with obligations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health ("HITECH") Act and any other relevant laws and regulations

regarding privacy (collectively the “Privacy Rules”). The obligations set forth in this section shall survive the termination of the Contract.

- a. Contractor warrants to the State that it is familiar with the requirements of the Privacy Rules, and will comply with all applicable requirements in the course of this Contract.
 - b. Contractor warrants that it will cooperate with the State, including cooperation and coordination with State privacy officials and other compliance officers required by the Privacy Rules, in the course of performance of the Contract so that both parties will be in compliance with the Privacy Rules.
 - c. The State and the Contractor will sign documents, including but not limited to business associate agreements, as required by the Privacy Rules and that are reasonably necessary to keep the State and Contractor in compliance with the Privacy Rules. This provision shall not apply if information received or delivered by the parties under this Contract is NOT “protected health information” as defined by the Privacy Rules, or if the Privacy Rules permit the parties to receive or deliver the information without entering into a business associate agreement or signing another such document.
 - d. The Contractor will indemnify the State and hold it harmless for any violation by the Contractor or its subcontractors of the Privacy Rules. This includes the costs of responding to a breach of protected health information, the costs of responding to a government enforcement action related to the breach, and any fines, penalties, or damages paid by the State because of the violation.
- D.27. Tennessee Department of Revenue Registration. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable registration requirements contained in Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-6-601 – 608. Compliance with applicable registration requirements is a material requirement of this Contract.
- D.28. Debarment and Suspension. The Contractor certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it, its current and future principals, its current and future subcontractors and their principals:
- a. are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal or state department or agency;
 - b. have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract been convicted of, or had a civil judgment rendered against them from commission of fraud, or a criminal offence in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or grant under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification, or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - c. are not presently indicted or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses detailed in section b. of this certification; and
 - d. have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

The Contractor shall provide immediate written notice to the State if at any time it learns that there was an earlier failure to disclose information or that due to changed circumstances, its principals or the principals of its subcontractors are excluded, disqualified, or presently fall under any of the prohibitions of sections a-d.

E. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- E.1. Conflicting Terms and Conditions. Should any of these special terms and conditions conflict with any other terms and conditions of this Contract, the special terms and conditions shall be subordinate to the Contract's other terms and conditions.
- E.2. Confidentiality of Records. Strict standards of confidentiality of records and information shall be maintained in accordance with applicable state and federal law. All material and information, regardless of form, medium or method of communication, provided to the Contractor by the State or acquired by the Contractor on behalf of the State shall be regarded as confidential information in accordance with the provisions of applicable state and federal law, state and federal rules and regulations, departmental policy, and ethical standards. Such confidential information shall not be disclosed, and all necessary steps shall be taken by the Contractor to safeguard the confidentiality of such material or information in conformance with applicable state and federal law, state and federal rules and regulations, departmental policy, and ethical standards.

The Contractor's obligations under this section do not apply to information in the public domain; entering the public domain but not from a breach by the Contractor of this Contract; previously possessed by the Contractor without written obligations to the State to protect it; acquired by the Contractor without written restrictions against disclosure from a third party which, to the Contractor's knowledge, is free to disclose the information; independently developed by the Contractor without the use of the State's information; or, disclosed by the State to others without restrictions against disclosure. Nothing in this paragraph shall permit Contractor to disclose any information that is confidential under federal or state law or regulations, regardless of whether it has been disclosed or made available to the Contractor due to intentional or negligent actions or inactions of agents of the State or third parties.

It is expressly understood and agreed the obligations set forth in this section shall survive the termination of this Contract.

- E.3. Prohibited Advertising or Marketing. The Contractor shall not suggest or imply in advertising or marketing materials that the Contractor's goods or services are endorsed by the State. The restrictions on Contractor advertising or marketing materials under this section shall survive the termination of this Contract.
- E.4. Lobbying. The Contractor certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that:
- a. No federally appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
 - b. If any funds other than federally appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the Contractor shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
 - c. The Contractor shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub-grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into and is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, *U.S. Code*.

E.5. Extraneous Terms and Conditions. Contractor shall fill all orders submitted by the State under this Contract. No purchase order, invoice, or other documents associated with any sales, orders, or supply of any good or service under this Contract shall contain any terms or conditions other than as set forth in the Contract. Any such extraneous terms and conditions shall be void, invalid and unenforceable against the State. Any refusal by Contractor to supply any goods or services under this Contract conditioned upon the State submitting to any extraneous terms and conditions shall be a material breach of the Contract and constitute an act of bad faith by Contractor.

E.6. Equal Opportunity. The Contractor agrees as follows:

- a. The Contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following:
- (1) Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising;
 - (2) Layoff or termination;
 - (3) Rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and
 - (4) Selection for training, including apprenticeship.

The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the contracting officer setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

- b. The Contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive considerations for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.
- c. If the State approves any subcontract, the subcontract shall include paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

In addition, to the extent applicable the Contractor agrees to comply with 41 C.F. R. § 60-1.4, as that section is amended from time to time during the term.

E.7. Disclosure of Personal Identity Information. The Contractor shall report to the State any instances of unauthorized disclosure of confidential information that come to the attention of the Contractor. Any such report shall be made by the Contractor within twenty-four (24) hours after the instance has come to the attention of the Contractor. The Contractor, at the sole discretion of the State, shall provide no cost credit monitoring services for individuals that are deemed to be part of a potential disclosure. The Contractor shall bear the cost of notification to individuals having personal identity information involved in a potential disclosure event, including individual letters and/or public notice.

E.8. Transfer of Contractor's Obligations.

- a. The Contractor shall immediately notify the State in writing of a proposed merger, acquisition or sale of its business operation, or the part of its business operation that provides

services under this Contract, or that this Contract will be sold to or assumed by another entity. The entity that is proposed to assume the Contractor's duties under this Contract, whether through merger, acquisition, sale or other transaction, will be hereinafter described as the "New Entity".

b. The Contractor (or, if the Contractor no longer exists as a legal entity, the New Entity) will provide to the State within a reasonable time, information that the State may require about the merger, acquisition or sale, which may include:

i. the date and terms of the merger, acquisition or sale, including specifically, but not limited to, adequate documentation of the financial solvency and adequate capitalization of the proposed New Entity

ii. evidence of financial solvency and adequate capitalization of the proposed New Entity which may consist of,

- (1) Debt;
- (2) Assets;
- (3) Liabilities;
- (4) Cash flow
- (5) Percentage of the total revenues of the company that are represented by this Contract;
- (6) The most recent annual financial reports;
- (7) The most recent annual financial reports filed with government agencies, if applicable.

iii. a complete description of the relationship of any New Entity to any parent company or subsidiary or division resulting from the merger, acquisition or sale of the original Contractor's business or the part of the original Contractor's business that provides services under this Contract or from assumption by, or sale to, another entity of the contract itself, including:

(1) the names and positions of corporate or company officers, project managers, other Contractor management staff with responsibilities under the Contract, and numbers and the type of technical or other personnel who will be responsible for fulfilling the obligations of the Contract, and any subcontracts that will be used to provide any personal or other services under the Contract by the New Entity and,

(2) an organizational chart clearly describing the organizational structure of the New Entity, parent company, subsidiary, division or other unit of the entity or parent company with which it has merged or by which it, or the Contract, has been acquired.

iv. such additional evidence of financial solvency, adequate capitalization and information regarding corporate organizational and personnel assigned to the Contract as the State determines is necessary to evaluate the status of the proposed or consummated merger, acquisition or sale.

c. The original Contractor shall immediately notify the State in writing in the event of a change in its legal name and/or Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN). The Contractor shall comply with State requests for copies of any documents that have been filed with state corporate records officials or other officials in the state of its incorporation that verify the name change and a narrative description of the reasons for the name change. If a New Entity has succeeded to the interest of the original Contractor, it shall immediately provide the State written notification of its Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), its complete corporate name, State of incorporation, and other documentation required to effectuate the transfer.

d. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Contract to the contrary, the State may immediately terminate this Contract in whole or in stages in the event that it determines that the New Entity

i. has been debarred from State or Federal contracting in the past five years

ii. has had a contract terminated for cause by the State of Tennessee within the past five years.

The Contractor shall be entitled to compensation for satisfactory, authorized service completed as of the termination date, but in no event shall the State be liable to the Contractor or New Entity for compensation for any service which has not been rendered. Upon such termination, the Contractor or New Entity shall have no right to any actual general, special, incidental, consequential, or any other damages whatsoever of any description or amount.

e. The New Entity shall provide to the State within ten (10) business days of the State's request, a notarized statement signed by an individual authorized to bind the New Entity certifying that all liabilities and obligations incurred by the former Contractor are assumed by the New Entity.

f. If the New Entity owes money to the State of Tennessee, it acknowledges that Tennessee Code Ann. § 9-4-604 requires repayment of these funds and will enter into a legally binding agreement for repayment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

CONTRACTOR LEGAL ENTITY NAME:

CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE

DATE

PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTOR SIGNATORY (above)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

PENNY SCHWINN, COMMISSIONER

DATE

ATTACHMENT A**ATTESTATION RE PERSONNEL USED IN CONTRACT PERFORMANCE**

SUBJECT CONTRACT NUMBER:	
CONTRACTOR LEGAL ENTITY NAME:	
EDISON VENDOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	

The Contractor, identified above, does hereby attest, certify, warrant, and assure that the Contractor shall not knowingly utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract and shall not knowingly utilize the services of any subcontractor who will utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract.

CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE

NOTICE: This attestation MUST be signed by an individual empowered to contractually bind the Contractor. If said individual is not the chief executive or president, this document shall attach evidence showing the individual's authority to contractually bind the Contractor.

PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNATORY

DATE OF ATTESTATION

Pro Forma ATTACHMENT B**(Fill out only by selected Contractor)**

SAMPLE LETTER OF DIVERSITY COMMITMENT

(Company Letterhead/Logo)

(Address)

(Date)

(Salutation),

(Company Name) is committed to achieving or surpassing a goal of (numeral) percent spend with certified diversity business enterprise firms on State of Tennessee contract # (Edison document #). Diversity businesses are defined as those that are owned by minority, women, service-disabled veterans, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and small businesses which are certified by the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise (Go-DBE).

We confirm our commitment of (percentage) participation on the (Contract) by using the following diversity businesses:

- (i) Name and ownership characteristics (i.e., ethnicity, gender, service-disabled veteran, or disability) of anticipated diversity subcontractors and suppliers:

- (ii) Participation estimates (expressed as a percent of the total contract value to be dedicated to diversity subcontractors and suppliers):

_____ %.

- (iii) Description of anticipated services to be performed by diversity subcontractors and suppliers:

We accept that our commitment to diversity advances the State's efforts to expand opportunity of diversity businesses to do business with the State as contractors and sub-contractors.

Further, we commit to:

1. Using applicable reporting tools that allow the State to track and report purchases from businesses owned by minority, women, service-disabled veterans, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and small businesses.
2. Reporting monthly to the Go-DBE office the dollars spent with certified diversity businesses owned by minority, women, service-disabled veterans, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and small business accomplished under contract # (Edison number).

(Company Name) is committed to working with the Go-DBE office to accomplish this goal.

Regards,

(Company authority – signature and title)

ATTACHMENT C

PLACEHOLDER: TO BE INSERTED FROM Contractor's cost proposal to RFQ 33101-2104233105FAN5,
listing Not to Exceed Rates