

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services website (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:	Education/Office of Learning Systems/Assessment		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	Janette Kirk, Chief of Learning Systems		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$2,459,875	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20201218*1904
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	2/24/2021	Proposed End Date: 6/30/2022
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:	NWEA 121 NW Everett Street, Portland, OR 97209		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	NWEA has developed Pre-K–12 assessments and professional learning offerings to support student learning.		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
	A. Competitive Process		G. Grant
	B. Amendment		H. State Statute/Agency Directed
	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor		I. Federal Agency Directed
	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents		J. Willing and Qualified
X	E. Emergency		K. Client Choice
	F. University Cooperative Project		L. Other Authorization

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
Please respond to ALL of the following:
1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

As a direct response to the national emergency as declared by the President of the United States under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and our communities and for which a civil state of emergency remains in effect by Governor Janet Mills within the state of Maine, Maine remains steadfast in a student centered approach to meet human needs. As the financial toll of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be felt across the state and, as schools strive to implement a variety of instructional options, it is clear Maine must make tough decisions regarding the utilization of precious state and federal dollars. As a result, educators statewide must immediately know present levels of student performance including the identification of current student strengths and areas of challenge in order to pivot, revise and implement varied instructional strategies to meet student's needs on an individualized basis. Increased technical assistance and support regarding the interpretation of the results to make such immediate adjustments is also required. An administration of a statewide summative assessment in grades 3-8, 2nd & 3rd year of high school during the spring of 2021 will not provide the immediate and actionable data educators require now to inform such immediate instructional decision making (data will not be available to Maine school districts until early fall 2021). Implementation of a summative assessment also comes with an exorbitant cost to the State of Maine.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II.

Region	NWEA	STAR	AIMSweb	F & P	Math Facts
1	10	8	2		
2	18	2	3	1	1
3	4	1			
4	11		1	1	
5	15		1		
6	12	3			
7	13	3	2		
8	16	2	3	1	
9	7	3			
Total	106	22	12	3	1

During the 2017/18 Maine school districts were required to complete at minimum, a district level comprehensive needs assessment. An element of this needs assessment included the review and utilization of assessment (and other) data to inform decision making. Of those districts and/or schools that provided local level assessment data in addition to the state summative assessments, schools primarily used the assessments in the adjacent table.

Currently, approximately one hundred and twenty (120) Maine school districts currently utilize NWEA as a local interim assessment in Maine school districts and/or schools with over 78,509 students

participating in administration. As can be seen from the most recent CNA data and current data, NWEA remains the assessment most commonly used in Maine schools and/or districts. Those using the assessment are familiar with assessment administration including a shorter administration time and increased opportunities for interim administration, usually three (3) times during the school year.

NWEA currently provides a tool for assessments to be administered K -12 although only grades 3-8, 2nd and 3rd year of high school or approximately 105,435 will be administered the assessment statewide.

NWEA is a research-based, not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by creating assessment solutions that measure growth and achievement and provide insights to help tailor instruction. For 40 years, NWEA has developed Pre-K–12 assessments and professional learning offerings to help support students in their optimal learning paths. NWEA is utilized by educators in more than 9,500 schools, districts, and education agencies in 145 countries.

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The negotiated rate of \$12.50 per student for current student licenses and \$6.50 per student license for newly onboarded districts are current rates for access to the assessment. Other vendors offering similar products range between \$9.50 to \$25 per student. These costs, in comparison with similar products are fair and reasonable. This cost estimate is the middle price point of all three vendors.

Given the urgent need for this data to be in the hands of educators statewide, there is insufficient time for a complicated or logistically challenging on-boarding process – the on-boarding, implementation and administration of such an assessment

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must be expedient and smooth. Therefore using a tool that is already known and utilized by a vast majority of Maine schools and districts requires significantly fewer schools to be initially onboarded and provided technical assistance making for a much more efficient, smoother and streamlined onboarding process.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

The Department continues to examine innovative approaches to assessment ensuring transference of learning and authentic opportunities. As these conversations continue, as does the opportunity of future competition of goods and services.

PART IV: APPROVALS

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	<i>By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.</i>		
	<i>Pender Makin</i>		
Printed Name:	Pender Makin, Commissioner	Date:	2/26/2021
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Jaime Schorr</i> </div>		
Printed Name:	Jaime Schorr <small>6D6437754DD0459...</small>	Date:	3/1/2021

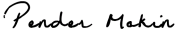
Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 8FDF07B5507A447AB57A02F0A970E885	Status: Completed
Subject: Please DocuSign This Document	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 3	Signatures: 1
Certificate Pages: 1	Initials: 0
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Envelopeld Stamping: Disabled	Pender Makin
Time Zone: (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)	Pender.Makin@maine.gov
	IP Address: 64.207.219.136

Record Tracking

Status: Original 2/26/2021 10:48:37 AM	Holder: Pender Makin Pender.Makin@maine.gov	Location: DocuSign
Security Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: StateLocal	
Storage Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: Carahsoft OBO Maine Department of Education	Location: DocuSign

Signer Events

Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Pender Makin Pender.Makin@maine.gov Commissioner Carahsoft OBO Maine Department of Education Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 174.196.194.120	Sent: 2/26/2021 10:48:38 AM Viewed: 2/26/2021 10:48:51 AM Signed: 2/26/2021 10:49:12 AM Freeform Signing

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

In Person Signer Events

Signature

Timestamp

Editor Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Agent Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Intermediary Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Certified Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Carbon Copy Events

Status

Timestamp

Witness Events

Signature

Timestamp

Notary Events

Signature

Timestamp

Envelope Summary Events

Status

Timestamps

Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	2/26/2021 10:48:38 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	2/26/2021 10:48:51 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	2/26/2021 10:49:12 AM
Completed	Security Checked	2/26/2021 10:49:12 AM

Payment Events

Status

Timestamps