



PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

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 intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:	Department of Education - Special Services		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	Stacey Bean		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 102,102.40	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20220706*0018
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	7/1/2022	Proposed End Date: 6/30/2024
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:	RSU 38 45 Millard Harrison Drive Readfield, Maine 04355		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	The Math4ME program will improve the instructional practices of educators and the proficiency of students with disabilities in Math at the elementary school level.		

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

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

The percentage of students with disabilities who achieve proficiency on statewide examinations indicates an area of considerable concern especially in math. Between 2007-08 and 2013-14, proficiency rates for students with disabilities in grades 3-8 fluctuated between 26% and 31%. Additionally, unlike English/language arts scores, the average math scores of students with disabilities consistently decline from grade 3 to grade 8. Qualitative data suggests that a root cause of low math proficiency rates for students with disabilities is the lack of teacher training in math content knowledge and pedagogy. For these reasons, math proficiency for elementary school students has been selected as the focus of Maine's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) for the State Performance Plan (SPP) (Indicator 17). The Math4ME training focuses on developing teacher understanding of the fundamentals of mathematics, and improving instructional practices by developing an emphasis on number sense for a coherent presentation of mathematics for children with disabilities.

The Department's Office of Special Services received technical assistance through the national-level IDEA Data Center, which identified an evidence-based professional development approach that could help meet the needs of Maine's children with disabilities in the area of math. With guidance from the state-level SSIP Stakeholder group, the DOE's SSIP core group has worked earnestly over the past three years to improve and implement this approach while gearing it specifically to Maine students (grades 3-8) with disabilities. During the fifth year of the Math4ME project, the DOE will continue to scale up this work.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

Local school districts employ educators who provide educational services to children with disabilities. The RSU 38 School Department through their (LTM) is one of many School Administrative Units (SAUs) that agreed to participate in the DOE's Math4ME project to improve students' proficiencies in math. DOE will continue to recruit additional SAUs as Math4ME continues to scale up.

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

A total of up to \$102,102.40 in teacher honorarium (salaries & benefits), coaching, out of state travel, in state travel and supplies. One (LTM) is reasonable given her lead participation in several full days of training during the summer and throughout the year with activities and consultations on Math4ME instructional practices. Travel allowances are in line with the average rates paid throughout the state.

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


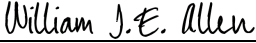
In accordance with Maine's SSIP, the DOE's work to improve math proficiency of students with disabilities will continue. The Maine DOE will recruit teachers from additional SAUs in order to scale up this work and to increase the number of schools using evidence-based instructional practices in math. As the DOE works to scale up the Math4ME project, the DOE is also recruiting additional district coaches and mentors.

PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

- Yes – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).
- No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.			
Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:	Daniel A. Chuhta	Date:	7/7/2022
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> 		
Typed Name:	<small>2D5B8E39F57E44A...</small> William J.E. Allen	Date:	8/3/2022

NOI 0820220760 08/04/2022 - 08/10/2022