



PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$10,000 submitted to the Office of State 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 Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:		Department of Education, Office of Teaching and Learning, Early Learning Team	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Nicole Madore, Early Childhood Specialist	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A	
Agency Department Code:	05A	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20260918000000000645
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)		\$45,091.00	
CONTRACT	Proposed/Original Start Date:	10/1/2026	Proposed/Most Recent End Date: 12/30/2026
AMENDMENT	New Effective Date:		New End Date (if Applicable):
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Education Development Center (EDC) Waltham, MA 02451	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Provide a series of statewide in-person and online professional learning opportunities for educators	

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Check the box below for 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
☐	E. Emergency	☐	K. Client Choice
☐	F. Higher Education Cooperative Project	☐	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.

Early mathematics experiences are an important foundation for children's later academic success, yet Maine educators and families may need additional support in recognizing and intentionally building on the mathematics that occurs naturally through children's play, daily routines, and interactions. These professional learning needs (early numeracy and family engagement) were identified in Maine's 2022-25 Preschool Development Grant needs assessment and funding for professional learning to support the identified needs was included in Maine's 2026 Preschool Development Grant.

The Maine Department of Education seeks to provide statewide professional learning for educators serving children ages 3–6 to strengthen early mathematics teaching and learning through playful learning experiences that align to Maine's Preschool Early Learning and Development Standards. Professional learning will be delivered through a combination of in-person and online opportunities that will draw on the research and resources of EDC's Young Mathematicians project.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the solicitation (RFP/RFA/RFQ) number if applicable.

Education Development Center (EDC) is uniquely qualified to provide the requested professional learning through its Young Mathematicians project, a research-based initiative focused specifically on strengthening early mathematics learning for children ages 3–6. EDC brings expertise in early mathematics research, professional learning, instructional design, and family engagement through its Young Mathematicians team that includes education and mathematics researchers, developmental scientists, early childhood educators, professional learning specialists, and family engagement experts.

EDC has developed and evaluated professional learning designed to strengthen educators' understanding of early mathematics, increase confidence in teaching mathematics to young children, and support family engagement in mathematics learning. Research from the Young Mathematicians initiative found improvements in educators' understanding of early mathematics and their confidence in supporting families with mathematics learning. The Young Mathematicians research has also demonstrated the value of engaging young children in developmentally appropriate, playful mathematics experiences and highlights the importance of creating math-rich environments across the settings where children live and learn. Research has also indicated that family engagement with mathematics activities can strengthen children's mathematics learning beyond classroom-based experiences alone. The results of the Young Mathematicians- Worcester Final Evaluation Report can be accessed [here](#).

Selecting EDC will provide Maine educators with direct access to the organization responsible for the Young Mathematicians research, resources, and professional learning model. EDC's established expertise and evidence-based resources—including more than 50 mathematics games and activities designed for children ages 3–6—make the organization particularly well positioned to

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

deliver professional learning focused on math-rich environments, playful early numeracy experiences, and meaningful family engagement.

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

Education Development Center (EDC) provided the Maine Department of Education with multiple delivery options and corresponding costs for consideration. The Maine DOE planning team reviewed the proposed options and costs in relation to the scope of services, anticipated statewide reach, timeline for delivery, and funding available through the federal Preschool Development Grant (ending 12/30/2026). The Maine DOE team also reviewed other early numeracy professional learning options against established needs and cost structures. Based on this review, the team identified that the Young Mathematicians model best aligned with the professional learning needs related to early numeracy and family engagement as well as the most cost-effective model for engaging the most participants during the available time frame (October 2026-December 2026). The negotiated costs were determined to be fair and reasonable based on the services provided, the scope and scale of delivery, and the available grant funding.

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

The Department intends to periodically review statewide early numeracy instructional needs in accordance with State procurement requirements upon expiration of the contract term. Future procurements will remain open to qualified vendors that can demonstrate their ability to meet Maine's requirements for developmentally appropriate early numeracy instruction and related supports.

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

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

☐ Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

☐ Yes, ARPA funds (025) or (026) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.

☒ No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE

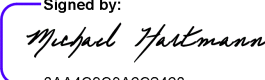
Maine law contains Conflict of Interest statutes directed to State Departments, State Officers, and Employees Generally under MRS [Title 5, §18](#) and [§18-A](#), in harmony with MRS [Title 17, §3104](#).

☒ The requesting department's signatory affirms, understands, and acknowledges Maine's Conflict of Interest statutes and, in accordance with those statutes and to the best of their knowledge, has determined that no conflict of interest exists at the time of this contract, renewal, or amendment.

PART VI: APPROVALS

Governor/Department Commissioner or Designee			
1. The signature below indicates approval of this procurement request.			
Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	<i>Pender Makin</i>		
Typed Name:	Pender Makin	Date:	9/22/2026
2. Additional signature required ONLY if box E (Emergency) is selected in PART II. The signature below indicates approval by the Department's Commissioner, or the <u>designee specifically authorized to approve emergency procurement requests.</u>			
Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:		Date:	

****OSPS Section Only****

Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	Signed by:  0AA4C3C8A6C2460...		
Typed Name:	Michael Hartmann	Date:	10/6/2026

Certificate Of Completion

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Commissioner

Carahsoft OBO Maine Department of Education

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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

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