
Action Item:**Approve the Designation of Sole Source for Avant Assessment****Submitted by:**

Laura Smith, CFO

Funding:

Capital Override (611)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Governing Board approve the designation of sole source for Avant Assessment for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Avant Assessment: The State Board of Education approved the STAMP and AAPPL tests for students to take in order to qualify for the Seal of Bi-literacy. These are the only 2 tests that meet our needs for the Seal qualifications and AVANT ASSESSMENT (STAMP) is the only test that provides assessments in all of the languages needed at this time. Students must demonstrate proficiency in a second language through an assessment methods or an alternative evidence model. Avant Assessment offers a complete assessment of languages including Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Hebrew and English. The STAMP assessment provides a web based measurement of reading, listening, writing and speaking proficiencies, which are scored and correlated with the Teaching of Foreign Languages performance guidelines.

In addition, the District learned just this week that another potential vendor might have Japanese assessments available this month. However, the District needs the assessments as soon as possible. The only information from the other potential vendor is a vague statement on its website. The website contains no information that would allow us to determine whether the assessments are actually available, or to determine the quality of the assessments. We have contacted the company but have not received a response. We also have requested that District's Purchasing Department continue to investigate. As of Wednesday, January 10, 2018, the Japanese assessment was not available from the other potential vendor.

Purchasing is following up to determine the answers to these questions and, if the assessments are of appropriate quality and available immediately, we will pursue purchasing through competition. It is recommended the Board approve the sole source procurement of Avant, in the event that the competitor's assessment cannot meet our needs.

BACKGROUND:

The School Procurement Code requires the Governing Board to determine the following in approving a sole source procurement:

AAC R7-2-1053(B)(1)-(5):

The governing board’s determination shall be made before entering the contract and shall include the following information:

1. A description of the procurement need and the reason why there is only a single source available or why no reasonable alternative exists;
2. The name of the proposed supplier;
3. The duration and estimated total dollar value of the proposed procurement;
4. Documentation that the price submitted is fair and reasonable; and
5. A description of efforts made to seek other sources

Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the Seal of Bi-literacy.

- The student must successfully complete all English Language Arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average in those classes of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Pass ELA end of course examinations. (AZMerit - proficient or highly proficient)
- If the student has a primary home language other than English, the student shall obtain a score of proficient based on the AZELLA.
- Students must demonstrate proficiency in a second language through an assessment method or an alternative evidence model.
 - Assessment Method: To demonstrate language proficiency through the assessment method, the student must attain the required score on a language assessment as adopted by the State Board of Education.

This commodity will be purchased on an as needed basis, if needed basis. A copy of the written evidence and determination of the basis for sole source procurement is maintained in the procurement file.

IMPACT ON STUDENTS AND DISTRICT GOAL ALIGNMENT

The approval of the sole source vendor will allow the District to continue to provide staff, students, and teachers with the educational materials necessary to ensure a quality-learning environment.

This aligns to District Goal:

- 1 Academic Achievement
- 2 Fiscal Stability
- 3 External Communication
- 4 Organizational Health
- 5 School Safety