

# Expanded Math Access Program (RFP# 19-035)

## Questions and Answers

1. Can you tell me if New York State recognizes NMSDC (National Minority Supplier Development Corp) certification?
  - a. At this time Empire State Development does not recognize certifications from other states or groups. Please see their website: <https://ny.newnycontracts.com/> or contact [MWBE@nysed.gov](mailto:MWBE@nysed.gov) for questions.
2. In this bid are you seeking an already existing online platform with math content or are you looking for experts and technologists to create one after the bid is awarded?
  - a. NYSED is seeking an organization that has already developed a platform comparable to the one requested through the RFP.
3. Can we come with Proof of Concept in March or do we need a fully operational application?
  - a. The expectation is that all bidders would present a fully operational application during the March demonstration.
4. When will the winner of the RFP be announced?
  - a. The announcement is tentatively expected in Spring 2020.
5. Are parents attending the State tournament with their child required to present receipts for expense reimbursement?
  - a. Parents are eligible to receive reimbursement for travel and expenses according to the state rates, but it is up to the vendor to require how families will submit travel information.
6. Do shipments of deliverables to the schools require proof of delivery?
  - a. Yes, all shipments will require proof of delivery.
7. Can the number of judges to officiate at the State Tournament be expanded to five?
  - a. Yes. As stated on page 28 of the RFP, the vendor must provide **at least** 3 content area experts to serve as judges. Any additional judges can be chosen at the discretion of the vendor, so long as a majority of the judges are NYS certified content area specialists.
8. How much flexibility is there in how the statewide finals are structured? For example, could regional winning teams do a more rigorous challenge at the statewide event to keep all students engaged? The top three teams would then present to judges on conceptual understanding to determine the final winners in each grade level. Regional winners would receive the type of challenge two weeks prior so they can work on their presentation.
  - a. There is flexibility in the structure of the tournament, as long as it aligns with deliverables of the RFP and fulfills the two main goals of the EMAP program of building a love of learning and strengthening fluency.

9. Are there special criteria for location of the State Tournament? Aside from it being on a SUNY campus, are there geographic preferences?
  - a. As stated on page 27, the only requirements for the Statewide Tournament are that it must be held at a SUNY and in a location with adequate hotel accommodations.
10. Can students participate in the State Tournament without a teacher/admin coming to the tournament with them?
  - a. No, as stated on page 26, at least one of the chaperones must be a teacher/administrator.
11. Is there a minimum number of downloadable activities expected?
  - a. No, there is no minimum that is expected, but all downloadable activities will be scored based on the quality of the materials presented in the proposal.
12. Do tasks for statewide competition have to align to those used in the regional contests?
  - a. The tasks for the Statewide Event should align to the questions in the Regional Contests, but should increase in conceptual thinking, be aligned to the NYS P-12 Next Generation Math Standards, and not simply replicate the questions from the Regional Contest.
13. Do Elementary Math Specialists need to be NY certified?
  - a. Yes, there must be at least three (3) Math Specialists and they do need to be NYS certified.
14. Are clearances required for educators and staff involved with State Tournament; are clearances for any state acceptable?
  - a. Vendor is responsible for the screening of its personnel and any subcontractor personnel, including verifying credentials and reference checks, and shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that such personnel are suitable for working with or in close proximity to children.
15. There is reference to NYSED's desire for supporting additional functionality relating to integration with Learning Management systems, but there is little detail on what the expectation is. Can this be elaborated on? Is it correct to assume that this integration relates more to reporting student performance data from the vendor's application rather than pure rostering data which is more a function of a SIS?
  - a. NYSED is interested in receiving information on any way that the applicant's platform integrates with LMSs. Proposals will be scored based on the quality of the additional functionality.
16. Are all participating schools required to implement the online program in all grades K-5? Or, may a school elect to implement the online resource in one or more grades in that range?
  - a. While the platform must be made available to all NYS K-5 students, implementation of the online program is at the sole discretion of the districts and schools. Schools may choose to use all, some, or none of the online program.

17. There is a stipulation that the program selected must deliver five PD Sessions in August of Year One of the contract. Will these sessions also be required or recommended in Years Two through Five and should therefore be included in the budget spreadsheet?
- a. The Professional development sessions are required for the first year of the contract, but not for any of the subsequent years. If you elect to conduct Professional development sessions in years 2-5, you can include it on the budget spreadsheet. If you do not conduct professional development in years 2-5, you can leave \$0 for all of Deliverable B.4.
18. In what format shall I send my bid?
- a. As stated in the Submission section starting on page 39 of the RFP, the application must be sent according to the following specifications:
    1. Submission Documents—Two (2) copies (one bearing an original signature)
    2. Technical Proposal—Five (5) copies
    3. Cost Proposal—Two (2) copies (one bearing an original signature)
    4. M/WBE Documents— One (1) copy bearing an original signature
    5. Microsoft Office (CD or USB format)—One (1) electronic version with the submission, technical, cost, and M/WBE proposals. Please place the CD or USB flash drive in a separate envelope. Electronic copies should be saved as Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, etc.).

The proposal must be received by February 19, 2020 by 3:00 PM at  
NYS Education Department  
Bureau of Fiscal Management  
Attn: Adam Kutryb, RFP# 19-035  
Contract Administration Unit  
89 Washington Avenue, Room 501W EB  
Albany, NY 12234