

SOLE SOURCE DETERMINATION

The Purchasing Division has been requested to approve a sole source purchase for the commodity or service described below. Pursuant to West Virginia Code 5A-3-10c, the Purchasing Division is attempting to determine whether the commodity or service is a sole source procurement. If you believe your company meets the required experience and qualification criteria stated below, please e-mail the Purchasing Division Buyer at Shelly.L.Murray@wv.gov with a copy to Karen.Q.Byrd@wv.gov to express your interest in the project. Please forward any and all information that will support your company's compliance with required qualification and eligibility criteria along with any other pertinent information relative to this project to the Purchasing Division no later than 04/15/2008.

Requisition Number: EDD287442

Department/Agency: WV Dept. of Education/Office of Institutional Programs

Detailed Description of Project:

Our office needs to implement a language software program that promotes cognitive skills for learning and reading for students who are non-readers and students with below grade level reading skills. Over 75% of our students come to us below grade level in reading. Many students come to us as non-readers. Our office needs this software program because it is interactive and computer delivered. Our students, who are incarcerated or in treatment, will get the services they need within our existing classrooms. This program can be delivered by any trained teacher, not just a reading specialist. In the past we have used other reading programs; however, they simply address the needs of low level readers. We have not addressed the non-readers. This program will address the needs of both implementing a program for non-readers and complementing our existing low-level reading programs. This program will be implemented in our Juvenile Centers and our three Title I schools. The Juvenile Centers will have a determined amount of workstations, where as the Title I schools will be unlimited.

Proposed Sole Source Vendor: Scientific Learning

Specific Eligibility Criteria:

- Software must provide product at multiple locations, minimum of 9 locations;
- Must address cognitive learning skills of working memory, attention, processing, and sequencing;
- Must address the prerequisite reading and oral language skills of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, fluency, listening and reading comprehension, morphology, syntax, semantics;

- Must be based on scientifically-validated research in neuroscience and brain plasticity with validated field trials, controlled research studies, independent studies;
- Must use the neuroscience principles of frequency and intensity, adaptivity to individual student skill level, simultaneous development of multiple skill sets, and timely motivation in order to identify reading and language difficulties, attack the underlying causes of these difficulties, and maximize learning;
- Must work by slowing down sounds to give the brain more time to recognize them. In addition, must amplify the transitions from sound to sound, which enables the brain to process at faster and faster rates until it has created the neural pathways necessary to process the natural, rapid sounds of speech. Must have four levels of this digitally modified sound which gradually decrease in modification until the fifth level of natural sound is attained;
- Must provide a minimum of 35,000 learning trials within 40 50-minute sessions
- Must individually adapt to each student's pace and abilities;
- Must provide statistically significant results in skills critical for oral language and reading in 4 to 16 weeks of use for 90% of students completing the software products per the recommended protocol;
- Must provide an automated, comprehensive tracking system for every student's progress on a daily basis via an Internet-based interface with the ability to permit confidential remote monitoring of student progress data;
- Must provide automatic analysis of the students' daily performance and provide automatic feedback on completion status, appropriateness of switching to the next product in the sequence, and notification of individualized intervention requirements with best practice suggestions;

Specific Qualification Criteria:

- Vendor has been in business for 5 years or more;
- Must have completed scope of work in same type of facilities;
- Must have the ability to automatically update installed software using the Internet;
- Must provide customer support services to include instructional as well as technical consultation and site readiness review;
- Must provide unlimited, toll-free access to customer service and technical support;
- Must offer on-site training and professional development;
- Must provide proactive calls to ensure success of the implementation;
- Must offer online professional development courses about the brain, learning language, and impact of brain on reading;
- Must offer self-paced training in online formats.