

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 December 12, 2008.

Requisition Number: EDD308028 Department/Agency: Education

Detailed Description of Project: The West Virginia Department of Education requires an analysis of the alignment of the West Virginia Secondary Reading /Language Arts and mathematics content standards and objectives (CSOs) with the American Diploma Project (ADP) which addresses 21st Century workplace readiness and college readiness skills. This analysis is needed to confirm that the State's recently revised secondary school (grades 9-12) CSOs have national rigor and are properly aligned to nationally recognized standards supported by statistically valid research performed by an independent/external entity. If, based upon the analysis performed, revisions or improvements are needed this organization will recommend improvements.

Proposed Sole Source Vendor: Achieve

Specific Eligibility Criteria: West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) management, through its contacts with national consortiums, identified Achieve's evaluation process as the only one nationwide, which could evaluate state standards against an existing data set of rigorous college readiness standards. Furthermore, queries were made with consultants whom the WVDE had utilized in the past. None of these consultants could perform the analyses linked to the Achieve data set.

Specific Qualification Criteria: Specifically, the West Virginia Department of Education believes that this request qualifies for sole source because this vendor is the only vendor in possession of a benchmarking data set consisting of the following components:

- Achieve initially commissioned leading economists to examine labor market projections for the most promising jobs in order to pinpoint the academic knowledge and skills required for success in those occupations.
- Achieve then surveyed officials from 22 occupations about the skills that they believed were most useful for employees to bring to those jobs. This component correlates to skills of high school graduates which are desired by today's employers.

- Upon completion of those conversations and in the context of what they learned in their research with the business community, Achieve then collaborated with two- and four-year postsecondary leaders in partner states to determine the prerequisite English and mathematics knowledge and skills required for success in entry-level, credit-bearing courses in English, mathematics, the sciences and the humanities.
- The research resulted in the ADP Benchmarks which reflect a strong convergence in what both employers and postsecondary faculty say are needed for new employees, as well as for freshmen entering credit-bearing coursework, to be successful.
- This ADP process was unique to Achieve and no other vendor has this process. Therefore, in order to analyze the alignment of West Virginia CSOs to ADP Benchmarks, Achieve must be considered sole source vendor.