



SOLICITATION ADDENDUM #1

Issuing Agency:	Department of Public Instruction
Solicitation Number:	24-RQ135228-SC
Solicitation Description:	Kindergarten Entry Assessment and Prekindergarten Literacy Assessment
Solicitation Opening Date and Time:	November 6, 2024 at 2:00 PM ET
Addendum Number:	1
Addendum Date:	October 23, 2024
Purchasing Agent:	Nicole Mathis on behalf of Sloane Chua

THIS ADDENDUM IS REQUIRED BE RETURNED WITH THE PROPOSAL RESPONSE

Modifications to the language in the solicitation are in **red** and language that is removed is ~~stricken~~.

1. THE SOLICITATION IS HEREBY MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

- a) Section 3.4.18 Access (Optional) in the posted RFP is now DELETED.
- b) Refer to Section 3.4.8 Access in the posted RFP.

Section 3.4.8 is now modified as listed below:

1. Describe how the proposed solution can externalize identity and access management. The protocols describing the State's Identity and Access Management can be found at the following link: <https://it.nc.gov/services/vendor-engagement-resources#identity-access-management>

2. Describe how your solution supports the above protocols as well as making them available for application integration/consumption.

3. Describe how the proposed solution can integrate with the States Identify and Access Management.

4. Describe role-based security at the state, district, and school level including creating user defined roles. Explain Archetype and inheritance of roles.

5. Clearly define the role-based access control for reporting.

6. Describe how the proposed solution can handle authentication from two sources (NCEdCloud and NCID).

7. Describe how the proposed solution can integrate with NCDPI's Identity and Access Management (IAM) Service. Here is a brief description of the integration methodology using NCEdCloud –

1. **Provisioning** Authorized user is expected to have an account in a system to login and use that system. The NCEdCloud IAM Service supports two methods of implementing automated lifecycle management of accounts for both provisioning and de-provisioning.

1. Provisioning via SAML

1. The first method for target application account provisioning is via SAML. This method requires the target system to use a SAML Service Provider (SP) and it must support the on-demand creation (auto- provisioning) of user accounts via this method. Not all systems that provide SP capability may support this method.

2. Provisioning via Data Synchronization

1. The second method for target application account provisioning is via data synchronization. One component of the NCEdCloud IAM service is Identity Automation's DSS product. Using DSS adapters, the IAM service will communicate directly with the target system in order to provision accounts. This process occurs in near real-time as user accounts are created and updated in the Central Directory. Depending on the integration path for SSO/RSO, this provisioning process may include synchronization of user credentials.

2. Authentication

The NCEdCloud IAM Service will support three methods of implementing a simplified authentication service for end users accessing target application systems. The term "simplified authentication" refers to the concept that users won't have to keep track of multiple credentials when accessing the different target systems. From the end user perspective, this could be either an SSO or an RSO experience, depending on the method used to provide the authentication integration.

The term single logout is the counter solution to SSO. For example, if you log in to five applications via SSO, you could log out of all sessions with a single logout link. The NCEdCloud IAM service will provide a single logout capability for SAML-enabled target systems but cannot enforce its implementation by all target systems. So, if an end-user clicks on the single logout option of an application, it would log them out of all sessions

that were accessed using SAML. Unfortunately, only closing the browser application itself can guarantee that all sessions are absolutely ended.

1. SAML Authentication

2.1.1. The first (and preferred) method for target system authentication integration is via SAML. This method requires the target system to use a SAML Service Provider (SP). Once integrated, the login page for every target system using SAML will be the

NCEdCloud IAM login page (branded to illustrate the use of the NCEdCloud Username and Password). The first application accessed will require the user to authenticate (via the IAM Service Login), however, each subsequent SAML-enabled application the user accesses will provide an SSO experience (no additional login required).

2. Native Authentication

1. The second method for target system authentication would be native authentication. With this method the user will access the target system and will login with credentials that have been synchronized to that system (See 1.2. Provisioning via Data Synchronization). In this case, the application is storing the user account credentials locally, thus it is using native authentication. This method will provide an RSO experience because the credentials used will be the same credentials as the NCEdCloud.

3. LDAP Authentication

1. The third method for target system authentication integration is via LDAP. This method requires the target system to support an option to use LDAP for authentication as an alternative to local/native authentication. The NCEdCloud IAM

Service will provide a load balanced, fault tolerant LDAP endpoint for target systems for authentication. This method will provide an RSO experience because the credentials used will be the same credentials as the NCEdCloud.

c) Attachment A Definitions has been modified to add the definition of a classroom.

18. Classroom: For Pre-K - At least one lead teacher with up to 10 students or at least one lead teacher and one teacher assistant with up to 20 students. See page 51 of the NC Pre-K requirements, Staff-to-Child Ratio and Class Size *REVISED*. [2024-2025 NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance Final Rev September 2024.pdf \(ncdhhs.gov\)](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/2024-2025_NC_Pre-K_Program_Requirements_and_Guidance_Final_Rev_September_2024.pdf). For Kindergarten – One teacher with up to 21 students.

d) Section 5.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA - 5. Vendor Reference Checks – ~~Attachment H~~ Attachment G

e) Section 7.2 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - The Vendor shall provide evidence of financial stability by returning with its offer 1) completed Financial Review Form (~~Attachment I~~ Attachment H), and 2) copies of Financial Statements as further described hereinbelow.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS RECEIVED ABOUT THE SOLICITATION AND THE STATE'S RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS.

ITEM	REFERENCE	VENDOR QUESTION	STATE'S RESPONSE
1	RFP Section: Number and Title of RFP Page Number: 1, and all pages (footer)	RFP No. 24-RQ135228-SC The RFP for Kindergarten Entry Assessment and Prekindergarten Literacy Assessment appears to also refer to a recent South Carolina DOE RFP for products and services. Will the NCDPI please confirm the state is looking for a different program than what is currently offered in South Carolina?	The NCDPI RFP is not related to a South Carolina RFP.

ITEM	REFERENCE	VENDOR QUESTION	STATE'S RESPONSE
2	1.0: Anticipated Procurement Schedule - Contract Award	Do you have a targeted date for when the contract will be executed?	Refer to Section 1.0, the anticipated Procurement Schedule. The procurement process and timeline will follow the task laid out in the table.
3	1.0: Anticipated Procurement Schedule - Offer Opening Deadline	What is the purpose/agenda for the call on Nov. 6, 2024 at 2:00 PM ET? Is attendance mandatory for vendors?	Refer to Section 1.0, the offer opening meeting is the public opening of proposals and attendance is not mandatory.
4	3.4.17-Project Management Specifications ID 1.	How is implementation by June 30, 2025 defined? Will the first group to be assessed include kindergarteners for the 2025-26 school year followed by pre-K students in the spring of 2026?	Implementation by June 30, 2025 would include the solution is fully available to end users and training for end users are complete. The first group to be assessed includes kindergarteners beginning in July of the 2025-26 school year followed by Pre-K students in the spring of 2026.
5	3.4.8: Access 3.4.18: Access (optional)	Can you clarify the requirement for the level of integration with the NC DPI's identity and access management (IAM) service and single sign on? 3.4.18 indicates it is optional, however 3.4.8 does not indicate optional	NCID is required for non-Public School Units and NCDPI's Identity and access Management (IAM) service is required for Public School Units. See 1. THE SOLICITATION IS HEREBY MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS; b)
6	5.2- Evaluation Criteria	What is the scoring rubric for each section? Is there any scoring rubric or component weighting guidelines that could be provided?	Refer to 5.2 Evaluation Criteria. See 1. THE SOLICITATION IS HEREBY MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS; d)
7	7.2- Financial Statements	The text refers to "completed Financial Review Form (Attachment I)" however there is no attachment I in the document. Does this actually refer to Attachment H, which is labeled "Financial Review Form"?	See 1. THE SOLICITATION IS HEREBY MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS; e)
8	Attachment D: Cost Form Items 4-7	The table includes lines for per student and per classroom costs (lines 4-7). Please confirm that the expectation is that there will be a cost in either the cost per classroom or cost per student lines (not both)?	A cost should be provided for both per student and per classroom. Refer to Attachment D: Cost Form, "***The per classroom cost is not in addition to per student cost." See 1. THE SOLICITATION IS HEREBY MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS; c)
9	Attachment H: Financial Review Form - Question #9	If we provide the audited financial statements for the past three years as requested, do we also need to complete the table in Attachment H?	Yes, refer to Attachment H: Financial Review Form.
10	Not provided	Will the state consider a bid for an early literacy assessment for prekindergarten students that does not include a kindergarten entry assessment?	No, Refer to Section 2.1, for the purpose and scope of the RFP.
11	Not provided	How will the KEA results be used?	Refer to § 115C-83.5.(f).

ITEM	REFERENCE	VENDOR QUESTION	STATE'S RESPONSE
12	Attachment B - Section 1, #10 and Section 2, #4 and #15	Please clarify whether each Year's SaaS Subscription License costs will be paid by the State (a) upfront at the beginning of each Subscription License term for the entire Year; or (b) on a monthly basis at the beginning of each month during each Subscription License term? Our state contracts typically include annual subscriptions (i.e., SaaS) with a one-year term, non-cancellable during the term, which is paid up front at the beginning of each term, so we want to ensure alignment on the payment structure.	NCDPI does not pay for services that are not rendered. Refer to Attachment B, Section 10 for Payment. NCDPI prefers quarterly invoices.
13	2.4 Effective Date	Will the Pre-K Literacy Assessment include children enrolled in Pre-K in the 2024-2025 school year?	No, Pre-K Literacy Assessment begins in the 2025-2026 school year.

Failure to acknowledge receipt of this addendum may result in rejection of the proposal response.

Check ONE of the following options:

- Bid has not been submitted in the Sourcing Tool. Any changes resulting from this addendum are included in our bid response.
- Bid has been submitted in the Sourcing Tool. No changes resulted from this addendum.
- Bid has been submitted in the Sourcing Tool. Changes resulting from this addendum are as follows:

Execute Addendum

Offeror: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Name and Titled (Typed): _____

Date: _____