Questions and Answers

Next Generation Science Standards Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development - 1/5/2018 10:15:00 AM

Number: DOE2018-18

Questions and Answers:

Q: PEEC & EQuIP Rubrics
Posted On: 1/9/2018 10:39:14 AM

Appendix A, Paragraph 6, Page 57
"Each curricular unit must be accompanied by a PEEC or EQuIP rubric evaluation."

1. Do you require the rubric to be submitted with the proposal, or to be submitted once the contract is awarded?
2. If the rubric is to be submitted with the proposal, is it included in the 25 page limit?

A: (1) Yes, include rubrics as an attachment or appendix in the submission
(2) No, the rubric is not included in the 25 page limit.
Answered On: 1/25/2018 12:28:02 PM

Q: Curriculum in Chinese
Posted On: 1/9/2018 12:58:53 PM

Does the science curriculum have to be in Chinese to be considered? If it's only available in English and Spanish does that eliminate a publisher from the adoption process for Delaware Department of education.

A: No it does not eliminate a vendor from the RFP process, but both Chinese and Spanish resources are needed. If not currently available in Chinese, provide information about the ability to have it translated and made available for teachers by the vendor. Please note: Only the student pages need to be translated in Spanish and Chinese. Teacher materials do not need to be translated.
Answered On: 1/25/2018 12:26:58 PM

Q: Submission Procedure
Posted On: 1/15/2018 10:31:05 AM

1. In Section II, page 3, Application General Requirements: Are these sections to be included in Section III, page 4, under requirement #2 of Part A, Minimum Requirements? In Part B, of that same section, must the evaluation requirements be addressed as listed, or may they be incorporated into our response to Section II, page 3, Application General Requirements?

2. Could you clarify whether or not the 25 page limit includes the Delaware license and the attachments?

A: 1. Yes, they should be incorporated into the response as they are part of what the proposals will be evaluated on.
2. The Delaware license and the attachments are not included in the 25 page limit.
Answered On: 1/25/2018 12:28:23 PM

Q: Material Lists for Kits Posted On: 1/16/2018 3:29:11 PM

Good Afternoon,

Will material lists be given for the kits?

Thank you!
Amanda

A: There are no materials lists available as the curriculum has not yet been selected. It is expected that vendors have materials lists to accompany their curriculum. Answered On: 1/25/2018 12:29:05 PM

Q: Pricing Posted On: 1/17/2018 8:16:14 AM

Questions about the budget and funding. How will the purchases be made- yearly? Per student? A 5-6 year agreement?

A: Purchasing decisions will be made at a later time. Currently the Science Materials Resource Center purchases materials around October and March timeframes. The RFP is written for a one year contract with the option to renew an additional four years. Answered On: 1/25/2018 12:29:49 PM

Q: Delaware license(s) Posted On: 1/17/2018 2:32:20 PM

Can you clarify the "Delaware Licenses and/or certifications necessary to perform services" section of the minimum requirements?

A: Yes, a Delaware business license is needed. The number is also required as part of Attachment 2. Answered On: 1/25/2018 12:28:43 PM

Q: Curriculum Posted On: 1/17/2018 3:04:51 PM

Does the proposal include curriculum for informal school time, such as after-school and summer programs for Grades 6-8?

A: The focus of this RFP is grades 6-8, during the school day, science instruction. Answered On: 1/25/2018 12:30:06 PM

Q: Non-public State of Delaware data Posted On: 1/18/2018 9:38:06 AM

Section: I
Paragraph: 3
Page: 2

"Furthermore, the transmittal letter must attest to the fact, at a minimum, that the Vendor shall not store or transfer non-public State of Delaware data outside of the United States. For technology related solicitations, Vendors may refer to the Delaware Department of Technology and Information identified terms and conditions included in this solicitation."

Could you please clarify what is considered to be non-public State of Delaware data?

A: DOE Public is described below, anything else is non-public.

DOE Public – Information available to the general public; eligible for public access. This information is considered declassified. Public information need not be protected in any special means, other than those measures normally taken to protect data from corruption or deletion (anti-virus and anti-spyware protection, and appropriate rights and permissions for users and groups).

	Answered On:	1/25/2018 12:31:53 PM

Q: Kit Pricing

Posted On: 1/18/2018 9:41:23 AM

Section: II
Paragraph: 3
Page: 2

"The successful bidder(s) will work closely with the Science Materials Resource Center manager, or designee, to provide services in the area of developing, creating, and/or packaging of science instructional units ("science kits") that are aligned with the NGSS. In addition, the successful bidder(s) will be responsible for providing required materials to maintain supplied kits in the future. The successful vendor(s) must be prepared to support large bulk purchasing during these time periods."

In order to provide accurate pricing for the kits,

2.1 What type of kit packaging is needed? Corrugated boxes, plastic bins, detailed organization (specific product bagging) within outer packaging?
2.2 Will delivery be a bulk shipment to a central location? Or individual school delivery?
2.3 Is delivery intended to be a consolidation of orders (typically twice annually) or does product need to be available on demand for orders at anytime throughout the year? If both, could you please provide an estimate of on-demand orders per year?

A: (1) Kit packaging depends on the curriculum and preparation for frequent shipping to and from Delaware schools. To support science kits, packaging such as 2 lb bags of sand, 20 mL graduated cylinders in a protective case, and bags of 10 seeds would need to be available. Packaging will depend largely on the selected instructional materials and the shipping plans.
   (2) Purchasing and shipping are from the centralized Science Materials Resource Center in Dover, DE.
   (3) Bulk materials are typically purchased in the October and March timeframes, but materials must be available at any time to support science instruction in schools. The resource center supports approximately 30,000 students across the state.

Answered On: 1/25/2018 12:30:36 PM

Q: Student Accessibility/ Digital Infrastructure

Posted On: 1/18/2018 9:47:58 AM

Section: II
Paragraph: 6
Page: 3

"[...] Curricular units must have an online student component that is easily accessible or is in a "common cartridge" format."

3.1 Could you please provide some indication of the available digital infrastructure within the DDoE schools?

For example: % of classrooms without a front-of-classroom digital device (digital whiteboard, tactile screen, projector…),
% of schools with a 1:1 configuration
Average number of student devices per classroom, % of students without internet access at home?

3.2 We estimate the online system will have to support around 30,000 students, 400 teachers and a number of administrators. For such a large user base, management of online accounts is a significant task.
Could you please clarify how the DDoE manages the creation of online accounts for all users of the system?
Do the DDoE systems support IMS Global Learning Consortium "OneRoster" or any equivalent rostering interface?

If automatic interfaces are not available, is the vendor expected to provide account
management services within the scope of this RFP?

A: Some schools in some districts are 1 to 1 while others are not. We prefer to have content made available through our common LMS via a common cartridge. Some schools however do not utilize the common LMS so a native platform would be considered reasonable for delivery of digital content to these schools. We are asking all vendors to move towards IMS and Ed-Fi interoperability standards that apply to their systems. Account management should be made simple so that DDOE could work with the Districts to provide a streamlined and standard process like is provided via OneRoster. The extent of account management available would definitely be a negotiation point.	Answered On:	1/25/2018 12:32:15 PM

Q: Kit and PD Support Requirements | Posted On: | 1/18/2018 9:50:36 AM |

Section: II
Paragraphs: Application General Requirements
Page: 3

"Application General Requirements:
The proposal must address each of the six areas outlined below. The submission, excluding the budget sheet and other supplemental budget information, cannot exceed 25 pages.

Section 1: Executive Summary
Section 2: Curriculum Overview
Section 3: Description of Instructional Materials (kits), Capacity for Ongoing Statewide Support
Section 4: Professional Development Supports"

Could you please clarify why the Capacity for Ongoing Statewide Support is included in Section 3 (kits)? Is there any stronger support requirement around the kit component of the proposal? Is there a significant support requirement for the PD component?

We'd appreciate if you could somehow quantify both kit support requirements and PD support requirements.

A: The professional development should directly support the materials used to implement the curriculum. Both aspects are important in the submission. The "capacity" reference asks for the vendor's plan to provide initial support as well as ongoing support for implementation efforts at the scale of 30,000 students across multiple schools in the state of Delaware.	Answered On:	1/25/2018 12:32:37 PM

Q: Proposal Page Numbers — Posted On: 1/18/2018 9:56:35 AM

Section: II
Paragraphs: Application General Requirements
Page: 3

"Application General Requirements:
The proposal must address each of the six areas outlined below. The submission, excluding the budget sheet and other supplemental budget information, cannot exceed 25 pages."

Section 1: Executive Summary
Section 2: Curriculum Overview
Section 3: Description of Instructional Materials (kits), Capacity for Ongoing Statewide Support
Section 4: Professional Development Supports"

Can we assume that the 25 pages only include the pages with proposal content? i.e. cover page and table of contents are not included in the 25 page count.

A: The 25 pages includes the transmittal letter and table of contents would count toward the limit of 25 pages. The budget and attachments do not count toward the page limit.	Answered On:	1/25/2018 12:33:24 PM

Q: Subcontractors — Posted On: 1/18/2018 10:01:03 AM

Section: IV.B.13
Paragraphs: several
Pages: 9 & 10

"13. Multi-Vendor Solutions (Joint Ventures) Multi-vendor solutions (joint ventures) will be allowed only if one of the venture partners is designated as the "prime contractor". The "prime contractor" must be the joint venture's contact point for the State of Delaware and be responsible for the joint venture's performance under the contract, including all project management, legal and financial responsibility for the implementation of all vendor systems. If a joint venture is proposed, a copy of the joint venture agreement clearly describing the responsibilities of the partners must be submitted with the proposal. [...] Use of subcontractors must be clearly explained in the proposal, and major subcontractors must be identified by name."

Although individual independent contractors (1099; not major) are technically subcontractors, is it correct to assume they are not considered part of a joint venture? i.e. The proposal documentation requested in the language of section 13 only refers to major companies participating in the joint venture.

A: Correct (Yes) to both statements regarding independent contractors as well as joint ventures.	Answered On:	1/25/2018 12:33:42 PM
Q: Subscription License	Posted On:	1/18/2018 10:04:43 AM

Section: V.3
Paragraph: 1
Page: 16

"As a Service subscription license costs shall be incurred at the individual license
level only as the individual license is utilized within a fully functioning solution.
Subscription costs will not be applicable during periods of implementation and
solution development prior to the State's full acceptance of a working solution.
Additional subscription license requests above actual utilization may not exceed 5%
of the total and are subject to Delaware budget and technical review."

Could you please clarify the meaning of additional subscription license? Is there a true-up mechanism to verify if actual utilization is below contracted subscription?

A: 1. Additional subscription license would be any fees charged in addition to the cost of individuals licenses (student, teacher, or school) such as administrative fees, etc. 2. Annual review process for true-up would be the preferred method.	Answered On:	1/25/2018 12:33:58 PM
Q: Instructional Supports	Posted On:	1/18/2018 12:08:06 PM

Section: II
Paragraph: Criteria Weight Table
Page: 14

"Instructional Supports: Instructional supports are available for the unit that are user friendly and easily accessible by the teacher. The unit is able to be translated into Spanish and Chinese. Considerations for accessibility for all students have been made (i.e. close captioning, transcripts, etc.)"

How are the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) and the DE Science Coalition addressing interdisciplinary curricula within and across grade levels and core subjects?

What are the expectations for differentiation in the science classroom? How do schools implement science in Spanish Immersion and ENL/ESL programs for English Language Learners?

How do schools implement science in programs for Students with Disabilities (SWD) and programs for GIfted and Talented students (G&T)?

A: The curriculum is intended to be used by all students. Appendix D of the NGSS, All Standards, All Students, can be used as a reference.	Answered On:	1/25/2018 12:34:42 PM

Q: NGSS Standards PE's	Posted On:	1/18/2018 1:22:40 PM

Section: Appendix C
Paragraph:
Page: 60

The following NGSS Performance Expectations are not included in Appendix C Standards for Grades 6, 7 and 8. Is there a curricular or instructional reason for this?

MS-LS2-2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.

MS-LS2-5 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
Evaluate competing design solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.

MS-ETS1-3 Engineering Design Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.

A: These standards have been added to the Appendix C document and posted on the website as "Revised Appendix C".	Answered On:	1/25/2018 12:34:17 PM

Q: Technology Standards	Posted On:	1/18/2018 3:40:01 PM

The link to the State Architecture requirements does not work. We tried the link in the RFP document as well as the link from the DTI page, neither works.

A:	Here is the enterprise standards link:	Answered On:	1/25/2018 12:35:10 PM
	https://dti.delaware.gov/information/standards-policies.shtml		

Q: Technology Standards: Single Sign On Posted On: 1/18/2018 3:42:56 PM

You reference using a Single-Sign On system, but we can't find anything about what system you're using. We'd like more information on this, please.

A: An internal custom built system is used that works with active directory for account management of all teacher/administrative applications. Our system handles application assignments and roles. We are in the process of evaluating an upgrade of this system to include student accounts. Currently, student accounts would be contained within the third party application and would not be accessible through our Single-Sign On system. However, in the future we are looking to integrate in student accounts when our Single-Sign On system is upgraded and/or replaced. Answered On: 1/25/2018 12:35:30 PM

Q: Submission of Products Posted On: 1/19/2018 10:12:53 AM

If a vendor is submitting two products do they need to be on one proposal or does each product need it own submission?
EX: Company has Product A and Product B would that be one submission for both product A&B or two submissions one for product A and one for product B

Thank you

A: There is a limit of one proposal submission per vendor. Answered On: 1/25/2018 12:35:48 PM