I acknowledge all amendments, if any, to this IFB.

Responses to questions and/or correspondence from a Pre-Bid questions and answers will be treated as amendments to the IFB and will require acknowledgment.

Questions and Answers

1. MDE revised and amended the IFB for Textbooks and Instructional Material. Amendment 1 is now posted to replace the original solicitation:
   - Updated dates (see pages 2 – 6 and pages 23 – 26)
   - Removed CTE Invitation for Bids (IFB)
   - Added Language: Digital or web-based formats of materials are preferred and should be substituted when possible (MS School Book Supply will provide details for submission of digital examination copies). (See page 7)
   - Changed the deadline for submission from November 20, 2020, by 5:00 p.m. CST to Tuesday, December 1, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. CST
   - Updated Timeline (see pages 23 – 26)

1. If digital or web-based formats of official examination copies are preferred, what is the recommended procedure to meet the features and benefits page, Free with Order Brochure, Form B and label requirements? Should this be provided online or can publishers opt to create folders with the required information?
   a. A1 Publishers should create folders with the required information. These folders will then be shipped to the appropriate review committee members.

2. Are correlations to the Mississippi College and Readiness Standards required for all bid submissions? If so, are they to be included with the official examination copies sent to the Textbook Office, state rating committee and university libraries?
   a. A2 Publisher correlations are not required, but are allowed. Please include any correlations in with each examination copy.

3. For galley or manuscript submissions, what is the difference between "completed student textbook in its final form" due December 4, 2020 and "bound official sample of the final copy" due December 18, 2020?
   a. A3 There is no difference. The December 4 date was entered in error. The official sample of the final copy is due December 18, 2020. There is nothing Due on December 4, 2020, in terms of official copies of texts.

4. Regarding the delivery of the Official Examination Copies, the document states on page 8 “Digital or web-based formats of materials are preferred and should be substituted when possible”. Does this mean that the items requested may be sent to the various recipients in a digital format?
a. A4 Yes, the reviewers will have access to all digital platforms should publishers submit review materials digitally. Publishers should submit login/access information to our office via letter in folders.

5. If so, may we also send a sample of the product in addition to the digital submission?
   a. A5 Yes, digital and physical samples are acceptable, but if possible, please only send digital access information if you have digital versions of the examination copies. Both are not required for review.

6. What is the period during which vendors are able to reach out to districts? Is there a date on which this period of open contact between vendors and districts will close? [Note: This does not refer to the 'no contact' period between vendors and the State Textbook Rating Committee.]
   a. A6 Vendors that will not submit materials for review for state adoption can reach out to districts at any time. Vendors with Adopted textbook Titles (after the release of the Adoption list during the Spring State Board Meeting) are not to have contact with districts for 35 days after the 2020-2021 Virtual caravan website has launched in March 2021 (the exact date will be released closer to the release date of the Adoption list). During that time, vendors can have contact with districts only if a district requests information or samples.

7. Considering the current limitations due to the COVID-19 outbreak, will the DOE accept digital proposal submissions via email with electronic signatures?
   a. A7 Vendors can e-mail bid documents to crspears@mdek12.org. But Physical copies of the bids must be mailed to the MDE Procurement Office at the address listed in the Call for Bids.

8. If we are bidding ELA K-8, do we need to submit separate Excel documents for each category, or are we able to consolidate into one form?
   a. A8 Please submit bid documents for each Category/committee.

9. Would Mississippi DOE accept a corporate check instead of a bond?
   a. A9 No, a bond must be executed and approved by our State Insurance Commissioner. The textbook office will send official bond forms to all vendors awarded adopted titles.

10. In an effort to alleviate the amount of print materials to send to reviewers, we would like to propose a smaller sample size for our official examination copy. Would it be alright to define our official examination copy as a fully digital curriculum with 1 or 2 of the 4 modules in print (a 50-90 book/package alternative)? We believe this combination of print and digital will allow reviewers to get an idea of how the print works with the digital. If this solution is alright with you, we would apply the materials delivered for our official examination copy to our sample copy.
   a. A10 State Textbook reviewers will have access to fully digital programs. Physical copies of materials are not necessary. If possible, submit only digital access/login information for digital instructional platforms.

11. Would our digital components be able to act as a stand-in to the NIMAS files until they are officially ready to be submitted to NIMAC?
a. A11 The policy on NIMAS files is that the publishers with adopted texts submit NIMAS files within 30 days after the release of the state adoption list. If you submit a digital copy, we can work with you on getting a NIMAS file in after that.

12. This adoption is for core curriculums and 2021 is for supplemental ELAR programs. Is that correct? For example, I think it was mentioned that Whit & Wisdom would be considered supplemental since they pair with Foundations. So would both of the programs be considered supplemental?

a. A12 The ELA adoption is for comprehensive ELA programs. Comprehensive programs must address at least 80% of the standards of a course listed in the 2016 MS College and Career Readiness Standards for ELA as listed here (https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/Offices/Secondary%20Ed/ELA/2016-MS-CCRS-ELA_20180724_2.pdf). If the program does not support 80% of the standards in a course, it is considered supplemental. There will be a supplemental program adoption in 2021.

13. Would you please reply and let us know if the attached Intent to Bid Form will be updated, removing CTE and adding ELA elective courses? We may still have instructional materials to offer, but we need to confirm ASAP what we are bidding to.

a. A13 The ELA electives are included in the 9-12 committee. If you are interested in bidding for ELA electives, any course, indicate ELA 9-12 on the intent to bid form, which is not required to submit a bid.

14. Will you please send me the meeting recording? It has not yet been posted online. I’m hoping the meeting will allow me to determine how STEM coding programs will be evaluated with the rubric.

a. A14 Unfortunately, the meeting recording will not be available. The CTE program areas were removed from the adoption call. This was outlined in the Bid PowerPoint and the Amendment documents that are posted online. The Bid and amendments Here (https://www.mdek12.org/PN/RFP) and the publisher’s orientation meeting PowerPoints here (https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/documents/TAP/TAP%202020%20Adoption/2020_textbook_bids_presentation_updated.pdf).

15. Do you have an estimate about the Spring submission timeline for the supplemental adoption?

a. A15 The Submission timeline for the Supplemental adoption is not finalized yet.

16. Will we be able to participate in the virtual caravan?

a. A16 Only publishers/vendors with adopted titles will be eligible for participation in the virtual caravan for ELA comprehensive programs.

17. When will you post your meeting online for reference?

a. A17 Unfortunately, the meeting was not recorded. The PowerPoints that were presented are posted online here (https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/documents/TAP/TAP%2020%20Adoption/2020_textbook_bids_presentation_updated.pdf).
18. In reviewing the Amended Call for Bids and Attachment F, is CTE no longer being adopted in this cycle?
   a. A18 No, they are not. We will work to schedule CTE adoptions at a later date.

Responses to questions and/or correspondence from a Pre-Bid questions and answers will be treated as amendments to the IFB and will require acknowledgment.

__________________________________________________________________________  _______________________________________________________________________
Offeror Signature                                              Date

________________________________________________________________________________________
Title of Invitation for Bids