

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENT AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**April 17-18, 2014**

**OFFICE OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

21. Approval to renew contract with NCS Pearson, Inc., for Fiscal Year 2015 for the operation of the Mississippi Science Test, Second Edition (MST2), Grades 5 and 8

Awarded Vendor: NCS Pearson, Inc.  
Iowa City, Iowa

Scope of Project: This MST2 contract includes services for Fiscal Year 2015. The contractor will provide training, technical services and products for the MST2 for the second year of a ten year procurement including, but not limited to the following:

- Conduct a face-to-face Data Review meeting;
- Provide a single two-week online test administration with back-to-back one-week testing windows for grade 5 and grade 8 science;
- Develop 100 new test items per grade and produce twelve test forms per grade;
- Conduct a two-day Item/Bias Review committee meeting with 16-20 teacher participants for each grade for item review and a total of 16-20 teacher participants for the bias review;
- Conduct a four-day forms pulling meeting to select items for the anchor, core, and field test sets for each grade;
- Print Additional Test Books for special accommodations; and
- Provide an on-site project manager on an as needed basis.

Renewal of contract for years three through ten will be determined annually and shall be contingent upon the successful completion of the preceding year's contract and the availability of funds.

Personnel associated with this contract are not former Department employees or related to any Department employees.

Scope of Contract:

- Term of Contract Renewal: July 16, 2013 - June 30, 2015
- Cost of Current Contract: \$2,254,492
- Renewal Increase: \$2,290,137

- Total Amount to be Awarded: \$4,544,629
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: State and Federal funds

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**Office of Student Assessment**  
**NCS Pearson, Inc. (MST2)**

**Contract History**

<b>Year</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>Initial Projected Contract Cost</b>	<b>Actual Contract Cost (including modifications)</b>
1	FY14	\$2,254,492	\$2,254,492
2	FY15	\$2,056,501	\$2,290,137
3	FY16	\$5,201,728	
4	FY17	\$5,175,623	
5	FY18	\$5,153,995	
6	FY19	\$5,015,441	
7	FY20	\$4,975,608	
8	FY21	\$5,152,827	
9	FY22	\$5,311,196	
10	FY23	\$5,537,152	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$45,834,563</b>	<b>\$4,544,629</b>

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**Mississippi Science Test, Second Edition (MST2), Grades 5 and 8**  
**Evaluation Summary**

NCS Pearson, Inc., is evaluated quarterly and has provided the following contractual deliverables:

- Developed 400 items for Grade 5 and for Grade 8;
- Developed operational Science Tests in grades 5 and 8 using the specifications contained in the latest Mississippi Science Curriculum Framework, test blueprint, and based upon the work of the Mississippi Science Test Teacher Committee;
- Secured item banks to develop 12 forms to be administered online in spring 2014. Six (6) test forms will be constructed for grade 5 and six (6) forms for grade 8 using the available item bank and shall be aligned to the blueprint;
- Prepared for, facilitated, and conducted two Item Review and Bias Review meetings for 2013-2014;
- Planned and facilitated two Planning Meetings during the contract year;
- Attended two (2) Technical Advisory Meetings (TAC) in Jackson, Mississippi;
- Provided online testing for the Mississippi Science Test in grades 5 and 8 using Pearson's TestNav Computer Based Testing Platform;
- Provided accurate scoring and psychometric activities related to the 2014 test administration;
- Prepared and delivered machine readable data to MDE; and
- Delivered score reports to school districts.

The vendor is in compliance of all terms and specifications of the contract.