

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
August 14-15, 2014

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

07. Approval to contract with Amplify Education, Inc., for conducting the Data Coaching Pilot Program

Awarded Vendor: Amplify Education, Inc.
Brooklyn, New York

Scope of Project: In accordance with Senate Bill 2572, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is authorized to contract with a private-sector provider for conducting a data coaching pilot program with willing “C” level or low-performing districts and/or schools in a geographically concise region beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

The vendor procured through this contract will provide data coaching with intensive data focused professional development to support instruction for selected schools. The vendor will provide 3 coaches serving approximately 150 educators. Deliverables will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- deploy data coaches to work with teachers and leaders at selected schools through a professional learning community (PLC) format;
- follow a proven approach to using data to inform instruction;
- analyze and draw conclusions from student data;
- assist teachers with revising lesson plans and instructional approaches;
- foster a culture where data sharing and usage is the expectation of all educators;
- conduct observations and provide feedback to individual teachers; and
- provide monthly status reports on progress.

As a part of the contract, the vendor will be partnering with the Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction (CELI) at the University of Mississippi. This partnership will involve training for pre-service teachers and university instructors. CELI will train the data coaches on Mississippi’s early literacy context and approaches to literacy. Pre-service teachers will shadow data coaches who are facilitating PLCs, observing lessons, and conferencing with teachers.

Renewal of contract for years two and three 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: October 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015
- Total Amount to be Awarded: Amount not to exceed \$700,000
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: State Funds

Summary of Selection Process:

A competitive selection process was utilized to award this contract.

Scoring Criteria:

- A. Vendor Profile (Vendor Capacity)
- B. Vendor Profile (Qualifications)
- C. Vendor Profile (Successful Implementation)
- D. Production Proposal
- E. Budget

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Summary of Monthly Service Delivery for Each Data Coach

Activity	Time
PLC Facilitation / Data Coaching	42 hours (7 PLCs @ 6 hours)
Observations / Conferencing	63 hours (7 PLCs @ 9 hours)
Preparation / Follow-up / Reporting	28 hours (7 PLCs @ 4 hours)
Total time per month	133 hours (7 PLCs @ 19 hours)

- Each data coach will work with 7 professional learning communities (PLCs) as a part of the pilot program.
- Each PLC will be comprised of 7-8 educators.
- Three data coaches will work with approximately 150 educators.
- Data coaches will work approximately 8 hours daily each week (4 days on-site and 1 day off-site for planning).
- Beyond the direct coaching hours listed above, other activities include:
 - meetings with school leaders;
 - collaboration with other coaches and the project manager; and
 - travel (to and from Mississippi; between schools during the school day).

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-177-7

§ 37-177-7. Requirements of the State Department of Education

The State Department of Education shall:

(a) Select schools most in need for the leading intervention program and create criteria for selection for participation based on number and percentages of students scoring in the lowest two (2) achievement levels on state-adopted yearly reading assessments, screening results, and other relevant data;

(b) Assign a supervisory position within each school to be responsible for the faithful implementation of the Reading Intervention Program; and

(c) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the Mississippi Department of Education shall conduct a pilot program with willing "C" level or low-performing districts and/or schools in a geographically concise region. The pilot shall focus on the use of data coaches to improve reading and literacy, to determine the effectiveness of intense data-focused professional development, provide expert support in literacy and early reading instruction but it shall not necessarily be limited to literacy. Data coaches should be experts in both pedagogy and data analysis who facilitate professional learning community meetings, and provide observation and feedback, to help teachers and district leaders build skills in using data to inform instruction. The department is authorized to contract with a private sector provider to implement the pilot and work in partnership with a four-year institution of higher learning that has a center for literacy instruction to develop and implement the pilot. The department shall also work in consultation with the Reading Panel regarding the development and implementation of the pilot program.

Credits

Added by Laws 2013, Ch. 495 (S.B. 2347), § 4, eff. from and after passage (approved April 18, 2013). Amended by Laws 2014, S.B. No. 2572, § 1, eff. July 1, 2014.