

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**April 16-17, 2015**

**OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

Scope of Project: The vendor procured through this contract will continue to provide data coaching with intensive data focused professional development to support instruction for selected schools. The vendor will provide coaches to serve 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;
- provide professional development to the selected districts; and
- provide monthly status reports on progress.

Renewal of contract for year three 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: October 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016
- Cost of Current Contract: \$698,966
- Renewal Increase: \$896,380
- Total Cost of Contract Renewal: Amount not to exceed \$1,595,346
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: State Funds

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**Office of Professional Development  
Data Coaching Pilot Program**

**Budget**

- The three-year budget for Amplify Education Inc. is indicated in the following chart:

Year 1 Oct 2014 – June 2015	Year 2 July 2015 – June 2016	Year 3 July 2016 – June 2017
\$698,966	\$896,380	\$628,264

**Participating Schools**

- Schools were selected through a competitive Request for Applications process.
- The following districts/schools were selected to participate in the pilot program:

<b>School District</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Accountability Label</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
Chickasaw County	Houlka Attendance Center	D	13
Coahoma County	Lyon Elementary	C	17
Coahoma County AHS	Coahoma County AHS	F	19
Kemper County	East Kemper Elementary	D	14
Kemper County	Kemper County High	D	36
Noxubee County	Wilson Elementary	D	23
Noxubee County	Noxubee County High	F	28
<b>Total 5 School Districts</b>	<b>Total 7 schools</b>		<b>Total Participants 150</b>

**Data Coaches**

- MDE was involved in the hiring of the team of data coaches. The team consists of three full-time coaches and one part-time coach.
- Each data coach works with 7 professional learning communities (PLCs) as a part of the pilot program.
- Each PLC is be comprised of 7-8 educators.
- The data coaches work with approximately 150 educators.
- Data coaches 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).
- Monthly reports are submitted to the MDE. Quarterly meetings are conducted to discuss the progress of the pilot programs.

**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.