

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item
Consent Agenda
April 20, 2017

OFFICE OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT

M. Renew the Fiscal Year 2018 contract with Questar Assessment, Inc. for the Mississippi Assessment Program – Alternate (MAP-A)

Awarded Vendor: Questar Assessment, Inc.
Apple Valley, Minnesota

Scope of Project: This contractor will provide programmatic, technical, and psychometric activities for an assessment being developed to measure the extended, MS College and Career Readiness Standards (MSCCR). This assessment is administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in a manner that provides information about: (a) an individual student's understanding of the MSCCR, (b) supports needed to improve learning outcomes, and (c) effective instructional practices.

Renewal of contract for years four 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. This contract will not be considered renewable where legislative changes impact the implementation of said contract.

Term of Current Contract Renewal: September 16, 2015 – June 30, 2018

- Cost of Current Contract: \$5,098,128
- Renewal Increase: \$2,300,000
- Total Cost of Contract Renewal: \$7,398,128
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: Federal funds

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Student Assessment
Questar Assessment, Inc. (MAP-A)**

Negotiated Pricing

	Contract FY 17	Contract FY 18
Contract Cost	\$3,300,000	\$3,300,000
Proposed Cost Decrease	NA	(\$1,000,000)
Grand Total	\$3,300,000	\$2,300,000

Technical Note: The proposed MAP-A cost for FY18 is a decrease of \$1,000,000. The \$ 1,000,000 decrease is a result of removing standard setting, which occurred in year one, as well as, a reduction in training fees pertaining to the rental of facilities.

Questar Assessment, Inc. will continue to create a custom alternate assessment (MAP-A) that measures the alternate academic achievement standards. This fiscal year, teachers will participate in item writer workshops to continue the creation of items appropriate for the most vulnerable population, as well as, a training package to ensure teachers are properly trained on the custom assessments. This alternate assessment (MAP-A) will continue to be consistent with both quality and direction of the Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP).