

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**June 15, 2023**

**OFFICE OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

02.E. Action: Emergency contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for the Fiscal Year 2024 to administer the LAS Links, English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Awarded Vendor: Data Recognition Corporation  
Maple Grove, Minnesota

Scope of Project:

After discussions regarding online testing services for Mississippi assessments due to increased technology across the Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), it has been determined that a change in purview is warranted to move from the Office of Personal Service Contract Review (OPSCR) to the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) for online assessments. The timeline of this decision does not allow for MDE to competitively procure an online assessment vendor for the successful administration of the ELPT during the 2023-2024 testing window, as required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for English learner (EL) students.

This contractor will provide products for the ELPT via the LAS Links Assessment System to test students in English language proficiency in the domains of Reading, Speaking, Listening, and Writing; LAS Links Placement Test for new/incoming students for initial placement/identification; dedicated program management; professional development (training) for test administration; and teacher resources for Fiscal Year 2024. The contractor will provide services and products related to customer support, scoring and reporting of the English learner assessments for the 2023 – 2024 school year. This contract will allow testing for up to 15,000 EL students on a cost per pupil system.

This is a one (1) year contract Personnel associated with this contract are not former Department employees or related to any Department employee.

Scope of Contract:

- Term of Contract: July 1, 2023 – Jun 30, 2024
- Amount to be Awarded: \$ 546,542
- Method of Award: Emergency Procurement

Funding Source: Federal funds

This item references Goals 1 and 2 of the *Mississippi Board of Education Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material: None