

WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SP-16-0139 Online College/Career Planning System

ANSWERS ARE IN BLUE

	RFP Page	RFP Section	Question
1.			Whether companies from Outside USA can apply for this? (like,from India or Canada)
	Answer:	Yes	
2.			Whether we need to come over there for meetings?
	Answer:	Yes	
3.			Can we perform the tasks (related to RFP) outside USA? (like, from India or Canada)
	Answer:	As long as the requirements are met.	
4.	2	1.1	Can you please provide details on the "adult learners, higher education systems, and job seekers" users requirement.
	Answer:	See section 2 for requirements	
5.	6	E.1.B Tech Packet	Please provide more details on what you are looking for with the reference when it comes to "successful marketing plan for implementation" and "recruitment of system users".
	Answer:	Letters of reference should include any marketing and recruitment services your company has provided.	
6.	6	E.2.C Tech Packet	Please provide more information. Our data comes from the department of labor, who only updates this information 1/year.
	Answer:	See Section 2.3.B.5	
7.	6	E.2.E Tech Packet	Are you hoping these are specific to the state of Arkansas only?
	Answer:	A preference is not requested	
8.	6	E.2.G Tech Packet	How extensive are you hoping to provide research on applying for financial aid? Naviance provides a National Scholarship Search and allows for input of local scholarships (at district and school level).
	Answer:	This asks for your company to provide how extensive your system can research.	
9.	6	E.2.I Tech Packet	Please provide more details and examples.
	Answer:	Describe your proposed system functionality.	
10.	7	E.4.B Tech Packet	Please provide more details to what "User report" refers.
	Answer:	See section 2.3.H	

11. 1.10 Please provide the anticipated date(s) for when the presentations/demos will take place.
Answer: See section 1.10
12. 1.20 Please provide the anticipated date for when the state will make the award announcement.
Answer: This is not applicable to the vendor's response.
13. 2.2.A.1.c Please define or describe "Specialized security/functionality".
Answer: The Level 2 Users will have the ability to determine access to functions and activities in the system.
14. 2.2.A.2.a Given the reference to "local aggregate information," should it be assumed that Level 2 Users should not have access to the individual data of Level 1 Users?
Answer: See Addendum – Section 2.2
15. 2.2.A.2.c Please define or describe the "functions" that Level 2 Users would authorize/restrict from Level 1 Users.
Answer: For Example: Level 2 Users may restrict Level 1 Users from seeing other Level 1 Users data or communicating with other users.
16. 2.2.A.3.c Please define or describe the "functions" that Level 3 Users would authorize/restrict from Level 1 and Level 2 Users.
Answer: For Example: Level 3 Users would restrict Level 2 Users from accessing data not associated with their assigned sites.
17. 2.2.A.4 Please define or describe the purpose and goals for the "Guest Users" and how they differ from Level 1 Users.
Answer: See Addendum – Section 2.2
18. 2.3.A.3 Please describe how the "teacher lists" will be used? Please also define the "parent data."
Answer: The teacher list will be used for informational purposes only. The parent data is directory and account information for the parent.
19. 2.3.A.6.b Please provide additional information and detail regarding your requirements for language translation so that an appropriate cost estimate may be determined. Are there any specific processes, services, or methods of language translation that you require? Are there any specific processes, services, or methods of language translation that you would not want used? Can the State indicate what additional languages are being considered? Knowing this information will ensure an accurate cost estimate.
Answer: Users should be able to select their preferred language by utilizing a one step process (.i.e. selecting a tab or button). Vendor is to propose language options.
20. 2.3.B.3 Please define or describe further how the State would like the assessment programs to be integrated into the "customized student learning plans." Please define and list the functionality of the expected student learning plans.
Answer: The results from the assessments should allow the student to select the matching courses from the course list.
21. 2.3.B.3 Does the reference of student learning plans refer to the Arkansas Smart Core and Core curriculum? Are there added components to the student learning plans beyond the Smart Core and Core curriculum?
Answer: Yes, there are no additional components beyond Smart Core and Core Curriculum.

22. 2.3.B.5 Is this requirement the same as Item F.3? Are either or both of those requirements the same data being provided through EMSI? Does EMSI provide quarterly updates of their data (B5) or their data in real-time (F3)?
 Answer: See Addendum for section 2.3.F.3
23. 2.3.B.8 Will the requested lesson plans be a part of the curriculum for the Arkansas Career Readiness course? We realize that Arkansas has well defined standards for college and career readiness. Please define the standards that you would like the system and lesson plans to enforce.
 Answer: No. Vendor is to propose plans.
24. 2.3.C.2 Please define "personalized readiness plans." Are these the same, similar, or different from the "student learning plans"?
 Answer: Different. The readiness plan may give information beyond course selection.
25. 2.3.C.3 Please further define or describe how you would like the system to "enable local career counseling staff to create personalized college-readiness plans that link Users skills and areas of interest to their college and career goals." Please define "skills" as used in this context.
 Answer: See Addendum for section 2.3.C.3. and Technical Proposal Packet
26. 2.3.C.7 Please expand on your needs to measure the rigor of each user's course history.
 Answer: To assist Level 1 Users in strengthening lower scoring areas.
27. 2.3.D.3 What type of templates is the State expecting for applying for scholarships?
 Answer: See Addendum for section 2.3.D.3
28. 2.3.E.6 Please define the criteria for what would indicate a student is failing in terms of meeting key requirements for graduation, certificate, and/or degree completion. Is this the same criteria for every student in the state?
 Answer: The same criterion applies for every student. The criteria shall be provided upon award.
29. 2.3.F.3 Please see question #22 above. Please define "real-time" as used in this context.
 Answer: See Addendum for section 2.3.F.3
30. 2.3.G.1 Please define/provide the pending college and career readiness tasks that would trigger the automated reminders.
 Answer: Based on the plan developed, the system will remind student of upcoming application deadlines for college admissions, scholarship applications, and/or enrolling in training programs.
31. 2.3.G.6.b How are you looking to include data from both Discover Arkansas and EMSI? What specific data are you looking to include from EMSI vs. data from Discover Arkansas?
 Answer: See Addendum for section 2.3.G.6
32. 2.5.B Please define your expectations for marketing the product to All Users.
 Answer: That all users are aware of the system and its functionality, not only those affiliated with a school districts, adult education centers, colleges/universities, or workforce centers.
33. 2.5.C Is your expectation that hard copy materials are provided? If so, what print frequency and quantities should we plan for on an annual basis to cover your needs?
 Answer: See Addendum for section 2.5.C

34. 2.8.J Please share how you determined the requirement for supporting a minimum of 10,000 concurrent Users. Is this based upon historical data with a current statewide online college and career planning system?
Answer: The estimated users were determined by reviewing enrollment data for school districts (grades 8 – 12) and adult education centers as well as past usage.
35. 2.8.L Please define and further explain "directed session management." Please further explain the purpose of a parent authorizing or restricting access for a student. What would they be authorizing or restricting access to?
Answer: Directed sessions would be classroom instruction, workshops, or planned career exploration activities. Parents would have the ability to monitor and restrict communication between their student and outside entities.
36. 2.8.M Please define and further explain "implement customizable role-based User security based on Local LEA selection or needs."
Answer: Users will have access to certain data and reports based on their role. For example, a Level 2 User (teacher) would access to data and generate reports for their class of students, a Level 2 User (principal) will have to access their school's data and reports, a Level 2 User (superintendent) will have access to their school district's data and reports. In this same example, the Level 3 Users will have access to all the aforementioned data and reports. These rights and roles can be established in the system by a Level 3 User.
37. 2.9.G Please explain your definition of a segregated database from any other client with firewalls in place.
Answer: Data collected for Arkansas Users should not be mixed with or accessible by users from other states.
38. Are you able to share details regarding the members of the proposal evaluation committee? Which organizations or agencies are represented? What are the job titles of the members?
Answer: This is not applicable to the vendor's response
39. What funding sources (state or federal) are you planning to utilize?
Answer: This information is not available at this time.
40. What is your estimated annual budget for the system?
Answer: This information is not available at this time.