

Vendor Submitted Questions and Department Responses

The following questions were submitted in response to the Iowa Department of Education's [Request for Approval \(RFAP\): Early Literacy Universal Screening and Progress Monitoring Assessments](#). See the RFAP webpage for additional information and timelines.

Question 1:

Submitting Requests for Approval. May vendors submit links for attachments, or must all attachments be submitted as PDFs?

Vendors are to submit supporting documents in .pdf format with clear indication (i.e., page numbers, table, section, graphs) of where the specific supporting evidence exists. The intent is to have static reference materials tied to the submission form. Vendors may additionally provide relevant url links yet these will not substitute for .pdf format support materials.

Question 2:

Please clarify if there will be state funding tied to the approvals.

There is no state funding tied to this RFAP and resulting approvals.

Question 3:

Would the Iowa Department of Education like pricing to be included with submissions?

No.

Question 4:

What are the department-adopted minimum standards (if any) for reliability, validity, area under the curve, specificity/sensitivity, number of forms of demonstrated equivalence, and reliability of slope?

The Department will not release minimum approval standards. Interested vendors should submit accurate psychometric data for each of the required items for which it wishes to apply. The RFAP evaluation team will complete an objective review of the data submitted in light of the review criteria.

Question 5:

What are the minimum standards for reliability?

See response to Question 4

Question 6:

Will the state review Spanish language assessments as part of this review?

No.

Question 7:

In the “Request for Confidentiality” section, does “proposal” refer only to the RFAP Submission Form? In other words, will all evidentiary documents (e.g., technical report) that are submitted as attachments be maintained as confidential?

For confidential treatment, Form 22, requires vendors to (1) complete and sign Part 2 of Form 22, (2) mark each page upon which the Respondent believes confidential information appears and clearly identify each item for which confidential treatment is requested; marking a page in the margin is not sufficient identification, and (3) submit a “Public Copy” from which the confidential information has been excised.

Vendors are encouraged to consult with local counsel as to what would meet standards for confidential treatment. For vendors’ convenience, here is the applicable administrative rule.

Iowa Administrative Code rule 11-117.19(3) Confidential information in a solicitation response. Unless material submitted in response to a solicitation is identified as proprietary or confidential by the vendor in accordance with Iowa Code section 22.7, all submissions by a vendor are public information. To facilitate a fair and objective evaluation of proposals, submissions by vendors will not be released to competitors or the public prior to issuance of the notice of intent to award. If a vendor’s claim of confidentiality is challenged by a competitor or through a request by a citizen to view the proposal, it is the sole responsibility of the vendor to defend the claim of confidentiality in an appropriate venue. The department will not release the subject material while the matter is being adjudicated.