

Revision of Louisiana Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Grade-Level Expectations Request for Proposal

Proposer Questions with Answers

1. Does Louisiana have a priority weighting that was used to develop the current standards?

No. All standards are considered to be of equal importance. However, the goal of reducing the number of GLEs for each grade in each content area will elevate the importance of particular GLEs.

2. In addition to NAEP and national standards, does Louisiana want to have the benchmarks and standards aligned with SAT and/ACT content and skills?

SAT and ACT information should be provided as a resource for committees as they work. The same applies to other information, such as Achieve's benchmarks, which are used by many states.

3. Will project staff have access to achievement data profiles?

The question is not clear. If the question refers to past performance of Louisiana students on State assessments, this information is available in the Accountability section at www.louisianaschools.net.

4. Does LDE have a list of courses to be included in the unit revisions for Phase 2 work?

The courses will include those which are currently listed on <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/saa/2108.html>. It is possible that additional courses may be added.

5. It appears from the RFP that the LDE will recruit educators for the Standards and Benchmarks Committees. Please confirm. Whose responsibility is it, the contractor's or the LDE's, to recruit educators for the GLE committees?

The LDE will identify/recruit members of each committee, provide needed information to the contractors, and inform the committee members of the relationship between the LDE and the chosen contractor.

6. Is it intended that the revision of content standards would be backward mapped from the revised Comprehensive Curriculum documents?

No. Once the Standards, Benchmarks, and GLEs are revised, the curriculum will be revised to match the revised GLEs.

- 7. Is it correct that the winning vendor provide a framework for the design of curriculum units and that the SEA or school districts provide the specific activities of the units?**

This is correct.

- 8. If a proposer has a federally negotiated indirect cost rate, is that rate allowed in this proposal?**

Indirect costs are not allowed.

- 9. Please confirm that the State requires seven copies total – meaning one with original signatures and six copies.**

This is correct.

- 10. Is it the responsibility of the contractor to identify the high performing states for review, or will there be specific recommendations from the LDE?**

It is the responsibility of the contractor to suggest high-performing states; however, LDE may also suggest the names of some states to investigate and/or suggest criteria for determining high-achieving states.

- 11. Does LA have a list of national content reviewers which are approved for consultants for this work?**

No. The vendor will submit resumes for recommended individuals to the LDE staff for their review.

- 12. Is there a requirement for the national consultants to be named in the proposal, or may they be recommended subsequently?**

It is not a requirement that the national consultants be named in the proposal.

- 13. Is it required that the national content consultants be onsite at each meeting where standards are being developed? Could the national expert cadre provide an independent external review of the standards?**

The presence of the national consultants at standards meetings is required.

- 14. Would LDE prefer to use all/some of the national consultants who participated in the development of the GLEs and/or the evaluation of the LA Comprehensive Curriculum, or should consultants be individuals who were not previously involved?**

Each person proposed as a national consultant will be considered on the merits of his/her individual qualifications rather than exclusively looking at their past involvement in LDE projects.

15. LDE will approve the national consultants, but it appears that the vendor will issue and manage subcontracts. Will the vendor use prevailing laws and requirements for contractor or, since the work will be conducted in Louisiana, does State law require dual code compliance? For example, in some states, contractors paid by state funds and doing the work in-state also have to be registered with an in-state business license. Is this the case in Louisiana?

National consultants are not required to have an in-state business license as their work is managed by the contractor.

16. One of the national consultants is to be a PreK specialist. The first PreK committee meeting is scheduled for June 2009 to revise the GLEs. Is this consultant needed for any prior meetings?

The PreK consultant is not needed for Standards and Benchmark committee work as these committees establish broad standards for grade clusters.

17. The RFP indicates that the contractor shall be responsible for coordinating and conducting the committee meetings in Louisiana. It is assumed that this includes the Standards and Benchmark Committee meetings. Is this correct? If yes, is it further assumed that contractor staff and all contractor consultants will attend these meetings. Is this correct?

Yes to both questions.

18. It is assumed that the various content area meetings will be held simultaneous to one another. Please confirm.

It is recommended that all content area committee meetings be held on the same days, but the proposer may suggest an alternative if such a change will result in decreased costs.

19. The RFP indicates that the contractor is responsible for daily substitute reimbursement (avg. \$75). It is assumed that this just applied to meetings during the school year (September through May). Is this correct? Is there a corresponding daily honorarium to be paid during the summer months? If so, in what amount?

Substitute reimbursement will be paid during the school year. A daily honorarium of \$100 will be paid during the summer to those who are not twelve month employees of another agency. It is anticipated that approximately 75% of the committee members who meet during the summer may qualify.

20. The RFP indicates that the contractor is not expected to pay for the meeting space for the face-to-face meeting. Is it assumed then that this meeting will be held at the LDE? If not, where?

LDE plans to arrange a meeting space for the face-to-face meeting at its offices.

21. Is it the contractor's responsibility to actually craft a revised curriculum, or to make suggestions as to how to organize the curriculum? Or are these options one and the same?

The contractor will *not* craft a revised curriculum. The contractor's responsibility is to suggest how to organize the curriculum by creating the following elements for each unit in a course: Title, Timeframe, Unit Understandings, Student Understandings, and listing of GLEs to be addressed in the unit. Should the proposer suggest a format different than the one currently used, the format and the specific elements to be created should be described in the proposal.

22. Under summary report it is indicated that the contractor is responsible for submitting an executive summary report which provides an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of the comprehensive curricula by content area. This appears to be a requirement that goes beyond the task identified in section 2.8. What are the expectations for this overview (e.g., a bulleted list of respective findings at the general content level) and does the Department have a preferred methodology for this evaluation, or is the contractor to propose a strategy for undertaking this evaluation?

This is an error. The External Report should include the actual timeline and summary of the processes used in the project to achieve all assigned tasks.

23. Will teachers invited to be members of committees be expected to attend all meetings (i.e., each monthly meeting)?

Yes.

24. Will the membership of the standards/benchmarks committees and the GLE committees be different sets of teachers and what level of overlap, if any, would be expected across these committees?

There may be some overlap of committee members, but the intent is to involve as many different individuals in the revision process as possible.

25. The RFP made no specific mention of the preparation of new handbooks for LEAP and iLEAP but did mention the production of final documents for the standards/benchmarks and the GLEs. Would these documents be the equivalent of the handbooks published in the past?

The final standards, benchmarks, and GLEs will be submitted in *electronic* form to LDE. Printed documents are not part of the deliverables. LEAP and iLEAP assessment guides will not be developed under this proposal.