



SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL

DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Purchasing Department

801 North 11th Street

Saint Louis, Missouri 63101

RFP 026-1819 Data Warehouse and Performance Dashboard

Addendum 1: Questions and Answers

1. Attachment A – Under section 1 (“Deliverables”) it states “Direct entry of data by teachers”. Will you elaborate with a use case? **Answer:** Teachers will not be directly entering data.
2. How many end users will be using the dashboard and what are the roles of end users? Example: 200 teachers, 50 district-level users, etc. **Answer:** 50-75 district users, 2000 teachers
3. What level of support is required for the helpdesk? **Answer:** The helpdesk should be able to respond to teacher or district level requests within 24-48 hours.
4. Will the logins be based on Active Directory credentials maintained by the district? **Answer:** Yes, district will maintain.
5. The project requires access for direct data entry by teachers into database. Does the district require a web interface to enter data or access to the database for data entry? **Answer:** No direct data entry by teachers.
6. Can you share what grades and subjects are covered by your value-added measures? **Answer:** Math, ELA, Grades 2-12
7. Can you share more about your existing value-added methodology that was listed as a requirement in the 2015 RFP for the same services? Is there technical documentation for the current methodology that can be shared? **Answer:** Please visit dese.mo.gov which is our state department website. There is information on the valued added methodology there.

8. Is the purpose of the Growth Model to isolate the effects of Educator factors and see how to improve them? Or to consider all factors internal/external in measuring student growth? **Answer:** Please visit dese.mo.gov which is our state department website. There is information on the valued added methodology there.
9. Define the current assessments that monitor the teacher/students' growth. **Answer:** STAR Reading, Scantron.
10. What current benchmark metrics that SLPS compares itself to in reference to other Districts? **Answer:** We measure student growth by how much a student grows in reading in one year.
11. What would be a success benchmark for SLPS over the next 3 years? **Answer:** Students grow a minimum of one year in reading each year.
12. Do you currently have the data to supply the Value Added Model or do you need a method to collect advanced data or this purpose? **Answer:** Please visit dese.mo.gov which is our state department website. There is information on the valued added methodology there. We currently do not have.
13. What are the current metrics used to understand the impact of teachers/student's ability to succeed? **Answer:** See question 10.
14. Will the growth model consider external factors? Ex: criminal record, demography, income levels etc. **Answer:** No.
15. Would the growth model deploy simply as a predictor? Or is there an interactive analysis about the drivers of a students' success. **Answer:** Yes, it would serve simply as a predictor.
16. Do you compare teachers/students success to teacher/student success in schools outside the district? **Answer:** Yes, we would like to.
17. Direct entry of data by teachers – What methods are being used by teacher today? **Answer:** Teachers will not be directly entering data.
18. Currently is there a process in place for score predictions for students? **Answer:** We use STAR Renaissance data to make predictions about student reading growth.
19. Value add growth model for students- is there a value added monitoring growth for teachers as well. Is understanding the correlation between teachers performance and students performance a topic of interest and if yes, are you collecting that information (Data) today? **Answer:** We are interesting in correlating teacher performance and student performance.
20. What do you consider as the standard performance of a student/teacher? **Answer:** A minimum of one year of growth in reading for all students each year.
21. What is the overall goal if this project, and how will the success of that be measured? **Answer:** The goal of the project is to ensure that teachers and staff have access to data to monitor student performance. District usage and implementation will be the measure of success.
22. What are the current DB systems you use, Where is data stored currently? **Answer:**
23. What are the various Student and Teacher Record systems used currently? **Answer:** Tyler SIS
24. Integration and Storage – Do you have storage requirements? **Answer:** Assumption is that this will be a hosted site.

25. How many users on mobile, how many application/desktop users? **Answer:** Users should have access to both mobile and desktop use. Approximately 2,500 users.
26. How many resources does SLPS have on staff that manage data integration today? **Answer:** Less than 5.
27. What is the skill set of the team of data engineers? **Answer:** Proficient.
28. For flexible reporting needs – what current systems does the team use today? **Answer:** We are open to whatever reporting mechanism you would recommend.
29. How many resources do you anticipate for training on the reporting layer? **Answer:** Recommend your best option.
30. For “Direct entry of data by teachers” – What systems are in place today? Please elaborate? **Answer:** Teachers will not be directly entering data.
31. Multiple School/Student data- where does this data reside now and what are some of the challenges faced in maintaining and retrieving data? **Answer:** On mostly individual computers/some in OneDrive.
32. Is the 25% Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and 5% Women’s Business Enterprise (WBE) utilization required for this contract? **Answer:** It is an option that we place on every one of our RFPs. It is a portion of the scoring rubric.
33. Do you have a cost or hour estimate for the effort? **Answer:** Use your best recommendation.
34. Do you currently have data warehouse (Tyler SIS?)? **Answer:** Yes, Tyler SIS.
35. If you have a data warehouse (Tyler SIS?), is it internal or on cloud? **Answer:** Schoolzilla is our current vendor.
36. If you have a data warehouse (Tyler SIS?), who is your current contractor? **Answer:** Schoolzilla is our current vendor.
37. If you have a data warehouse (Tyler SIS?), how is the data warehouse required in this RFP different? **Answer:** Please clarify your request.
38. What is the current structure of the database? What is the software being used to manage the database? **Answer:** That is a propriety question.
39. How do you envision different categories of users accessing the dashboard? Will each individual have a login? Will public be one of the user group categories? **Answer:**
40. Could the references belong to subcontractors as opposed to the prime contractor? **Answer:**
41. Would you consider separately contracting with subcontractors? **Answer:** The RFP should include whomever you want to include – but we will only pay the company who bids.
42. Do you have descriptions for “key” personnel? **Answer:** Please clarify your request.
43. Do you have any specific deadlines for any of the tasks? **Answer:** Provide your best timeline recommendation.
44. For the cost proposal, should the 4 deliverables described in the Scope of Services be used as “elements of cost/pricing”? **Answer:** Yes.
45. Do you have page limit for the response, excluding resumes and references? **Answer:** No.

46. Would you provide a 2-week extension for responses? **Answer:** No.
47. Does the District currently have any kind of value added or student growth model in place? If so, who is the current vendor providing these services? **Answer:** Please visit dese.mo.gov which is our state department website. There is information on the valued added methodology there. We currently do not have.
48. Have you decided on the value-added/student growth model or methodology to be used? If not, is the District expecting a model to be adapted and developed in collaboration with the vendor that would be best suited to the needs of the district and students? **Answer:** Please visit dese.mo.gov which is our state department website. There is information on the valued added methodology there. We currently do not have.
49. Does the District have preference towards software (SAS, R, Python, Tableau, D3.js, etc..) that will be used to develop Value Models and dashboard? **Answer:** No – use your best recommendation.
50. Should the vendor separately cite the license fees of software or servers? **Answer:** Yes.
51. Should the vendor separately cite the cost of cloud environment? **Answer:** Yes.
52. Are there any security requirements or needed certifications for the data warehouse’s cloud environment? **Answer:** Similar to what governmental agencies require.
53. Is there a current dashboard in development? If so, who is the current vendor? **Answer:** Schoolzilla.
54. Does the District expect “ ‘value-added’ growth for each student” to be attributed to teacher level (in addition to school level)? **Answer:** Yes.
55. If so, does the District have student-teacher linkage data? Or is the vendor expected to help the District to build the infrastructure to collect this data? **Answer:** We would like to correlate teacher performance and student growth.
56. On page 16 RFP, it is stated that one critical piece of the project is “ongoing consultation to assist us in developing a balanced assessment model.” Does the “assessment model” here refer to the evaluation of assessments the District uses to assess students’ performances (as they relate to the reliability and validity of the assessments and metrics used to track student achievement and growth)? Or does it refer to assessment of the effectiveness of the data warehouse and dashboard initiative of the District in relation to its Transformation Plan? **Answer:** Respond in whatever way you feel is appropriate. We are open to either.
57. Can you provide examples of the kind of data teachers would need to input and how frequently? **Answer:** Teachers will not input data.
58. What is your SIS and what are your other key data sources? **Answer:** Tyler SIS, STAR Renaissance.
59. Do you have a preferred reporting and/or BI tool or a current contract in place with a reporting and/or BI tool vendor? **Answer:** Recommend your best software.
60. What is the existing/current process to generate a student progress card? **Answer:** We use Tyler SIS to generate a progress report.
61. Is the DW system requirement new or will we need to migrate data from an existing system to a cloud based analytics platform? **Answer:** To be determined.

62. How big (in Terabytes) is the system and what is the anticipated growth rate? **Answer:** That is propriety right now – our enrollment is going down, however.
63. What is the approximate user base for BI reporting / Analytics /dashboard? **Answer:** Less than 5.
64. Is there a requirement for real time analytics? **Answer:** It would be a preference, but not a requirement.
65. Is there an existing system and what are different formats of data? **Answer:** Schoolzilla is our existing system.
66. Do all canned reports, dashboards and analytical reports need to be supported in Mobile platforms? **Answer:** Yes, this is our preference.
67. What is estimated number of concurrent users that will access reports during peak/non-peak hours? **Answer:** Approximately 1,000-2,500.
68. Is there a requirement for data encryption (in case of sensitive data)? **Answer:** Recommend your best option.
69. Is there a Requirement of historical data, in years, to populate dashboards? **Answer:** Yes, past five to ten years.
70. Page-16: It mentions the “‘value-added’ growth model for each student”, does the SLPS have a model they want us to implement or does the SLPS want us to recommend a model to monitor and identify the growth? **Answer:** Please visit dese.mo.gov which is our state department website. There is information on the valued added methodology there. We currently do not have.
71. Page-16: Deliverables-1: It states “Integration and storage of data from a variety of systems” – Can you please quantify and identify the systems? It will help us provide a more accurate estimate for the work. **Answer:** Tyler SIS, STAR Renaissance.
72. Page-16: Deliverables-1: You mention “Direct entry of data by teachers” – What data do you envision the Teachers entering into the Data Warehouse? **Answer:** Teachers will not enter data directly.
73. What are the systems that will need to feed the data warehouse? Please name them. **Answer:** Tyler SIS, STAR Renaissance.
74. Do you currently have Office 365? **Answer:** Yes.
75. How many users will use the data warehouse platform? **Answer:** 2,500.
76. What is the approximate average database/size of the systems that will need to feed the data warehouse? **Answer:** That will be determined after the RFP is decided.
77. Can you share the roadmap of the District Transformation plan? **Answer:** Transformation plan information is the on the district’s website.
78. I see that we have a Federal Work Authorization Program agreement and affidavit. We have a team of employees/contractors in United States and overseas. Would it be ok working with overseas contractors for this project? **Answer:** Recommend your best option and explain the reason for overseas contractors.
79. Regarding Certificate of Insurance, can we provide the required insurance after the bid is awarded? **Answer:** Yes.

80. Bond - I see that it is marked as Not Applicable but not crossed out. Do we need a check made payable to the school district for this bid? **Answer: No – it is not construction.**
81. Is prevailing wage applicable to this bid? **Answer: That is our preference but not expecting a union representation in this project.**
82. License to conduct business in St. Louis, Missouri. We are a Minnesota based business, registered locally. Do we also have to incorporate in Missouri before the bid is awarded? Can this be done after the bid is awarded? **Answer: You must have a Missouri license prior to contract being signed.**
83. Contract Template - Would you like this contract re-written before the bidding is awarded or would it be possible to work on finalizing the contract details after the bid is awarded. **Answer: No.**
84. What, if any, ETL tools does the district currently use? **Answer: None.**
85. What reporting tools does the district currently use? **Answer: Excel.**
86. Are you looking to reuse what you currently have for ETL and reporting tools? **Answer: Not necessarily.**
87. What is your current/preferred cloud environment? **Answer: Recommend your best option.**
88. What are the primary data sources that will be moved to the cloud data warehouse? **Answer: STAR and SIS will be the data sources. They are not in the cloud.**
89. Do you currently have a data warehouse or will this be the district's first warehouse? **Answer: We currently have a warehouse.**
90. Do you want the RFP services quote to include services for a potential software selection if additional tools are required? **Answer: Yes.**

END OF ADDENDUM 1.