



April 23, 2021

Brian Campbell, *Director*  
Department of Education, *Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction*  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Mr. Campbell:

DRC is submitting for your review revised program pricing for DRC’s contract with PDE for the Pennsylvania System of Assessments (PSA)—contract number 4400015274.

## DUAL REPORTING FOR THE 2021 SPRING ASSESSMENTS

### BACKGROUND

In March 2021, the Pennsylvania Department of Education notified the United States Department of Education of its intention to allow schools to administer the 2021 PSSA and Spring Keystone Exams through September 2021. The extension is a means to allow schools additional time to administer the assessments and to accommodate districts that are gradually returning students this spring or not returning students until next fall.

In response to the extension of the testing windows, DRC revised its instructions for the “Testing Dates Collection” system so that LEAs could indicate their intention to utilize the summer/fall extension. The responses from the field revealed that over 70% of the PSSA enrollments would be taking the assessments before May 28, 2021. Based on the high percentage of students that would be done testing before summer, DRC inquired if the Department would be interested in exploring opportunities for an earlier reporting date for those students. (PDE’s initial assumption was that all results for the spring assessments would be finalized and distributed after the test windows closed in September.)

PDE indicated that the Department was strongly interested in a separate reporting window for the tests completed in spring so that those students would not have to wait until late fall/early winter 2021 to receive their results. DRC’s plan to release student results prior to receiving a fully representative data set (i.e., students from across the entire Commonwealth) was predicated on approval from the Pennsylvania Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Such approval was granted from the TAC in late March, which made it possible for DRC to move forward with this pricing proposal. The scope of this pricing includes a separate round of reporting for both the 2021 PSSA and Spring Keystone Exams for tests that are returned on predetermined dates. The scope is limited to the 2021 spring exams and as defined in the following proposal.

### HIGH-LEVEL SCOPE DESCRIPTION AND ASSUMPTIONS

The following provides a high-level overview of the timeline, deliverables, and assumptions associated with this scope.

- As endorsed by the TAC, the preliminary “spring” results for the PSSA and Keystone Exams will be generated from the pre-equated item parameters, and the check of those item parameters may not be based on a student population that is representative of the Commonwealth since there are many LEAs waiting to test until fall.

- The item parameters will not be updated between the spring and fall reporting after a second check of the pre-equating stats is run on all testers in the fall (i.e., student results will not change between the preliminary and final rounds of reporting).
- The spring reporting will be limited to a release of preliminary District Student Data Files (DSDF).
  - Schools will not receive Individual Student Reports or Parent Letters and preliminary data will not be loaded into Data Interaction.
    - All Individual Student Reports (ISRs) will be produced and shipped to LEAs after the fall testing window.
    - Note: District and School Summary Reports were eliminated from the contractual scope for the 2020-2021 assessments.
- The spring reporting will be limited to the completed tests returned to DRC by the following deadlines.
  - PSSA: June 15, 2021
  - Spring Keystone Exams: July 15, 2021
    - All tests returned after the established deadlines will be included in the final reporting in late fall/winter 2021.
- The preliminary DSDFs will include all students for whom a test was returned by the established deadlines, and those students will be reported at the schools where the tests were taken.
  - The student data will not go through the corrections process prior to the production of the preliminary DSDFs. (The corrections/attributions process will be run for final reporting.)
  - The preliminary DSDFs will not include records for untested students who may be identified as part of a school's population.
- The final District Student Data Files will include the students from the preliminary round of reporting.
  - The final DSDFs will be cumulative and will be representative of the PIMS-identified student population for each LEA (i.e., the production of the final DSDFs will follow the normal accountability reporting procedures).
- The preliminary DSDFs for the PSSA will be *tentatively* scheduled for release to PDE on August 6 and release to the field on August 13.
- The preliminary DSDFs for the Spring Keystone Exams will be *tentatively* scheduled for release to PDE on August 30 and release to the field on September 3.
- The increase in DRC's scope to facilitate the additional round of reporting is associated with two specific functions: (1) The production and maintenance of an unplanned round of data files for the Keystone Exams; and (2) A second handscoring window that will require unplanned oversight and training for both PSSA and the Keystone Exams.
  - Although the second round of handscoring will not increase the overall number of readers or the scoring days, it will double the effort to train the readers for scoring (i.e., the training to score the spring results will need to be repeated before scoring the fall results).

## PRICING

Although much of this work will occur after the close of PDE's 2020 Fiscal Year (June 30, 2021), the structure of DRC's contract is such that costs associated with scoring and reporting the spring 2021 assessments are included in the FY20 budget. Accordingly, DRC's proposal is that these additional costs are incorporated as a scope change for FY20. DRC would be open to moving the costs to the contract for FY21 if that is a better fit within PDE's accounting constraints.

	<b>PDE FY 2020-2021</b>	<b>PDE FY 2021-2022</b>
<b>Dual Reporting for the 2021 PSSA</b>	\$139,269	-
<b>Dual Reporting for the 2021 Spring Keystone Exams</b>	\$42,968	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$182,237</b>	-

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you need any additional information prior to approving the pricing.

Sincerely,

Christian Schiller  
Data Recognition Corporation

Cc: Brian Truesdale      Doug Russell      Shaundra Sand      Lonny Wittnebel      Jennifer Eastman  
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