

Information Technology Policy

Business Proposal

ITP Number OPD-BUS001A	Effective Date April 6, 2020
Category Business	Supersedes None
Contact RA-ITCentral@pa.gov	Scheduled Review March 2021

Proposal Title: Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) Contract Renewal Options

Business Owner: Elementary/Secondary Education – Teaching and Learning

Cost: \$44,000,000.00

Mandated Completion Date: N/A

Opportunity/Purpose:

This is for the renewal options 2 of 3 beginning July 01, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Renewing for 2nd optional year out of 3 optional years in current contract.

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The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) contracts with DRC to develop and administer the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), the Keystone Exams, and the Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT).

The PSSA is a standards-based, criterion-referenced set of assessments, consisting of open-ended, multiple-choice, and evidence-based selected-response items for grades 3–8 in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Each year, approximately 140,000 students are tested per grade and more than 1.9 million tests are administered via paper/pencil and online testing.

The Keystone Exams are a series of end-of-course assessments in Algebra I, Biology, and Literature that students take after completion of the corresponding coursework. Proficiency on the Keystone Exams will be required for graduation beginning with the graduating class of 2019. The exams are offered three times a year in both online and paper/pencil format, and each test is comprised of two modules containing specific course-related content topics.

The Classroom Diagnostic Tool is an online test system that supports the Keystone Exams and PSSA by providing instructional feedback to students and teachers through criterion-referenced, multiple-choice, online computer-adaptive assessments of the prerequisite skills of students grade three through high school. The CDT is available for use in schools and classrooms throughout the school year, consists of multiple-choice items with real-time scoring, is based on the same academic content as the PSSA and the Keystone Exams, and provides teachers with easy access to online curricular resources directly from student and class reports.

DRC’s responsibilities across these programs include project management; information and test delivery systems; item development and test development; psychometric services; materials production, manufacturing, and distribution; materials receiving, scanning, and scoring; and data management and reporting.

Business Background:

Detail the background and current environment.

1. When did the agency become aware of the opportunity or problem (s) this project will address? **This is a Federal Requirement that has been in place for years.**
2. What steps has the agency taken to address or mitigate the problem(s)? **This is a Federal Requirement that must be met.**
3. Does the agency want to replace an end-of-life system? **No**
4. Is the solution custom or an off-the-shelf product? **Neither, it is a contracted service.**
 - a. If custom, why does an off-the-shelf product not a feasible option? **N/A**
5. If applicable, did the agency reach out to the Governor’s Chief Digital Officer, through its Digital Director, in terms of potential solutions? **N/A**
6. If not a newly identified opportunity or problem(s), what are the past costs relative to this ongoing project or problem? **Costs have remained the same for the past five years.**

Vision, Goals and Objectives:

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) contracts with DRC to develop and administer the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), the Keystone Exams, and the Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT).

The goal is to satisfy required Federal Guidelines.

Guiding Principle Alignment:

1. Which commonwealth guiding principle is this related to?

Select the guiding principle this aligns to.		Include the name of mandate, initiative, priority this aligns to.
x	Legislative Mandate (Federal/State)	Purchase is required to satisfy state-wide assessments mandated by Federal Guidelines
	Governor Priority	
	Program Priority	
	Other, please explain	

2. Did you search for another solution that may exist and in use within state government? *(Consult with Business Relationship Mangers and Architects as needed)*
 Yes
3. If yes, what was the result of your search? **No other product met the requirements.**
4. If yes and not planning to use the existing solution, why is the existing solution that being leveraged not being used for this effort? **N/A...no satisfactory existing solution.**

Alignment Details:

Through the services of DRC, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania meets the Federal Guideline requirements for testing and assessment for PSSA’s, Keystone Exams, and a Diagnostic Tool that supports the previous two evaluations. Commonwealth LEA’s have successfully used these exams and tools for the past four years, and, functional and contractually, they will be used again to successfully satisfy the Federal Guidelines for another year.

Customer Experience:

This solution will provide approximately the same customer experience that it has provided over the past five years, and before, with allowances made for software improvements and customer feedback to DRC on the product and process.

Everything done here is required to be completed by Federal Guidelines.

Approach:

Alternatives were evaluated four years ago, at the beginning of this five year (+3 optional years) contract, and will be evaluated again when an entirely new long-term contract is put in place.

Approvals

(A wet signature not required, documented approval such as email is acceptable)

Role	Signatory	Date
Agency Head or Designee	Hannah Barrick	3/18/2022
Secretary of Administration		3/18/2022
Commonwealth CIO, Office of Administration		3/18/2022
Governor’s Chief of Staff or Designee		3/21/2022
Governor’s Secretary of the Budget		3/30/2022