

Request for Information

Teacher and Principal Practice Video Libraries and Software and Technology Platforms

September, 2011

<p>Introduction/Background</p>	<p>The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is seeking information about the availability for purchase of Teacher and Principal Practice Video Resource Libraries to be accessible from the NYSED websites by educators statewide for professional development purposes.</p> <p>Separately, but related, we are seeking information about the availability for purchase or license of existing software and/or technology tools that are designed to package and deliver teacher and principal practice videos as part of educator professional development and/or inter-rater reliability training and certification. We seek information about tools that support online training and assessment of an educator’s ability to gather evidence of teacher and principal practice from videos, and accurately and reliably apply practice rubrics (for example, Danielson’s Framework for Teaching or the Multidimensional Principal Performance Rubric) to determine the level of proficiency of the practice shown in the video. Tools would allow educators to practice gathering evidence and applying rubrics, providing feedback to educators about their work, and/or delivering an assessment of their ability to meet a required level of inter-rater reliability. Tools would be designed for educators (teachers, administrators) with roles involving coaching, feedback, or evaluation of other educators.</p> <p>Based on the responses to this RFI, NYSED expects to prepare a competitive RFP using federal support from Race to the Top to seek one or more providers of one or more libraries of practice videos that will serve as models of differentiated levels of practice to teachers and principals across the state. NYSED may also issue a competitive bid for software platforms to deliver these videos, as well as related evaluator training and teacher/principal professional development, to educators in New York State.</p> <p>The responses to this RFI will inform the requirements for future competitive RFPs in this area.</p>
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Purpose/Goal	To create and provide a high-quality video resource library and separate or related software/technology platforms that will serve as a professional development resource and training tool to school districts and teachers and principals in New York State.
Responders Include	Responders could include, but are not limited to the following: State Education Agencies (SEAs); Local Education Agencies (LEAs); Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES); other interested state or federal entities; creators, publishers or vendors of educational video, professional development, and other programs, technology, and/or platforms; education service providers; non-profit organizations; professional organizations; or institutions of higher education.
Important Dates:	<p>Questions may be submitted to videoRFI@mail.nysed.gov through 10/3/11.</p> <p>A Question and Answer Summary will be posted here no later than 10/12/11.</p> <p>Responses are due by 5pm, 10/18/11.</p>
Proprietary Information	Responders should be aware that any information provided becomes public information and the responsibility of removing or redacting proprietary information that the responder wants kept private is solely the responsibility of the responder prior to submission of information to NYSED.
SED Contact	<p>NYS Education Department The Office of Curriculum & Instruction 89 Washington Avenue, Room 320 EB Albany, NY 12234 Email: videoRFI@mail.nysed.gov</p>

PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is seeking information about the availability for purchase of Teacher and/or Principal Practice Video Resource Libraries that will serve as a professional development resource and training tool to school districts and teachers and principals across New York State. NYSED also seeks information about online software and technology platforms (separate or linked to the video libraries) that are available for purchase or license that enable educator professional development and/or support evaluator inter-rater reliability training and certification.

Specifically, this Request For Information (RFI) is being conducted to solicit the following information:

1. Identify the range and types of video libraries (including, but not limited to, teacher and principal practice, Common Core lessons) that vendors (interested parties) can offer;
2. Facilitate understanding of the available tools, strategies, and practices used to present these video libraries as educator professional development and/or evaluation training and certification tools;
3. Solicit information on successful approaches and best practices; and,
4. Ascertain key requirements and issues the State must define and/or consider when developing an approach.

All parties with expertise in the development of teacher and/or principal practice videos, and related or separate software and technology platforms for incorporating video into educator professional development and/or evaluation training and certification are encouraged to respond to this RFI. Responders may include, but are not limited to the following: State Education Agencies (SEAs); Local Education Agencies (LEAs); Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES); other interested state or federal entities; creators, publishers or vendors of educational video, professional development, and other programs, technology, and/or platforms; education service providers; non-profit organizations; professional organizations; or institutions of higher education.

This is not a Request for Proposal. A contract will not be awarded based on information submitted.

NYSED may, however, use the information received, as well as existing documentation, to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP). Parties interested in participating in a possible RFP are encouraged to respond to this RFI. Parties that respond to this RFI will not be disqualified from submitting a bid for a subsequent RFP should one be issued by NYSED.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As a Race to the Top winner, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is implementing a reform agenda that requires major shifts in teacher and leader practice. The New York State Board of Regents has committed to the transformation of the preparation, support and evaluation of all teachers and school leaders in New York State and the New York State Legislature has enacted historic legislation (Education Law §3012-c) that fundamentally changes the way teachers and principals are evaluated for decisions relating to promotion, retention, tenure, supplemental compensation, support and professional development, and expedites the disciplinary process for the removal of ineffective teachers and principals.

NYSED is committed to providing high-quality training, leadership development, and support to school districts and educators across the State, with a particular focus on the Regents Reform Agenda, data-driven inquiry, the Common Core Standards, evidence-based observation, and the student learning objective process. NYSED will leverage the federal support from Race to the Top to provide innovative professional development and training tools in the form of videos that will serve as models of differentiated levels of practice to teachers and principals across the state.

Regents Reform Agenda

The New York State Board of Regents Reform Agenda prioritizes the following eight primary goals:

1. Improve teacher and school leader preparation and effectiveness – by emphasizing on content knowledge; pedagogical skills; and measurable, performance-based evaluation;
2. Emphasize early childhood education – by expanding access to high quality learning opportunities;
3. Raise graduation rates for at-risk students – by increasing student engagement and ensure college and career readiness;
4. Build a statewide curriculum and associated professional development – provide every student with a world-class, rigorous curriculum and train teachers to use it effectively;
5. Improve the assessment system – by aligning with common core standards, evaluate college and career ready status, provide data for effective decision-making;
6. Build a P-20 data system – that will provide critical information to strengthen decision-making at the classroom, school, district, and state policy levels;
7. Replacing failing schools – by closing chronically underperforming schools and working with districts to implement strategies to dramatically improve outcomes for students attending the lowest-performing schools; and
8. Transforming NYSED – from a compliance-oriented agency to a service-oriented agency leveraging its resources to prepare students to be college and career ready.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, COMPONENTS, AND FEATURES

NYSED expects to provide one or more high-quality video resource libraries of teacher and principal practice that will serve as professional development and training resources for educators and for those who evaluate educators, which can be accessed online by all teachers and principals across the State. The videos will provide guidance to educators on how they can improve their practice as videos offer the opportunity for educators and coaches across the State to both study the practice of effective teaching at their own pace, as well as to provide exemplars. NYSED anticipates that with these videos, educators and coaches will have the opportunity to watch the videos for training purposes and for professional development, as well as to put into practice teaching methods that are demonstrated. The videos may also be incorporated into training for evaluators of teachers and/or principals as they learn to apply New York State teacher and principal practice rubrics to classroom observations and school visits, capture evidence of teacher and principal practice, and assess it for evidence of effective practice.

NYSED seeks compiled video libraries of teacher and/or principal practice that include the following components:

- **For teacher and/or principal libraries:**
 - Clips of educators from across all grade levels and subject areas. At a minimum, for teachers: English Language Arts, math, science, and social studies and grades K-3, 4-5, 6-8 9-12; for principals in early grades (K-3), elementary (K-5 or K-6), middle (6-8) and high School (9-12).
 - Clips of lessons that are Common Core aligned.
 - Clips that include teacher and/or principal practice and specific skills (e.g., questioning techniques, scaffolding, effective use of student groups) at varying levels: ineffective, developing, effective, highly effective, and as measured against approved teacher and principal practice rubrics (see: <http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/teachers-leaders/practicrubrics/>).
 - Clips that are already rated for level of effectiveness on a 4-point scale and correspond to a rubric from the [list](#) of New York State approved menu of rubric providers.
 - If the clips do not already have a rating and/or correspond to a [State-approved rubric](#), then NYSED is interested in knowing whether and how the partner will work with NYSED to assist with rating and tagging the clips.
 - Clips with a particular focus on educators working in high-poverty schools, and with students seeking a General Educational Development (GED) credential, students performing below grade level, students performing above grade level, students in Advanced Placement courses, over-age under-credited students, African-American and Latino adolescent males, girls in science and math classrooms, English language learners, and students with disabilities.
 - Clips with a particular focus on research-based instructional strategies for English language learners and students with disabilities.

NYSED seeks to provide a high-quality video library to school districts and teachers and principals across the State. As such, clips should meet the following production criteria:

- Video is of high-quality with clear sound and picture.
- Video includes clear shots of students and teachers in the classroom.
- Video includes clear shots of teachers and principals in the school.
- Video includes focus on details such as what the teacher writes, work and items posted, and/or specific student work.

ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE REQUESTED:

Scope of video library/libraries offered:

- 1) What is the type of video library that you provide (teacher, principal, both)? Is your library still expanding at this time or in the near future (if yes, please describe in what ways and your projected dates for new video)?
- 2) What grades, subjects, and/or school configurations do you include in your video library? Please describe, including the titles and any short descriptions, as well as lengths, the video clips housed within your video library.
- 3) Do your videos include educators working in high poverty schools, urban and/or rural settings?
- 4) Do your videos specifically include educators working with students seeking a General Educational Development (GED) credential, students performing below grade level, students performing above grade level, students in Advanced Placement courses, over-age under-credited students, African-American and Latino adolescent males, girls in science and math classrooms, English language learners, and/or students with disabilities?
- 5) Do your videos specifically focus on research-based instructional strategies for English language learners and students with disabilities?
- 6) Please describe the specific production features of the videos in your library, and specifically include the number of clips, length of time of the clips included.
- 7) Does the library include exemplary practice only or a range of practice levels?

How are libraries coded, tagged or identified to be easily searchable by various terms of interest (grade level, subject, skill displayed, level of proficiency of practice displayed, etc)?

- 8) What is your selection process for choosing the teachers and/or principals and the specific videos to be included within your video library?

- 9) Describe what descriptive, searchable data is appended to each video to enable easy access to videos of interest. What process was used to add this data and ensure its accuracy? Include any of the following that applies:
- Grade/subject of lesson (or school level/type for principals)
 - Specific practices shown in clip
 - Level of proficiency of practice shown
 - What other coding/tagging?
 - Targeted student groups
- 10) What level(s) of teacher and/or school leader practices are demonstrated within your videos? Do your videos correspond to the four New York State levels: ineffective, developing, effective, highly effective? If not, what options are there for NYSED to utilize your resources and expertise to identify the levels of effectiveness of practice demonstrated in the videos you are providing?
- 11) Are your videos already tagged with performance levels based on a specific teacher or principal practice rubrics? If so, which rubric, and is it a rubric from the State-approved list? How have you ensured that the videos have been rated and tagged by experts in applying those rubrics? If not, do you have the capacity to tag the videos yourself to a rubric from the State-approved list and/or work with NYSED to do so?

Uses of Video Libraries:

- 12) Have your videos been used by others for training and/or professional development purposes? Is there evidence that there is a history of rater scores using the video library clips that are consistent (i.e., reliable) and will yield valid inferences?
- 13) Are your videos appropriate for training teacher or principal evaluators to observe classroom or school practice and reach formative or summative judgments about the level of practice represented? (please provide appropriate manuals, materials, etc to support this claim).

Technical requirements to store, serve, or deliver your video libraries:

- 14) What technical infrastructure is required for NYSED to host and serve these video libraries within our own technical architecture? (please include range of video sizes, video formats, and any other technical specifications).
- 15) Do you offer hosting services? If yes, please describe them as well as the technical requirements to allow users of NYSED websites to access videos through single sign-on to NYSED sites.

16) Do you require purchase of other software or technology tools along with purchase/license of your video libraries?

Existing software and/or technology tools that are designed to package and deliver teacher and principal practice videos as part of educator professional development and/or inter-rater reliability training and certification:

17) Please describe any software or technology tools available for purchase or license that meets these needs. Include the features, benefits and functionality of the tools, screen shots or other descriptive material displaying the functionality.

18) Does this software allow incorporation of other video libraries besides those your organization provides?

Cost Models:

Without indicating specific pricing, please include information about your pricing model for the video libraries. If applicable, please also describe cost models for software/tools that deliver online educator professional development:

- Do you charge a single licensing fee or multiple licensing fees?
- Do you charge by user, by server, by district, by State?
- Do you offer a by unit (video) charge option?
- Do you negotiate state-wide agreements with state educational authorities?
- Do you offer a perpetual license agreement?
- How are ongoing maintenance charges assessed?

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFI:

Parties are encouraged to submit questions to videoRFI@mail.nysed.gov if they require clarification of any portion of this RFI. All questions regarding this RFI must be received no later than 5 PM, EST, on **10/3/11**: A summary of the questions and answers will be posted here no later than **10/12/11**.

The Office of Curriculum & Instruction
89 Washington Avenue Room 320 EB
Albany, NY 12234
Fax: 518-473-4884

E-mail: videoRFI@mail.nysed.gov

Subject/Attention: TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL PRACTICE VIDEO LIBRARY RFI

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL. A CONTRACT WILL NOT BE AWARDED BASED ON SUBMISSIONS.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO THIS RFI:

- 1) Responses should be written in narrative form, and numbered appropriately.
- 2) It is expected that all responders answer all questions.
- 3) Documents should include any appropriate samples, references to programs, links to websites, or other materials to support the response.
- 4) Responses should be mailed, or submitted via e-mail, in a current version of Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe Acrobat, by 5pm **10/18/11** to:

The Office of Curriculum & Instruction

89 Washington Avenue Room 320 EB

Albany, NY 12234

Fax: 518-473-4884

E-mail: videoRFI@mail.nysed.gov

Subject/Attention: TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL PRACTICE VIDEO LIBRARY RFI