

Questions and Answers – Summary (Part 1 of 2)

RFP #DS-07

Education Data Portal: Data Dashboard Solutions



NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to:

- 1) Provide and describe an updated schedule of events
- 2) Provide clarification on specific sections of the RFP released on 4/20/12;
- 3) Provide written and authoritative responses to questions collected during the Mandatory Bidder's Conference on 5/11/12 and submitted through email to edpDataDashboards@mail.nysed.gov between the RFP release date and the Question Submittal Deadline (5/18/12 @ 5pm EST); and
- 4) Provide updated information about (and access to) resources that may facilitate the development of proposals.

In doing so, NYSED aims to ensure that bidders have complete and accurate information on RFP contents and concepts, as well as access to supplementary materials or resources, in order to develop proposals in an efficient and effective manner.

1 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (UPDATED)

1.1 Schedule

Event	Timeline
RFP Release Date	April 20, 2012
Letter of Intent	May 4, 2012
Mandatory Bidder's Conference (in Albany)	May 11, 2012 @ 9:30 AM ET
SLC Bidder's Conference (via web conference)	May 16, 2012 @ 12.30 PM ET
Question Submittal Deadline (Questions may contain exceptions to the Terms and Conditions)	May 18, 2012 @ 5:00 PM ET
Question Response Release (Part 1 of 2)	May 25, 2012
Question Response Release (Part 2 of 2)	June 1, 2012
Proposals Due	June 19, 2012 @ 3:00 PM ET
Proposal Evaluation Begins	June 20, 2012
Technical Presentations	July 23, 24, 25, 2012
Recommendation & Designation	August 3, 2012
Contract Finalization	August 6, 2012 – September 6, 2012
Contract Execution	September 15, 2012
Work Begins	November 1, 2012

1.2 Description of Updates

Originally, NYSED scheduled one Question Response Release Date of 5/25/12. Between the RFP Release Date (4/20/12) and the Question Submittal Deadline (5/18/12), NYSED received ~ 300 questions from potential bidders and additional exception requests to terms and conditions of the Contract (contained in Sections 4.10 - 4.14 of the RFP).

*Due to this heavy volume of questions (and the time-intensive nature of reviewing exceptions of Contract terms and conditions), NYSED will modify the schedule of events to include **TWO** Question Response Release Dates (highlighted in the schedule above):*

- 1) Question Response Release Date – Part 1 (5/25/12): The vast majority of questions regarding the RFP contents and RFP process in general will be answered at this time and within this document, titled, **Questions and Answers – Summary (Part 1 of 2)**. This document contains answers to ~ 275 questions, as well as other types of information and resources (see “Table of Contents”).
- 2) Question Response Release Date – Part 2 (6/1/12): Remaining questions (~ 50) regarding the RFP contents and RFP process in general will be answered at this time and within a document, titled, **Questions and Answers – Summary (Part 2 of 2)**. In addition, NYSED will publish a final version of the Contract terms and conditions, based upon a review of exception requests submitted by vendors as of 5/18/12.

1.3 Contact Information

Throughout the RFP process, vendors may direct inquiries re: RFP process (as opposed to RFP contents) to the following NYSED staff:

Program Matters

Kathleen Moorhead

edpContentManagement@mail.nysed.gov

Fiscal Matters

Lynn Caruso

edpContentManagement@mail.nysed.gov

M/WBE Matters

Joan Ramsey

edpContentManagement@mail.nysed.gov

2 LIST OF CLARIFICATION POINTS: RFP #DS-08 (AS SHARED AT THE 5/11/12 BIDDER'S CONFERENCE)

2.1 Page 5, Paragraph 3

Original text: NYSED is issuing concurrently a separate RFP, for Education Data Portal: Data Dashboard Solutions. ***The same vendor cannot be a prime contractor on both contracts, although a vendor can be a prime contractor on one and a subcontractor on the other, or a subcontractor on both.*** All roles depicted with an asterisk in the "Proposed EDP Management Structure" diagram in Section 1.3 must be provided by the prime contractor on the Content Management and System Services contract.

Final Clarification of bold and italicized text (above): *The same vendor cannot be a prime contractor on both contracts, although a vendor can be a prime contractor on one and a subcontractor on the other, or a subcontractor on both. A prime contractor may submit a proposal to be considered for either the DDS RFP or the CM&SS RFP, but not for both RFP's.*

2.2 Sections 4.10 to 4.14

Sections 4.10 to 4.14 of the RFP will be included in the awarded contracts. All questions or exceptions regarding Sections 4.10 to 4.14 must have been submitted by 5pm EST on 5/18/12. The final version of contract terms and conditions will be released on 6/1/12. **Proposals that contain additional exceptions to contract terms and conditions will be treated as non-responsive and disqualified from the review process.** Vendors who are unable to complete or abide by the final version of Sections 4.10 to 4.14 should not respond to this RFP.

3 NEW AND UPDATED RESOURCES TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSALS FOR RFP #DS-07

3.1 List of NYS-certified M/WBE firms interested in subcontracting opportunities

Several vendors have requested access to a list of NYS-certified M/WBE firms in order to assess their interest in subcontracting opportunities (and meet M/WBE Compliance Requirements in the RFP). To support these requests, NYSED has provided a list of NYS-certified M/WBE firms that have communicated an interest in subcontracting

opportunities in specific functional areas (many of which are applicable to both RFP #DS-08 and #DS-07). See below for vendor names and contact information.

A comprehensive list of New York State certified M/WBE vendors can be found at: www.esd.ny.gov/MWBE/directorySearch.html.

List of NYS-certified M/WBE firms interested in subcontracting opportunities:

FIRM NAME: R K Software, Inc
Contact Person: Ayala Sharon, Director, Operation
Telephone: 718-786-9338
Email: ayala@rksoftwareinc.com
URL: www.rksoftwareinc.com
Subcontracting Interest: Web Development, Content Management, Data Management, Data Warehousing, Database Programming, Transaction Data Analysis; Integration, Custom Computer Base training.

FIRM NAME: Infosys International, Inc
Contact Person: Cynthia Silletti
Telephone: 516-576-9494 x 3340
Email: cynthias@infosysinternational.com
URL: www.infosysinternational.com
Subcontracting Interest: SLC Technology (Middleware, Data Store, Dashboards, Learning Maps, API), Drupal, System Services, System Tools, Integrated Portal System, Project Management, Integration, Support, Help Desk

FIRM NAME: Paradyme Management, Inc
Contact Person: Viraj Gandhi
Telephone: 202-285-0461
Email: vgandhi@paradymemanagement.com
URL: www.paradymemanagement.com
Subcontracting Interest: We specialize in analytics and business intelligence, ultimately dash boarding and content management. We have expertise with all the major software tools, along with Open Source tools.

FIRM NAME: Sixth Floor Developers
Contact Person: Eric Harris
Telephone: 646 573 2976
Email: Eric@6fd.com
URL: www.6fd.com
Subcontracting Interest: Database dashboard and content management systems

FIRM NAME: Sierra Infosys, Inc.
Contact Person: Senthil Kumar, President
Telephone: 713-747-9693 ext: 102
Email: senthil@sierratec-us.com
URL: www.sierratec-us.com
Subcontracting Interest: Data integration, Single Sign-On, Data Dashboard Solution, Implementation, Configuration and Testing

FIRM NAME: Alternative Insights Inc.
Contact Person: Susan Smith
Telephone: 518-588-7784
Email: sgsmith@alternativeinsightsinc.com
URL: www.http://alternativeinsightsinc.com
Subcontracting Interest: My firm would be interested in project management, data architecture, data modeling or business analysis

FIRM NAME: Tracen Technologies, Inc.
Contact Person: DeAnna Davidson
Telephone: 703-368-3499 ext. 111
Email: deanna@tracen.com
URL: www.tracen.com
Subcontracting Interest: Our experience supporting the Institute for Research and Reform in Education (IRRE) has given us significant experience with the development of web based dashboards and reports for education data. Tracen Technologies developed a suite of web based applications and a handheld mobile device-based survey data collection application for IRRE's Measuring What Matters (MWM) program.

FIRM NAME: Global IT Solutions USI Inc.
Contact Person: Venkata Suryadevara (SAI)
Telephone: (510) 209-2119 Cell
Email: sai@gitsus.com
URL: <http://www.gitsus.com>
Subcontracting Interest: For DS-07 Data Dashboards & DS-08 Content Management, we support Help Desk and Technical Support; Implementation, Configuration and Testing; Project Management and more

FIRM NAME: Reveal Analytics LLC
Contact Person: Dr. Oumar Nabe, Ph. D., MBA
Telephone: 917-545-4259
Email: onabe@revealanalytics.com
URL: www.revealanalytics.com

Subcontracting Interest: Dynamic Data Analytics combing advanced algorithms and specific industry domain knowledge to deliver recommendation engine as well as visualization tools that empower end users to make intuitive, reliable and predictive decisions in both corporate and government sectors; advanced software and innovative Web-based applications and platform that combine data fusion technology and Six Sigma to enable collaboration among multiple parties as well as outreach; decision support system; project management; Six Sigma consulting.

FIRM NAME: Purple Genie, Inc.
Contact Person: Elise Gordon
Telephone: 646-673-8500
Email: elise@purplegenie.com
URL: www.purplegenie.com

Subcontracting Interest: IT solutions provider, hardware and software product

FIRM NAME: IZAR Associates, Inc.
Contact Person: Felicitas V Izar
Telephone: 703 597 3976
Email: fizar@izarinc.com
URL: www.izarinc.com

Subcontracting Interest: Systems engineering and operations services, testing and quality management

FIRM NAME: Brown & Meyers
Contact Person: Kate Meyers
Telephone: 207-233-1276 (cell)
Email: Kmeyers@brownmeyers.com
URL: www.brownmeyers.com

Subcontracting Interest: Document management , data hosting, scanning, offsite records storage

FIRM NAME: Softential, Inc.
Contact Person: Frank Hicks
Telephone: 860-918-4894
Email: fhicks@softential.com
URL: www.softential.com

Subcontracting Interest: Softential offers Subject Matter Expertise in the development of dashboards & business process workflows. We offer several commercially available tools that bring data from 3rd party products together into a

single screen. We can integrate either at the data layer or at the presentation layer.

FIRM NAME: Vision Information Technologies, Inc. (d/b/a VisionIT)
Contact Person: Nicole Camillo
Telephone: 347-920-1467
Email: ncamillo@visionit.com
URL: www.visionit.com

Subcontracting Interest: VisionIT has significant experience with public schools clients. We currently manage the largest IT Managed Services contract in the U.S. for public school districts. We oversee all areas of IT including: Oracle PeopleSoft, help desk, field services, applications, testing, network operations, data center, data warehouse.

FIRM NAME: Abator Information Services, Inc.
Contact Person: Andrew Neilson
Telephone: 412-271-5922 x104
Email: Andrew@abator.com
URL: www.abator.com

Subcontracting Interest: Abator is an IT Services firm specializing in project management; business systems analysis, design and development; database administration; data warehousing; and, technical support.

3.2 Accessing information and updates from the Shared Learning Collaborative (SLC)

NYSED intends to leverage the work of the SLC as a core component of its procurement, development, and implementation strategy. The SLC is investing in a technology infrastructure and set of services called the Shared Learning Infrastructure (SLI), through which states and school districts can more easily provide educational information to application developers in a secure manner. The SLI enables states and school districts to make a one-time reusable investment, rather than individual redundant investments with multiple application vendors.

To access information and updates on the SLC/SLI, vendors can:

- 1) Sign up for email newsletter: <http://slcedu.org/about/media-room/email-updates>
- 2) Visit SLC's YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/slcedu>
- 3) Subscribe to the SLC's RSS feed: <http://slcedu.org/rss.xml>

The material in Appendix 6.1 of the RFP has been updated by the SLC. To access the most up-to-date documentation on the SLC/SLI, vendors can download materials from the following locations:

- 1) Technical Specification/SLC Pilot Phase Project Documents: <http://slcedu.org/technology/technical-specifications/slc-pilot-phase-project-documents>
- 2) Developer Reference Guide: <http://slcedu.org/api/>

3.3 SLC Letter to NYSED Commissioner John B. King (4/25/12)

On 4/25/12, the SLC issued a letter to NYSED Commissioner John B. King to describe the SLC's process and rationale for contracting with a number of vendors to develop software and other assets that together make up the functionality of the SLI, and to explain that any one company's involvement in the build of SLI software or other assets should not create a preference for that vendor in any SLC pilot states' procurement processes. The full letter is embedded below:

April 25, 2012

Dear Commissioner King,

On behalf of the Board of the Shared Learning Collaborative(SLC), we are writing to clarify some important issues related to current and upcoming Requests for Proposals (RFPs) issued by your agency which incorporate the shared learning infrastructure (SLI) as a key component.

The SLC contracted with a number of vendors to develop software and other assets that together make up the functionality of the SLI. We had a simple reason for hiring commercial companies to build these assets: developing a highly effective system in a short period of time. Our work with commercial vendors has allowed us to offer timely support for the exciting work underway in New York and our other state partners. And, it has enabled us to release an Alpha production instance of the software by mid-June of this year.

We understand that these development choices and timelines, combined with the timing of the release of your Education Data Portal (EDP) RFPs, have led some education technology vendors to express concern that SLI development vendors might have a technical advantage if they choose to respond to EDP RFPs that require SLI integration and compatibility.

We want to assure you this is not the case. Any one company's involvement in the build of SLI software or other assets should not create a preference for that vendor in your procurement process. SLC contractors have only had access to the public information about your EDP available to all interested vendors. From the beginning, a goal of the SLC has been to enable New York to utilize an open approach to data integration and application interoperability that will expand your choices of great companies to work with, not narrow them.

The primary mechanism for SLI integration and interoperability is its open application programming interface (API). A draft specification for the API has been publicly available since December 2011. Many vendors have commented on it and made suggestions about how to strengthen it. We will publicly release a revised and stable version of the API by May 4, 2012.

We also selected the Ed-Fi data model for use in the data store. This specification is built on the Common Education Data Standards and has been publicly available for many months. The SLI will also include a Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) agent, which will allow technologies built on SIF to integrate easily with SLI.

In addition, none of the current development vendors will be hosting or operating the SLI during the 2012 pilot or beyond. We are contracting with Amazon Web Services to act as host during the pilot and will issue an RFP for long-term hosting later this year. We currently have an open RFP for SLI operations, and will have a contract in place to support the June 16th launch of the Alpha version of the production environment.

We also remain committed to implementing widely accepted open source development processes just as soon as we can, while maintaining our operational and security commitments to SLC states. Once the Alpha production environment is operational June 16, we will begin the transition to a transparent open source software practice known as developing code "in the clear." This will allow vendors or software developers who are interested in following and eventually contributing to the development and maintenance of the source code to do so.

We understand that the innovative nature of the SLC's partnership with New York can cause uncertainty. Nevertheless, we wanted to assure you that as your team engages in procurement processes for which the SLI is relevant, in no way should a vendor's prior involvement in the SLI build influence your view of its qualifications. Every vendor competing to meet New York's needs should be in a position to satisfy your request to integrate with the SLI, and their articulation of how they will do so and meet your other myriad requirements in a cost effective way should be the measure of the strength of their response.

Please feel free to share this letter with the relevant team members in your agency or anyone else who might have questions on these matters. Best wishes on your continued efforts on behalf of students and teachers in New York.

Yours truly,



Stacey Childress
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Chair, Board of Managers
Shared Learning Collaborative, LLC



Michele Cahill
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Chair, Governance Committee
Shared Learning Collaborative, LLC

Cc: Ken Wagner, Assistant Commissioner for Data Systems



slcedu.org

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4 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Originally, NYSED scheduled one Question Response Release Date of 5/25/12. Between the RFP Release Date (4/20/12) and the Question Submittal Deadline (5/18/12), NYSED received ~ 300 questions from potential bidders and additional exception requests to terms and conditions of the Contract (contained in Sections 4.10 - 4.14 of the RFP). The vast majority of questions regarding the RFP contents and RFP process in general are answered within this section of the document (**Questions and Answers – Summary (Part 1 of 2)**).

A small subset of questions submitted by vendors as of 5/18/12 require further review, along with exception requests to terms and conditions of the Contract. Responses to these outstanding questions as well as a final version of the Contract terms and conditions informed by vendors' submitted exception requests, will be published to <http://usny.nysed.gov/rttp/rfp/ds-07/> on 6/1/12, in a document titled **Questions and Answers – Summary (Part 2 of 2)**.

Below is an outline and description of Section 3:

- Section 4.1: Questions and Answers: Part 1 of 2 (released on 5/25/12)
 - Section 4.1.1: Questions and answers specific to RFP #DS-07 only (Education Data Portal: Data Dashboard Solutions)
 - Section 4.1.2: Questions and Answers applicable to BOTH RFP# DS-08 AND the related RFP# DS-07 (Education Data Portal: Content Management and System Services).
- Section 4.2: Questions and Answers: Part 2 of 2 (to be released on 6/1/12)
 - 4.2.1: List of questions to be answered and published on 6/1/12
 - 4.2.2: Format for publishing revised terms and conditions to Contract (sections 4.10 - 4.14 of the RFP)

4.1 Questions and Answers: Part 1 of 2 (released on 5/25/12)

The questions below are listed in ascending order by "ID", which is a stable and unique identifier for each question. Please note that questions for RFP #DS-08, #DS-07, and both RFPs have been consolidated into a repository based on question submission date and time, and IDs have been assigned in this order. As such, each table, while in ascending order, does not include a full and complete sequence of ID values (e.g. 1,2,3,4,5,6....).

4.1.1 Questions and answers specific to RFP #DS-07 only (Data Dashboard Solutions)

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
3	For Minimum Qualifications 1 and 2, are there size requirements for each of the 3 product implementations (e.g. a minimum student population of X)?	Minimum Qualifications	There is no size requirement, so long as the experience met all other aspects of the minimum requirement.
5	Can a sub-contractor provide Work Stream lead positions?	Management Structure	As described in Section 1.3 of the RFP, each Work Stream will be led by a Project Manager sourced from the CM&SS Prime Contractor. With the exception of "Content Integration," these work streams also require a Lead role from the DDS vendors. A Prime DDS vendor may fulfill this Lead role with a resource from one of its subcontractors.
6	Does NYSED (SEA) or do LEAs pay annual costs for Data Dashboard Solutions in Years 4 and 5 (one-year renewals to the three-year contract)? After years 4 and 5, will LEAs need to procure the products/services of DDS vendors?	Payment Model	<p>As described in Section 2.3.3 of the RFP, NYSED intends to fund services for all LEA's in the State during the three-year contract term.</p> <p>If the State elects to continue for the optional years of the contracts, the vendor will be paid only for those LEA's who opt to receive these services. The State expects to pass through some or all of the price to participating LEAs, so while the vendors will be paid by the state, vendors can expect that LEAs may be sensitive to the product pricing.</p> <p>Following the conclusion of the contract, LEAs may procure the products/services of DDS vendors through the policies and procedures established within LEA contracts/purchasing departments.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
27	Will each of New York State's ~ 700 school districts choose a Data Dashboard Solution?	License Mgmt and Selection	<p>A core component of NYSED's Regents Reform Agenda is to build instructional data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve their practice in real time. The U.S. Education Department has committed significant resources to advance this agenda item in NYS through Race to the Top funding of the Education Data Portal (including Data Dashboard Solutions). NYSED expects each LEA - BOCES, school districts, networks, and (charter) schools - to leverage the EDP to enable data-driven instruction across all classrooms.</p> <p>Outside of New York City, each of New York's 695 school districts, approximately 200 charter schools, and 37 BOCES will choose a Data Dashboard solution. Within New York City, we plan to support Data Dashboard selection at the school level, although it has not yet been determined whether New York City selections will be finalized at a regional or school level.</p>
28	At the point of contract renewal, how will DDS vendors be treated?	License Mgmt and Selection	This question is not sufficiently specific to allow for a response.
45	Please explain the expectation around licensing for Dashboards. How do you expect pricing to be done if LEAs have no choice? Can you give a set of assumptions upon which to base pricing? Would you consider using the GSA schedule as a contract vehicle? It would make cross-state easier.	License Mgmt and Selection	See Section 2.3.3 ("Cost Proposal") of the RFP for a description on how to provide licensing costs, expected discounts, and assumptions.
51	Could two vendors be awarded both using the same Dashboard tool/BI (Business Intelligence) software?	Subcontracting Limit	We intend for each DDS contract to provide a unique Data Dashboard option for LEA selection. Each vendor's proposal will be considered independently and evaluation of proposals will be based on multiple criteria. For further details on evaluation criteria and method of award, see Section 3 of the RFP.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
52	Section 1.1.5 of the RFP includes language about a "Customizable Reporting Dashboard" that will be delivered as part of the SLI. As of today (5/11/2012), the SLC website says "More information on the Dashboards will be available in summer 2012". Where can we get more information now (including technical documentation) given that proposals are due on 6/19/2012?	SLI	<p>More details on the customizable dashboards will be available in the SLC Alpha Release Scope document, which is expected to be released by on Tuesday, 5/29, and accessible via slcedu.org.</p> <p>DDS vendors have no obligation to leverage this SLC asset for their proposed Data Dashboard solution.</p>
54	In our experience, we haven't seen a Data Dashboard RFP that requires student record exchange embedded in a Data Dashboard. Will NYSED consider a proposal that addresses these as distinct deliverables?	Scope	System functional and technical requirements are described in Attachment 6.2, including the requirements that students and parents are able to view student data and either the student or the parent is able to authorize the transfer of student data to a SUNY and/or CUNY secure transfer location. The vendor should propose solutions that meet the requirements, provide a good user experience, and are cost-effective.
56	Please clarify whether Data Dashboard vendors are responsible for loading the SLI data store.	Data Integration	Data Dashboard vendors are not responsible for loading the SLI data store. However, vendors are not precluded from assisting LEAs or others from loading additional data sets to the SLI. For further details on data integration requirements for DDS vendors, please see Sections 1.2.3.3 ("Data Integration") and 1.4 ("Required Implementation and Support Services") of the RFP.
57	To assist with estimates and pricing, should Data Dashboard vendors assume a portal platform/technology?	Portal Integration	<p>Specific information about the EDP portal to be provided through the CM&SS vendor can be found in Sections 1.2.2 (Portal Solutions Summary) and Requirements 151 to 165 in Attachment 6.2 of the RFP at http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/rfp/ds-08/home.html.</p> <p>Details on portal services to be provided by the SLC can be found at http://slcedu.org/technology/technical-specifications/slc-pilot-phase-project-documents.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
60	Will the Data Dashboard solution operate within the SLI portal? Or, will the Data Dashboard solution operate in its own portal?	Portal Integration	<p>The Data Dashboard solution (including the educator, student, and parent dashboard views and related functionality) will operate within the EDP portal environment provided by the CM&SS vendor. Specific information about the EDP portal to be provided through the CM&SS vendor can be found in Sections 1.2.2 (Portal Solutions Summary) and Requirements 151 to 165 in Attachment 6.2 of the RFP at http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/rfp/ds-08/home.html.</p> <p>Details on portal services to be provided by the SLC can be found at http://slcedu.org/technology/technical-specifications/slc-pilot-phase-project-documents.</p>
61	According to Section 2.2 (Minimum Qualifications), Minimum Qualification #4 appears to be relevant for a vendor responsible for systems integration. We request that NYSED consider removing this minimum qualification to enable small and medium-sized Data Dashboard vendors to submit a qualifying proposal.	Minimum Qualifications	Minimum Qualification # 4 will not be removed. In order to submit a qualifying proposal, the bidder must meet three out of four of the minimum qualifications (through the primary bidder's qualifications or the qualifications of its subcontracting team). Therefore, a vendor unable to meet minimum qualification #4 on its own may submit a proposal if it meets the other 3 minimum qualifications or may subcontract to meet additional minimum qualifications.
63	Minimum Qualifications 2 and 3: Do these implementations have to be K - 12 specific? Will "work-in-progress" implementations be sufficient for meeting these qualifications?	Minimum Qualifications	<p>Implementations referenced in Minimum Qualifications 2 and 3 do not have to be K-12 specific.</p> <p>Implementations for meeting these requirements may not be "work-in-progress" in the sense that the implementation must have been completed, accepted by the customer, and deployed to end users. The vendor may still be engaged in a contract with these customers, however, either as part of an ongoing maintenance agreement or for additional services beyond the initial deployment to be used for demonstrating the minimum qualification.</p>
64	Will parents of students in grades K - 5 also access the DDS?	Scope	Parents of students in all grades, including grades K - 5, must be able to access the DDS.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
65	Do you see students accessing their data through the Dashboard and then accessing content based on weaknesses?	Scope	A key use case of the EDP is that students enrolled in grade six and above will be able to access data elements available to educators and parents as part of their preparations for college and career readiness. Other than the requirement that the DDS application must display the common EDP portal header provided by the CM&SS vendor, including its embedded search functionality (see Requirements 101 and 102 of Attachment 6.2), it is not part of the RFP scope to provide additional functionality that facilitates student access to aligned instructional content or resources based on data viewed by students in the DDS.
75	The RFP refers to unit costs as per student. Will NYSED accept proposals for per transaction fees, particularly for the record exchange requirements (i.e. price per transcript sent or received)?	Pricing	No.
76	Will the product demonstration during the "Road Show" be a proof of concept, meaning that vendors should use NYSED data? Or, should vendors provide canned demonstrations?	Product Demonstrations	As described in Requirements 88 and 89 of Attachment 6.2, vendor products should use student data from the SLI sandbox environment for demonstration purposes.
77	The SLI includes a specification for an EdFi Dashboard. Does the SLI's reporting dashboard factor into this bid? If so, how? Does NYSED anticipate that the SLI Dashboard will replace solutions from the Contract award winners of this RFP at a later date?	Scope	<p>The SLI will support an initial list of deployed apps, including a customizable reporting dashboard for educators that may be leveraged by vendors responding to the Data Dashboard Solutions RFP. This open license educator dashboard will be available in Alpha release in June 2012 and Version 1 release in December 2012. DDS vendors may leverage the SLC-supplied Dashboard in various ways in order to build a solution that meets the requirements of the RFP.</p> <p>NYSED does not anticipate that the SLC-supplied Dashboard will replace solutions from vendors that win the DDS Contract. However, if districts, networks, and/or schools find the SLC-supplied Dashboard to be useful, they may elect to use this solution before or after Year 3 of the Contract.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
79	Can a vendor respond as a Prime on the DDS RFP and well as a sub in another Prime vendor's DDS RFP response? If so, what, if any, limitations are there on the services that the sub-contractor may provide?	Subcontracting Limit	This may be permitted so long as all other RFP requirements are met, including compliance with all subcontracting limits outlined in Section 4.1. We intend for each DDS contract to provide a unique Data Dashboard solution for LEA selection.
80	Should DDS vendors include hosting costs to house the SLI data store?	Pricing	No, DDS vendors will not host the SLI data store and should not include costs to house the SLI data store in their proposals.
82	Assuming a vendor's DDS is completely compliant with the SLC/SLI specifications, would an ASP.NET solution be acceptable to NYSED (for the DDS RFP)?	Application Framework	Yes. As long as a Data Dashboard solution meets all of the SLC/SLI and EDP mandatory requirements outlined in this RFP, it is eligible to be included as a proposed solution.
83	The RFP refers to specific requirements regarding reading, writing, and collecting additional data for the SLI. Do similar requirements exist with regard to metadata to be used for the Recommendation Engine (DDS RFP)?	SLI	There are no mandatory requirements for writing or publishing metadata from the DDS back to the SLI. NYSED expects to publish and consume metadata about standards-aligned resources to the SLC Learning Registry node where it would be available to a DDS vendor for use in any proposed recommendation engine.
113	Are APIs extending from EngageNY.org available (or intended to be made available) to isolate individual resources?	EngageNY	<p>EnageNY.org 1.5 will not contain any API's. Content stored within EnageNY.org 1.5 will be accessible through deep-links, navigation, and search.</p> <p>For further information on how the SLC will support the identification of learning resources aligned with learning objectives, and what technology assets the SLC will leverage to do so, please review the whitepaper at http://slcedu.org/sites/default/files/downloads/SLC_Learning_Standards_Alignment_Whitepaper_v1.0.pdf.</p>
114	Re:"A copy of the technical, cost, and M/WBE proposals must also be submitted in Microsoft Word/Excel on CD-ROM." (rfp page 7) Will the State accept these electronic versions in pdf format?	RFP Process	Although the RFP states our preference as MS Word/Excel format we will accept the proposal in PDF format

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
115	RE: 1.3.2 Work Streams (beginning on RFP page 27) – We interpret the requirement for “appropriate staffing to achieve the work identified in the RFP as organized per these work streams” to mean that the specific number of staff members, based on role & qualifications, may be determined by the vendor. Is this accurate?	Management Structure	Yes.
117	Will the SLI pass all of the necessary student/teacher/parent/admin information to the Data Dashboards for provisioning access down to the building level?	Role Based Access Control	The Dashboards will use the published API to access student-level data. Identity Access Management through SAML federation from SLI/NYS systems will provide Dashboards with users and roles for permissions/authentication.
118	Requirement #110.—The RFP references the ability for users to display a student growth score metric. Does the state have a particular growth metric in mind? Will this growth metric be passed to the Data Dashboard from the SLI or will the Data Dashboard need to calculate it? If the Data Dashboard needs to calculate it, will NYSED provide the growth metric algorithm to all awarded Data Dashboard vendors so that it is standardized across the EDP?	Scope	The growth score metric (e.g. student growth percentiles) will be provided by NYSED, based on annual summative assessment data, and stored (most likely as a custom entity) within the SLI data model and be available for consumption and display by all Data Dashboard solution vendors.
119	Requirement #1.—The RFP calls for data to be exported from the system in an “interoperable format.” Can NYSED be more specific about what	Data Integration	Allowable interoperable file formats (e.g., .csv, .xls, XML, etc.) will be finalized at specification.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
	formats are acceptable?		
120	1. Pg. 41, "The original plus eight (8) copies of the completed Technical Proposal must be mailed in a separate envelope labeled RFP #DS-07 Technical Proposal - Do Not Open..." Does this mean a separate envelope from the cost proposal, and M/WBE proposal? If so, may vendors submit the M/WBE Proposal, Cost Proposal and Technical Proposal within the same box but sealed separately within?	RFP Process	Yes, you may submit each sealed portion in the same box.
121	2. Pg. 47: "The submission must include paper documents plus one electronic version (Microsoft Office format saved on a CD) of the technical, cost, and M/WBE proposals. Please place the CD-ROM in a separate envelope." Are the technical, cost, and M/WBE proposals to be submitted on 1 single CD?	RFP Process	One CD containing all submission documents is not required but is acceptable if the technical, cost and M/WBE proposals are separate files on the single CD.
122	3. "The original plus two (2) copies of the completed M/WBE Documents must be mailed in a separate envelope labeled RFP #11-XXX-M/WBE Documents - Do Not Open." Should the envelope be labeled RFP #DS-07-M/WBE?	RFP Process	Yes, the M/WBE envelope submitted for the EDP Data Dashboards RFP should be labeled RFP #DS-07 – M/WBE Documents.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
123	<p>4. Will all the data defined in the SLI Data Model (The data model section of http://slcedu.org/api/) be populated by SLC and NYSED for EDP to use and on what schedule?</p>	Data Integration	<p>As described in Section 1.1.2 of the RFP, the State's Student Information Repository System (SIRS) contains biographic, enrollment, program, and assessment information as described at</p> <p>http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/, http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/2011-12/2011-12SIRSGuidance/NEWER/SIRSDataElements20120315.doc, http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/2011-12/2011-12SIRSGuidance/NEWER/SIRSCodesandDescriptions20120227.doc, and http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sedcar/sirs/sirs_toc.html.</p> <p>We will expand this collection to include daily attendance and parent information in 2012-13 and suspension and other behavior information in 2013-14. Data not sourced by the State through SIRS can be sourced to the SLI from LEA or regional data centers. See Question ID 70 and 71 for information on LEA's sourcing data directly to the SLI</p> <p>The State schedule for these data refreshes is described in Question ID 68.</p>
124	<p>5. How frequently is each data element refreshed/updated from state systems?</p>	Data Integration	See Question ID 68
125	<p>6. If the EDP solution uses SLI SSO to authenticate and authorize users (Students/Teachers/Parents/Administrators), would EDP still have to create additional RBAC (role based access control) for these users? i.e., would SLI SSO provide the functionality for Dashboard Data Access Requirement (Req#1-13 of Appendix 6.2)?</p>	Role Based Access Control	<p>As stated in Requirement 83 of Attachment 6.2, "The system shall interface with NYSED/SLI identity and access management systems to automatically create role-based user accounts." DDS vendors must map roles and permissions supplied by the SLI data store within the DDS to authorize users at the application level.</p> <p>SAML 2.0 and OAuth are being used for federated identity (single sign-on) and access authorization, respectively.</p> <p>For further guidance on the SLC's Identity Integration Solution, including more details on Single Sign-On and SAML components, please see http://slcedu.org/technology/technical-specifications/slc-pilot-phase-project-documents.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
126	7. What specific assessments will NYSED be loading into SLI?	Scope	<p>See the "Assessment Measure Codes and Descriptions" section at http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/2011-12/2011-12SIRSGuidance/NEWER/SIRSCodesandDescriptions20120227.doc for a complete list of assessments collected by NYSED and available for loading to meet the requirements found in Attachment 6.2.</p> <p>Interim/formative/benchmark assessments can be loaded directly by LEAs or with assistance from their regional data centers. See question IDs 70 and 71.</p>
127	8. Is there a different level of support expected for users on the RIC level or BOCES level in addition to district-level application behavior?	HelpDesk	<p>As described in Section 1.3.2 (Work Streams), DDS vendors are expected to provide Tier 3 support for the Data Dashboard solution products and training materials to the CM&SS vendor for Tier 1 & 2 support.</p> <p>BOCES have access to Data Dashboards through two different roles. BOCES users are defined as one of the LEA-entities that will be selecting one of the Data Dashboard products. BOCES are also a regional network whose access rights aggregate up from the component school districts who selected a Data Dashboard solution.</p> <p>RIC's are another regional network whose access to the Data Dashboards aggregates up from the school districts and charter schools who select a Data Dashboard solution. In addition, RICs will be involved in some of the Tier 2 data integration help desk diagnostics.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
128	9. Does NYSED expect that the Dashboard will control levels of access for BOCES/RICs or individual schools (in NYC)?	Role Based Access Control	<p>The EDP shall interface with NYSED/SLI identity and access management systems to automatically create role-based user accounts. DDS vendors must map roles and permissions supplied by the SLI data store within the DDS to authorize users at the application level.</p> <p>SAML 2.0 and OAuth are being used for federated identity (single sign-on) and access authorization, respectively.</p> <p>For further guidance on the SLC's Identity Integration Solution, including more details on Single Sign-On and SAML components, please see http://slcedu.org/technology/technical-specifications/slc-pilot-phase-project-documents.</p> <p>As described in Requirements 6, 9, and 65 in Attachment 6.2, access to Dashboard views must be available at the level of the LEA making the Data Dashboard selection (districts, charter schools, schools/networks in New York City, and BOCES), as well as at regional network level (including RICs, BOCES, networks in NYC, and regional networks in the rest of the state) whose access rights will aggregate up from the Data Dashboard selections of the LEA's they represent.</p>
129	10. What governance structure is being put into place between LEAs, SED, SLI and EDP Vendors to feedback data corrections to the source systems?	HelpDesk	<p>New York has a well-established practice with its LEAs to make data corrections in source systems. In addition, the CM&SS and DDS RFPs contain data flow and help desk workstreams to help support data quality. .</p>
130	11. What plans do NYS Districts or RICs currently have to supply data directly to SLI?	Data Integration	<p>Currently, LEAs and RICs do not have specific plans to supply data directly to the SLI. Instead, the NYSED will leverage the SIRS system to supply data to the SLI on behalf of LEAs. Over the next several months, districts and/or RICs are likely to develop strategies and detailed plans to supplement SIRS's data feeds to the SLI with direct feeds to the SLI. See Question responses 70 and 71.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
131	<p>12. At the bidders conference, it was indicated that 100% of the districts and NYCDOE schools will be required to select one of the dashboard options (awarded dashboard solutions). This would imply that NYSED has plans to fund a dashboard solution for 100% of the districts and NYCDOE schools. What are NYSED's plans if a district or NYCDOE school chooses not to select a dashboard? Will NYSED not fund a dashboard solution for that district / NYCDOE school? Will their portal be void of a dashboard? Will NYSED choose a default dashboard solution for that district / school? How will logic be used to pick the default?</p>	License Mgmt and Selection	<p>A core component of NYSED's Regents Reform Agenda is to build instructional data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve their practice in real time. The U.S. Education Department has committed significant resources to advance this agenda item in NYS through Race to the Top funding of the Education Data Portal (including Data Dashboard Solutions). NYSED expects each LEA - BOCES, school districts, networks, and (charter) schools - to leverage the EDP to enable data-driven instruction across all classrooms.</p> <p>Outside of New York City, each of New York's 695 school districts, approximately 200 charter schools, and 37 BOCES will choose a Data Dashboard solution. Within New York City, we plan to support Data Dashboard selection at the school level, although it has not yet been determined whether New York City selections will be finalized at a regional or school level.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
132	<p>13. Based on the Proposed EDP Management Structure outlined on page 25-27, NYSED has indicated that each work stream Project Manager will be an employee of the prime vendor awarded the Content Management and System Services (CM&SS) award: "...Each of the seven work streams will be led by a Project Manager from the winner of the Content Management and System Services RFP*." The page 25 graphic also indicates that the Data Dashboard leads for each work stream report to and take direction from the respective work stream Project Managers. Additionally, this RFP asks that a contractual relationship be established between NYSED and the awarded Data Dashboard vendors. This creates a complex contractual relationship, specifically with the Data Dashboard vendors and who speaks on behalf of NYSED relative to the work performed. Will the work stream Project Managers, who are employees of the prime CM&SS vendor, become the "voice of NYSED" with respect to each work stream, providing direction to the Data Dashboard vendors, and making</p>	Management Structure	<p>Each workstream has a NYSED lead, a DDS lead, and a CM&SS project manager. The Project Co-Director's office, managed jointly by the CM&SS vendor and NYSED, is responsible for work stream governance. Day-to-day project direction and management will be provided by the CM&SS vendor. Final policy decisions will be made by NYSED.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
	<p>the contractual decisions for NYSED that are typically required to run a smooth project? If not, how does NYSED expect the communication around these issues to take place? Who speaks on behalf of NYSED to provide contractual direction and for example, deliverable signoff, to the Data Dashboard vendors?</p>		
133	<p>14. It appears logical that when a District selects a particular Data Dashboard solution, that the District Central Office will have access to that same dashboard solution and the ability to access what each building administrator, teacher and student in the district has access to. However, the RFP states that the decisions within NYCDOE will be made at the school level. What access therefore is going to be provided to the NYCDOE Central Administration / Offices if multiple dashboard solutions are in use across the NYCDOE? Can NYSED elaborate on their vision and use</p>	License Mgmt and Selection	<p>As described in Requirements 6, 9, and 65 in Attachment 6.2, access to Dashboard views must be available at the level of the LEA making the Data Dashboard selection (districts, charter schools, schools/networks in New York City, and BOCES), as well as at regional network level (including RICs, BOCES, networks in NYC, and regional networks in the rest of the state) whose access rights will aggregate up from the Data Dashboard selections of the LEA's they represent. Therefore, the broadest view of data through the EDP solution within the NYCDOE governance structure would be the network-wide view for each of the selected Data Dashboard solutions.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
	case for this scenario?		
134	<p>15. Given that the option of proposing a solution that includes the Learning Progression and Mastery desired component and the Recommendation Engine desired component versus proposing a solution without these components, it should be no surprise that the price of the lower functioning solution (without these) would be less than the higher functioning solution (with these). It is not clear from section 3.1 how many evaluation points will be given for including these and/or how much perceived financial value NYSED has in these components since they did not make them mandatory. In order to assist the vendor community with providing NYSED with the functionality that is truly desired and to avoid penalizing vendors who would be eliminated by incurring this added cost because of the</p>	Scope	<p>NYSED is primarily interested in providing cost-effective solutions that are appealing to LEAs. If a NYSED-desired requirement would alter the cost of a proposal to the extent that the vendor is concerned their solution will not be competitive, the vendor may wish to provide these features as a no-cost value add in order to attract more LEA selections.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
	<p>algorithmic / mathematical evaluation outlined in 3.1, can NYSED provide further detail as to how many evaluation points will be given for including these and/or how much perceived financial value NYSED has in these desired components?</p>		
138	<p>19. It appears as if NYSED desires the dashboards to be delivered under a software as a service model. Can NYSED clarify if this is their intent?</p>	Hosting	<p>Yes, as described in Section 5.8 (Bid Form), the annual cost should include all services necessary to meet the requirements of Section 1.4 and Attachment 6.2. This includes hosting, maintenance, and Dashboard access to students, parents, educators at the level of the LEA selecting the dashboard, as well as at the associated regional level (RIC, BOCES, networks in NYC and rest of state) that aggregate up from the selecting LEA.</p>
140	<p>21. Can NYSED specifically state what software and deliverables they believe they would have rights to and ownership of based on the per student per year subscription relationship (SaaS) relationship they are asking for in the RFP? Industry standard SaaS models grant the users a right to use with no ownership rights.</p>	Ts & Cs	<p>NYSED does not anticipate holding ownership rights of the Data Dashboard solution.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
145	26. Given that NYCDOE schools can be the purchasing entity used to determine student enrollment and ultimate payment to the dashboard vendor, can NYSED confirm that there is NYCDOE school-specific BEDS data to support the calculation of annual cost?	Pricing	Yes, NYSED has school-specific BEDS data if needed to support the calculation of annual cost.
147	28. The RFP states that "Responders may choose to include value-added features with their response, without incremental costs." How will these be evaluated in terms of the final score?	Scope	As indicated in Section 1.2.1 of the RFP, the core modules desired in the procurement are an Educator Dashboard (and desired but not required Learning Map and Recommendation Engine), Parent Dashboard, Student Dashboard, and an Early Warning System. Although NYSED is only interested in providing the four modules outlined above, NYSED recognizes that most products may span beyond these boundaries. NYSED is seeking proposals for the core functionality and services included in this solicitation. Responders may choose to include value-added features with their response, without incremental costs. These value-added features will not be evaluated as part of the final score. However, NYSED encourages vendors to include these features insofar as they may attract more LEA selections of their Data Dashboard Solutions.
148	In Section 1.1.4 of the RFP, it describes an interest on NYSED's part for vendors to "design and offer Learning Maps...through the Common Core State Standards". Given the lack of information available on the SLC website, would NYSED please list examples of Learning Maps it considers exemplary? And, would NYSED describe the "open Learning Map technology" that the SLC plans to deliver?	Learning Maps	An overview of the "open Learning Map technology" may be found on SLCedu.org in a whitepaper titled "Learning Standard Alignment in the SLC Technology" at http://slcedu.org/sites/default/files/downloads/SLC_Learning_Standards_Alignment_Whitepaper_v1.0.pdf .

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
150	Given the complexity of Early Warning System derived measures and statistical models, does the state envision a predefined schedule for refreshing data changes to drive EWS metric recalculations or is the expectation for EWS data dashboards to be calculated on demand?	Early Warning System	At a minimum, the EWS metric should be refreshed nightly following a change in the underlying data. See requirement 47 in Attachment 6.2. NYSED SIRS data may change as often as every 24 hours (see Question ID 68), and the SLI Data Store will refresh these data in near real-time.
151	Will the SLI have a change data capture capability to convey when data elements have changed?	SLI	The SLC is considering adding support for detecting changes. This feature has not yet been assigned a release date, but is expected for the second half of 2013.
152	During implementation phase, what expectations does the state have regarding vendor product development/enhancements? Does the state expect this project to encompass a large amount of customization and development or is the department more interested in a COTS solution?	Product Customization	The State wishes for its required product features to be delivered in the most cost-effective and time-efficient manner.
153	Will recommendation engines obtain all available metadata from the SLI or will external metadata repositories also be included?	Recommendation Engine	NYSED is interested in cost-effective innovative proposals that leverage SLI/EDP standards and assets whenever possible, including content metadata for instructional resources within the EDP environment using the CCSSO/NGA common core taxonomy, the LRMI markup standard, and the SLI Learning Registry index node.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
154	<p>What level of access should teachers have to students' data after students have matriculated beyond the teacher's classroom? Should a teacher be able to access personally identifiable data for students they have taught in the past?</p>	<p>Role Based Access Control</p>	<p>In general, teachers will have access only to current students.</p> <p>The EDP shall interface with NYSED/SLI identity and access management systems to automatically create role-based user accounts. DDS vendors must map roles and permissions supplied by the SLI data store within the DDS to authorize users at the application level.</p> <p>SAML 2.0 and OAuth are being used for federated identity (single sign-on) and access authorization, respectively.</p> <p>For further guidance on the SLC's Identity Integration Solution, including more details on Single Sign-On and SAML components, please see http://slcedu.org/technology/technical-specifications/slc-pilot-phase-project-documents.</p>
155	<p>The DDS RFP lists specific requirements regarding reading, writing and collecting additional data for the SLI. Do similar requirements exist with regard to metadata? Will the successful DD vendor be required to write metadata created by the DD application back into the SLI?</p>	<p>Data Integration</p>	<p>See Question ID 83.</p>
156	<p>Does the department have a growth model that is currently used to measure student progress? If so, what is the lowest grain of information for which growth can be measured?</p>	<p>Business Logic</p>	<p>The growth score metric (e.g. student growth percentiles) will be provided by NYSED, based on annual summative assessment data, and stored (most likely as a custom entity) within the SLI data model and be available for consumption and display by all Data Dashboard solution vendors.</p>
157	<p>What measures and methodology exist to evaluate teacher effectiveness? Will the SLI include measures of teacher effectiveness?</p>	<p>Scope</p>	<p>The scope of this RFP does not include displaying measures of teacher effectiveness.</p>
158	<p>Will the customizable reporting dashboard source code be made available to educators</p>	<p>SLI</p>	<p>See Question ID 90.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
	with SLI access?		
159	On page 9 of the DDS RFP, under Shared Learning Collaborative, it states "It is expected that all data to be displayed by the Data Dashboards will be sourced through the SLI using its standard interfaces and services." Does this preclude the use of dashboard data staged and stored in the vendor's database for aggregation, calculation, caching, and performance? It is expected that all data to be displayed by the Data Dashboards will be sourced through the SLI using its standard interfaces and services.	Data Integration	Although data must be sourced from the SLI, business logic can be applied to these data within the DDS vendor's database for business or performance reasons. These calculations must be documented and shared with the NYSED to validate the system (i.e. data are displayed completely and accurately based on NYSED-defined and approved business requirements). As stated in Section 4.13.23 (Ownership of Data and Records), all data must be destroyed at the conclusion of the contract.
160	Do LEAs have to approve vendors saving data?	???	When a LEA selects its dashboard, this approval will include any business logic that needs to be applied to these data within the DDS vendor's database for business or performance reasons. As stated in Section 4.13.23 (Ownership of Data and Records), all data must be destroyed at the conclusion of the contract.
161	If data that does not currently exist in the SLI data source is captured by the dashboard application from end users, does it have to be stored in the SLI data source immediately or can it be stored by the dashboard application in the vendor's database and transferred? If so, at what frequency? Does it have to be uploaded to the SLI? Can we assume the SLI data source schema will be extended?	Data Integration	As described in Section 1.2.3.3 (Data Integration), Data Dashboard vendors must support data integration through Web service and batch uploads from the SLI data store. If Data Dashboard data elements are SLI-compatible but not populated in the SLI (e.g., not loaded to the SLI by NYSED or LEAs), vendors may build data input or import mechanisms, at no cost to NYSED, that load the data from LEAs and schools to the SLI custom or core entities; the data are then consumed via the SLI in the Dashboard solution. The frequency of this process is to be negotiated between the vendor and the LEA.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
162	The SLA stipulates a 5-second response time for the EDP. When data is sourced from SLI, what is the SLA response time for the API? Will the 5-second response time include this?	Data Integration	The 5-second response time for the EDP excludes the SLI's response time for the API. The SLI Alpha environment will not have a SLAs. However, v1.0 of the SLI will provide SLAs. While these specific SLAs are yet to be determined, we anticipate < 1 sec of a delay, independent of network latency.
163	How often will data be ingested from NYSED and its LEAs to SLC?	Data Integration	See Question 68 for state-sourced Data. A scheduled timeline for LEA-sourced data has not yet been determined.
164	How often are the Data Dashboard contents required to be refreshed?	Data Integration	At a minimum, Data Dashboard contents must be refreshed on a nightly basis.
165	How many years of historical data will NYSED load into the SLC?	Data Integration	Depending on availability, we will load up to 12 years of historical student data.
166	Would it be acceptable to NYSED to use a 3rd party translation tool?	Language Translation	The prime vendor may sub-contract to another vendor to perform translation services. The prime vendor may NOT solely rely upon an automated translation tool as a complete, end-to-end solution.
167	Could NYSED please clarify whether the required electronic copy is one CD containing all three parts of the response or three CDs with one part each?	RFP Process	One CD containing all submission documents is not required but is acceptable if the technical, cost and M/WBE proposals are separate files on the single CD.
168	Would it be acceptable to NYSED to submit the electronic copy via flash drive?	RFP Process	No, a flash drive is not acceptable. Please submit the electronic copy on a CD.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
169	Please explain the calculations and adjustments the NYSED will make in regard to the following language found on page 45 of the DDS RFP: "The cost proposals, cost evaluations, and initial contracts will be based on an equal 33 1/3% split (assuming three contracts are awarded) across LEAs and will be adjusted following each round of LEA demo and selection."	Payment Model	<p>As described in Section 2.3.3 (Cost Proposal), a three-year contract with up to two annual renewals will be awarded. NYSED intends to fund services for all LEA's in the state during the three-year contract term; during the two annual renewals, LEA's will be able to opt in to purchase their own Data Dashboard solutions. Initially, and for cost evaluation purposes, the contract value will include fixed development costs (Year 1) and annual costs for the remainder of the contract term (e.g., Years 2 and 3) that assume each vendor will be serving 1/3 of the State's enrolled students (the per student charge includes access costs for their educators and parents).</p> <p>The contracts will be amended to revise the contract value following the demonstrations and selections at the end of Year 1 (Year 2 services for all LEAs), again following the updated selections at the end of Year 2 (Year 3 services for all LEAs), again following the opt-in selections at the end of Year 3 (Year 4 services for self-funded LEA's who have opted in), and one last time following the opt-in selections at the end of Year 4 (Year 5 services for self-funded LEA's who have opted in).</p> <p>The final contract at the conclusion of the term will include the total contract value for the fixed development costs (Year 1) and actual costs for annual services for the remainder of the term (e.g., Years 2 and 3).</p>
170	Should the student pricing include charter schools?	Pricing	As described in Section 2.3.3 (Cost Proposal), NYSED will fund Data Dashboard selections for all LEA's. As described in the footnote on page 8 and in the Glossary, LEA's are defined as school district (or school/network in NYC), charter schools, and BOCES.
171	Minimum Qualifications 1 and 2 [Question - Program] Would NYSED consider accepting "Work-in-progress" implementations for Vendors to meet these qualifications?	Minimum Qualifications	See Question ID 63.
172	Parents / Students – Record Exchange [Question - Program] Which Records Exchange application is NYSED using at the moment?	Record Exchange	NYSED is not currently using a record exchange application.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
173	<p>Internationalization [Question - Program] Apart from help and support materials, does the data-dashboard application also need to be internationalized to cater to various local languages? What would be a minimum requirement in this area?</p>	Language Translation	<p>Requirements 93 through 96 of DDS Attachment 6.2 describe the mandatory and desirable language translation or translation guide requirements of the RFP.</p>
174	<p>(Section 1.2.2) – High Level Timeline [Question - Program] SLC specifications and Alpha are going to be available only in June and first prototype application will be available in early August. How do we meet the Oct-12 integration timeframe?</p>	Timeline	<p>Project initiation and planning will begin in October 2012 with the contract start date. The DDS must be available for demonstration of core features and LEA selection purposes on or around April 2013 (with the final Project Schedule to be determined with the acceptance of the Project Plan). As such, the vendor must propose a schedule for configuring/integrating a COTS tool or building/configuring a custom tool within this timeframe.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
175	<p>Data Integration (Section 1.2.3.3) states the following: The Data Dashboard tools are intended to primarily serve as presenters of data. If the applications foster the collection of additional data from users for value-add purposes, and/or if these data are authoritative (i.e., there is no other source system for this information), the vendor will be required to write these data back for storage in the SLI's core or custom entities, unless otherwise agree to in writing by NYSED. Data that would require write back include, but are not limited to, Early Warning indicator flags, Common Core-aligned assessment data not sourced by NYSED, and grade book data. Data not written back to the SLI, as agreed to in writing by NYSED, will need to be made available for export in an interoperable format.</p> <p>[Question - Program] Would the data identified in the above scenarios be available for use / display by each of the selected dashboard applications - especially in the scenario where data (specific to a particular dashboard app) is not written back to SLI?</p> <p>[Question - Program] Any specifications that we should be following</p>	Data Integration	<p>The data in need of write-back will be identified at specification. Data written back to the SLI by Application A would then be available for consumption and display by any NYSED-authorized Application that accesses the SLI data store.</p> <p>Data that NYSED agrees do not need to be written back would still need to be available for export and use by the LEA that owns the data or the NYSED.</p> <p>Data exported from a DDS vendor to LEAs/NYSED must be provided in an interoperable format, to be determined at specification, which may include: 1) secure FTP file transfer through .csv, .xls, and .xml file formats (full data loads and/or deltas), and 2) Near real-time web services (data deltas).</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
	<p>for exporting data from data dashboard application in an interoperable format? Will that be according to the SLC schema?</p>		
176	<p>(Section 1.4.8) states the following The Vendor shall provide staff support on-site for 60 days. [Question - Program] Kindly confirm if on-site would imply Albany, NY.</p>	Application Warranty Services	Yes, Application Warranty Services 60 days post-launch must be provided on-site at 89 Washington Street in Albany, NY (NYSED office).

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
177	<p>Project Schedule and Timeline(Attachment 6.8 in SOW) - Page 42 [Question - Program] Is the project schedule expected in Microsoft Project format OR will it be acceptable to list the high-level tasks / sub-tasks/ deliverables in the "Detailed Tasks" section provided within the SOW template? If the requirement is to submit a MS Project file, then, can the items 1-27 in the "Detailed Tasks" section of the SOW reference the appropriate item (task, sub-task, etc.) in the Microsoft Project file.</p>	Timeline	<p>There is no specific requirement for the project schedule to be in MS Project format. It would be acceptable to list the high-level tasks/sub-tasks/deliverables in the Detailed Task section of the SOW template in developing the project schedule.</p>
178	<p>1.) It is our understanding that RFP #DS-07 refers only to the license of an applicable software product.However, RFP #DS-07 appears to contain services terms.Please confirm that RFP #DS-07 is for a software license only (assuming such license includes technical support) and that services terms would not apply to any contract resulting from RFP #DS-07.</p>	Scope	<p>RFP # DS-07 is not merely for the license of an applicable software product. The RFP includes all services as described in Section 1.4 for a large number of end users, hence the presence of services terms in the contract language.</p>
180	<p>3.) Would the State consider co-vendors each of whom would enter into a license agreement with the State?</p>	Ts & Cs	<p>Proposals need to have a prime vendor with subcontracting limits described in Section 4.1.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
181	4.) Please elaborate on what actions are required from vendors for Attachment 6.3 "Hosting Services" and Attachment 6.4 "Maintenance and Support Services?"	Hosting, Maintenance, and Support	The Minimum Qualifications Certification form (Section 5.7) must be submitted with the proposal. Through this form, the vendor certifies that it will meet all of the requirements contained in Section 1.4 and Attachment 6.2. Attachment 6.3 (Hosting Services) and 6.4 (Maintenance and Support Services) are referenced to help explain services required in Section 1.4.
182	4.) It is our understanding that soft copies of the technical, cost, and M/WBE proposals may be loaded onto the same CD-ROM. Please confirm.	RFP Process	Yes, that is correct, although each proposal - technical, cost, and M/WBE - should be saved, stored, and provided in a separate file.
183	5.) Does NYSED prefer that vendors respond to the RFP requirements within the NYSED provided templates, or is it acceptable to utilize our company's standard response template for some sections, provided we do not alter question or section numbering?	RFP Process	Vendors are required to use templates provided by NYSED.
184	6.) It was not readily apparent which form in Section 5.8 is the "___ Budget Year Summary" as none of the forms in this section require a signature. Could NYSED please provide, assuming this remains a bid submission requirement?	RFP Process	"___ Budget Year Summary" is not a required submission document for RFP #DS-07.
186	8.) With what frequency will the data in the SLI be updated?	Data Integration	Currently, NYSED's SIRS system is refreshed on a weekly basis. Going forward, NYSED aims to collect and refresh data from districts on a daily basis. As such, NYSED aims to send data to the SLI on a daily basis. The SLI, upon receiving data from NYSED's SIRS, will update its data store in near real-time.
187	9.) Can dashboard vendors maintain static data marts constructed from data stored in the SLI?	Data Integration	See Question ID 159
188	10.) How often should the dashboard vendors	Data Integration	At a minimum, Data Dashboard contents must be refreshed on a nightly basis.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
	refresh the data in their systems?		
189	<p>11. Define a “transaction” as used in the Dashboard RFP?</p> <p>a. It may help to compare and contrast the NYSED definition with the classic definition as used in transactional databases.</p> <p>b. Is an SLI operation considered to be a NYSED “transaction” or is it some other data exchange paradigm.</p> <p>c. Refer to Attachment 6.2 – Detailed Requirements items #14, #15 and #16 for examples of where “transaction” is used.</p>	Data Integration	"Transaction" as used in Requirements 14, 15, and 16 of Attachment 6.2 refer to the event whereby a student/parent requests transfer of data to a SUNY and/or CUNY central location.
190	12. What is the full list of criteria for the filter requirements outlined in Attachment 6.2 – Detailed Requirements items #62 and #63?	Detailed Requirements	The full list of filters will be determined at specification.
191	13. At what level should customizations be enabled for the requirement in Attachment 6.2 – Detailed Requirements item #55? For example, User, School, LEA, or SEA.	Detailed Requirements	At a minimum, this would be available at the SEA level.
194	<p>3. Page 43, 2.3.3. Cost Proposal, Letter B.</p> <p>Consistent with the industry, our annual per-student fee includes the license, maintenance and support, and hosting. It does not include implementation, training or similar services, since these services do not scale on a per student basis.</p>	Cost Proposal	As you will see when you complete the Bid Form (Section 5.8), the Annual Cost component is an annually recurring per-student fee that will be inclusive of all costs subsequent to launch and fulfills the relevant service requirements identified in Section 1.4 Required Implementation and Support Services. Proposals that do not meet Bid Form requirements will be deemed non-responsive.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
	Such services will be quoted outside the annual per-student fee.		
195	4. Page 46 Where is the “___ Year Budget Summary” form?	RFP Process	“___ Budget Year Summary” is not a required submission document for RFP #DS-07.
199	1. Can a vendor bid as a “Prime” for the Data Dashboard RFP, and also participate as a “Subcontractor” on another vendor’s bid for the Data Dashboard RFP?	Subcontracting Limit	See Question ID 79
200	2. Page 15, 1.1.5 (1) of the RFP references the SLI data store: Who will be hosting the core SLI data store and related technology on behalf of NYSED? Will there be a separate RFP to stand up a NY-specific implementation of SLI? If not, who will be the governing agency that will manage a hosted SLI implementation on behalf of NYSED?	SLI	The SLC is offering the SLI data store to all participating states, including New York. The SLC has contracted with Amazon.com for platform hosting services. New York will be participating in to-be-determined SLC governance processes.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
201	<p>3. Page 15, 1.1.5 (2) of the RFP indicates that the SLI data store will be modeled on CEDS: Is this the CEDS 2.0 data model? The CEDS 2.0 data model is materially different from the Ed-Fi data model, comprised of a wholly different set of data elements. If the proposed dashboard design requires data elements found in both CEDS 2.0 and Ed-Fi, will a hybrid model using both be supported by SLI, or at least the NYSED-specific implementation of SLI?</p>	SLI	<p>For classroom and dashboard-oriented data the SLC has adopted the Ed-Fi data model which is aligned to CEDS 2.0. The Ed-Fi team is submitting all elements not yet in the CEDS model to the CEDS group as part of the CEDS 3.0 round.</p> <p>The SLC dashboards source data from the SLC data store through the published APIs documented at slcedu.org. The SLC data store leverages the Ed-Fi specification for its logical data model and requires additional extension to instantiate in a physical data store. Additional documentation available at slcedu.org</p>
202	<p>4. Page 15, 1.1.5 (2) references “other data stores” while 1.2.3.3 (page 23) references a data store for managing Dashboard application data: If the Dashboard design requires its own data store to manage configuration data, reporting metadata, and other data elements not contained in the “other data stores” listed in this section, will NYSED accept proposals for a self-contained data store for this information? If so, must the proposed new data store for the Dashboard application be hosted in the SLI repository, or can the data store be hosted in a vendor-provided hosted architecture?</p>	Data Integration	See Question ID 159.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
203	<p>5. Attachment 6.2 ("Detailed Requirements"), line items 14 through 23, references a Record Exchange application: Would NYSED accept proposals that segregate Record Exchange functionality into a separate, SLI-enabled application in any of the following structures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standalone Dashboard and Record Exchange applications provided to LEAs as a "bundle" (single LEA selection) • Standalone Dashboard and Record Exchange applications provided to LEAs separately (separate LEA selections) 	Record Exchange	<p>See Question 54.</p> <p>System functional and technical requirements are described in Attachment 6.2, including the requirements that students and parents are able to view student data and either the student or the parent is able to authorize the transfer of student data to a SUNY and/or CUNY secure transfer location. The vendor should propose the most cost-effective method to achieve these requirements, so long as they are part of a "bundled" solution subject to a single LEA selection.</p>
206	Is the SLI the sole data source needed? if not, can you tell us at this time what others there might be.	Data Integration	See Question Response 161.
207	Can the Hosting Vendor sub on multiple Prime Bidder Responses?	Subcontracting Limit	Yes.
208	Are the DDS and CMS RFP's dependent upon each other? Will you award one without the other?	Scope	The two RFP's are highly dependent, and we intend to make contract awards for both RFPs.
209	1. Will NYSED be providing the EWIF calculation requirements/specifications to all Data Dashboard vendors?	Detailed Requirements	The calculation is to be determined by the vendor, so long as it meets the mandatory requirements included in Attachment 6.2.
210	2. How does NYSED plan to ensure consistency among all three dashboard solutions?	Evaluation Process	All DDS vendors must meet mandatory requirements outlined in Section 1.4 and Attachment 6.2.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
211	3. Requirement #62. Will NYSED be providing point-in-time data for historical reporting purposes? For example, if a student was flagged as Section 504 for 2009-2010 will the data provided through the SLI indicate this?	Detailed Requirements	See Question Response 165.
212	4. Requirement #104. Should students or parents have the ability to view Student Notes?	Detailed Requirements	Student notes were primarily intended to be created by educators and shared with other educators. As written, this non-mandatory requirement would allow for sharing notes with parents or students as a value-added communication tool.
213	5. What will the mid June release of SLI contain?. Need details	SLI	The mid-June release will include initial versions of the SLC Data Store, Application APIs, Bulk Data Ingestion methods, Sandbox w/ fixture data, educator dashboard, and portal. A developer website will also be made available. The SLC expects to publish an SLI Alpha Release Scope document on Tuesday, 5/29, which will provide further clarification and detail on the technology assets and services to be made available to vendors by the June 2012 release. This document will be accessible via slcedu.org.
214	6. Will the SLI Sandbox have a functioning Portals App in mid-June?	SLI	Yes.
215	7. Will NY State Ed and SLC schedule a webinar to demo the Alpha release of SLI?	SLI	Yes, the SLC will schedule a webinar to demo the Alpha release of the SLI. This would be a general session to demo the sandbox environment and would not be NYSED-specific. Further details will be provided in the coming weeks.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
250	<p>On page 18, the RFP states: "Data to be specified at specification time, such as Early Warning System flags, Common Core-aligned assessment data, and grade book data, captured by the Data Dashboard solution should be written back and stored in the SLI and/or be available for export in an interoperable format."</p> <p>From the bidders conference it was stated that assessment data would be sourced, if at all possible, through the SLI. Similarly it would seem like grade book data would also be sourced from the SLI. What would be the use case for the dashboards inputting or collecting this data? We suggest this sentence is misleading and should only reference the Early Warning Flags and the Student Notes (in requirement #104).</p>	Technical Requirements	It is acceptable for DDS vendors to focus on Early Warning System flags and student notes when contemplating approaches to writing DDS-captured data back to the SLI.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
251	<p>Detailed Requirements #27 and #28 indicate display of "assessment responses" and "item responses," respectively. Could you define these please? Are these the "answers" the student provides? If so, it does not seem like these would be appropriate in a dashboard application.</p>	Technical Requirements	<p>Data definitions can be found at: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/2011-12/2011-12SIRSGuidance/NEWER/SIRSDataElements20120315.doc. The defined data elements include: "Assessment Item Response Description", "Assessment Item Response Value Points Earned", "Assessment Measure Standard Description", and "Assessment Item Response Value Multiple Choice". We believe that dashboard applications can make meaningful use of item-level information.</p> <p>"Assessment responses" and "item responses," are listed as examples following the phrase "such as" in requirements 27 and 28, respectively. This list of examples is not intended to be a definitive or exhaustive list of data elements that a DDS vendor must use to meet the intended functionality of the requirement to display standard-aligned assessment data with details at the standard-breakdown level.</p>
252	<p>Detailed Requirement #100 states: "The system shall display the same data elements and the same user interface as are displayed to teachers, with exceptions noted at system specification time."</p> <p>The teacher dashboard will be a substantial application that allows the teacher to examine different views, drill down for more information, examine student historical information and trends, and compare, filter, sort and contrast data. Our user analysis indicates such an interface is too complex and inappropriate for parents. Parents need a much simpler interface that focuses on highlighting recent performance, early warning indicators, driving to conclusions</p>	Technical Requirements	<p>We agree that the system should display data elements in a manner that are appropriate, understandable, and actionable by parents. That said, we want teachers and parents to have a common framework for shared discussions around student data and performance. Reasonable exceptions to the "sameness" requirements for data elements and look-and-feel that achieve these goals will be finalized at specification time.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
	<p>and actions that a parent can understand. We believe this requirement will substantially compromise the usability of the dashboard system by parents. We suggest that it be reworded as follows:</p> <p>"The system shall display data elements that are appropriate, understandable, and actionable by parents. All data elements displayed to parents must be included in teacher displays with the same visualization and meaning. The set of data elements and the look and feel of the parent dashboard shall be approved at specification time."</p>		
253	<p>When users authenticate to the Education Data Portal, will they use an existing SSO / authentication mechanism, or is the proposed solution required to provide single sign-on capabilities for multiple systems and applications?</p>	SSO and RBAC	<p>When users authenticate to the Education Data Portal, they will use the NYSED/SLI identity and access management system for single sign-on and authentication. See requirements 10 and 11 in Attachment 6.2, as well as the "SLI Identity Integration – RFP Guidance" and "Identity Integration Solution Overview" documents posted at http://slcedu.org/technology/technical-specifications/slc-pilot-phase-project-documents.</p>
254	<p>Is an interface/technology for resetting end-user passwords to the EP required, or will that technology be enabled through the SLC-provided technology (or through another provider)?</p>	SSO and RBAC	<p>The NYSED/SLI identity and access management system will provide an interface/technology for resetting end-user passwords.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
255	Is the proposed solution to include a user provisioning / RBAC solution to provide role-based access control to multiple systems and applications?	SSO and RBAC	The NYSED/SLI identity and access management system will provide an interface/technology for assigning user roles and permissions. The DDS vendor solution will need to map to these roles and permissions. See requirements 10 and 11 in Attachment 6.2, as well as the "SLI Identity Integration – RFP Guidance" and "Identity Integration Solution Overview" documents posted at http://slcedu.org/technology/technical-specifications/slc-pilot-phase-project-documents .
256	Is the proposed solution to be capable of federation so that it can interoperate with the federation solution that is currently being piloted by NYSED? Please provide information regarding the federation solution that is currently being piloted including federation protocols and their versions.	SSO and RBAC	<p>The DDS must use the NYSED/SLI identity and access management system for single sign-on functionality. Federated identity integration will use the SAML 2.0 protocol and trust relationship. Single sign-on (SSO) will use the OAuth 2.0 authentication protocol.</p> <p>See requirements 10 and 11 in Attachment 6.2, as well as the "SLI Identity Integration – RFP Guidance" and "Identity Integration Solution Overview" documents posted at http://slcedu.org/technology/technical-specifications/slc-pilot-phase-project-documents.</p>
257	What is the likelihood of data element(s) required for dashboard, not being available in SLI?	Program Features	See Question ID 123 for a description of the data that the State will provide to the SLI. In addition, LEAs may elect to send data directly to the SLI for Data Dashboard reporting purposes. See Question ID 70 for the conditions under which DDS vendors may assist LEA's, at no cost to NYSED, with sending data to the SLI.
258	Will SLI have student data for all the LEA's and schools of NYSED?	Program Features	See Question ID 123 for a description of the data that the State will provide to the SLI on behalf of all LEA's and schools.
259	(Attachment 6.2 Detailed Requirements #27) Are the Common Core standard assessments generic/common in nature or do they vary for each school?	Technical Requirements	As described in the "Assumptions for Proposals" portion of Section 1.2.1 (Overview) of the RFP, New York's statewide assessments will align with the Common Core State Standards over an implementation period that begins in 2012-13. In addition, LEA's may elect to send to the SLI locally administered common core-aligned assessments.
260	(Attachment 6.2 Detailed Requirements #27) Are the Common Core standard assessment defined every year?	Technical Requirements	As described in the "Assumptions for Proposals" portion of Section 1.2.1 (Overview) of the RFP, New York's statewide assessments will align with the Common Core State Standards over an implementation period that begins in 2012-13. The technical specifications of New York's assessments (e.g., number of items, item mappings to standard, cut scores, etc.) change from year to year.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
261	(Attachment 6.2 Detailed Requirements #28) Need elaboration on "Item score(s)", "Item response(s)", "item mapping to standard"	Technical Requirements	Data definitions can be found at: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/2011-12/2011-12SIRSGuidance/NEWER/SIRSDataElements20120315.doc . The defined data elements include: "Assessment Item Response Description", "Assessment Item Response Value Points Earned", "Assessment Measure Standard Description", and "Assessment Item Response Value Multiple Choice". Cut scores (e.g., above and below proficiency) and item mapping to standard (i.e., which items align to and load on which measured standards) are provided by NYSED following the administration and processing of a State assessment.
262	(Attachment 6.2 Detailed Requirements #30) Need elaboration on what running record assessments mean	Technical Requirements	Running records are assessments teachers use to code, score, and analyze a student's oral reading behaviors. They provide evidence of what a student knows about letter, sound, and word recognition to help them understand the text. In addition, running records help teachers assess a student's reading level and development of independent reading strategies as the student reads increasingly difficult texts. The running record provides teachers with information pinpointing the strengths and weaknesses of the reader so that future lessons can be developed to best assist the student. It is used to ensure the teacher chooses books at an appropriate level of difficulty for guided reading groups. Long term records can be used to chart the progress students have made over a period of time when given running records. Potential values captured in running record assessments include reading book levels; oral reading fluency - accuracy, words per minute, and miscues; comprehension levels; and anecdotal observation. Examples of running record assessments include Fountas & Pinnell and DRA2.
263	(Attachment 6.2 Detailed Requirements # 45) What are the rules applicable for calculating the Early Warning Indicator Flags (EWIF)	Technical Requirements	See mandatory requirements 45 to 48 in Attachment 6.2. The algorithm used for the Early Warning calculation shall be proposed by the vendor and will be finalized at specification.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
264	(Attachment 6.2 Detailed Requirements # 47) What is the frequency of system data refresh – Daily, Weekly, Fortnightly, and Monthly?	Technical Requirements	See Question ID 68 for SIRS system refresh times. The SLI will refresh in near-real time as it receives data from the State or LEAs.
265	Section 1.1.1 Please elaborate us on what is Integrated Search Functions?	Program Features	<p>As described in Section 1.1.2 (Summary of RFPs and Implementation Approach), all applications deployed within EDP will consume and display a common header that includes application and other navigational controls, as well as an integrated search box. EDP aims to provide users with intuitive click-through navigation across EDP applications and access to related resources via integrated search results. During a single login session, educators will be able to identify student needs based on their Data Dashboards and find relevant Common Core-aligned curriculum and instructional resources through integrated search, intuitive navigation pathways, and, desired but not required, recommendation engines.</p> <p>Additional information on the EDP search functionality can be found in requirements 161 and 178 to 190 in Attachment 6.2 of the CM&SS RFP at http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/rfp/ds-08/.</p>
266	Section 1.1.3 What are the preferred tools for test management and Test Automation?	Program Features	<p>Please note that Section 1.1.3 (Content Management and System Services Procurement Objectives) is provided as context for the benefit of those responding to the Data Dashboard Solutions RFP. The information in this section is superseded by the contents of the Content Management and System Services RFP #DS-08.</p> <p>NYSED uses Apache JMeter for performance testing and Selenium for functional testing. The vendor is free to propose tools as appropriate.</p>
267	Section 1.1.5 (Point # 7) What are the different dashboard reports to be tested?	Program Features	We do not understand the question. Section 1.1.5 (Point #7) does not refer to testing.
268	Is performance Testing is in Scope? Do we have any performance Log for the current system in place?	Program Features	Yes, hosting and performance testing are in scope. The State does not have a Data Dashboard Solutions system currently in place.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
269	Does all the data only flows from SLI to EDP or can we create student or Educator data directly in the portal?	Program Features	See Question ID 159. In addition, DDS may write data to the SLI, but (as described in Section 1.1.5 - Overview) the EDP components should share data internally using master data management concepts and not overwrite data for which DDS is not the authoritative data source. Data created directly in the DDS solution and identified at specification must either be written back to the SLI or be available for export in an interoperable format.
270	Does the vendor need to enhance or perform functional testing of Engage Ny.Org during the development of EDP dashboard.	Program Features	The DDS vendor is not responsible for testing EngageNY.org during the development of the EDP dashboard.
271	Section 1.2.3.2 As this RFP proposes SSO on secured access is Security testing in scope?	Program Features	Yes, hosting and security testing are in scope.
272	Does the NYSED have the Test Cases/Automation Test Script Suite available for the current system in place. Can we re-use it?	Program Features	We do not understand the question. The State does not have a Data Dashboard Solutions system currently in place.
273	Is end user training in scope for UAT testing?	Program Features	Yes, to the degree that it is necessary to achieve UAT.
274	Since the proposed solution will be deployed in clustered environment, resilience testing including failover and load balancing will be in scope. Please confirm.	Program Features	Yes, hosting and resilience testing are in scope.
275	Do the hosting service levels and penalties apply only to the production system instance or do they apply to the testable non-production system instance as well?	Hosting	They apply to the production system instance.
276	In Section 2, Hosting Site, the RFP states no local (i.e. outside of the hosting site) replication of data will be allowed." Is the NY DOE open to allowing replication to a DR site as this would	Hosting	Yes, replication is allowed at the Disaster Recovery hosting site, so long as all data security and privacy requirements of the primary hosting site are implemented at the Disaster Recovery hosting site.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
	assist with meeting the RTO and RPO objectives?		
277	Section 9, Disaster Recovery, the RFP states vendor's hot-standby site shall be at least fifty (50) miles away from Vendor's primary site from which the Hosting Services are then provided. We would recommend at least 100 miles which is based on the Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRII) recommendation and would help protect against regional disasters.	Hosting	We will not require this change at this time.

4.1.2 Questions and Answers applicable to BOTH RFP# DS-08 AND the related RFP# DS-07 (Education Data Portal: Data Dashboard Solutions).

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
1	Are the MBE/WBE goals of 20% optional or a requirement? Could all 20% be met by an MBE or a WBE? Must MBE/WBE be certified by State before submission of the proposal, or can certification occur afterwards?	MBE/WBE	Please refer to Minority and Women-Owned Business Compliance Requirements in the RFP. 12% MBE and 8% WBE are preferred, but these combinations can be flexible with justification. M/WBE certification does not need to be completed prior to proposal submission, but M/WBE certification must be completed prior to the start of the work assigned to the M/WBE certified vendor.
4	If a vendor did not submit a Letter of Intent, but did attend the Bidder's Conference, can this vendor submit a proposal as a prime contractor?	RFP Process	A Letter of Intent was not required and has no bearing on whether a vendor is eligible to submit a proposal as a prime contractor.
7	Does the Educator create assessments in the EDP? Does the student take assessments in the EDP?	Scope	The scope of the current EDP procurements does not include a request for this functionality. Instead, assessment data stored in SIRS or in LEAs' Student Information Systems (or Assessment Management Platforms) will be integrated into the Shared Learning Infrastructure (Data Store) for consumption and display by CM&SS and/or DDS vendors.
8	Is there a specific list of languages that the EDP has to support?	Scope	<p>DDS RFP - Requirements 93 through 96 of Attachment 6.2 describe the mandatory and desirable language translation or translation guide requirements of the RFP.</p> <p>CM&SS RFP - Requirement 179 of Attachment 6.2 describes the need for the portal solution to accommodate navigation to user log-in pages in up to 9 languages other than English (Arabic, Bengali, Mandarin Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Urdu) with language translations to be provided by NYSED.</p>
9	During the Technical Presentation, does NYSED expect vendors to provide a live product demonstration?	RFP Process	Prior to the technical presentations for each RFP, NYSED will provide each bidder with a Technical Presentation Package, including an agenda, instructions, and possible clarification questions. At this point in time, we would advise potential bidders to demonstrate pre-existing products (if available) or to provide mock-ups, wireframes, or functional prototypes of solutions to be built during the course of the project. A final decision on the agenda for this event will be provided at least six calendar days in advance of the presentation.
10	To help vendors to prepare, what information can NYSED provide about the format, requirements, script, etc. for the Technical Presentations? Will vendors be required to ingest test data from NYSED in order to prepare for the product demonstrations/ presentations?	RFP Process	<p>Regarding preparation for Technical Presentations, see response to ID 9.</p> <p>NYSED will not provide any test data for the technical presentation. Any product demonstrations should use dummy or sample data supplied or sourced by the vendor.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
11	Could you please share the list of vendors who have submitted a Letter of Intent to bid on either RFP? This will help sub-contractors to identify and team with potential Prime contractors. Can you identify and list all M/WBE vendors interested in teaming with Prime contractors on NYSED's procurement portal?	RFP Process	<p>A list of vendors who attended bidder's conferences on 5/11/12 was provided on 5/14/2012.</p> <p>The most up-to-date list of New York approved M/WBE vendors can be found at www.esd.ny.gov/MWBE/directorySearch.html.</p>
12	Can the IV&V vendor also be a sub-contractor on the CM&SS or DDS Contracts?	Ts & Cs	No.
13	Please describe the timeline for selecting the IV&V vendor(s).	RFP Process	The timeline for selecting an IV&V vendor is to be determined. If NYSED chooses to select a vendor, we will follow state procurement rules, requirements, and timelines.
16	How does the EDP/Data Dashboard initiative relate to districts that already have student data portals available to students and parents?	Vision	We are aware that some schools and districts already have student and parent portals. We believe the EDP Data Dashboards are different from these products in at least four ways: (1) the parent dashboard will align generally with the educator dashboard in order to support parent-teacher conversations around common data views; (2) the student dashboard will allow students (or parents, depending on age) to view and authorize the electronic transfer of student data to SUNY and CUNY; (3) the parent and student dashboards will have access to statewide data as students move from district to district; (4) the parent and student dashboards will benefit from single-sign on functionality with all future EDP and SLI aligned applications.
19	Does the sub-contracting limit also include infrastructure/software licensing/support?	Ts & Cs	Yes.
20	What resources will NYSED make available to manage the EDP project?	Management Structure	We will ensure that sufficient resources are assigned to support the success of the project. This includes direct support from an assistant commissioner, a full-time project manager, a full-time project director, as well as other personnel as deemed necessary by NYSED.
21	What kinds of hosting services are expected (i.e. cloud versus dedicated)?	Scope	<p>Hosting requirements can be found in Attachment 6.3 ("Hosting Services"), Section 1.4.13 of the RFP, as well as requirements 74-80 of Attachment 6.2 of the CM&SS RFP. All data must be hosted within the continental United States.</p> <p>As described in Section 1.4.13, a shared, multi-tenant hosting solution is permissible. Such solutions will be expected to comply with the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) requirements as developed by the Federal Cloud Computing Initiative (FCCI) at the US General Services Administration (GSA) (http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/102371).</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
22	Is Wireless Generation, the primary contractor of the SLI, eligible to be the Prime or a Sub-contractor on either RFP (CM&SS or DDS)?	Eligibility	<p>Several vendors have been engaged by the SLC to work on the SLI via work-for-hire contracts. All SLI specifications and development requirements are available to the public. Therefore, we are aware of no reason to exclude any of these vendors from eligibility to bid on these RFP's. A list of vendors engaged by the SLC is below:</p> <p>Agilix Alvarez and Marsal Business Consulting Amazon.com/Amazon Web Services Applied Minds Big Computing, LLC CELT Corporation Double Line Partners Egon Zehnder International Four Kitchens Gartner Intentional Futures Karl Fogel McKinsey Meucci and Company OmniTI O'Reilly SH WorldWide Victor Alcantara Waggoner Edstrom Worldwide, Inc. Wireless Generation, Inc.</p>
29	Can you elaborate on NYSED's relationship with other state ED's (as listed in the RFP)?	???	NYSED has a collaborative relationship with the states that are participating in the Shared Learning Collaborative.
33	Can you provide a soft copy of the presentations delivered during the Bidder's Conferences?	RFP Process	Soft copies of both presentations were provided to all attendees of conferences on 5/14/2012.
34	Can you provide a soft copy of the list of attendees for each Bidder's Conference? When will this list be available?	RFP Process	A list of vendors who attended bidder's conferences on 5/11/12 was provided on 5/14/2012.
35	Are offshore resources acceptable for the "Additional Services" component?	Ts & Cs	The same RFP requirements apply for both planned services and any requested additional services. There is no prohibition in the RFP against the use of offshore resources for completion of the contract, except that confidential data (including personally identifiable student information and any other information designated as confidential by NYSED, a local educational agency and/or any state or federal confidentiality and privacy laws) cannot be hosted or downloaded/stored in any location outside of the continental United States. Bidders should ensure that they and any subcontractor complies with New York State assurances as stated in Appendix A of the contract language and, in addition, Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2012 which amends State Finance Law by adding section 165-A known as the Iran

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
			Divestment Act of 2012.
44	What is IBM's role in development of each RFP?	RFP Process	IBM has not been involved in the development of either RFP.
46	What companies, agencies, organizations have been involved in the RFP formulation?	RFP Process	NYSED with support from USNY Regents Research Fund is responsible for the creation of these RFPs. Contracted support was provided by NYSTEC. Requirements were informed by feedback from our schools and districts, including NYCDOE. EDP is intentionally aligned with the work of the SLC, and NYSED consulted with the SLC under the terms of a non-disclosure agreement.
47	Would NYSED consider excluding licenses from the subcontracting limit?	Subcontracting Limit	Hosting services is the only allowable exclusion from the subcontracting limit.
48	Please reconsider releasing email addresses of attendees from the Bidder's Conferences. Oracle has thousands of staff and it would take weeks (if not more) to find someone within their organization.	RFP Process	See response to ID 34
49	Please provide a second Q and A period to deal with changes that relate to the first round of Q and A.	RFP Process	As stated in the RFP, all questions were due from vendors by May 18, 2012
50	Will the vendor have access/use of NYSED licenses (e.g. Microsoft SharePoint or Cognos)?	NYSED Resources	If the vendor requires access to software licenses in order to carry out project services and to meet project deliverables, then the vendor is responsible for procuring and purchasing these licenses independently or through a sub-contractor.
53	If a vendor desires, can it leverage NYSED's existing Cognos licenses?	NYSED Resources	See response to ID 50.
55	Are SLC vendors required to enforce a Chinese wall between the staff working on the SLC and the staff working on a proposal in response to this RFP?	SLC	The SLC has not imposed this restriction on SLC contractors. SLC contractors that may be working on a proposal in response to this RFP had access only to the same publicly posted information about the EDP RFP that was available to all other interested parties.
59	Will SLC partner vendors be allowed to bid on either RFP?	Eligibility	See responses to Question ID 22.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
66	Will there be a subsequent RFP for content?	Scope	<p>The State will bring significant content resources to the EDP, including content contained in EngageNY v1.5, content integrated into EDP from the NYC ARIS system, and new content to be integrated by the CM&SS vendor as it becomes available.</p> <p>Within the last year, NYSED has issued RFPs to procure Math and ELA curriculum materials for P - 12 and has awarded contracts for Math (grades P - 5) and ELA (grades P - 2). Additionally, NYSED has issued an RFP to procure video resources and is in the process of evaluating and selecting vendor(s).</p> <p>For further details, please see Sections 1.2.3. ("Content Management and Collaboration Solution Summary") and 1.4.7 ("Content Integration Services") of the CM&SS RFP.</p>
67	Will there be a subsequent RFP for assessment applications?	Scope	<p>At this time, NYSED is not considering the issuance of an RFP to procure an Assessment Management Platform as part of the overall scope of the EDP. However, if the State or another third party deploys an authorized application that meets all SLI requirements, it is expected that this application will be able to be accessed by authorized users within the EDP single sign-on environment.</p>
68	How current is the SIRS data and how frequently is it refreshed?	SIRS	<p>Currently, data submitted to the State by LEAs between Monday and Friday are refreshed the following Monday morning (once a week). In order to better serve the needs of EDP users, we are developing the capacity to refresh these data nightly following LEA submission.</p>
69	Have the SIRS response time issues been resolved?	SIRS	<p>SIRS is not currently experiencing any response time issues.</p>
70	Is there a predetermined tool or technology identified to migrate data from SIRS or the LEAs to the SLI?	Data Integration	<p>Sections 1.2.3.3 ("Data Integration") and 1.4 ("Required Implementation and Support Services") of the DDS RFP describe NYSED and DDS vendor responsibilities for data flow and access.</p> <p>NYSED is developing extracts from SIRS to the SLI using PL/SQL from our ORACLE DB in an XML file format.</p> <p>As described in Section 1.2.3.3 (Data Integration) of the DDS RFP, if Data Dashboard data elements are SLI-compatible but not populated in the SLI (e.g., not loaded to the SLI by NYSED or LEAs), vendors may build data input or import mechanisms, at no cost to NYSED, that load the data directly from LEAs and schools to the SLI; the data are then consumed via the SLI in the Dashboard solution. Any use of the custom data features of the SLI must be accompanied by an open specification of the data elements. Any software solution must be compatible with the Software Use contract terms (Section 4.13.25 of the DDS RFP).</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
71	Do LEAs have their own Student Information Systems and Learning Management Systems or should we assume that SIRS/SLI is updated with student data from all NYS LEAs?	Data Integration	<p>Most LEAs have electronic Student Information Systems, and some LEAs have electronic Learning Management Systems.</p> <p>SIRS collects a diverse set of student data from LEAs throughout the school year, and NYSED will integrate a subset of these data into the SLI's data store on behalf of LEAs. However, LEAs may provide data directly to the SLI that are not collected by SIRS. LEAs may elect to send these data directly to the SLI for Data Dashboard reporting purposes.</p> <p>See Question 70 for the conditions under which DDS vendors may assist LEA's, at no cost to NYSED, with sending data to the SLI.</p>
72	Where is SLI data located/hosted?	SLI	The SLC is offering the SLI data store to all participating states, including New York. The SLC has contracted with Amazon.com for platform hosting services. New York will be participating in to-be-determined SLC governance processes.
73	If only a certain number of users come online, will NYSED ask vendors to prorate their costs?	Pricing	<p>For the CM&SS RFP, costs are not based on active usage data.</p> <p>As described in Section 2.3.4 of the DDS RFP, daily proration will occur when: 1) the SLA explicitly provides (e.g., service outage, etc.); 2) service is not provided for the whole year (e.g., late launch or contract termination), or 3) locations switch providers, with NYSED approval, at times other than the annual selection period. NYSED does not generally intend to allow locations to switch providers at times other than the annual selection period.</p>
74	Please clarify which vendor - CM&SS or DDS - will build and administer the portal.	Scope	The CM&SS vendor will design, build, test, deploy, and operate the Portal.
78	Are there enterprise licenses or enterprise standards that the vendor must comply with?	NYSED Resources	The licenses and standards with which the vendor must comply are stated in the relevant sections of the RFPs.
84	What is NYSED's fixed budget for the implementaton and annual costs?	Budget	NYSED's budget will not be shared at this time.
85	If a vendor implemented a product in a country outside of the USA, can this implementation be used to meet minimum qualifications?	Minimum Qualifications	Yes, a product implementation outside of the USA can be used to meet Minimum Qualifications specific to implementation. Please note that vendor(s) will be asked to provide contact information (Phone/Email/Skype ID/etc.) for these references in order to evaluate a vendor's experience as part of the overall evaluation of the proposal.
87	Do all terms and conditions transfer to sub-contractors?	Ts & Cs	The RFP does not expressly require that each term and condition applies to subcontractors, although a number of provisions in the RFP are made expressly applicable to subcontractors. However, the prime contractor is responsible for ensuring that all work meets the requirements of the contract. Therefore, the prime contractor must ensure that subcontractors' performance meet all of the terms and conditions that govern the prime contractor's overall contract responsibilities.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
90	<p>SLC Interoperability Requirements</p> <p>a. When will a final, stable API be available?</p> <p>b. Will the state take steps to ensure stability over a significant period of time?</p> <p>c. When will the environment be available for a vendor to test SLI integration?</p> <p>d. What is the process and timeline for updates to the API?</p>	SLI	<p>The API specification was made available to the public on the SLCedu.org website on May 4, 2012 at http://slcedu.org/api/.</p> <p>The SLC data store and associated APIs will have an Alpha environment made available to RFP responders on June 16, 2012 based on alpha code. Version 1.0 will be available on 12/12/12. It represents a production-ready version of the SLC technology and APIs. The Version 1.0 code will be released after the 12/12/12 Go Live. The migration plan for releasing the Version 1.0 code will be determined during the Alpha phase.</p> <p>Announcements and updates to documents for any additional releases will be publically available on slcedu.org. The State will be participating in SLC governance to help ensure the stability and long-term sustainability of the project.</p>
91	<p>Technical Documentation</p> <p>a. Will interacting with the SLC data store via its already published API be sufficient to satisfy the state's requirements and evaluation criteria used by application reviewers? If not, when will a stable API that will meet the state's requirements be released?</p> <p>b. When will other technical detail and specifications of the SLC environment related to the NY RFP be released for RFP respondents to review and incorporate?</p>	SLI	<p>The API specifications that were made available to the public on the SLCedu.org website on May 4, 2012 will meet State requirements.</p> <p>Technical documents regarding identity management, security and data ingestion are available on SLCedu.org under the section Technology>Technical Specifications at http://slcedu.org/technology/technical-specifications and http://slcedu.org/technology/technical-specifications/slc-pilot-phase-project-documents.</p> <p>Any additional specifications will be released at sldedu.org as they become available.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
92	<p>Technical Standards</p> <p>How and to what degree will the SLC align to other existing, widely adopted technical standards communities?</p>	SLI	<p>The SLC is committed to the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) and will implement CEDS 2.0 through the implementation of the Ed-Fi specification. For classroom and dashboard-oriented data, the SLC has adopted the Ed-Fi data model which is aligned to CEDS 2.0. The Ed-Fi team is submitting all elements not yet in the CEDS model to the CEDS group as part of the CEDS 3.0 round.</p> <p>Most of CEDS 1.0 elements were drawn from or aligned with the SIF Specification 2.4. The SLI will offer SIF adapters to facilitate data ingestion from SIF systems.</p> <p>The SLC data model includes the expression of a hierarchy of learning objectives and learning standards, which correspond to the usage of both Common Core and state-specific standards. The SLC is coordinating with CEDS, CCSSO and NGA in the development of a standard schema for representing achievement standards in general and the Common Core State Standards in particular. The Learning Registry is being used to house content and standards metadata, and the SLC instance of the Learning Registry will connect with other instances. LRMI will be used to represent alignment between content and achievement standards (AKA Content Tagging)</p> <p>SAML and OAuthis being used for federated identity (single sign-on) and access authorization respectively.</p> <p>SSL/TLS (also known as HTTPS) is used for connection encryption.</p> <p>The APIs are designed according to REST guidelines and practice.</p>
93	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify that interacting with SLI via its already published API will sufficiently satisfy the state's requirements and evaluation criteria used by application reviewers, or if not, then provide a timeline for release of a stable API that will meet the state's requirements; and • Ensure the timely release of more detail regarding the technical specifications of the SLI as would be needed for RFP respondents to demonstrate their further technical integration. 	SLI	See Question ID 91

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
94	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the long-term governance model for SLI, including governance over the SLI code and specification? • What is the long-term business model for supporting, owning, and licensing the SLI assets? Could NYSED confirm that it will be responsible for any usage or implementation fees owed SLC as part of the project? There have been discussions about the possibility of SLI usage fees on educational agencies, vendors or both. • What are the long-term data hosting options, and therefore the data access and security expectations? No plan has been announced past the pilot phase that provides for a single, multi-state data hosting service. 	SLI	<p>These long-term governance, business, and technical issues are being addressed as part of the SLC project plan. NYSED is actively engaged in these efforts as one of the Phase I pilot states and will make every effort to ensure the long-term sustainability of its EDP investments.</p> <p>The SLC will transition to a 501c3 organization in 2013 with a full executive team and an independent Board responsible for the ongoing strategy and sustainability of the shared services.</p>
95	<p>I am writing to ask you to release the contact information provided by the conference attendees, so that NYSED and the vendor community can benefit from improved information sharing and networking. With goals of 20% MWBE participation for these projects, it is vital that the prime contractors identify suitable MWBE partners, and it is vital that the MWBE firms can identify which of the larger firms are intending to submit proposals and which of those are interested in bringing on MWBE partners.</p> <p>In the vast majority of recent significant IT procurements, DOB, OGS, OFT and other large NY State agencies have made great efforts to facilitate connection between prime contractors and MWBE firms, including the sharing of contact information, and in many cases even establishing formal 'meet and greet' events dedicated to facilitating networking for specific procurements. Since the prime vendors will be measured by the State on their achievement of MWBE goals, it would seem to be in the best interest of everyone involved for contact information to be shared. The MWBE firms cannot reasonably be expected to identify the person responsible for building a proposal team based on receiving the name of a company that</p>	MBE/WBE	<p>A list of vendors who attended bidder's conferences on 5/11/12 was provided on 5/14/2012.</p> <p>Certified M/WBE vendors available for subcontracting may have their contact information posted to our website. Interested M/WBE vendors may email the Firm Name, Contact Person, Telephone, Email, URL and list of Subcontracting Interests to MWBE@mail.nysed.gov no later than close of business, June 1, 2012. This information will be posted on the following websites for selection by potential bidders on June 4, 2012:</p> <p>RFP Number DS-07 Education Data Portal: Data Dashboard Solution http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/rfp/ds-07/home.html</p> <p>RFP Number DS-08 Education Data Portal: Content Management and System Services Solution http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/rfp/ds-08/home.html</p> <p>New York State certified M/WBE vendors can be found at www.esd.ny.gov/MWBE/directorySearch.html</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
	<p>may have as many as 10,000 or even 100,000 employees. While I appreciate that NYSED may have received feedback in the past that firms did not want to be contacted by firms seeking partners, given the transparency inherent in bidding on public sector work, the Governor's and the Board of Regent's support of diversity and MWBE participation in state contracts, as well as the individual bidders goals of improving diversity from a corporate perspective, there may be greater support of the benefits of sharing information to all parties.</p>		
243	<p>Can the Education Data Portal provider use this procurement to offer additional value-added services to participating school districts such as data use coaching, response to intervention implementation, and performance management?</p>	Scope	<p>The vendor of either the CM&SS or DSS procurement can provide no-cost value added services. Neither procurement includes the provision for additional fee-based services.</p>

4.2 Questions and Answers: Part 2 of 2 (to be released on 6/1/12)

4.2.1 List of questions to be answered and published on 6/1/12

Question	CM&SS, DDS, or BOTH	Category
Please clarify the timeframe for delivery of the Dashboards. What is the date that the Dashboard needs to be live and integrated with NYSED's authentication system?	DDS	Timeline
Will the State consider a National Lab (Federal Program) as a subcontractor on this response? It is our understanding they may not be able to participate as part of a competitive bid process as a primary vendor, but unsure about subcontracting on this type of opportunity with a private-sector vendor.	DDS	Eligibility
16. On Page 29, there is a table titled "Minimum Time on Site". (a) This table looks to be exactly the same as the table on page 30 of the CM&SS RFP. Was it NYSED's intention that these tables are the same?(b) There is a row of this table for "Key Staff & Staff Assigned to Co-Director's Office". Since there are no Data Dashboard Vendor roles in the Co-Director's Office, how does this line apply to this RFP? (c) Does this line only apply to the roles identified as Key on page 71 (Senior Product Executive, Senior Engagement Executive and the Lead Project Manager for the Data Dashboard Vendor)? If so, how does the statement on page 29 state that the Senior Product Executive only needs to be available one half day per quarter relate to the requirements of this line in the table (i.e. being on site 80%)? (d) There is a row of this table for "Work Stream Leads". Page 26 states that "Each of the seven work streams will be led by a Project Manager from the winner of the Content Management and System Services RFP*", not the winners of the Data Dashboard Solution RFP. As such, it would seem that this line for Work Stream Leads in the table is not relevant to the Data Dashboard Solution RFP. Is this correct? If not, what Data Dashboard roles are subject to this line of the table? It would not seem that any other Data Dashboard roles would require this level of on-site presence as a software as a service offering.	DDS	Management Structure
17. Section 1.4.8 Application Warranty Services states the "Vendor shall provide staff support on-site, as needed for 60 days following full system acceptance. Vendor will repair code developed by Vendor during the warranty period (see 4.13.5, part H below), at no charge to NYSED ..." Likewise in section 4.13.5 part H System Warranty, the RFP states "for the period of this agreement and any extensions thereof (the "Warranty Period"), the Contractor shall warrant the following ..." . Given the software as a service model desired in this RFP with the ability for districts and NYCDOE schools to change their dashboard vendors over time, it would also seem incumbent on the vendors to deliver and maintain defect free code to maintain their install base. Additionally, for this type of solution, per standard industry practice, the warranty period would seem appropriately defined as 60 days following full system acceptance which is followed by Application Maintenance and defect support as defined in section 1.4.9. (a) Can NYSED clarify the relationship between the 60 days and the Warranty Period quoted in these two sections? (b) There is no other reference to "full system acceptance" in the RFP. Can NYSED clarify what date (i.e. per the timeline presented at the Bidders Conference) is associated with this date?	DDS	Application Warranty Services
18. Can NYSED clarify under what tasks, deliverables, sections of the RFP software code defect support is meant to be covered? And, for each quoted section, what is the time frame for which defect support is supposed to be provided. Defect support seems to be quoted in both warranty and application maintenance and support sections of the RFP.	DDS	HelpDesk

Question	CM&SS, DDS, or BOTH	Category
<p>20. Assuming that NYSED desires the data dashboards to be delivered as a software as a service (SaaS), why in section 2.3.2 are they asking to define a requirement as "custom software code"? As a SaaS, NYSED is not buying code but rather merely getting the right to use a solution. As a vendor, we would be concerned in clarifying something as custom software when in fact as of today, a requirement may not be met in our current offering but it is on our roadmap already to be done for other clients and would not seem appropriate to define as either "out of the box" or "custom for NYSED". Would NYSED consider a more standard SaaS requirement matrix response in Attachment 6.2 that instead of asking for OB, CC or NS, ask for OB, NS or R for "on product roadmap" along with a date for which a function that is not OB will be available within the NYSED solution?</p>	DDS	Scope
<p>24. Given the timeline presented in section 1.2.2 as well as the timeline graphic presented at the vendor conference, can NYSED clarify when on this timeline task 1.4.8 Application Warranty Service is to be performed? Is this 60 days to be completed prior to the EDP Launch in September 2013? Can the 60 days straddle the EDP Launch? Does the 60 days start at EDP Launch?</p>	DDS	Timeline
<p>25. Given the timeline presented in section 1.2.2 as well as the timeline graphic presented at the vendor conference, can NYSED clarify when on this timeline task 1.4.9 maintenance and technical support is to begin? Does this start immediately after task 1.4.8 even if task 1.4.8 completed prior to EDP Launch in September 2013? Does this start on the same date as EDP Launch?</p>	DDS	Timeline
<p>27. It is standard industry practice for software as a service (SaaS) contracts to pay in advance of the term for which the client is obtaining the right to use a solution. This is also a consistent payment method within the RFPs released by your fellow SLI states that you highlighted at the vendor conference (NC, OH and MA). Based on section 2.3.4, NYSED is not only asking for a payment schedule that spans the term of the SaaS arrangement but is asking the vendor community to provide SaaS for 3 complete months (August, September and October) without even the ability to invoice NYSED and, likely 4 or 5 months before a vendor receives payment from NYSED. This type of payment arrangement does not seem to be consistent with NYSED's desire to encourage other software vendors to create innovative SLI-based solutions knowing the payment schedule is not consistent with standard SaaS business models for which they can develop applications. Would NYSED consider a payment schedule that is more in-line with industry standard SaaS payment models and one that would indeed encourage the innovations built on SLI that you mentioned at the vendor conference?</p>	DDS	Payment Model

Question	CM&SS, DDS, or BOTH	Category
<p>We work with a number of well-qualified W/MBE's outside of New York with credentials well suited to this RFP. Our investigation in what it would take for them to get certified in New York indicates the following:</p> <p>1. Before Certification Application can be processed, the MWBE must complete the "Application for Authority" and attach a Certificate of Existence from the official who files and maintains corporate records in the jurisdiction of the corporation. (Please Note: This official is generally the Secretary of State, and many jurisdictions refer to the Certificate of Existence as a Certificate of Good Standing.) The Certificate of Existence must be dated within one year. A copy of the Application for Authority form is attached. Fee of \$225.00 and usually takes about 1 month to be processed. (Ref. http://www.dos.state.ny.us/corps/buscorp.html#appauth)</p> <p>2. After the "Application for Authority" has been processed, the Certification Application needs to be completed and submitted. Currently it is taking 6-8 months to process this application.</p> <p>A 7-9 month timeframe for New York certification prior to overall contract award effectively eliminates a vast population of qualified M/WBEs. We believe this is in conflict with the overall intent and does not serve the State's best interest.</p> <p>We suggest that the requirement be amended to allow contract award to vendors with an M/WBE plan that includes those companies whose application is in process, with the restriction that their subcontract would not be executed after their New York certification.</p>	DDS	M/WBE
<p>The 40% per year subcontracting limitation may not be in the best interest of the State. For example, to assemble and integrate the best-in-breed teacher, parent, and student dashboard, learning maps, and recommendation engine may require more than 40% in the first year. Will NYSED consider a 40% subcontracting limit over the life of the contact serves the same intent without potentially limiting the quality of the solution.</p>	DDS	Subcontract Requirements
<p>The Short Outages service level defined in Section 4 c is not an industry standard service level which may prevent the use of some cost competitive cloud service offerings in the solution. Is NY DOE open to removing this as requirement and looking at other options?</p>	DDS	Hosting
<p>What functionality does NYSED expect the EDP to have by April 2012 (when the "Road Show" begins)?</p>	BOTH	Scope
<p>Given that the "Road Show" is currently scheduled to begin five months after Contracts are awarded, has NYSED considered pushing out the start of the "Road Show" or reducing the scope of functionality which must be available by the start of the "Road Show"?</p>	BOTH	Scope
<p>Can you speak to the Contract Award criteria? Have there been any changes to the RFP language between RFP issuance and now (5/11/2012)?</p>	BOTH	RFP Process

4.2.2 Format for publishing revised terms and conditions to Contract (sections 4.10 - 4.14 of the RFP)

Between 5/18/12 and 6/1/12, NYSED will review vendors' exceptions to terms and conditions for the Contract, determine which (if any) of the original terms and conditions should be removed or modified, and what additional terms and conditions should be added. A final Contract with associated terms and conditions will be published on 6/1/12 as part of the document titled, **Questions and Answers – Summary (Part 2 of 2)**. Where there are revisions to the original Contract (published as part of the RFP on 4/20/12), these revisions will be highlighted as a change for ease of comparison against the original Contract.