

Questions and Answers – Summary (Part 1 of 2)

RFP #DS-08

Education Data Portal: Content Management and System Services Solution



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 edpContentManagement@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 9, 10 and 11, 2012
Recommendation & Designation	July 20, 2012
Contract Finalization	July 23 – August 23, 2012
Contract Execution	September 1, 2012
Work Begins	October 15, 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-08

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



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/rttt/rfp/ds-08/> 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-08 only (Content Management and System Services Solution)
 - Section 4.1.2: Questions and Answers applicable to BOTH RFP# DS-08 AND the related RFP# DS-07 (Education Data Portal: Data Dashboard Solutions).
- 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-08 only (Content Management and System Services Solution)

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
14	Minimum Qualification 6 of CM&SS requires at least one Drupal-based implementation with version 6.0 or higher. Are there specific functions/features of Drupal 6.0 (as opposed to 5.x) that caused this specific version of Drupal to be referenced in the Minimum Qualifications? Would NYSED consider experience with an earlier version of Drupal to meet Minimum Qualification 6?	Minimum Qualifications	No, NYSED will not consider experience with an earlier version of Drupal to meet Minimum Qualification 6. Drupal 6 was first released four years ago. We are looking for vendors with experience using and maintaining recent versions of the Drupal software.
15	Who is the EngageNY 1.5 vendor? What is the technology stack for the current version of EngageNY?	EngageNY	EngageNY.org v1.5 is being designed, configured, and developed by NYSED IT staff, with limited consultant service support in the areas of configuration and user interface. Although not yet in production, we anticipate using a LAMP technology stack for EngageNY v1.5 (see requirements 74-80 of Attachment 6.2). The technology stack for the current version of EngageNY (v1.0) is irrelevant because this will no longer be in place at the time of CM&SS vendor engagement. EngageNY v1.5 (Drupal) will be a complete rebuild of EngageNY v1.0 (Wordpress).
17	Will the SLC host the portal framework, or will the SLC provide services to the portal framework specific to NYSED?	Portal	SLC will provide portal components and services. Attachment 6.2 describes New York's EDP portal requirements.
18	Will the portal be open-source?	Portal	Yes.
25	When the SLC releases their open source Data Dashboard, will the CM&SS contractor need to integrate the SLC's Dashboard into the EDP in contract years 4 and 5 (one-year extensions)?	Scope	The CM&SS portal solution must be designed and implemented in accordance with the SLC portal design and be compatible with additional SLC applications. A correctly designed and implemented portal will enable any State- or LEA-authorized application that conforms to SLC specifications to be accessed by authorized users through single sign-on and portal functionality. According to the contract scope, however, the CM&SS vendor(s) is responsible only for facilitating the overall integration of the authorized applications described in the CM&SS and DDS RFPs. DDS vendors may elect to leverage SLC Data Dashboard code into their Data

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
			Dashboard solution.
26	What content from NYCDOE's ARIS is envisioned to be part of the EDP? Does the content exist in ARIS today?	Scope	See section 1.4.7 ("Content Integration Services") of the RFP. The third paragraph is in reference to ARIS Connect content that either exists in ARIS today or will exist in ARIS at the time the CM&SS work will be performed. The second paragraph of Section 1.4.7 is in reference to new content under development by NYSED that will either exist in EngageNY v1.5 or will be delivered for deployment during the term of the CM&SS contract.
30	Are 3rd party content migration tools allowed for the project? Must these tools be open-sourced? Can we leverage our offshore "Migration Factory" capabilities?	EngageNY	The CM&SS vendor shall propose the most cost effective solution to meet the requirements of the RFP. Any proposed software solution must meet the Software Use contract terms described in Section 4.13.25.
31	While it is clear that EngageNY must be hosted and managed in its current configuration as a Drupal/MySQL/Apache solution during the transition period, is NYSED open to a final solution using an alternative software stack?	EngageNY	The content and collaboration functionality of EngageNY v2.0 must be Drupal-based. Mandatory technical requirements 74 to 80 in Attachment 6.2 specify the requirements for Drupal, PHP, Apache, and MySQL, etc.
32	Is NYSED willing to consider EDP content management portals that are not JAVA-based and/or open source (e.g. ASP.NET) provided that these portals comply with all other requirements specified in the RFP?	EngageNY	Please see portal functionality requirements 151 to 165 in Attachment 6.2. In particular, mandatory requirement 154 states "In order to leverage SLC assets and services and maintain compatibility, the solution shall be a Java-based open source web application framework (such as the SLC-selected LifeRay)."
37	Can you elaborate on the role that the Prime Contractor (CM&SS) will play during the "Road Show"?	Scope	See Sections 1.3.2 ("Work Streams) and 1.4.14 ("Data Dashboard Selection and License Management Services") of the RFP.
38	Can resources be shared across work streams (e.g. Data Flow and Content Integration)?	Management Structure	The vendor is required to provide all appropriate staffing to achieve the project services work identified in the RFP as organized per the work streams. As such, the vendor will utilize its experience and judgement to determine an appropriate resource structure to serve the project, which may include sharing of resources across work streams.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
39	Will we use the SLC (open source) portal as the only portal for this solution? Can we offer SharePoint or ASP.NET portals?	Portal	<p>Please see requirements 151 to 165 in Attachment 6.2 of the RFP.</p> <p>In particular, mandatory requirement 152 states "The system shall include a non-proprietary, open source portal solution consistent with the SLI portal solution approach (see Attachment 6.1)." Mandatory requirement 154 states "In order to leverage SLC assets and services and maintain compatibility, the solution shall be a Java-based open source web application framework (such as the SLC-selected LifeRay)."</p>
40	Will there be a separate IV&V vendor and how will they be selected?	IV and V	See response to ID 13.
41	For Minimum Qualification # 1: Can software implementation projects be custom-built products or do only Commercial-Off-the-Shelf (COTS) products qualify?	Minimum Qualifications	Both custom-built and COTS product implementations are acceptable for meeting Minimum Qualification #1.
42	Is there a component to identify the cost of deployment and/or use of the system by LEAs?	Pricing	All CM&SS costs are to be proposed for an enterprise-wide implementation and annual operations/maintenance of the enterprise system. Costs/pricing for services will NOT be calculated at the LEA level.
43	Please detail the arrangement with Drupal for support.	EngageNY	The CM&SS vendor is responsible for the support of all delivered products and services, as described in the RFP, including Drupal-based products.
58	Is portal scope part of the CM&SS RFP?	Scope	<p>Yes. For a description of the solution and portal requirements, please refer to:</p> <p>1) RFP Sections 1.2.2 ("Portal Solution Summary") and Section 1.4 ("Required Implementation and Support Services"), and</p> <p>2) Attachment 6.2 (Detailed Requirements) - Requirements 54 to 57 and 147 to 177.</p>
81	Should we assume that the portal will be custom built using .NET or will vendors have the ability to bring their own portal technology (e.g. Google, Salesforce, Plumtree, etc.)?	Portal	Please see requirements 151 to 165 in Attachment 6.2 of the RFP. In particular, mandatory requirement 154 states "In order to leverage SLC assets and services and maintain compatibility, the [portal] solution shall be a Java-based open source web application framework (such as the SLC-selected LifeRay)."
88	Regarding page 39, requirement 18: "The vendor shall integrate content (e.g., from the Curriculum Module and Video Resource RFPs and assessment resources described above, as available) for EngageNY.org 1.5..." Can NYSED provide the name(s) of the awarded vendor(s) for the Curriculum Modules and Video Resource RFPs?	Content	<p>The awarded curriculum module vendors are Expeditionary Learning, Common Core, Inc partnering with Logic Wing, and Core Knowledge Foundation. These contracts are not yet fully executed. A similar RFP for curriculum modules for grades 6-12 is still in the evaluation stage and may result in two additional vendors.</p> <p>No contractor has been determined as of yet resulting from the Video Resource RFP.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
89	Minimum Qualification 3 specifies that bidder has implemented at least one Drupal based solution. It further requires proof of active participation in the Drupal community. Does this mean that the final solution has to be Drupal based?	Minimum Qualifications	Yes. See the response to ID 31 for further details.
96	Will a solution that is based on technologies other than those specified in the RFP be deemed non-compliant or non-responsive?	Eligibility	Proposals that do not comply with the mandatory technology requirements listed in Section 1.4 of the RFP and Attachment 6.2 will be deemed non-responsive and excluded from consideration.
103	<p>Requirement for Parent/Guardian/Family/Student login</p> <p>1. Is this access provided in the current identity management provider for these levels of access?</p>	Identity Management	We plan to implement a pilot of student and parent/guardian identity access management during the 2012-13 school year. Once this pilot is complete, we will begin sourcing this information to the SLI identity and access management services for consumption by the EDP portal and DDS products.
104	<p>Role Based Access Control</p> <p>1. Authentication will be provided by identity management service. Is Authorization/User provisioning also a requirement of Role Based Access Control or can users be provisioned by an alternate feed/data system and authorized within the application?</p> <p>2. What single sign on technologies need to be included?</p> <p>3. What methods of SAML are required?</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
105	<p>Overall Solution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diagram lists Content Management and Portal solution as separate solutions. Can these be combined into a single portal with content management capabilities? 2. Are there a defined set of collaboration tools required or will each tool be evaluated on what function it provides in the solution? 3. Are there a defined set of collaboration tools required or will each tool be evaluated on what function it provides? 4. Open Source a requirement of the portal and/or content management solutions? 5. Is Java a requirement of the portal solution? 6. What third party add-ons can be proprietary? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database Engine? - Collaboration tools? - Marketplace Applications? - Identity Management tools (security risk)? - Content tools? - Data Load tools? - Data Rendering tools? - Suggestion/Recommendation/Analytical tools? - Frameworks? - Runtime Engines? 	Scope	<p>See Section 1.4 and Attachment 6.2 of the RFP, specifically:</p> <p>(1) Attachment 6.2 specifies that the Content and Collaboration functionality must be Drupal-based, and the portal functionality must be Java-based. Therefore, they cannot be combined into a single solution.</p> <p>(2) The proposed Content and Collaboration functionality will be evaluated based on its abilities to meet the requirements included in Section 1.4 and Attachment 6.2 of the RFP.</p> <p>(3) See (2) above.</p> <p>(4) See Section 1.4 and Attachment 6.2 for a description of the open source requirements of the portal and content and collaboration solutions.</p> <p>(5) See Requirement 154 of Attachment 6.2.</p> <p>(6) If the RFP does not specify open-source software to meet the functional need, then that function may be fulfilled with a proprietary solution, so long as Section 4.13.25 of the Contract Terms are met, including its requirement that NYSED be granted a non-exclusive, perpetual license to this software.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
106	<p>Scope of additional systems</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is data from EngageNY.org able to be migrated into a central Content Management solution that is not based off current engageNY.org or is engageNY.org 2.0 meant to be the content management system with additional features added? 2. Access to engageNY.org from all access levels to be able to scope work associated. Can this be provided? 3. Access to ARIS from all access levels to be able to scope existing communities and collaboration structure and detail. Can this be provided? 4. Can samples of Meta-tagging be provided before submit date for proposal to assist in scoping or will all metadata be provided in LRMI protocol standards only? 5. What Student management data must be pulled in to portal solution and from what sources must they be obtained? 6. What is the update interval of the upper-tiered data systems? 7. What data is not available in the state data system that would have to be obtained from the regional data systems and what data would not be available in the regional that would need pulled from the LEA level data systems? 	Scope	<p>(1) EDP/EngageNY v2.0 is intended to be the content and collaboration system.</p> <p>(2) The current version of EngageNY.org can be accessed by the public. Please use the EngageNY v1.5 functionality and EDP/EngageNY v2.0 requirements found in Attachment 6.2 in order to complete your proposal.</p> <p>(3) Please use the information provided in Section 1.4.7 (Content Integration Services) in order to complete your proposal.</p> <p>(4) All metadata will be provided in the LRMI protocol or, in the case of the Content Integration Services Section 1.4.7, will need to be created or converted into the LRMI protocol.</p> <p>(5) See Question ID 71. The State 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. See Question 70 for the conditions under which DDS vendors may assist LEA's, at no cost to NYSED, with sending data directly to the SLI.</p> <p>(6) See Question 68.</p> <p>(7) Although we are still completing our data gap analyses, we anticipate that the main category of data that may need to be sourced to the SLI from the LEA's rather than the State would be formative/interim/benchmark assessment data.</p>
107	<p>1.2.3. Page 19.—The RFP calls for the migration of approximately 100,000 instructional resources from the ARIS Connect System into the content management system. Who owns the ARIS system, and would it be possible to obtain some examples and/or specifications for instructional resources in ARIS to determine the effort required for migration?</p>	EngageNY	<p>ARIS is a Drupal-based system (version 5.9) owned by the New York City Department of Education. Vendors should use the information provided in Section 1.4.7 (Content Integration Services) and their knowledge of the effort required to export/convert/import documents, links, metadata, and group/community permissions in order to determine a cost proposal for this section of the RFP.</p>
108	<p>1.2.3. Page 19.—Is NYSED planning to license ARIS as a part of this solution, or simply migrate instructional resources from it into the content management system?</p>	EngageNY	<p>NYSED intends to migrate the content described in Section 1.4.7 (Content Integration Services) into the EDP/EngageNY 2.0 system.</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
216	Pg. 55, "The original plus eight (8) copies of the completed Technical Proposal... must be mailed in a separate envelope labeled RFP #DS-08 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, vendors may submit each sealed portion in the same box.
217	Pg. 55, "The original plus eight (8) paper copies and an electronic copy (in MS Office format)..." Can the electronic copy of the Technical Proposal be in PDF format?	RFP Process	Although the RFP states our preference as MS Word format, we will accept the proposal in PDF format.
218	Pg. 59: "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.
219	Besides Attachment 6.9 Cost Proposal Worksheet, can the rest of the required electronic files be submitted in PDF format?	RFP Process	Although the RFP states our preference as MS Word format we will accept the rest of the proposal (i.e., other than Attachment 6.9 - Cost Proposal worksheet) in PDF format
221	In the RFP, there is no mention of plans for hosting videos locally in EngageNY v2.0. Is it safe to assume that all videos will remain external references?	EngageNY	Requirement 69 in Attachment 6.2 states that the system will stream and play videos through the display of embed code from external hosting providers (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo, etc.).
226	Can NYSED elaborate on the need for experience with Drupal version 6.x functionality that they believe is important in making this version distinction in minimum qualification #3? Would NYSED consider lowering this requirement to Drupal version 5.x?	Minimum Qualifications	See Questions Response ID 14.
231	The Cost Proposal Worksheet, Cost of Deliverables tab, allows vendors to quote a price, under 1.4.13 Hosting, for Hosting Services for EngageNY v1.5 for three years (Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3)? Is it NYSED's expectation that EngageNY v1.5 will survive and be kept in production for three years?	EngageNY	<p>As described in Section 1.4.13 (Hosting), the vendor shall take over the hosting, maintenance and operation of the EngageNY product after the v1.5 release (anticipated by November 1, 2012), and will assume ongoing hosting, maintenance, and operation of the EngageNY.org website through the end of the contract. The expanded version of the Content Management and Collaboration solution developed and deployed by the winning vendor in accordance with the requirements of this RFP is referred to in this document as "EngageNY v2.0". EngageNY v2.0 shall include all content and functionality contained in EngageNY v1.5, as well as the additional requirements contained in Attachment 6.2.</p> <p>EngageNY 1.5 will be expanded to EngageNY 2.0 and will be kept in production through the end of the</p>

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
			contract.
232	The Cost Proposal Worksheet, Project Milestones tab, in the header there is a statement that "This will serve as a basis for determining a payment schedule at contract finalization." Additionally, at the vendor conference, it was stated that this tab was for informational purposes only. Can NYSED clarify the purpose for this tab and how it will be used?	Cost Proposal	The purpose is as stated in the header - the percentage split across the major phases of the project will assist NYSED in determining a milestone-based payment schedule for the contract at the time the contract is finalized.
233	The Cost Proposal Worksheet, Project Milestones tab, in the header there is a statement that "This will serve as a basis for determining a payment schedule at contract finalization." Likewise, section 1.2.3 indicated "The pricing for all services must be provided in aggregate on a fixed-price deliverable basis" and the header of the Cost of Deliverables tab says "Enter your fixed price cost for the completion of each task/deliverable". These statements seem to contradict each other and are counter to industry practice that for a fixed price deliverable based contract ,a vendor gets paid solely on the delivery of and acceptance of a deliverable. What is NYSED's intention of when a vendor will be getting payment for the deliverables that they produce? Is payment based entirely on delivery and acceptance of the deliverable outlined on the Cost of Deliverable tab at the prices the vendor quotes for each deliverable on this tab (as is standard industry practice) or is NYSED looking to create an alternate payment schedule based on other factors? If so, what are these other factors?	Cost Proposal	Payments will be milestone-based. As can be seen from the complexity of the detailed deliverables as indicated in the Project Milestones tab, determining the precise point at which a particular deliverable is considered complete (especially a deliverable that spans multiple project phases) may be somewhat challenging. NYSED's intent in requesting an estimate proportionate split by project phase is to help determine a milestone-based payment schedule that will be fair to the vendor. As indicated, it is expected that the precise details of the milestone-based payment schedule will be mutually agreed during contract finalization.

ID	Question	Category	Final Response
234	Can NYSED outline the purpose of the Cost Proposal Worksheet, Resource Allocation tab? How will this be used in the evaluation process and will this be used to determine any financial, invoicing or payment aspects of the eventual contract or statement of work?	Cost Proposal	The purpose of the Resource Allocation tab is to gather information regarding the relative size of each project phase as expressed in terms of total labor hours. This information will not be used to determine any financial, invoicing or payment aspects of the eventual contract or SOW.
235	In requirement #128, the RFP specifies that the vendor shall "operate a 'demo or training instance". How long does the NYSED intend for this training instance to be in operation?	Training	This is an ongoing need, and the functionality should be continued throughout the life of the contract.
237	Does NYSED intend to make use of the USED Common Education Data Standards?	Data Integration	See Question Response 92.
238	Functional Requirement 189 states, "The system shall support the following search hierarchy consistent with a Learning Registry reputation trust network: (1) NYSED-generated content; (2) User-generated system content; (3) Content from other trusted Learning Registry identities; (4) Other web-hosted content." Does item (4) include access to content requiring digital rights management to proprietary published content?	Learning Registry	"Other web-hosted content" could include proprietary content. NYSED understands that this category of content may not always display in search results because of denial of access permission for proprietary content.
239	The functional requirements do not specifically address the migration of content from ARIS Connect to the envisioned portal. Can some additional clarity be provided structure of instructional resources which will be migrated?	EngageNY	See Question Response 107.
240	Does NYSED expect to join an existing code sharing environment or create its own environment to maintain the open source nature of the envisioned portal?	Portal	The SLC governance process will create a code sharing environment in which NYSED intends to participate and encourage other New York users to do so as well.
241	Which component will deal with dynamic grouping of students to support management of differentiated instruction, the portal or the dashboards?	Scope	At the data layer, teacher-student re-groupings will result in changed permissions for educators accessing the Data Dashboards. In addition, the Data Dashboards (see Requirement 64 in Attachment 6.2) will allow for custom groupings based on characteristics found in source data. Requirement 72 allows for the creation of user-defined personal groups.
242	Will students and parents be able to access EDP data through SMS to mobile devices?	Scope	DDS and CM&SS requirements 58 and 170, respectively address mobile technology functionality.
244	Can a vendor who primes the Education Data Portal RFP participate as a sub on more than one Dashboard response?	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.

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 implementation 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 OAuth is 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
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"?	BOTH	Scope
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)?	BOTH	RFP Process
What functionality does NYSED expect the EDP to have by April 2012 (when the "Road Show" begins)?	BOTH	Scope
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.	CM&SS	HelpDesk
Given the timeline presented in section 1.2.5 as well as the timeline graphic presented at the vendor conference, can NYSED clarify when on this timeline task 1.4.10 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?	CM&SS	Timeline
Given the timeline presented in section 1.2.5 as well as the timeline graphic presented at the vendor conference, can NYSED clarify when on this timeline task 1.4.11 maintenance and technical support is to begin? Does this start immediately after task 1.4.10 even if task 1.4.10 completed prior to EDP Launch in September 2013? Does this start on the same date as EDP Launch?	CM&SS	Timeline
Is it NYSED's expectation that the prime vendor will submit named resources and resumes for all SS* staff as identified in the proposed org chart, including the 7 work stream project managers or are exemplar resumes appropriate for these roles?	CM&SS	Management Structure
<p>Section 1.4.10 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 ...". 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 1.4.11.</p> <p>(a) Can NYSED clarify the relationship between the 60 days and the Warranty Period quoted in these two sections?</p> <p>(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?</p>	CM&SS	Application Warranty Services

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.