


Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

June 29, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Contract Approval for RFQ No. 1155.4, Online Digital Content Products—
Extension

This is an award to pre-qualify online digital content products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium (MDK12 Consortium), a statewide purchasing consortium of 24 Local School Systems (LSS). It is designed to provide teachers, students, parents, and guardians cost-effective access to a collection of appropriate online digital content products to support school library media programs and to offer enhanced opportunities to support effective teaching and learning for Grades K–12 students at a savings to each LSS. Online digital content products include online subscription databases and electronic library resources. As a member of the MDK12 Consortium, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) acts as the soliciting agent on behalf of the other 23 LSS'; Participant Passcode: 5048466#to pre-qualify online digital content products for purchase by MDK12 Consortium members.

The MDK12 Consortium's purchasing authority is set forth under state statute Sections 7-9A-01 through 7-9A-05 Annotated Code of Maryland. Under state law, the purposes of the MDK12 Consortium are to:

- Provide equitable access to digital content for all Maryland K-12 students and teachers;
- Improve school library media programs with advanced technologies;
- Create fiscal efficiencies in the purchase of digital content through enhanced cooperation among school libraries; and
- Support effective teaching and learning by connecting digital content with the Maryland Content Standards; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics initiatives; and workforce development.

Members of the MDK12 Consortium began working together in 2002 to purchase online digital content products. Since that time, the MDK12 Consortium has leveraged the LSS' collective resources to negotiate pricing with providers of online digital content products to serve approximately 850,000 public school students and more than 42,000 non-public school students

enrolled in kindergarten through Grade 12. The benefits of purchasing through the MDK12 Consortium include greater equity of access, cost savings to LSS', shared professional development, and effective partnerships among school librarians.

To facilitate the continued purchase of online digital content products through the MDK12 Consortium, MCPS released Request for Qualification (RFQ) No. 1155.4, Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Consortium (RFQ 1155.4) on February 25, 2019, to solicit high-quality online subscription databases and electronic library resources. MCPS staff organized and conducted a thorough product selection process with representatives from members of the MDK12 Consortium.

Based on the outcome of the product selection process, the superintendent of schools recommends that the Board of Education approve certain pre-qualified online digital content products for purchase by LSS' participating in the MDK12 Consortium through June 30, 2022. The pre-qualification award will be for an initial term of three years with up to three one-year renewal options. In addition, regarding MCPS purchases of pre-qualified online digital content products, funds have been budgeted for MCPS offices and schools to purchase pre-qualified online digital content products for a total amount not to exceed \$1,208,826 for Fiscal Year 2021.

WHEREAS, As a member of the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium, Montgomery County Public Schools acts as the soliciting agent on behalf of the other 23 Local School Systems to pre-qualify online digital content products for purchase by MDK12 Digital Library Consortium members; and

WHEREAS, To facilitate the continued purchase of online digital content products through the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium, Montgomery County Public Schools released Request for Qualification No. 1155.4, Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium on February 25, 2019, to solicit high-quality online subscription databases and electronic library resources; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools staff organized and conducted a thorough product selection process with representatives from members of the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium; and

WHEREAS, Based on the outcome of the product selection process, the superintendent of schools recommends that the Board of Education approve certain pre-qualified online digital content products for purchase by Local School Systems participating in the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium through June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, The pre-qualification award will be for an initial term of three years with up to three one-year renewal options; and

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for Montgomery County Public Schools offices and schools to purchase pre-qualified online digital content products for a total amount not to exceed \$1,208,826 for Fiscal Year 2021; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the following online digital content products are pre-qualified for purchase by each local school system participating in the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium at its discretion and in accordance with the specifications of Request for Qualification No. 1155.4:

1155.4 Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium
Responsible Office: Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs
Pre-Qualified Products (See note on page 4)

<u>Vendor Name, Location</u>	<u>Products</u>
BrainPOP, LLC, New York, New York	BrainPOP Platform
Buncee LLC, Speonk, New York	Buncee Web Platform
Coughlan Companies, Inc., North Mankato, Minnesota	Capstone Interactive eBook; PebbleGo
Cavendish Square Publishing LLC, New York, New York	Cavendish Square Digital
Cengage Learning Inc., Farmington Hills, Michigan	Gale Testing and Education Reference Center; Gale Platform
EBSCO Industries, Inc., Birmingham, Alabama	EBSCO Platform; Learning Express
Garteh Stevens Publishing LLLP, New York, New York	Report Builder Database
Infobase Holdings Inc., New York, New York	Databases; Streaming Video; World Almanac for Kids; World Almanac Online; World Geography and Culture Online; Writer’s Reference Center; Facts on File
Kids Discover LLC, New York, New York	Kids Discover Online
Lincoln Library Press Inc., Cleveland, Ohio	FactCite

MT Library Services Inc., Plain City, Ohio	Junior Library Guild
NBC Universal LLC, New York, New York	NBC Learn Library
Nearpod Inc., Dania Beach, Florida	Digital Platform
Newsela Inc., New York, New York	Newsela Pro; Power Words
Nicholas M. Glass, Madison, Wisconsin	TeachingBooks.net
One More Story Inc., Brooklyn, New York	Read Aloud Picture Book Database
OverDrive, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio	OverDrive Digital Platform
ProQuest LP, Ann Arbor, Michigan	CultureGrams; SIRS Discover
Scholastic Library Publishing Inc., Danbury, Connecticut	BookFlix; FreedomFlix; Go! ScienceFlix; Teachables; True Flix; Watch & Learn Library
Scott Allen, Culpeper, Virginia	LibraryTrac
Smartbook Media Inc., New York, New York	Smartbook Media – LightBox
The Chancellor Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford, Cary, North Carolina	Oxford African American Studies Center; Oxford Art Online; Oxford Music Online; Oxford Press Encyclopedias; The New Oxford Shakespeare; The Oxford English Dictionary EPointPlus; Interactive eBooks Spotlight On; Rosen Databases
The Rosen Publishing Group Inc., New York, New York	
Tumbleweed Press Inc., Toronto, Ontario	TeenBook Cloud Collection; TumbleBooks Library & Math
Weigl Publishers Inc., New York, New York	EyeDiscover; World Languages
World Book Inc., Chicago, Illinois	Encyclopedia Databases
Zoobean, Inc., Arlington, Virginia	Beanstack

Note: Contract amounts will be based on individual requirements.

and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to negotiate and execute agreements for the purchase of pre-qualified online digital content products for Montgomery County Public Schools for a total amount not to exceed \$1,208,826 for Fiscal Year 2021; and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to execute all other documents and grant any approvals necessary for the purchase of pre-qualified online digital content products for Montgomery County Public Schools.

JRS:AMZ:amd