


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

June 28, 2022

APPROVED BY BOARD

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Interim Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Contract Approval for RFP No. 1154.4, Digital Content Products for MDK12 Digital Library Consortium—Extension

This is the first one-year renewal to pre-qualify online digital content products to include four product additions, 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 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 nonpublic school students enrolled in Grades K–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 No. 1154.4, 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. 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, 2023. 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 FY 2023.

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. 1154.4, 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 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 Consortium through June 30, 2023; 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 2023; 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 in its discretion and in accordance with the specifications of Request for Qualification No. 1154.4:

1154.4 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>   |
|---|---|
| FWD Media, New York, New York                               | BrainPop Platform   |
| Buncee LLC, Speonk, New York                                | Buncee Web Platform   |
| Coughlan Companies, Inc., North Mankato, Minnesota          | Capstone Interactive eBook;<br>PebbleGo   |
| Cavendish Square Publishing LLC,<br>New York, New York      | Cavendish Square Digital  |
| Cengage Learning Inc., Farmington Hills, Michigan           | Gale Testing and Education<br>Reference Center; Gale Platform   |
| EBSCO Industries, Inc., Birmingham, Alabama                 | EBSCO Platform; Learning<br>Express, Flipster,<br>Academic Search Complete,<br>Academic Search Ultimate   |
| Digital Theatre (US) LLC, Chicago, Illinois                 | Digital Theatre Plus Online<br>Learning Resource*   |
| Gareth Stevens Publishing LLLP,<br>New York, New York       | Report Builder Database   |
| Infobase Holdings Inc., New York, New York                  | Databases; Streaming Video;<br>World Almanac for Kids;<br>World Almanac Online; World<br>Geography and Culture Online;<br>Writer's Reference Center;<br>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  |
| Nearpod Inc., Dania Beach, Florida                          | Digital Platform  |
| Nicholas M Glass, Madison, Wisconsin                        | TeachingBooks.net   |
| One More Story Inc., Brooklyn, New York                     | Read Aloud Picture Book<br>Database   |
| OverDrive, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio                            | OverDrive Digital Platform  |
| Press4Kids, Inc., New York, New York                        | News-O-Matic*   |
| ProQuest LP, Ann Arbor, Michigan                            | CultureGrams; SIRS Discover   |
| Scholastic Library Publishing Inc., Danbury,<br>Connecticut | BookFlix; FreedomFlix; Go!<br>ScienceFlix; Teachables; True<br>Flix; Watch & Learn Library;<br>Westin Woods Streaming Plus  |

**Vendor Name, Location**

Scott Allen, Culpeper, Virginia  
 Smartbook Media Inc., New York, New York  
 The Chancellor Masters and Scholars of the  
 University of Oxford, Cary, North Carolina

The Rosen Publishing Group Inc.,  
 New York, New York  
 Tumbleweed Press Inc., Toronto, Ontario

Weigl Publishers Inc., New York, New York  
 Wonderland Ventures, LLC, Silver Spring, Maryland  
 World Book Inc., Chicago, Illinois  
 Zoobean, Inc., Arlington, Virginia

**Products**

LibraryTrac  
 Smartbook Media - LightBox  
 Oxford African American Studies  
 Center; Oxford Art Online;  
 Oxford Music Online; Oxford  
 Press Encyclopedias; The New  
 Oxford Shakespeare; The Oxford  
 English Dictionary; Very Short  
 Introductions\*  
 EPointPlus; Interactive eBooks  
 Spotlight On; Rosen Databases  
 TeenBook Cloud Collection;  
 TumbleBooks Library & Math  
 EyeDiscover; World Languages  
 Project Muse  
 Encyclopedia Databases  
 Beanstack

\*New product added for 2022–2023

Note: Contract amounts will be based on individual requirements.

and be it further

Resolved, That the interim 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 2023; and be it further

Resolved, That the interim 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.

MBM:ESD:amd