


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

APPROVED BY BOARD

May 25, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Contract Approval for RFQ No. 1155.4, Digital Content Products for MDK12 Digital Library Consortium—Extension

This is the second, one-year renewal to pre-qualify online digital content products to include nine product additions, on behalf of the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium (MDK12 Consortium), a statewide purchasing consortium of the 24 local school systems (LSS) in Maryland. The MDK12 Consortium 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. 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 pre-qualified online digital content products include online subscription databases and electronic library resources.

The MDK12 Consortium's purchasing authority is set forth under the Annotated Code of Maryland, Education, Sections 7-9A-01 through 7-9A-05. As stated in this statute, 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 over 42,000 nonpublic school students enrolled in Grades K–12 across the state of Maryland. 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 on February 25, 2019, Request for Qualification No. 1155.4, Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium, 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. The period of the pre-qualification award is an initial three-year term with up to three, one-year options to renew.

In accordance with 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, for an additional one-year term through June 30, 2024.

In addition, regarding MCPS purchases of pre-qualified online digital content products, funds have been budgeted for Fiscal Year 2024, for MCPS offices and schools to purchase pre-qualified online digital content products, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

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 Maryland 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 on February 25, 2019, Request for Qualification No. 1155.4, Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium, 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, In accordance with the result 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, 2024; and

WHEREAS, The period of pre-qualification under Request for Qualification No. 1155.4 is an initial three-year term with up to three, one-year options to renew. This is the second of three one-year extensions; and

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for Montgomery County Public Schools offices and schools to purchase pre-qualified online digital content products in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2024; 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. 1155.4, through June 30, 2024:

- 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 5)

<u>Vendor Name, Location</u>	<u>Products</u>
ABDO	ABDO Zoom
FWD Media, New York, New York	BrainPop Platform
Britannica Digital Learning, Chicago, Illinois	Britannica Digital Learning Encyclopedia Databases^
Coughlan Companies, Inc., North Mankato, Minnesota	Capstone Interactive eBooks; Capstone Create; PebbleGo Databases
Cavendish Square Publishing LLC, Buffalo, 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, Flipster, Academic Search Complete, Academic Search Ultimate
Digital Theatre (US) LLC, Chicago, Illinois	Digital Theatre Plus Online Learning Resource
Discovery Education, Inc., Charlotte, North Carolina	Discovery Education Experience^
Gareth Stevens Publishing LLLP, Buffalo, 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; Streamable Learning^
Kids Discover LLC, New York, New York	Kids Discover Online

Lincoln Library Press Inc., * Cleveland, Ohio	FactCite Databases
Nearpod Inc., Dania Beach, Florida	Digital Platform
One More Story Inc., Brooklyn, New York	Read Aloud Picture Book Database
Novel Effect Inc., Seattle Washington	Novel Effect App^
OverDrive, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio	OverDrive Digital Platform; TeachingBooks.net
Press4Kids. Inc., New York, New York	News-O-Matic
ProQuest LP, Ann Arbor. Michigan	CultureGrams; SIRS Discover; SIRS Issues Researcher^; ProQuest Databases; eBooks^
Scholastic Library Publishing Inc., New York, New York	BookFlix; FreedomFlix; Go! ScienceFlix; True Flix; Watch & Learn Library; Westin Woods Streaming Plus
Scott Allen, Culpeper, Virginia	LibraryTrac
Smartbook Media Inc., * New York, New York	Smartbook Media - LightBox
Springshare, LLC, Miami, Florida	Libguides^
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; Very Short Introductions
The Rosen Publishing Group Inc., Buffalo, New York	Spotlight On eBooks; Rosen Databases
Tumbleweed Press Inc., Toronto, Ontario	TeenBook Cloud Collection; TumbleBooks Library & Math
Weigl Publishers Inc., New York, New York	EyeDiscover; World Languages
Wonderland Inc.. * LLC, Silver Spring, Maryland	Project Muse

World Book Inc., Chicago, Illinois
Zoobean, Inc., Arlington, Virginia

Encyclopedia Databases
Beanstack

^ Denotes new product added for 2023–2024

* Denotes Minority-, Female-, or Disabled-owned Business

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 in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for Fiscal Year 2024; 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.

MBM:MBH:RR:amd