

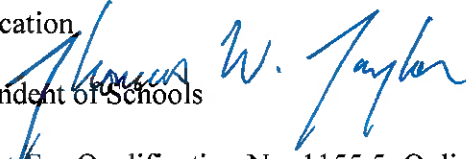
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

APPROVED BY BOARD

June 24, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Thomas W. Taylor, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Contract Approval for Request For Qualification No. 1155.5, Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium

[] Information [X] Action

Superintendent Recommendation:

The superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve Request for Qualification No.1155.5, Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium.

This is a request to prequalify online digital content products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium (MDK12 Consortium), a statewide purchasing consortium of 24 local education agencies designed to provide teachers, students, and parents/guardians cost-effective access to a collection of appropriate online digital content products to support school library media programs and to provide enhanced opportunities to support effective teaching and learning for kindergarten through Grade 12 students at a savings to each local education agency. 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 local education agencies to prequalify online digital content products for purchase by MDK12 Consortium members.

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

- provide equitable access to digital content for all Maryland kindergarten through Grade 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 (STEM) initiatives, and workforce development.

Members of the MDK12 Consortium began working together in 2002 to purchase online digital content products. Since then, the MDK12 Consortium has leveraged the collective resources of local school systems 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 kindergarten through Grade 12. The benefits of purchasing through the MDK12 Consortium include greater equity of access, cost savings to local school systems, 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. 1155.5, Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium on March 21, 2025, 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.

In accordance with the outcome of the product selection process, the superintendent of schools recommends that the Board of Education approve certain prequalified online digital content products for purchase by local education agencies participating in the MDK12 Consortium through June 30, 2026. The pre-qualification award will be for an initial term of one year with annual renewal options.

In addition, regarding MCPS purchases of prequalified online digital content products, funds have been budgeted for Fiscal Year 2026 to enable MCPS offices and schools to purchase prequalified online digital content products for a total amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.

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 local education agencies in Maryland, 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. 1155.5, Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium on March 21, 2025, 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, 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 Education Agencies participating in the MDK12 Consortium through June 30, 2026; and

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

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for Montgomery County Public Schools offices and schools to purchase prequalified online digital content products for a total amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2026; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the following online digital content products are prequalified 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. 1155.5:

1155.5 Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium
Responsible Office: Division of Teaching and Learning

Procurement Authority: Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §5-112,
and Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation DJA-RA, *Procurement of
Equipment, Supplies, and Services*.

Pre-Qualified Products

Vendor Name, Location

Products

Bloomsbury Publishing, Inc.,
New York, New York

ABC CLIO

BrainPOP, LLC,
New York, New York

BrainPOP Platform

Cengage Learning, Inc.,
Mason, Ohio

Gale Platform and Petersen's
Test and Career Prep

Coughlan Companies, LLC,
North Mankato, Minnesota

Capstone Interactive ebooks;
PebbleGo

Discovery Education, Inc.,
Charlotte, North Carolina

Discovery Education Experience

EBSCO Industries, Inc.,
Dallas, Texas

Core Collections, EBSCO Discover;
EBSCO host Explora; Discovery
Service; Flipster; Novelist

Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.,
Chicago, Illinois

Britannica Education Databases;
Early Elementary; Academic; Escolar;
ImageQuest Jr.; Merriam-Webster;
Moderna; Original Sources

Grey House Publishing, Inc., Amenia, New York	Salem Press
Infobase Holdings, Inc., Dover, Delaware	History Research Center; Video Platform (Learn360)
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland	Project MUSE
Kids Discover, LLC, Westport, Connecticut	Kids Discover
LibraryTrac, LLC, Culpeper, Virginia	LibraryTrac
Lightbox Learning, Inc., New York, New York	LightBox
Lincoln Library Press, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio	Factcite
One More Story, Brooklyn, New York, New York	One More Story
OverDrive, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio	OverDrive Digital Platform
PBC Guru, LLC, Potomac, Maryland	BookBreak
Press4Kids, Inc., New York, New York	News-O-Matic
PROQUEST LP, Ann Arbor, Michigan	Alexander Street Platform, CultureGrams, Guided Research Platform (SIRS Issues Researcher, SIRS Discoverer, eLibrary), Historical Newspapers: New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, U.S. Major Dailies, ProQuest STEM Database
Renaissance Learning, Inc., Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin	Nearpod
Scholastic, Inc., Newark, New Jersey	BookFlix; Go!; ScienceFlix; TrueFlix; Watch & Learn Library

Springshare LLC,
Miami, Florida

LibGuides

TeachingBooks.net LLC,
Cleveland, Ohio

TeachingBooks

The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc.,
Buffalo, New York

Rosen Databases; Core Concepts
Science Suite; Teen Health and
Wellness; Power Knowledge Science
Suite; Report Builder

Tumbleweed Press, Inc.,
Toronto, Ontario

TumbleBook Library; Tumble Mat;
& TeenBook Cloud

World Book, Inc.,
Chicago, Illinois

Encyclopedia Databases

Zoobean, Inc.,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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 prequalified online digital content products for Montgomery County Public Schools for a total amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2026; 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 prequalified online digital content products for Montgomery County Public Schools.

TWT:IAW:RR:amd