



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION

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Educator Workforce Research Grant Writing Partner

Alternate ID: 15RFROPRCC8

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This BID does not commit the ESE to award a contract, pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a bidder's response to this BID, or to procure or contract for services. ESE reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals received as a result of this BID, to negotiate with any or all qualified bidders, and to cancel in part or in its entirety, this BID if it is the best interest of ESE or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to do so.

Background and scope of services

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) is seeking a vendor to enter into a no-cost contract to partner with the agency in writing grant applications to fund research on educator preparation and licensure.

Developing the educator workforce is a high priority for ESE, and more strongly connecting educator preparation and licensure requirements to outcomes for teachers and students is a key part of our strategy for accomplishing this goal. In order to do so, we need to know much more about the educator workforce pipeline, the impact of our current educator workforce policies, and the potential impact of proposed changes.

Some examples of topics of interest include:

- How does the pipeline of candidates flow from enrollment in programs to completion to licensure to entry into education professions to re-licensure?
- Which aspects of educator preparation programs and candidate pre-service experiences are most strongly related to educators' impact in practice?
- Can we predict which candidates are most likely to successfully obtain positions? To demonstrate high classroom impact once teaching?
- Where do educator candidates of color come from: traditional programs, alternative programs, or preliminary licenses?
- How valid is the state's revised teacher performance assessment, being pilot-tested this year, as a pre-practice measure of educator effectiveness?
- What was the impact of requiring that certain candidates pass both the communication/literacy and mathematics portions of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure on the educator workforce and on student outcomes?

The final set of research questions and design will be determined jointly with the winning bidder.

The *Researcher's Guide to Massachusetts Education Data*, posted with this bid on COMMBUYS, provides more information about the data available to answer these questions. Beyond the information listed in the guide, we also have data on the preparation programs attended and licenses held by educators in the state, which can be linked by a unique identifier to other educator personnel data. Researchers gaining access to confidential state data will need to sign a memorandum of understanding to agree to specific terms and conditions under which these data will be provided.

Budget and contract period

This is a no-cost contract. The awarded bidder will partner with ESE to seek grant funding to support this research work and will be included as the research partner on those grant applications. We anticipate that one potential funding source for this work will be the Institute for Education Sciences' [researcher-practitioner partnership](#) grant program, which awards up to \$200,000 per year for a maximum of two years. Applications for this year's program are due on August 6, 2015. We will work with the winning bidder to identify and apply for other potential funding sources for this work, as well.

The contract will run from the date of issue through June 30, 2017 in order to cover two full years of grant application cycles.

Required qualifications

The bidder selected for this engagement must have a demonstrable recent track record of successfully completing projects with similar scopes to the satisfaction of clients.

The key personnel proposed for this engagement must meet the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated expertise in designing and implementing research studies of similar content and scope;
- Demonstrated expertise in quantitative analysis, both causal and descriptive;
- Demonstrated expertise in education policy, practice, and research with preference given to those bidders that can demonstrate expertise in educator workforce issues;
- Demonstrated ability to generate actionable findings and written products from research projects in a format accessible to a general audience;
- Experience working successfully with complex organizations, preferably state education agencies and/or large public school districts;
- A track record of successfully competing for research grants.

Evaluation criteria

Bidders will be evaluated on:

- The quality of their proposal to meet the requirements of this BID.
- Their experience in conducting research of similar content and scope and in quantitative analysis, both causal and descriptive
- Their demonstrated expertise in research, policy, and practice on education workforce issues
- Their demonstrated ability to generate actionable findings and written products from research projects in a format accessible to a general audience. Please note that both the proposal and submitted work samples will be judged on this criterion.
- The expertise and qualifications of key personnel and their experience in successfully completing similar scopes of work

See the evaluation scorecard for details of how the proposals will be scored.

Inquiries

Inquiries will be accepted *by email only* to cconaway@doe.mass.edu. ESE will respond to all inquiries received by 5 pm on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 and will post answers by Monday, May 10, 2015. Inquiries received after that time will not be answered. All correspondence will be posted on COMMBUYS in the same location as this bid.

Submission requirements

Bidders must submit the following:

- A narrative of no more than 10 single-spaced pages describing the services they will provide. This narrative should also describe the vendor's qualifications to provide those services, including the required qualifications listed above.
- Resumes of no more than two pages for each of the key personnel proposed to support the work
- Samples of at least two content related work products from similar engagements
- References from at least three clients for whom the bidder has conducted similar work

Bidders must submit an original bid plus 3 photocopies and 1 electronic copy on CD or flash drive by the application deadline of 5 pm on Friday, May 15, 2015 to:

Carrie Conaway
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