

Alabama State Department of Education



**Request for Proposal
RFP ALSDE 2022-06
External Evaluation of Gifted Programs in Alabama
Alabama State Department of Education
Special Education Services**

Note: FAXED OR E-MAILED PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Inquiries and response submissions related to this RFP are to be addressed to:

Cindy Gillespie
Office of Operations
Alabama State Department of Education
50 N. Ripley Street, Room P305
Gordon Persons Building
Montgomery, AL 36104
Email: cgillespie@alsde.edu

Deadline:

Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 15, 2022.

It is required that each vendor clearly mark the envelope RFP ALSDE 2022-06 in the lower left corner of the envelope (Response packages that are not marked will be rejected).

The proposal package must contain the following:

1. Original proposal plus four copies with original signatures (The proposal must be signed by an official authorized to legally bind the vendor to the information provided). One (1) electronic copy on a USB flash drive in MS Word format.
2. Must be currently registered with The Alabama Department of Finance, Division of Purchasing as a State Vendor and provide vendor number. <http://www.purchasing.alabama.gov>
3. The vendor must complete the affidavit for business entity/employer/vendor. Verification of enrollment in E-verify should be presented on the form found in Appendix A.

Proposal Opening

July 18, 2022

**Gordon Persons Building, Whetstone Conference Room
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
No Visitors due to COVID**

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Section 1.00 Administrative Overview

1.1 Purpose and Background

Purpose:

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is seeking proposals from eligible vendors to comprehensively analyze and review gifted programming in Alabama. The vendor chosen will work closely with the ALSDE Gifted Specialists to collect, analyze, and compare data from the Alabama gifted program policies, procedures, and programming to national best practices and other state gifted programs. The vendor chosen will develop a report based on collected data, including a one-page summary to be shared with a Gifted Education Task Force, for the purpose of improving state policies and procedures and making research-based recommendations for the potential improvement of the overall program.

Background:

The Alabama State Department of Education, Special Education Services (ALSDE, SES) Gifted strives to provide the knowledge necessary to equitably identify and provide appropriate services for students identified as gifted in the state of Alabama. Gifted students have unique abilities, interests and needs that require specialized instruction and services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Alabama legislation, including *Act 106* and the *Alabama Administrative Code*, (AAC) mandates gifted services in the state. This mandate resulted in the adoption of a new research-based, multiple criteria *Gifted Eligibility/Screening Determination* form, statewide standardization of Local Education Agency (LEA) Plans for Gifted and statewide parameters for gifted service delivery options. While the Alabama Gifted Education Program monitors procedures and analyzes data internally, an external review of the program is needed. The field of gifted education is always evolving and new research in the areas of identification, appropriate services and equity in policy and procedures continue to bring to light many of the important issues facing the field today. The major goal of this review is to provide a summary report regarding policies, procedures, and impact of the Alabama Gifted Education program, to be made available to all stakeholders for the purpose of improving the overall program. The focus will be to collect and analyze both qualitative and quantitative data regarding the Alabama Gifted Education program. Additionally, the vendor will be responsible for providing a summary report, facilitation of a task force group and provide subsequent follow-up to the recommendations of the group.

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The ALSDE announces the availability of funds to support a comprehensive review of gifted programming in Alabama. The goals are listed below.

- Ensure all students in K-12 have equal access to the identification process for gifted services.
- Review the identification process (i.e., Second Grade Child Find and standard referrals) to determine if procedures are equitable for all.
- Examine approved assessments utilized in the referral to identification process and determine if they are valid and reliable, and bias is minimized through their use.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of the referral and identification process.
- Determine if Alabama Gifted Education Programs: Standards and Student Outcomes are grounded in 2019 National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC) Pre-K to Grade 12 Gifted Programming Standards.
- Determine impact of gifted programming on yearly student progress and student retention rates.
- Present findings to a gifted task force group for the purpose of gathering feedback and suggestions for potential gifted improvement.

1.2 Anticipated Timetable

Proposal Submission Deadline: No later than 4:00 p.m., July 15, 2022.

Bid Opening: 9:00 a.m., July 18, 2022.

1.3 Proposal Evaluation

An Evaluation Team will review the proposals and make a recommendation. The criteria listed below will be used to evaluate the proposals for the purpose of ranking them in relative position based on how fully each proposal meets the requirements of this RFP.

Evaluation Criteria:

Vendor Qualifications and Experience	35 points
Management Plan	50 points
Cost Proposal	15 points

Best and Final Offers:

The ALSDE may either accept a vendor's initial proposal by award of a contract or enter into discussions with vendors whose proposals are deemed to be reasonably acceptable consideration for award. After discussions are concluded, a vendor may be allowed to submit a "Best and Final Offer" for consideration in a manner and method prescribed by the ALSDE. By submitting a proposal each vendor accepts and agrees to all conditions and requirements herein.

The ALSDE will make all decisions regarding evaluation of the proposal. The ALSDE reserves the right to judge and determine whether a request is compliant with and has satisfactorily met the requirements of the RFP. The ALSDE reserves the right to waive technical and other defects if, in its judgment, the interest of the ALSDE so requires. Any further information disclosed about the RFP during this process will be provided to all vendors in a manner and method prescribed by the ALSDE.

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Rejection of Proposal:

The ALSDE reserves the right to reject any or all proposals which are deemed to be non-responsive, late in submission, or unsatisfactory in any way. ALSDE shall have no obligation to award a contract for work, goods and/or services as a result of this RFP.

Confidentiality:

All information contained in the RFP is the exclusive property of the ALSDE. Recipients of this RFP are not to disclose any information contained within the RFP unless such information is publicly available. This RFP is provided for the sole purpose of allowing Vendors to respond to these specifications.

Selection Process:

The ALSDE will select the vendors that provide the most technically sound and cost-effective proposals that best fit the needs of the ALSDE. Final selection of the successful vendors will not be based solely on cost. The vendor product will be evaluated primarily on the scope of the activities linked to associated costs as detailed in the RFP. RFPs will be reviewed to ascertain those minimum requirements have been met. The ALSDE reserves the right to conduct discussions with potential vendors to clarify information contained in their proposals, but the ALSDE has no obligation to do so. The vendors will provide notice to the ALSDE any partnership with another firm to provide parts of the solution; however, the vendor must provide management of the partner and is responsible for all project performance. Any subcontractor or partner will be subject to the same vetting process as the vendor, and the vendor is responsible for ensuring that each subcontractor acknowledges and is contractually bound by the staffing plan and other commitments listed in this RFP.

Unless provided by law, nothing in this RFP shall be construed to create any legal obligation on the part of ALSDE or any respondents. ALSDE reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to amend, suspend, terminate, or reissue the RFP in whole or in part, at any stage. In no event shall ALSDE be liable to respondents for any cost or damages incurred in connection with the RFP process, including, but not limited to, any and all costs of preparing a response to this RFP or any other costs incurred in reliance on this RFP. No respondent shall be entitled to repayment from ALSDE for any costs, expenses, or fees related to the RFP. All supporting documentation submitted in response to the RFP will become the property of the ALSDE. Respondents may also withdraw their interest in the RFP, in writing, at any point in time, as more information becomes known. If, within the confines of this RFP, the vendor provides intellectual property be it understood that all RFP contents are subject to *Open Records Act* laws and thus are subsequently in the public domain.

Only the final results of the ALSDE Evaluation Committee may be considered public. Any work papers, individual evaluator or consultant comments, notes, or score will not be considered public. The final results of the ALSDE Evaluation Committee will not be publicly available until a final contract has received all necessary approvals.

Open Records act requests can be made at the following website:

[https://alsde.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/_rs/\(S\(f5sv2dmcmpb2aknppsajshwn\)\)/supporthome.aspx](https://alsde.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/_rs/(S(f5sv2dmcmpb2aknppsajshwn))/supporthome.aspx)

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Disclaimer Notice:

The ALSDE shall not be liable for any costs associated with the preparation of proposals or negotiations of a contract incurred by any party.

Availability of Funds:

It is expressly understood and agreed that the obligations of the ALSDE to proceed is conditioned upon the continued availability of funds that may be expended for these purposes.

1.4 Conditions and Terms

Contract Terms:

The contracts resulting from this RFP are renewable for four (4) additional years pending written agreement of the vendor & ALSDE, dependent on full availability of funds, performance evaluations of projects, and the full discretion of the ALSDE. The contract will commence pending Legislative Review Committee approval and Governor's signature.

The vendor shall be fully prepared to commence work after full execution of the contract by parties and the receipt of required governmental approvals.

Proposals should reference each element in the RFP by number on the cover of each copy and be arranged in the same sequence. All fees and costs are to be stated in United States currency. Vendors must reply to each element of the RFP.

Section 2.00 Scope

2.1 Scope of Vendor's Work and Responsibilities

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is seeking proposals from eligible vendors to comprehensively analyze and review gifted programming, policies, and procedures in Alabama. The vendor will create a report based on data, including a one-page summary to be shared with a Gifted Education Task Force, for the purpose of improving state policies and procedures and making research-based recommendations for the potential improvement of the overall program. The vendor must be skilled and have experience collecting, analyzing and interpreting data.

2.2 Scope of Alabama State Department of Education's Work and Responsibilities

The ALSDE will work collaboratively with the selected vendor to organize information, collect, and distribute materials, and provide technical assistance to LEAs as needed. The ALSDE is responsible for initiating contracts, processing, and paying invoices, articulating deadlines, communicating with the LEAs, and evaluating projects.

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Section 3.00 General Requirements

3.1 Requirements of Proposal

The vendor must provide the following mandatory information. **Failure to provide this information may be cause for the proposal to be rejected.** Qualifications, experience, and cost will be evaluated for contract award. The proposal may be submitted under the same cover with Vendor Requirements and Cost Proposal in two distinct sections. E-verify information is required to be submitted for all employees to include contractors of the vendors if necessary and applicable

Part I

Signed Cover Letter:

The cover letter shall serve as the first page of the vendor's proposal. The vendor shall complete the cover letter and attach it to the proposal in response to the RFP. The cover letter must be signed by an official authorized to legally bind the vendor. It will state that the vendor is a legal entity that will meet the specifications. The cover letter must accompany the submitted proposal. The letter accompanying the proposal must have original signatures and must include contact numbers and e-mail addresses for the authorized official signing the letters.

Part II

Vendor Qualification and Experience:

Vendor shall provide satisfactory evidence of the vendor's capability to coordinate the types of activities and to provide the services described in the RFP in a timely manner. Special attention should be given to the discussion of qualifications. The discussion shall include a description of the vendor's background and relevant experience as related to the required activities in the RFP.

Part III

(a) Management Plan

Vendor shall provide a detailed plan describing how the services will be performed to meet the requirements of the RFP. The description shall encompass the requirements of this RFP. The response must be prepared and organized in a clear and concise manner that is easily understandable.

The detailed management plan must include:

1. Project Goal(s)

Identify the overall project goal(s) for external evaluation of gifted in Alabama and briefly explain how the external evaluation work will be achieved.

2. Objectives

Identify the individual objectives that are specific to goal(s) and how those objectives will be carried out.

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3. Activities

For each objective include: a list of all activities (specific tasks) that will be accomplished; realistic start and end dates for accomplishing each activity; and the primary personnel who will conduct each activity.

4. Outcomes

For each goal, state the expected outcomes.

5. Evaluation

Describe how the external evaluation of gifted programs in Alabama will be assessed. The evaluation plan should describe the method(s) planned for assessing project goals, objectives, and activities.

(b) Vendor Organization:

Describe your organizational structure and explain how your organization qualifies to be responsive to the requirements of this RFP.

(c) References:

The vendor shall provide a minimum of three (3) references that can support and validate projects/products and outcomes, including names or persons who may be contacted, position of person, addresses, and phone numbers where similar training and/or products to that described in this RFP have been conducted.

(d) Executive Summary:

An executive summary is required. This summary will condense and highlight the contents of the vendor's proposal. The executive summary should succinctly state the goal, objective(s), and activities contained in the project along with specific outcomes the project is expected to achieve.

Part IV

(a) Cost Proposal:

Vendor shall include the fee structure and pricing and submit a cost proposal in addition to other required information.

(b) Subcontractor Disclosure:

If the execution of work to be performed requires the hiring of Subcontractors, **you must clearly state this in the bid proposal and provide qualification for such individuals.** Sub-Contractors must be identified and the services they will provide or work they will perform must be clearly defined. The ALSDE will not refuse a proposal based upon use of a Sub-Contractor; however, the ALSDE reserves the right to refuse the Sub-contractor you have selected. Contractor and associated personnel shall remain solely responsible for the performance of all work, including work that may be sub-contracted.

Describe your rationale for utilizing Subcontractors including relevant past experience partnering with stated Subcontractor(s). Documents for E-verification of subcontractors are the sole responsibility of the contractor and must be available upon request to ensure compliance.

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Section 4.00 General Terms and Conditions

4.1 Governance

This RFP and its terms shall be governed and construed according to the laws of the State of Alabama. Any dispute arising out of this RFP shall be brought in the State of Alabama, with venue in Montgomery County, Alabama. Vendors agree to comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

4.2 Immigration

The proposal must contain a statement that the firm is aware of and in compliance with the requirements of the Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act; a statement that the vendor is enrolled in the E-Verify as required by Section 31-13-9 (b), Code of Alabama 1975, as amended:

BEASON-HAMMON ALABAMA TAXPAYER AND CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT

COMPLIANCE

The Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act (31-13-1 et seq, Code of Alabama, 1975 as amended by Act 2012-491) regulates illegal immigration in the State of Alabama. All contracts with the State or political subdivision thereof must fully comply with each provision as provided by law.

A proposal must include a statement that the vendor has knowledge of this law and is in compliance. Before a contract is signed, the vendor awarded the contract must submit a Certificate of Compliance using the form at Appendix A. E-Verify enrollment can be accomplished at the website of the United States Department of Homeland Security at www.uscis.gov.

See Section 10 for additional language required by Section 10(k) of the Act to be included in the contract.

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4.3 Conflict of Interest

The vendor attests that no employee, officer, or agent of the vendor shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract if a real or apparent conflict of interest may be involved. A conflict would arise when the employee, officer, agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein has a financial or other interest in the organization selected for an award. The officers, employees, and agents of the vendor, if selected as the career planning system vendor, shall neither award nor offer gratuities, favors, nor anything of monetary value from vendors or subcontractors.

4.4 Discrimination

Alabama Non-Discrimination Statement:

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, gender, race, religion, national origin, color, age, genetic information, or any other category protected under the law. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972; Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008. Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101, or call (334) 694-4717.

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APPENDIX "A"

State of _____)
County of _____)

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE BEASON-HAMMON ALABAMA TAXPAYER AND CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT (ACT 2011-535, as amended by ACT 2012-491)

DATE: _____

RE Contract/Grant/Incentive (describe by number or subject):

_____ by and between
_____ (Contractor/Grantee) and
_____ (State Agency, Department or Public Entity)

The undersigned hereby certifies to the State of Alabama as follows:

1. The undersigned holds the position of _____ with the Contractor/Grantee named above and is authorized to provide representations set out in this Certificate as the official and binding act of that entity and has knowledge of the provisions of THE BEASON-HAMMON ALABAMA TAXPAYER AND CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT (ACT 2011-535 of the Alabama Legislature, as amended by ACT 2012-491) which is described herein as "the Act."
2. Using the following definitions from Section 3 of the Act, select and initial either (a) or (b), below, to describe the Contractor/Grantee's business structure.

BUSINESS ENTITY. Any person or group of persons employing one or more persons performing or engaging in any activity, enterprise, profession, or occupation for gain, benefit, advantage, or livelihood, whether for profit or not for profit.

a. Self-employed individuals, business entities filing articles of incorporation, partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, foreign corporations, foreign limited partnerships, and foreign limited liability companies authorized to transact business in this state, business trusts, and any business entity that registers with the Secretary of State.

b. Any business entity that possesses a business license, permit, certificate, approval, registration, charter, or similar form of authorization issued by the state, any business entity that is exempt by law from obtaining such a business license, and any business entity that is operating unlawfully without a business license.

EMPLOYER. Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, joint stock association, agent, manager, representative, foreman, or other person having control or custody of any employment, place of employment, or of any employee, including any person or entity employing any person for hire within the State of Alabama, including a public employer. This term shall not include the occupant of a household contracting with another person to perform casual domestic labor within the household.

____ (a) The Contractor/Grantee is a business entity or employer as those terms are defined in Section 3 of the Act.

____ (b) The Contractor/Grantee is not a business entity or employer as those terms are defined in Section 3 of the Act.

3. As of the date of this Certificate, the Contractor/Grantee does not knowingly employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama and hereafter it will not knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama;
4. The Contractor/Grantee is enrolled in E-Verify unless it is not eligible to enroll because of the rules of that program or other factors beyond its control.

Certified this _____ day of _____ 20_____.

Name of Contractor/Grantee/Recipient

By: _____

Its _____

The above Certification was signed in my presence by the person whose name appears above, on this _____ day of _____ 20_____.

WITNESS: _____

Printed Name of Witness