



**TN**

Department of  
**Education**

# Tennessee Public Charter School Commission Support Contractor 2019 Request for Applications (RFA)

Tennessee Department of Education | Office of School Models & Programs

**Application Due Date: January 17, 2020**

# Table of Contents

[General Information](#)

[Review Process](#)

[Schedule](#)

[Application Procedures](#)

[Application Format](#)

[Attachment A: Scoring Rubric](#)

[Attachment B: Pro Forma Contract](#)

# General Information

## ***Background***

Public Chapter 219 (2019), [codified in Tenn. Code Annotated § 49-13-105](#), transfers the duties of the State Board of Education as an appellate authorizer for public charter schools to a new, nine-member state commission. The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission (“the Commission”) will be comprised of nine members from across the state who will hear appeals and make authorizing decisions regarding charter schools.

The Commission will enable deeper engagement with local districts and stakeholders and help ensure decisions to open or close public charter schools are made based on local needs. The Commission is set to begin hearing appeals and overseeing public charter schools in the 2020-21 school year.

The purpose of this request for applications is to identify independent contractors to provide research services and project planning necessary to support the initial operation of the Commission.

## ***Procurement Purpose***

The department is seeking up to two contractors to provide comprehensive research support and project planning for the Commission.

The [pro forma contract](#) in Attachment B includes a detailed scope of services.

The budget for this project is \$50,000 per contractor for the initial term with the potential for options to renew.

## ***Contractor Responsibilities***

### **Research Support**

- Support the design, implementation, and oversight of research for the Commission.
- Collaborate in the review of existing policies adopted by the State Board of Education to inform policy development for the Commission.
- Review research regarding charter school authorization and oversight, and advise on areas upon which to improve during the implementation in Tennessee.
- Assist in the development of strategies for research dissemination to key audiences.
- Assist in the joint coordination of meetings between key stakeholders, including researchers, advocacy group leaders, legislators, school operators, and representatives from state government to participate in research planning and review.
- Support the publication of relevant research.

## **Project Planning**

- Assist with the creation of guiding documents and necessary frameworks for the Commission's initial operation and launch.
- Support the drafting necessary rules, regulations, and operational policies for the Commission.
- Support the coordinated development of a detailed project plan with dates and deliverables to ensure the Commission is successfully operational.
- Assist in the determination of staffing levels and budgeting for the first two fiscal years and assist with completion of a draft budget.
- Assist with the creation and delivery of presentations to a variety of stakeholders, including department staff, the Governor's Office, and the Tennessee General Assembly.
- Support the organization and development of public communications, including briefs and forums.
- Provide technical assistance to the Commission as needed.

## ***Contractor Eligibility Requirements***

- Significant experience in education research and related projects, preferably in school choice programs or policy.
- Demonstrated experience in project planning and management with a preference for proven leadership in leading long-term projects from inception.
- Proposal and RFP writing experience.
- Experience in coordinating and facilitating meetings.
- Experience engaging stakeholders.
- Experience in developing and organizing public communications.
- Must have ability to communicate effectively by email and phone.
- Bachelor's degree required. Graduate work or degree preferred.

## ***Contractor Compensation***

Contractors will be compensated in equal monthly payments upon completion of all assigned deliverables in the work plan, to total \$50,000 beginning in February with the last payment in June.

## Communications

Applicants must direct communications concerning this request for applications to the following person designated as the solicitation coordinator:

Dr. Robert Lundin  
Assistant Commissioner for School Models & Programs  
Tennessee Department of Education  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Andrew Johnson Tower, 12th Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243  
(615) 253-1767  
[robert.lundin@tn.gov](mailto:robert.lundin@tn.gov)

## Review Process

All complete application packages meeting the requirements and received by the department on or before the application deadline will be forwarded to a review committee. The committee will provide each application with a merit score based upon the review criteria and rubric. A copy of the scoring rubric can be found in [Attachment A](#). The overall score will serve as the basis for selection.

This request for applications by the department does not create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in any applicant. The department reserves the right to reject any response. All contract award decisions are final. **All contracts are subject to the availability of funds and approval by state procurement offices.**

## Schedule

Event	Time (central time zone)	Date
RFA Released		December 20, 2019
Application Deadline	5:00 p.m.	January 17, 2020
Notice of Contract Award		January 24, 2020
Proposed Contract Start Date		February 1, 2020

## Application Procedures

**Applications must be submitted in full no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2020.** Any application received after this deadline that takes exception to any of the stated requirements, fails to comply with specified procedures, or fails to meet any requirement of the application may be rejected.

**Steps to submitting an application:**

1. Provide an introductory letter of interest signed by the designated representative of the applying entity to accompany the completed application.
2. Complete all sections of the application.
3. Attach a resume to include references, any pertinent training certifications or credentials, or letters of support.

## Application Format

Applicants should submit a written narrative of no more than ten letter-size pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman) outlining the qualifications and expertise that would equip them for successful provision of project planning and research services to support the launch and operation of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission.

The written narrative should address each of the following criteria.

1. Description of the applicant's expertise in the field of public school choice policy.
2. Description of the applicant's motivation to support the work of the Commission through the provision of research and project planning services.
3. Description of the applicant's proposed approach for providing research services and guidance for the initial operation of the Commission.
4. Description of the applicant's understanding and perspective on the current Tennessee educational policy context.
5. Description of the applicant's organizational capacity to deliver research services and guidance for the initial operation of the Commission.
6. Description of the applicant's prior experience (and subsequent impact) in the following areas:
  - a. Development of research plans, guidance documents, or project plans.
  - b. Development of project proposals and RFPs.
  - c. Successful planning and facilitation of meetings between education policy stakeholders.
  - d. Development of operating and governing rules and policies for education policy entities.
  - e. Development of public communications content to inform diverse stakeholders in the education sector.
7. Identification of other qualifications or expertise that would uniquely equip the applicant for success in supporting the work of the Commission.

Applicants should also include the following documentation not counted toward the ten page limit:

1. Contact information for three references who can attest to the applicant's prior performance in similar projects or current capacity to support this work. (Please use no more than one page for this information.)
2. Samples of research documents, policy guidance, or public communications content developed in prior projects that demonstrate the quality and consistency of the applicant's work under similar circumstances. (Please include up to ten supporting documents.)

# Attachment A: Scoring Rubric

The Solicitation Coordinator will calculate the average of the review committee scores to determine the final score for this section.

[APPLICATION COMPONENT]	Maximum Points	Assigned Points
1. Describe your professional experience in the K-12 sector and scope of relationships in Shelby and/or Davidson County.	10	
2. Describe the applicant's ability to provide leadership and guidance for the initial operation of the Tennessee Public School Charter Commission, particularly in terms of research and the development of processes and procedures.	25	
3. Describe the applicant's experience in project planning and developing operational, guidance, research, or framework documents.	20	
4. Explain the motivation for applying to provide research and project support for Tennessee Public Charter School Commission.	15	
5. Describe the applicant's experience in developing program proposals or RFPs for services.	10	
6. Provide support documentation that reflects the applicant's ability to complete the project work described in this proposal (Limit ten pages)	20	
<b>SCORE (maximum possible score = 100)</b>		
<b>Evaluator Identification:</b>		



# Attachment B: Pro Forma Contract

The *Pro Forma* Contract details the State's requirements:

- Scope of Services and Deliverables (Section A);
- Contract Period (Section B);
- Payment Terms (Section C);
- Standard Terms and Conditions (Section D); and,
- Special Terms and Conditions (Section E).

The *pro forma* contract substantially represents the document that the successful applicant must sign.

**CONTRACT  
BETWEEN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE,  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND  
CONTRACTOR NAME**

This Contract, by and between the State of Tennessee, Department of Education ("State") and **Contractor Legal Entity Name** ("Contractor"), is for support services associated with the formation of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission, as further defined in the "SCOPE." State and Contractor may be referred to individually as a "Party" or collectively as the "Parties" to this Contract.

The Contractor is an Individual

Contractor Place of Incorporation or Organization: **Location**

Contractor Edison Registration ID # **Number**

**A. SCOPE:**

- A.1. The Contractor shall provide all goods or services and deliverables as required, described, and detailed below and shall meet all service and delivery timelines as specified by this Contract.
- A.2. The Contractor shall support the State in the operation of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission ("Commission") by completely timely delivery of project milestones as defined in the project plan and agreed upon at the start of the Contract Term and by signature at the first of every month thereafter.
- A.3. As requested by the State, the Contractor shall provide research support services, including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Support the design and oversight of research for the Commission.
  - b. Collaborate in the review of existing policies adopted by the State Board of Education to inform policy development for the Commission.
  - c. Review research regarding charter school authorization and oversight, and advise on areas upon which to improve during the implementation in Tennessee.
  - d. Assist in the development of strategies for research dissemination to key audiences.
  - e. Assist in the joint coordination of meetings between key stakeholders, including researchers, advocacy group leaders, legislators, school operators, and representatives from state government to participate in research planning and review.
  - f. Support the publication of relevant research.

- A.4. As requested by the State, the Contractor shall provide project planning services, including but not limited to the following:
- a. Assist with the creation of guiding documents and necessary frameworks for the Commission's initial operation and launch.
  - b. Support the drafting of necessary rules, regulations, and operational policies for the Commission.
  - c. Support the coordinated development of a detailed project plan with dates and deliverables to ensure the Commission is successfully operational.
  - d. Assist in the determination of staffing levels and budgeting for the first two fiscal years and assist with the completion of a draft budget.
  - e. Assist with the creation and delivery of presentations to a variety of stakeholders, including department staff, the Governor's Office, and the Tennessee General Assembly.
  - f. Support the organization and development of public communications, including briefs and forums.
  - g. Provide technical assistance to the Commission as needed.
- A.5. All work products developed or produced by the Contractor under this Contract shall constitute "works made for hire" or have similar status under relevant intellectual property law. The State shall have full, final, and perpetual ownership rights to all work products or other content and materials provided by the Contractor for the State under this Contract. At no cost to the State, the Contractor shall obtain and provide any necessary intellectual property licenses or permissions to use existing materials and shall assign and transfer to the State all intellectual property rights in all work product(s) developed, produced or delivered under this Contract.
- A.6. All work products developed or produced by the Contractor under this Contract are subject to final approval by the State prior to distribution to third parties. The Contractor shall make any revisions requested by the State on a timeline approved by the State.
- A.7. Warranty. Contractor represents and warrants that the term of the warranty ("Warranty Period") shall be the greater of the Term of this Contract or any other warranty generally offered by Contractor, its suppliers, or manufacturers to customers of its goods or services. The goods or services provided under this Contract shall conform to the terms and conditions of this Contract throughout the Warranty Period. Any nonconformance of the goods or services to the terms and conditions of this Contract shall constitute a "Defect" and shall be considered "Defective." If Contractor receives notice of a Defect during the Warranty Period, then Contractor shall correct the Defect, at no additional charge.

Contractor represents and warrants that the State is authorized to possess and use all equipment, materials, software, and deliverables provided under this Contract.

Contractor represents and warrants that all goods or services provided under this Contract shall be provided in a timely and professional manner, by qualified and skilled individuals, and in conformity with standards generally accepted in Contractor's industry.

If Contractor fails to provide the goods or services as warranted, then Contractor will re-provide the goods or services at no additional charge. If Contractor is unable or unwilling to re-provide the goods or services as warranted, then the State shall be entitled to recover the fees paid to Contractor for the Defective goods or services. Any exercise of the State's rights under this Section shall not prejudice the State's rights to seek any other remedies available under this Contract or applicable law.

- A.8. Inspection and Acceptance. The State shall have the right to inspect all goods or services provided by Contractor under this Contract. If, upon inspection, the State determines that the goods or services are Defective, the State shall notify Contractor, and Contractor shall re-deliver the goods or provide the services at no additional cost to the State. If after a period of thirty (30) days following delivery of goods or performance of services the State does not provide a notice of any Defects, the goods or services shall be deemed to have been accepted by the State.

**B. TERM OF CONTRACT:**

- B.1. This Contract shall be effective on February 1, 2020 ("Effective Date") and ending on June 30, 2020, ("Term"). The State shall have no obligation for goods or services provided by the Contractor prior to the Effective Date.
- B.2. Renewal Options. This Contract may be renewed upon satisfactory completion of the Term. The state reserves the right to execute up to three renewal options under the same terms and conditions for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months each by the State, at the State's sole option. In no event, however, shall the maximum Term, including all renewals or extensions, exceed a total of sixty (60) months.
- B.3. Term Extension. The State may extend the Term an additional period of time, not to exceed one hundred-eighty (180) days beyond the expiration date of this Contract, under the same terms and conditions at the State's sole option. In no event, however, shall the maximum Term, including all renewals or extensions, exceed a total of sixty (60) months.

**C. PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- C.1. Maximum Liability. In no event shall the maximum liability of the State under this Contract exceed Fifty-Thousand Dollars and zero cents (\$50,000.00) ("Maximum Liability"). This Contract does not grant the Contractor any exclusive rights. The State does not guarantee that it will buy any minimum quantity of goods or services under this Contract. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Contract, the Contractor will only be paid for goods or services provided under this Contract after a purchase order is issued to Contractor by the State or as otherwise specified by this Contract.
- C.2. Compensation Firm. The payment methodology in Section C.3. of this Contract shall constitute the entire compensation due the Contractor for all goods or services provided under this Contract regardless of the difficulty, materials or equipment required. The payment methodology includes all applicable taxes, fees, overhead, and all other direct and indirect costs incurred or to be incurred by the Contractor.
- C.3. Payment Methodology. The Contractor shall be compensated based on the payment methodology for goods or services authorized by the State in a total amount as set forth in Section C.1.
- a. The Contractor's compensation shall be contingent upon the satisfactory provision of goods or services as set forth in Section A.
  - b. The Contractor shall be compensated based upon the following payment methodology:

Goods or Services Description	Amount (per compensable increment)
Monthly completion of all project milestones as indicated and assigned to the contractor in the project plan. Agreed upon milestones will be agreed upon by signature at the first of each month.	\$10,000 per month upon completion of all assigned monthly deliverables

- C.4. Travel Compensation. The Contractor shall not be compensated or reimbursed for travel time, travel expenses, meals, or lodging.
- C.5. Invoice Requirements. The Contractor shall invoice the State only for goods delivered and accepted by the State or services satisfactorily provided at the amounts stipulated in Section C.3., above. Contractor

shall submit invoices and necessary supporting documentation, no more frequently than once a month, and no later than thirty (30) days after goods or services have been provided to the following address:

Tennessee Department of Education  
Office of School Models & Programs  
Andrew Johnson Tower, 12th Floor  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243  
Phone: (615) 253-1767  
Fax: (615) 532-8312

Each invoice, on Contractor's letterhead, shall clearly and accurately detail all of the following information (calculations must be extended and totaled correctly):

- (1) Invoice number (assigned by the Contractor);
- (2) Invoice date;
- (3) Contract number (assigned by the State);
- (4) Customer account name: Department of Education and Office of School Models & Programs;
- (5) Customer account number (assigned by the Contractor to the above-referenced Customer);
- (6) Contractor name;
- (7) Contractor Tennessee Edison registration ID number;
- (8) Contractor contact for invoice questions (name, phone, or email);
- (9) Contractor remittance address;
- (10) Description of delivered goods or services provided and invoiced, including identifying information as applicable;
- (11) Number of delivered or completed units, increments, hours, or days as applicable, of each good or service invoiced;
- (12) Applicable payment methodology (as stipulated in Section C.3.) of each good or service invoiced;
- (13) Amount due for each compensable unit of good or service; and
- (14) Total amount due for the invoice period.

a. Contractor's invoices shall:

- (1) Only include charges for goods delivered or services provided as described in Section A and in accordance with payment terms and conditions set forth in Section C;
- (2) Only be submitted for goods delivered or services completed and shall not include any charge for future goods to be delivered or services to be performed;
- (3) Not include Contractor's taxes, which includes without limitation Contractor's sales and use tax, excise taxes, franchise taxes, real or personal property taxes, or income taxes; and
- (4) Include shipping or delivery charges only as authorized in this Contract.

a. The timeframe for payment (or any discounts) begins only when the State is in receipt of an invoice that meets the minimum requirements of this Section C.5.

- C.6. Payment of Invoice. A payment by the State shall not prejudice the State's right to object to or question any payment, invoice, or other matter. A payment by the State shall not be construed as acceptance of goods delivered, any part of the services provided, or as approval of any amount invoiced.
- C.7. Invoice Reductions. The Contractor's invoice shall be subject to reduction for amounts included in any invoice or payment that is determined by the State, on the basis of audits conducted in accordance with the terms of this Contract, to not constitute proper compensation for goods delivered or services provided.
- C.8. Deductions. The State reserves the right to deduct from amounts, which are or shall become due and payable to the Contractor under this or any contract between the Contractor and the State of Tennessee, any amounts that are or shall become due and payable to the State of Tennessee by the Contractor.

- C.9. Prerequisite Documentation. The Contractor shall not invoice the State under this Contract until the State has received the following, properly completed documentation.
- a. The Contractor shall complete, sign, and present to the State the "Authorization Agreement for Automatic Deposit Form" provided by the State. By doing so, the Contractor acknowledges and agrees that, once this form is received by the State, payments to the Contractor, under this or any other contract the Contractor has with the State of Tennessee, may be made by ACH; and
  - b. The Contractor shall complete, sign, and return to the State the State-provided W-9 form. The taxpayer identification number on the W-9 form must be the same as the Contractor's Federal Employer Identification Number or Social Security Number referenced in the Contractor's Edison registration information.

**D. MANDATORY TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- D.1. Required Approvals. The State is not bound by this Contract until it is duly approved by the Parties and all appropriate State officials in accordance with applicable Tennessee laws and regulations. Depending upon the specifics of this Contract, this may include approvals by the Commissioner of Finance and Administration, the Commissioner of Human Resources, the Comptroller of the Treasury, and the Chief Procurement Officer. Approvals shall be evidenced by a signature or electronic approval.
- D.2. Communications and Contacts. All instructions, notices, consents, demands, or other communications required or contemplated by this Contract shall be in writing and shall be made by certified, first class mail, return receipt requested and postage prepaid, by overnight courier service with an asset tracking system, or by email or facsimile transmission with recipient confirmation. All communications, regardless of method of transmission, shall be addressed to the respective Party at the appropriate mailing address, facsimile number, or email address as stated below or any other address provided in writing by a Party.

The State:

Dr. Robert Lundin, Assistant Commissioner  
Tennessee Department of Education  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Andrew Johnson Tower, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243  
Email: amity.schuyler@tn.gov  
Telephone: (615) 253-1767  
FAX: (615) 532-8312

The Contractor:

Contractor Name & Title  
Contractor Name  
Address  
Email:  
Telephone: Number  
FAX: number

All instructions, notices, consents, demands, or other communications shall be considered effective upon receipt or recipient confirmation as may be required.

- D.3. Modification and Amendment. This Contract may be modified only by a written amendment signed by all Parties and approved by all applicable State officials.

- D.4. Subject to Funds Availability. The Contract is subject to the appropriation and availability of State or federal funds. In the event that the funds are not appropriated or are otherwise unavailable, the State reserves the right to terminate this Contract upon written notice to the Contractor. The State's exercise of its right to terminate this Contract shall not constitute a breach of Contract by the State. Upon receipt of the written notice, the Contractor shall cease all work associated with the Contract. If the State terminates this Contract due to lack of funds availability, the Contractor shall be entitled to compensation for all conforming goods requested and accepted by the State and for all satisfactory and authorized services completed as of the termination date. Should the State exercise its right to terminate this Contract due to unavailability of funds, the Contractor shall have no right to recover from the State any actual, general, special, incidental, consequential, or any other damages of any description or amount.
- D.5. Termination for Convenience. The State may terminate this Contract for convenience without cause and for any reason. The State shall give the Contractor at least thirty (30) days written notice before the termination date. The Contractor shall be entitled to compensation for all conforming goods delivered and accepted by the State or for satisfactory, authorized services completed as of the termination date. In no event shall the State be liable to the Contractor for compensation for any goods neither requested nor accepted by the State or for any services neither requested by the State nor satisfactorily performed by the Contractor. In no event shall the State's exercise of its right to terminate this Contract for convenience relieve the Contractor of any liability to the State for any damages or claims arising under this Contract.
- D.6. Termination for Cause. If the Contractor fails to properly perform its obligations under this Contract in a timely or proper manner, or if the Contractor materially violates any terms of this Contract ("Breach Condition"), the State shall have the right to immediately terminate the Contract and withhold payments in excess of compensation for completed services or provided goods. Notwithstanding the above, the Contractor shall not be relieved of liability to the State for damages sustained by virtue of any Breach Condition and the State may seek other remedies allowed at law or in equity for breach of this Contract.
- D.7. Assignment and Subcontracting. The Contractor shall not assign this Contract or enter into a subcontract for any of the goods or services provided under this Contract without the prior written approval of the State. Notwithstanding any use of the approved subcontractors, the Contractor shall be the prime contractor and responsible for compliance with all terms and conditions of this Contract. The State reserves the right to request additional information or impose additional terms and conditions before approving an assignment of this Contract in whole or in part or the use of subcontractors in fulfilling the Contractor's obligations under this Contract.
- D.8. Conflicts of Interest. The Contractor warrants that no part of the Contractor's compensation shall be paid directly or indirectly to an employee or official of the State of Tennessee as wages, compensation, or gifts in exchange for acting as an officer, agent, employee, subcontractor, or consultant to the Contractor in connection with any work contemplated or performed under this Contract.

The Contractor acknowledges, understands, and agrees that this Contract shall be null and void if the Contractor is, or within the past six (6) months has been, an employee of the State of Tennessee or if the Contractor is an entity in which a controlling interest is held by an individual who is, or within the past six (6) months has been, an employee of the State of Tennessee.

- D.9. Nondiscrimination. The Contractor hereby agrees, warrants, and assures that no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of this Contract or in the employment practices of the Contractor on the grounds of handicap or disability, age, race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by federal or state law. The Contractor shall, upon request, show proof of nondiscrimination and shall post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.
- D.10. Prohibition of Illegal Immigrants. The requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-3-309 addressing the use of illegal immigrants in the performance of any contract to supply goods or services to the state of Tennessee, shall be a material provision of this Contract, a breach of which shall be grounds for monetary and other penalties, up to and including termination of this Contract.

- a. The Contractor agrees that the Contractor shall not knowingly utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract and shall not knowingly utilize the services of any subcontractor who will utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract. The Contractor shall reaffirm this attestation, in writing, by submitting to the State a completed and signed copy of the document at Attachment A, semi-annually during the Term. If the Contractor is a party to more than one contract with the State, the Contractor may submit one attestation that applies to all contracts with the State. All Contractor attestations shall be maintained by the Contractor and made available to State officials upon request.
  - b. Prior to the use of any subcontractor in the performance of this Contract, and semi-annually thereafter, during the Term, the Contractor shall obtain and retain a current, written attestation that the subcontractor shall not knowingly utilize the services of an illegal immigrant to perform work under this Contract and shall not knowingly utilize the services of any subcontractor who will utilize the services of an illegal immigrant to perform work under this Contract. Attestations obtained from subcontractors shall be maintained by the Contractor and made available to State officials upon request.
  - c. The Contractor shall maintain records for all personnel used in the performance of this Contract. Contractor's records shall be subject to review and random inspection at any reasonable time upon reasonable notice by the State.
  - d. The Contractor understands and agrees that failure to comply with this section will be subject to the sanctions of Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-3-309 for acts or omissions occurring after its effective date.
  - e. For purposes of this Contract, "illegal immigrant" shall be defined as any person who is not: (i) a United States citizen; (ii) a Lawful Permanent Resident; (iii) a person whose physical presence in the United States is authorized; (iv) allowed by the federal Department of Homeland Security and who, under federal immigration laws or regulations, is authorized to be employed in the U.S.; or (v) is otherwise authorized to provide services under the Contract.
- D.11. Records. The Contractor shall maintain documentation for all charges under this Contract. The books, records, and documents of the Contractor, for work performed or money received under this Contract, shall be maintained for a period of five (5) full years from the date of the final payment and shall be subject to audit at any reasonable time and upon reasonable notice by the State, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives. The financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
  - D.12. Monitoring. The Contractor's activities conducted and records maintained pursuant to this Contract shall be subject to monitoring and evaluation by the State, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives.
  - D.13. Progress Reports. The Contractor shall submit brief, periodic, progress reports to the State as requested.
  - D.14. Strict Performance. Failure by any Party to this Contract to require, in any one or more cases, the strict performance of any of the terms, covenants, conditions, or provisions of this Contract shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of any term, covenant, condition, or provision. No term or condition of this Contract shall be held to be waived, modified, or deleted except by a written amendment signed by the Parties.
  - D.15. Independent Contractor. The Parties shall not act as employees, partners, joint ventures, or associates of one another. The Parties are independent contracting entities. Nothing in this Contract shall be construed to create an employer/employee relationship or to allow either Party to exercise control or direction over the manner or method by which the other transacts its business affairs or provides its usual services. The employees or agents of one Party are not employees or agents of the other Party.

- D.16. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The Contractor agrees that it will be responsible for compliance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("PPACA") with respect to itself and its employees, including any obligation to report health insurance coverage, provide health insurance coverage, or pay any financial assessment, tax, or penalty for not providing health insurance. The Contractor shall indemnify the State and hold it harmless from any costs to the State arising from Contractor's failure to fulfill its PPACA responsibilities for itself or its employees.
- D.17. Limitation of State's Liability. The State shall have no liability except as specifically provided in this Contract. In no event will the State be liable to the Contractor or any other party for any lost revenues, lost profits, loss of business, decrease in the value of any securities or cash position, time, goodwill, or any indirect, special, incidental, punitive, exemplary or consequential damages of any nature, whether based on warranty, contract, statute, regulation, tort (including but not limited to negligence), or any other legal theory that may arise under this Contract or otherwise. The State's total liability under this Contract (including any exhibits, schedules, amendments or other attachments to the Contract) or otherwise shall under no circumstances exceed the Maximum Liability. This limitation of liability is cumulative and not per incident.
- D.18. Limitation of Contractor's Liability. In accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-3-701, the Contractor's liability for all claims arising under this Contract shall be limited to an amount equal to two (2) times the Maximum Liability amount detailed in Section C.1. and as may be amended, PROVIDED THAT in no event shall this Section limit the liability of the Contractor for: (i) intellectual property or any Contractor indemnity obligations for infringement for third-party intellectual property rights; (ii) any claims covered by any specific provision in the Contract providing for liquidated damages; or (iii) any claims for intentional torts, criminal acts, fraudulent conduct, or acts or omissions that result in personal injuries or death. For clarity, except as otherwise expressly set forth in this Section, Contractor's indemnification obligations and other remedies available under this Contract are subject to the limitations on liability set forth in this Section.
- D.19. Hold Harmless. The Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Tennessee as well as its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, and causes of action which may arise, accrue, or result to any person, firm, corporation, or other entity which may be injured or damaged as a result of acts, omissions, or negligence on the part of the Contractor, its employees, or any person acting for or on its or their behalf relating to this Contract. The Contractor further agrees it shall be liable for the reasonable cost of attorneys' fees, court costs, expert witness fees, and other litigation expenses for the State to enforce the terms of this Contract. In the event of any suit or claim, the Parties shall give each other immediate notice and provide all necessary assistance to respond. The failure of the State to give notice shall only relieve the Contractor of its obligations under this Section to the extent that the Contractor can demonstrate actual prejudice arising from the failure to give notice. This Section shall not grant the Contractor, through its attorneys, the right to represent the State in any legal matter, as the right to represent the State is governed by Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-6-106.
- D.20. HIPAA Compliance. The State and Contractor shall comply with obligations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health ("HITECH") Act and any other relevant laws and regulations regarding privacy (collectively the "Privacy Rules"). The obligations set forth in this Section shall survive the termination of this Contract.
- a. Contractor warrants to the State that it is familiar with the requirements of the Privacy Rules, and will comply with all applicable requirements in the course of this Contract.
  - b. Contractor warrants that it will cooperate with the State, including cooperation and coordination with State privacy officials and other compliance officers required by the Privacy Rules, in the course of performance of the Contract so that both parties will be in compliance with the Privacy Rules.



- c. The State and the Contractor will sign documents, including but not limited to business associate agreements, as required by the Privacy Rules and that are reasonably necessary to keep the State and Contractor in compliance with the Privacy Rules. This provision shall not apply if information received or delivered by the parties under this Contract is NOT “protected health information” as defined by the Privacy Rules, or if the Privacy Rules permit the parties to receive or deliver the information without entering into a business associate agreement or signing another document.
- d. The Contractor will indemnify the State and hold it harmless for any violation by the Contractor or its subcontractors of the Privacy Rules. This includes the costs of responding to a breach of protected health information, the costs of responding to a government enforcement action related to the breach, and any fines, penalties, or damages paid by the State because of the violation.

D.21. Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. Subject to statutory exceptions contained in Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 8-36-801, et seq., the law governing the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (“TCRS”), provides that if a retired member of TCRS, or of any superseded system administered by TCRS, or of any local retirement fund established under Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 8-35-101, et seq., accepts State employment, the member’s retirement allowance is suspended during the period of the employment. Accordingly and notwithstanding any provision of this Contract to the contrary, the Contractor agrees that if it is later determined that the true nature of the working relationship between the Contractor and the State under this Contract is that of “employee/employer” and not that of an independent contractor, the Contractor, if a retired member of TCRS, may be required to repay to TCRS the amount of retirement benefits the Contractor received from TCRS during the Term.

D.22. Tennessee Department of Revenue Registration. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable registration requirements contained in Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 67-6-601 – 608. Compliance with applicable registration requirements is a material requirement of this Contract.

D.23. Debarment and Suspension. The Contractor certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it, its current and future principals, its current and future subcontractors and their principals:

- a. are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal or state department or agency;
- b. have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract been convicted of, or had a civil judgment rendered against them from commission of fraud, or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or grant under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification, or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- c. are not presently indicted or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses detailed in section b. of this certification; and
- d. have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

The Contractor shall provide immediate written notice to the State if at any time it learns that there was an earlier failure to disclose information or that due to changed circumstances, its principals or the principals of its subcontractors are excluded, disqualified, or presently fall under any of the prohibitions of sections a-d.

D.24. Force Majeure. “Force Majeure Event” means fire, flood, earthquake, elements of nature or acts of God, wars, riots, civil disorders, rebellions or revolutions, acts of terrorism or any other similar cause beyond the reasonable control of the Party except to the extent that the non-performing Party is at fault in failing to prevent or causing the default or delay, and provided that the default or delay cannot reasonably be circumvented by the non-performing Party through the use of alternate sources, workaround plans or

other means. A strike, lockout or labor dispute shall not excuse either Party from its obligations under this Contract. Except as set forth in this Section, any failure or delay by a Party in the performance of its obligations under this Contract arising from a Force Majeure Event is not a default under this Contract or grounds for termination. The non-performing Party will be excused from performing those obligations directly affected by the Force Majeure Event, and only for as long as the Force Majeure Event continues, provided that the Party continues to use diligent, good faith efforts to resume performance without delay. The occurrence of a Force Majeure Event affecting Contractor's representatives, suppliers, subcontractors, customers or business apart from this Contract is not a Force Majeure Event under this Contract. Contractor will promptly notify the State of any delay caused by a Force Majeure Event (to be confirmed in a written notice to the State within one (1) day of the inception of the delay) that a Force Majeure Event has occurred, and will describe in reasonable detail the nature of the Force Majeure Event. If any Force Majeure Event results in a delay in Contractor's performance longer than forty-eight (48) hours, the State may, upon notice to Contractor: (a) cease payment of the fees for the affected obligations until Contractor resumes performance of the affected obligations; or (b) immediately terminate this Contract or any purchase order, in whole or in part, without further payment except for fees then due and payable. Contractor will not increase its charges under this Contract or charge the State any fees other than those provided for in this Contract as the result of a Force Majeure Event.

- D.25. State and Federal Compliance. The Contractor shall comply with all State and federal laws and regulations applicable to Contractor in the Contractor's performance of this Contract.
- D.26. Governing Law. This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee, without regard to its conflict or choice of law rules. The Tennessee Claims Commission or the state or federal courts in Tennessee shall be the venue for all claims, disputes, or disagreements arising under this Contract. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that any rights, claims, or remedies against the State of Tennessee or its employees arising under this Contract shall be subject to and limited to those rights and remedies available under Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 9-8-101 - 408.
- D.27. Entire Agreement. This Contract is complete and contains the entire understanding between the Parties relating to its subject matter, including all the terms and conditions of the Parties' agreement. This Contract supersedes any and all prior understandings, representations, negotiations, and agreements between the Parties, whether written or oral.
- D.28. Severability. If any terms and conditions of this Contract are held to be invalid or unenforceable as a matter of law, the other terms and conditions of this Contract shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect. The terms and conditions of this Contract are severable.
- D.29. Headings. Section headings of this Contract are for reference purposes only and shall not be construed as part of this Contract.
- D.30. Incorporation of Additional Documents. Each of the following documents is included as a part of this Contract by reference. In the event of a discrepancy or ambiguity regarding the Contractor's duties, responsibilities, and performance under this Contract, these items shall govern in order of precedence below:
- a. any amendment to this Contract, with the latter in time controlling over any earlier amendments;
  - b. this Contract with any attachments or exhibits (excluding the items listed at subsections c. through f., below), which includes Attachment A;
  - c. any clarifications of or addenda to the Contractor's proposal seeking this Contract;
  - d. the State solicitation, as may be amended, requesting responses in competition for this Contract;
  - e. any technical specifications provided to proposers during the procurement process to award this Contract; and
  - f. the Contractor's response seeking this Contract.
- D.31. Iran Divestment Act. The requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-12-101, et seq., addressing contracting with persons as defined at Tenn. Code Ann. §12-12-103(5) that engage in investment activities in Iran,

shall be a material provision of this Contract. The Contractor certifies, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that it is not on the list created pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-12-106.

- D.32. Insurance. Contractor shall maintain insurance coverage as specified in this Section. The State reserves the right to amend or require additional insurance coverage, coverage amounts, and endorsements required under this Contract. If Contractor loses insurance coverage, fails to renew coverage, or for any reason becomes uninsured during the Term, Contractor shall immediately notify the State.

The Contractor shall obtain and maintain, at a minimum, the following insurance coverages and policy limits.

The insurance obligations under this Contract shall be: 1—all the insurance coverage and policy limits carried by or available to the Contractor; or 2—the minimum insurance coverage requirements and policy limits shown in this Contract; whichever is greater. Any insurance proceeds or policies in excess of or broader than the minimum required coverage and minimum required policy limits, which are applicable to a given loss, shall be available to the State. No representation is made that the minimum insurance requirements of the Contract are sufficient to cover the obligations of the Contractor under this Contract. The Contractor shall obtain and maintain, at a minimum, the following insurance coverages and policy limits.

a. Personal Automobile Liability Insurance

- 1) In the event that the Contractor (1) owns, leases, or otherwise operates an automotive vehicle and (2) intends to use such vehicle in furtherance of their Contractual duties or for regular or periodic transportation onto State property for the purposes of performing the Contractor's duties under the Terms of this Contract, then the Contractor shall provide to the State proof of the Contractor's personal automobile liability insurance policy. Such automobile liability insurance policy shall maintain limits not less than the minimum liability limits established by the relevant authority under which said vehicle is licensed. Such verification is required whether or not the State intends to reimburse the Contractor for mileage.
- 2) If the Contractor DOES NOT (1) own, lease, or otherwise operate an automotive vehicle or (2) WILL NOT operate or otherwise employ a personal vehicle in furtherance of their contractual duties or for regular or periodic transportation onto State property for the purposes of performing the Contractor's duties under the Terms of this Contract, then the Contractor shall provide to the State a letter signed by the Contractor certifying as to the above. In the event that such situation changes over the course of the Term of this Contract as described in provision 1) above, the Contractor shall inform the State and provide proof of personal automobile liability insurance before such time as the Contractor shall use such vehicle in furtherance of their Contractual duties or for regular or periodic transportation onto State property for the purposes of performing the Contractor's duties under the Terms of this Contract.

- D.33. Major Procurement Contract Sales and Use Tax. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-39-102 and to the extent applicable, the Contractor and the Contractor's subcontractors shall remit sales and use taxes on the sales of goods or services that are made by the Contractor or the Contractor's subcontractors and that are subject to tax.

- D.34. Confidentiality of Records. Strict standards of confidentiality of records and information shall be maintained in accordance with applicable state and federal law. All material and information, regardless of form, medium or method of communication, provided to the Contractor by the State or acquired by the Contractor on behalf of the State that is regarded as confidential under state or federal law shall be regarded as "Confidential Information." Nothing in this Section shall permit Contractor to disclose any Confidential Information, regardless of whether it has been disclosed or made available to the Contractor due to intentional or negligent actions or inactions of agents of the State or third parties. Confidential Information shall not be disclosed except as required or permitted under state or federal law. Contractor

shall take all necessary steps to safeguard the confidentiality of such material or information in conformance with applicable state and federal law.

The obligations set forth in this Section shall survive the termination of this Contract.

**E. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- E.1. Conflicting Terms and Conditions. Should any of these special terms and conditions conflict with any other terms and conditions of this Contract, the special terms and conditions shall be subordinate to the Contract's other terms and conditions.
- E.2. State Ownership of Goods. The State shall have ownership, right, title, and interest in all goods provided by Contractor under this Contract including full rights to use the goods and transfer title in the goods to any third parties.
- E.3. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act & Tennessee Data Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability Act. The Contractor shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232(g)) and its accompanying regulations (34 C.F.R. § 99) ("FERPA"). The Contractor warrants that the Contractor is familiar with FERPA requirements and that it will comply with these requirements in the performance of its duties under this Contract. The Contractor agrees to cooperate with the State, as required by FERPA, in the performance of its duties under this Contract. The Contractor agrees to maintain the confidentiality of all education records and student information. The Contractor shall only use such records and information for the exclusive purpose of performing its duties under this Contract.

The Contractor shall also comply with Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-701, et seq., known as the "Data Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability Act," and any accompanying administrative rules or regulations (collectively "DATAA"). The Contractor agrees to maintain the confidentiality of all records containing student and de-identified data, as this term is defined in DATAA, in any databases, to which the State has granted the Contractor access, and to only use such data for the exclusive purpose of performing its duties under this Contract.

Any instances of unauthorized disclosure of data containing personally identifiable information in violation of FERPA or DATAA that come to the attention of the Contractor shall be reported to the State within twenty-four (24) hours. Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless State, its employees, agents and representatives, from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, or causes of action that may arise, accrue, or result to any person or entity that is injured or damaged as a result of Contractor's failure to comply with this section.

- E.4. State Furnished Property. The Contractor shall be responsible for the correct use, maintenance, and protection of all articles of nonexpendable, tangible personal property furnished by the State for the Contractor's use under this Contract. Upon termination of this Contract, all property furnished by the State shall be returned to the State in the same condition as when received, less ordinary wear and tear. Should the property be destroyed, lost, or stolen, the Contractor shall be responsible to the State for the fair market value of the property at the time of loss.

WITNESS WHEREOF,

**CONTRACTOR LEGAL ENTITY NAME:**

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CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE

DATE

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PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTOR SIGNATORY (above)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

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PENNY SCHWINN, COMMISSIONER

DATE

# Required Attestation Regarding Personnel Used In Contract Performance

<b>SUBJECT CONTRACT NUMBER:</b>	
<b>CONTRACTOR LEGAL ENTITY NAME:</b>	
<b>EDISON VENDOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:</b>	

The Contractor, identified above, does hereby attest, certify, warrant, and assure that the Contractor shall not knowingly utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract and shall not knowingly utilize the services of any subcontractor who will utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract.

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**CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE**

NOTICE: This attestation MUST be signed by an individual empowered to contractually bind the Contractor. Attach evidence documenting the individual's authority to contractually bind the Contractor, unless the signatory is the Contractor's chief executive or president.

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**PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNATORY**

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**DATE OF ATTESTATION**