

Request for Information No. 1

RFP No. 25/26-04 Web Design and Hosting and Notification Systems

October 7, 2025

Response to Proposers' Questions

1.1 Question: How are Ed Tech JPA RFPs run and awarded?

Answer: Ed Tech JPA offers multiple awards so its members can leverage the vendors that best meet their needs. Ed Tech JPA's RFP team will review Vendor Proposals and award to Vendors who comply with all terms and conditions (no substantial exceptions) and meet all essential requirements. Essential requirements are denoted in the RFP with double asterisks and green highlighting.

Vendors should also answer non-essential criteria (blue highlighting) to the best of their ability. Ed Tech JPA members vary in size from 1,500 ADA to 600,000 ADA, and have different needs. Ed Tech JPA will make all prevailing Proposals available to members for review. Members will determine what requirements are most important to them and use the information in Proposals to determine which Vendor best fits the needs of their organization.

Vendors who meet all essential requirements (green, double asterisks) and agree to the terms and conditions will be considered for award contingent upon successful contract negotiations. Non-essential criteria (blue) are optional. Vendors are encouraged to respond to non-essential criteria so member districts can make a determination regarding which solution is the best fit for their needs.

Additionally, the Functionality and Usability RFP is sectioned into different modules. Essential requirements are required only to be considered for award in those specific sections. For example, if a vendor agrees to all terms and conditions and meets all essential requirements for sections 3.1 - 3.5, but not for sections 3.6 - 3.9 they will be awarded for sections 3.1 - 3.5. Below is an example of a possible award scenario.

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JPA members have varying needs, and some may require services for only some modules included in this RFP. Members will evaluate Proposals based on their specific needs, so please include a clear description of what your solution offers.

If offering multiple separate solutions please be clear in your proposal which solution meets each criteria by either including separate sections for each product, or differentiating in responses:

Example 1:

3.6 - Notification/Communications System: response to all criteria

3.9 - Campus Safety: - no response

3.6 - Notification/Communications System: - no response

3.9 -Campus Safety: response to all criteria

Example 2:

**2.1.5 Specify whether the Solution is Vendor-hosted (web/cloud-based) or Participant hosted (on-premise).
Notification/Communications System:: <i>Our Notification/Communications System is web/cloud based...</i>
Campus Safety: <i>Our Campus Safety solution is on-premise</i>

Please also be sure to list each product separately in the Pricing Form.

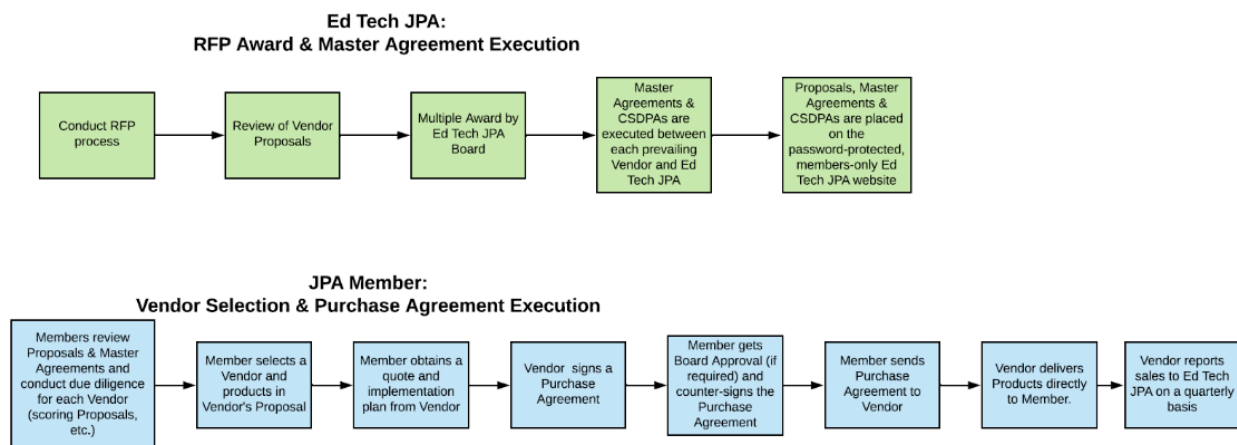
1.2 Question: Are contracts available for future Ed Tech JPA members as well, or just to members at the time the RFP is run?

Answer: When a member joins Ed Tech JPA it can leverage any current or previously awarded contract. The membership process is very quick and straightforward. There are no fees for members to join. Ed Tech JPA provides sample board agenda and resolution templates for members in an effort to assist members with their boards' required approvals. The [Ed Tech JPA Membership](#) site contains detailed instructions for prospective members.

1.3 Question: Once the RFP is awarded, how do Ed Tech JPA members enter into agreements with awarded vendors?

Answer: Prevailing vendors will enter into a Master Agreement with the Ed Tech JPA. When JPA members elect to purchase a vendor's product they will enter into a Purchase Agreement between the

vendor and JPA member. Samples of the Master Agreement and Purchase Agreements are included as Appendix A of the RFP. For additional clarity please refer to the illustration below.



1.4 **Question:** Why is the JPA releasing a new RFP, when there are already web design & hosting, notification, and electronic document agreements awarded under the previous Ed Tech JPA RFPs from 2020 and 2023?

Answer: Ed Code section 17596 limits contract terms to a maximum five (5) years. The previous RFP for Web Design and Hosting was awarded in March 2021. Releasing this RFP allows for award and contract negotiations with responsive vendors with no lapse in contract availability for a web design and hosting solution for Ed Tech JPA's members.

Many web design and hosting providers also provide additional services, such as notification and electronic document routing solutions. Ed Tech JPA has elected to combine these RPS in the interest of consolidating the RFPs. We are releasing the Notification Systems and Electronic Document Routing RFPs in combination with the Web Design and Hosting RFP in an effort to streamline the procurement process. Vendors who do not provide all services should respond only to the functionality and usability sections for services they provide.

Vendors who currently have agreements for web design and hosting, notification, and electronic document routing with Ed Tech JPA are encouraged to respond to this solicitation, to avoid a lapse in contract availability for members. Ed Tech JPA does not anticipate re-releasing a procurement for these services until the term end dates of agreements resulting from this solicitation is approaching.

1.5 **Question:** Is it possible for more than one vendor to be awarded?

Answer: Yes, all vendors who meet all essential requirements (green, double asterisks) and agree to the terms and conditions will be considered for award contingent upon successful contract negotiations.

1.6 **Question:** I also received a separate email regarding a **novation agreement**. I wanted to clarify — are we able to complete just the novation agreement, or do we still need to submit an entirely new proposal?

Answer: The purpose of the [novation agreement](#) (circulated to all current Ed Tech JPA Vendor Partners and Members), was to provide a vehicle for them to transition current non-Ed Tech JPA purchases to Ed Tech JPA Purchase Agreements. The novation agreement was created by Ed Tech JPA General Counsel at the request of JPA Members who needed a formal procurement vehicle in order to continue services that they had previously implemented.

Education Code section 17596 limits the maximum term of contracts for educational agencies to five years. This RFP is being issued at this time to ensure that we have new Website Hosting and Notification System agreements in place in advance of the end of the five-year term for the agreements from our previous procurement. Understanding that many Vendors offer options for both Website and Notification Solutions, the past RFPs were combined into a single procurement to reduce workload for our potential Vendor Partners and streamline the resulting agreements. Ed Tech JPA reissues its procurements every 3-5 years to (1) ensure that new products and innovative solutions may be available to our Members, and (2) ensure that successor agreements are available for Members and Vendors that wish to continue their partnerships after the five-year term.

Vendors who have existing agreements for the JPA should respond to this RFP to (if awarded) establish a successor agreement, but may not extend an existing agreement. For Vendors with existing agreements, our Ed Tech JPA team will take into consideration any previously agreed to contract terms as a starting point for our negotiations after award.

1.7 **Question:** How soon after award would a vendor expect to receive interest or outreach from JPA members?

Answer: We time awards with peak purchasing timelines for school districts and county offices. Typically after an award we enter into contract negotiations. If you have minimum requests for changes to the standard Ed Tech JPA agreement, or if you wish to incorporate previously agreed to redlines from an existing Ed Tech JPA Agreement, contracting can go quickly. The contracting process for Vendors who request significant changes to the standard agreements may take significantly longer. Please see RFI. No. 1.3 for details about the different contracting agreements. As soon as Ed Tech JPA has agreements finalized they are added to the website. Members are notified about finalized agreements through monthly updates. We created the timeline for this RFP to allow us to have most of the resulting agreements available in the spring. This timeline helps to align the agreements to annual renewals for educational agencies and marketing opportunities at the CASBO conference in April 2026.

1.8 **Question:** How many vendors are currently awarded?

Answer: 6 for web design & 4 for notifications (please see below). Please note that additional notification system offerings may also be available under other procurements (e.g., Learning Management Solutions).

[illegible]

Active Internet Technologies, LLC dba FinalSite	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Image X Media Inc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intrado Interactive Services Corporation *no longer available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
KWALL LLC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pantheon Systems Inc. *no longer available	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
SchoolPointe, Inc. *No Longer Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Soprisapps, LLC dba SchoolBlocks.com	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



NOTIFICATION SYSTEM PLATFORM

Vendor	General	School & District Administration to Families	Teachers to Families	Community Messaging	Two-Way Communication	Mobile Functionality	Tipline/ Hotline	Contact Management	Reporting	Attendance
Apptegy, Inc. Please see Web Design Agreements	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Active Internet Technologies LLC. dba Finalsitedata	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bloomz Inc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
PowerSchool Group LLC (formerly Intrado)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

1.9 **Question:** How many members made purchases using the previously run RFPs (Web Design and Notification respectively)?

Answer: Between both RFPs, we have had contracts with 39 public agencies executed, resulting in 147 sales for the awarded vendors. These figures do not include any sales made after July 1, 2025 as awarded vendors report sales on a quarterly basis. These figures also do not include sales made of Notification Systems or Electronic Document Routing Solutions made in connection with other procurements (e.g., Learning Management Solutions).

1.10 **Question:** Is a list of awarded vendors publicly available?

Answer: Yes, awarded contracts and vendors are listed on the Ed Tech JPA website: <https://edtechjpa.org/services/jpa-contracts>.

1.11 **Question:** Is this going to be like a 3rd party? Do you require a 3rd party audit, or is it self compliance for FERPA and CCPA?

Answer: For the purposes of the award we are looking for vendors to respond to all compliance related questions, as well as committing to signing the National Student Data Privacy Agreement. The RFP document requires Vendors to provide information about their security safeguards and to commit to providing audit information upon request by a customer. Ed Tech JPA does not require Vendors to complete a new or customized security audit to be eligible for award under this RFP.

1.12 **Question:** How can we add more products in the future, after the award? There are sometimes state pass required mandates, etc. that result in changes to products and as well as new product development.

Answer: Section 8 in the Master Agreement with the Ed Tech JPA addresses the addition of new products. If you have a new product offering which replaces a solution proposed under this RFP in full or in part, this can be done in a straightforward amendment. Additionally, each subsection in Section 3 of the RFP requirements includes an opportunity for Vendors to describe additional software and features that are not specifically requested in the RFP. These modules can be listed in the appropriate requirements section and added to the pricing form.

If the new product offering does not relate to the underlying awarded solutions, or would not be contemplated under additional functionality, then we would be unable to add it to this RFP but vendors are encouraged to look at the Ed Tech JPA website for other possible RFPs which it may fall under.

1.13 **Question:** Is K-12 sector-specific experience/past performance mandatory, or will similar-scale private sector web design /hosting projects satisfy the requirement?

Answer: Having some public sector experience is preferred. Ed Tech JPA will consider Solutions that do not have K-12 references if the provider has an established product in use in environments similar in size and scale to the K-12 environment. Vendors must demonstrate in their response to the RFP criteria that their experience is sufficient to give our Members confidence that their solution would

be successful in K-12. For example, a post-secondary Student Information System would not be comparable to a K-12 SIS. Through this RFP, we are looking for established solutions, not a design-build effort from the ground up.

1.14 **Question:** Can you clarify whether vendor responsibility for WCAG 2.1 AA compliance is limited to the platform itself, or if it also extends to participant-generated content such as PDFs and other documents uploaded to the site?

Answer: If the core product is compliant, it is likely that it will meet the requirements for award. For “user generated content” please be sure to specify if your solution offers compliance checkers built in. This would not be a barrier for the JPA to award, but may be a determining factor when members are scoring products.

1.15 **Question:** If awarded, could you please describe how schools would discover which vendors have been awarded and if there are possibilities for further promotion of awarded solutions?

Answer: After award Vendors are added to the website, and members have access to members-only password-protected webpages that include the proposals. Members are notified of new procurements, awards, and available agreements through a monthly update. The JPA attends CASBO and CITE conferences, regional meetings, and procurement professional development sessions, where the JPA is promoted. Our team provides signage and handouts for Vendors participating in the CITE and CASBO conferences to advertise the availability of their contracts with the JPA. Vendors hosting their own webinars and events have also invited JPA board members to attend. The JPA can help advertise those events by adding them to our website and monthly updates. If Vendor Partners have other marketing strategies they would like to discuss they can reach out to us directly.

1.16 **Question:** If a member has been utilizing the previous Notification or Web Design RFPs and an awarded vendor does not apply to this RFP, would members be able to continue purchasing under the previous RFP? Does the JPA help members transition to newly awarded vendors?

Answer: If a member has a PA under a previous RFP, and the vendor is not awarded under the new RFP there would not be a new agreement through Ed Tech JPA for the member to utilize. Education Code section 17596 limits the maximum term of contracts for educational agencies to five years. They would be unable to extend their Ed Tech JPA contract beyond that term. If the cost of a new agreement is not over the bid limit, and the Member’s organization does not require formal procurements, Members and Vendors may be able to directly contract to continue services for a short time. Please bear in mind, some counties interpret the bid limit as applying the total life of the contract. For example, the cost of an agreement structured with annual renewals for up to three years would be the total three-year cost of the agreement. If members cannot continue to leverage JPA agreements the members would need to find their own purchasing vehicle for the desired product or transition to a product with a current JPA agreement. They are welcome to use JPA criteria for their own procurements.

1.17 **Question:** How can prospective customers leverage the JPA agreements under this RFP?

Answer: To leverage Ed Tech JPA RFPs, prospective customers would need to (1) become a member of the Ed Tech JPA, (2) obtain a quote and purchase agreement from the Vendor Partner they wish to purchase from, and (3) follow their internal processes for approval and purchasing. They would not need to issue their own RFP or bid.

Any public agency can become a member of Ed Tech JPA for free. Instructions for prospective members are available on our [Ed Tech JPA website](#). The membership process is very quick and all Members are able to utilize any previously awarded agreements whose term is still valid and any future agreements. Vendor Partners are welcome to refer prospective customers to our Ed Tech JPA team (edtechjpasupport@iusd.org) for assistance with the Membership process to facilitate a purchase. Members do not pay any fees. The Admin Fee referenced in the RFP and Master Agreement is charged to Vendors, and is paid quarterly by vendors based on their sales under the RFP.

1.18 **Question:** This is largely CA based, but is it available across the US for other entities to join?

Answer: Yes, any public agency can join. Ed Tech JPA has modeled its procurement practices to meet California requirements. Public Agencies outside of California are welcome to join Ed Tech JPA. We recommend that agencies outside of California consult their own procurement experts and/or legal counsel to verify that our practices meet requirements specific to their state or region.

The majority of our current Members are located in California. However, we also have members in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia.

1.19 **Question:** Is a login required to view the RFP?

Answer: We apologize for any confusion when attempting to access the RFP documents. There were errors when the webpage was first published. Issues related to publication were resolved on the day it was released. Please feel free to access the webpage at <https://edtechjpa.org/procurement/current-procurements>.