

Request for Information No. I
RFP No. 20/21-03 Social and Emotional Learning Assessment System
February 26, 2021

Response to Proposers' Questions

1.1 **Question:** Whether companies from Outside USA can apply for this? (like,from India or Canada)

Answer: Vendors submitting Proposals must be located in either the United States or in a country where the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) governs.

Vendors who are not located in the United States, but who are located in a country where the GDPR governs (Foreign Vendors), must include at least three (3) references located within the United States that use the Solution in their response to Criteria No. 1.11 in Attachment 1 of the RFP. Foreign Vendors must also agree to the Standard Student Data Privacy Agreement with no redlines/amendments. Vendors should note that some Ed Tech JPA members may have board policies and procedures that limit their ability to contract with agencies outside the United States.

An Amendment to the RFP will be issued to the RFP regarding this RFI Question.

1.2 **Question:** Whether we need to come over there for meetings?

Answer: Pursuant to the Advertisement and section 3.5 of the RFP the non-mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held via conference call. Vendors who wish to attend should RSVP to EdTechJPA@iusd.org. There is no requirement to appear in person to respond to this RFP.

1.3 **Question:** Can we perform the tasks (related to RFP) outside USA? (like, from India or Canada)

Answer: Vendors submitting Proposals must perform the proposed Solution in either the United States or in a country where the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) governs.

Vendors who do not perform their proposed Solutions in the United States, but whose performance is in a country where the GDPR governs (Foreign Vendors), must include at least three (3) references located within the United States that use the Solution in their response to Criteria No. 1.11 in Attachment 1 of the RFP. Foreign Vendors must also agree to the California Student Data Privacy Agreement with no redlines/amendments. Vendors should note that Ed Tech JPA members may have board policies and procedures that limit their ability to contract with agencies outside the United States.

An Amendment to the RFP will be issued to the RFP regarding this RFI Question.

1.4 **Question:** Can we submit the proposals via email?

Answer: Pursuant to section 3.2 of the RFP: “No hard copies shall be required in response to RFP No. 20/21-03. Vendors who elect not to submit hard copies may submit electronic copies via email to EdTechJPA@iusd.org. Attachment files must be no greater than 25 megabytes. File sizes larger than 25 megabytes may be submitted via a file share option such as Dropbox or Google Folder. Please submit Proposal in one file (not multiple files).”

1.5 **Question:** Is this RFP winner-take-all or will there be multiple award winners?

Answer: This is not a winner take all RFP. Ed Tech JPA typically will award to multiple qualified vendors. Ed Tech JPA has a diverse membership. Ed Tech JPA member organizations vary in size from about 1,000 students to over 125,000 students. Their needs are very different and we aim to ensure our members have access to Solutions that are the best fit for them.

Ed Tech JPA’s Social and Emotional Learning Assessment System RFP team will review Vendor Proposals and award to Vendors who comply with all terms and conditions of the RFP (no substantial exceptions to the RFP document or contract terms) 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. The 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.

Additionally, the 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 - 3.3, but not for section 3.4 they will be awarded for sections 3.1 - 3.3. Below is an example of a possible award scenario.

Vendor	Assessment	Assessment Results and Reports	Integrations and Data Analysis	Response and Intervention
Vendor A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vendor B	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Vendor C	Yes	Yes	No	No

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.

1.6 **Question:** How many district members and/or associate members have contributed to the requirements or expressed interest for the Social and Emotional Learning Assessment System?

Answer: The seven founding members of Ed Tech JPA have contributed to the requirements, with Irvine USD taking the lead in crafting and refining requirements for publication. The Social and Emotional Learning Assessment System RFP was not originally slated for release this fiscal year, and was added at the request of several members. The JPA did not take a survey of its full membership regarding widespread needs of members related to this particular RFP.

1.7 **Question:** What has been the adoption rate among members for RFP? For example, do 50% of members leverage agreements for vendors selected by the JPA?

Answer: The adoption rate for JPA awarded vendors and fully negotiated agreements varies for each awarded solution. Some factors that affect the number of members leveraging awarded agreements are: how widespread the use is of the solution is, timing of the RFP, and how effective the vendor is about marketing the partnership with the JPA. Some only have 1-2 clients off. Canvas/Instructure has close to 40 members utilizing their agreement Titan also has large numbers (30 or so).

1.8 **Question:** Will there be feedback on submitted proposals vendors that are determined not to be successful; particularly around criteria Ed Tech JPA considers essential?

Answer: Ed Tech JPA typically conducts preliminary scoring and sends clarifying questions to vendors regarding responses that need additional input to determine final scores. Beyond that, if a vendor would like more feedback, vendors may set up a meeting after award and we can review questions.

1.9 **Question:** What is Ed Tech JPA's definition of an "assessment system"?

Answer: A broad definition regarding what Ed Tech JPA considers an assessment system is a solution that provides actionable data to teachers, administrators, and support providers regarding student social and emotional learning. Assessments would ideally be strengths-based regarding how students cope with day-to-day challenges. Irvine USD has identified the following 3 tiers for a social and emotional learning assessment system:

Tier 1: Preliminary assessment or universal screeners. These would ideally be able to incorporate seamlessly into a classroom setting and identify students in need of additional support. Irvine USD typically administers these at least twice a year. Teachers may also administer these on an as-needed basis. These screening assessments should give teachers and administrators insight into strengths and concerns for individual students and groups of students relative to standards for social emotional learning.

Tier 2: Diagnostic assessments. Diagnostic assessments would likely be offered on a more targeted basis to fine tune areas of concern and/or supports needed for individual students.

Tier 3: Progress monitoring. Progress monitoring assessments would be designed to assess student progress and/or the efficacy of interventions that have been applied to individual students or student groups.

1.10 **Question:** Do vendors need all data in assessments to be self-identifying on a student basis, with data that is not anonymous, and have the ability to provide intervention on a student by student basis?

Answer: The Ed Tech JPA represents diverse agencies, including single schools and very large districts and each JPA member has unique preferences related to assessment and reports.

Ideally for Irvine USD a Solution would allow for flexibility related to which users have access to information. It would be beneficial for administrators to view results across a grade level (reports that allow aggregate data and may include security to protect the privacy of individual student results). IUSD would like to have the capability for both individual student results and also aggregate overall reporting. Vendors should be clear about what features their Solution offers in Attachment 1: Section 3.2: Assessment Results and Reports.

1.11 **Question:** In the RFP selection process will any attention be paid to internal consistency reliability or content validity?

Answer: Yes, Ed Tech JPA's Social and Emotional Learning Assessment System RFP Scoring Team will take reliability and validity into account when scoring. Attachment 1: Section 3.1: Assessment includes criteria related to reliability and validity.

1.12 **Question:** What age range of assessments are you looking for?

Answer: The Ed Tech JPA represents diverse agencies, including single schools and very large districts. We wrote this RFP to be very flexible in response to their diverse needs. Each JPA member has unique preferences related to the desired age range of assessments.

While IUSD would prefer assessments that are available for grades 3-12, most members at least will require assessments for high-school age students.

1.13 **Question:** Attachment 1 in the RFP is the substantial part of the vendor's proposal form, and is in PDF format. We're planning to complete this in Word and convert to PDF. Can vendors be provided Attachment 1 in Word format? Can vendors make a copy of the Google Doc and turn that in?

Answer: On the JPA website a PDF of the full RFP is provided. Listed directly under the PDF version, a link to the vendor response template is posted. The link connects to a Google Drive with a Word version of the Vendor Response Template for vendor's completion. Please complete the full

response template to be considered for award. Vendors may attach additional materials to allow members to ascertain if the proposed solution is the right fit for their needs.

1.14 **Question:** In Attachment 1: criteria no. 1.5, may a vendor agree to part a. where it agrees to California, but not agree to part b. which is to other entities?

Answer: Agreeing to only section a. of Attachment 1, Criteria No. 1.5 would narrow the offer to leverage awarded and negotiated agreements to only JPA members within California. This is a reasonable exception to take. For this criteria the best approach would be to agree and include a note referencing the exception. All exceptions must be listed in section 5. The Social and Emotional Learning Assessment System RFP Scoring Team will consider exceptions when scoring proposals and will address any questions via clarifying questions and through contract negotiations after award. Ed Tech JPA has encountered similar exceptions related to limiting entities that may leverage agreements and we have been able to work out specifics in those instances.

1.15 **Question:** In Attachment 1: criteria no. 1.12.13, what is meant by “new vendor is to ensure minimal interruption with previous vendor”?

Answer: The intent behind this criteria is to ensure a smooth transition from any previous providers. Vendors should state what their capabilities are related to importing previous assessment results and migrating data from a previous provider.

1.16 **Question:** Is there currently a social and emotional learning assessment system in place today?

Answer: The Ed Tech JPA represents diverse agencies, and each JPA member has a unique situation related to current adoptions of social and emotional learning assessment systems. Many members do not currently have social and emotional learning assessment system in place. Other members may have more informal systems in place (such as systems adopted for only classroom use and not adopted district wide). Other members may have full social and emotional learning assessment systems in place. Irvine USD has piloted solutions in the past but has not yet adopted a district wide social and emotional learning assessment system.

1.17 **Question:** Does the JPA offer opportunities to provide centralized programs such as training with a regional focus in terms of serving customers?

Answer: Ed Tech JPA was formed two years ago and the Bylaws do allow the ability to coordinate training and other programs. This is part of the JPA’s vision. The JPA board is exploring the potential to do this in the near future and plans to address this in our annual planning meeting in June.

1.18 **Question:** In the JPA’s past experience, has vendor award been based primarily on price or functionality and related to the needs of the RFP?

Answer: JPA selection (typically multiple award) is focused on functionality because of the diverse membership. The Ed Tech JPA represents diverse agencies, including single schools and very large districts. We wrote this RFP to be very flexible in response to their diverse needs. Each JPA member has unique preferences related to criteria in the RFP.

After the JPA's preliminary evaluation and award, JPA members may evaluate prevailing proposals. In members' evaluations price plays a much bigger role, and is the highest weighted factor, as required by public procurement laws.