

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Statewide reading research center administrator selection

Date: February 2024

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board State Schools United We Learn

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

Senate Bill (SB) 156 (2023) requires the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), by July 1, 2024, to select the administrator of a statewide reading research center for approval by the Kentucky Board of Education.

The selected center is contracted for five years, beginning by July 1, 2024, unless funding is not available or the center requests to discontinue the contract. For each five-year period thereafter, the KDE must issue a new request for proposals for approval by the KBE.

KDE reviewed proposals submitted in response to the solicitation for the Statewide Reading Research Center. KDE recommends that the highest overall scoring vendor - Vendor A - be the vendor selected for the solicitation "Statewide Reading Research Center". Because of the requirements of KRS Chapter 45A, the name of Vendor A cannot be released at this time. As such, KDE recommends that the KBE take action to authorize the KDE to take any necessary action pursuant to KRS Chapter 45A to negotiate and award a contract to Vendor A for the solicitation "Statewide Reading Research Center."

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The commissioner recommends the KBE approve the statewide reading research center administrator selected by the KDE.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

Senate Bill 156 (2023)

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

SB 156 Section 10 states in part: "The Kentucky Department of Education shall, through a competitive bidding process, select the administrator of the statewide reading research center to be established under Section 1 of this Act for approval by the Kentucky Board of Education no later than July 1, 2024."

The selected center is contracted for five years, beginning July 1, 2024, unless funding is not available or the administrator requests to discontinue the contract. For each five year period thereafter, the KDE must issue a new request for proposals for approval by the KBE. Per SB 156 Section 1(4), “[t]he Kentucky Department of Education shall, through a competitive request for proposals process, select the administrator of the statewide reading research center for approval by the Kentucky Board of Education.”

The selected center is contracted for five years, beginning by July 1, 2024, unless funding is not available or the center requests to discontinue the contract. For each five-year period thereafter, the KDE must issue a new request for proposals for approval by the KBE.

Summary of Issue:

The KDE has completed the competitive request for proposals process and selected an administrator to perform the requirements provided under SB 156 for approval by the KBE. Board member materials include the published Request for Proposals which is aligned to the deliverables required under SB 156. The contractual process cannot begin until the KBE has approved the selected administrator.

Budget Impact:

Pursuant to SB 156, the statewide reading research center receives \$1.2 million in lottery funds.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

The request for proposals scoring team and technical advisors were consulted in the selection of the statewide reading research administrator.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Micki Ray, Chief Academic Officer
Office of Teaching and Learning
Email: micki.ray@education.ky.gov
(502) 564-9850

Robin Fields Kinney
Commissioner of Education

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