



Mississippi Department of Education
Office of Early Childhood
Procurement of Early Learning Collaborative Pilot of the
Comprehensive Early Learning Assessment

1. A description of the commodity that the agency is seeking to procure;

The Learning Accomplishment Profile - Third Edition (LAP-3) is a criterion-referenced assessment instrument for the 36-72 month age range, measuring development in the domains of gross motor, fine motor, pre-writing, cognitive, language, self-help, and social/emotional. It is a re-examination of the contents and organization of the LAP-R which incorporates recent research, especially related to language and literacy and assimilates recent changes in the general population of young children. Its on-going observation format allows teachers and/or clinicians to record a child's progress and introduce appropriate activities to support acquired and emerging skills.

LAP-3 Features

Replaces the LAP-R as an on-going assessment that meets Head Start performance standards
Building on 35 years of research and knowledge
Incorporates most recent findings in early childhood practices (most recent research in 2003)
Covers 7 domains - Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Pre-writing, Cognitive, Language, Self-Help and Personal/Social
Measures progress in children 36-72 months of age
Technology that features CD-ROM/Web scoring

2. An explanation of why the commodity is the only one that can meet the needs of the agency;

Overview

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) will utilize a comprehensive early learning assessment as part of an annual evaluation to assess the effectiveness of pre-kindergarten (pre-k) classrooms.

From the *Effectiveness Evaluation of Early Learning Collaboratives and Other Pre-K Classrooms*:

Schools providing services to pre-kindergarten (pre-k) aged children, will receive an annual evaluation to ensure the effectiveness of services on improving children's learning and well-being. Evaluation occurs for the Early Learning Collaboratives (collaborative) and other Pre-K classrooms (e.g. Title I, local-funded, tuition-based) in Mississippi public schools. Evaluation consists of two parts: rate of readiness and monitoring.

The rate of readiness is a score assigned to each site through completion of specific evaluation tools that assess how children grow academically and developmentally throughout a school year

and how the classroom environment and teaching practices support children's learning. A site score is comprised of the sum of sub-scores from the following tools:

- The Mississippi K-3 Assessment Support System (MKAS²)
- A comprehensive early learning assessment (CELA)
- Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)

In the process of the State approving the Effectiveness Evaluation Plan, the Academic Achievement Sub-Committee expressed interest in identifying one assessment to use for the CELA.

Criteria Setting

In March - July of 2015 members of the Early Childhood Task Force came together to establish the priorities for assessing and monitoring children's development. The identified priorities were as follows:

[Purpose] What do we want to use a screener for?

1. Provide teachers with information to drive instruction
2. Identify need for additional screening, including health screenings
3. Provide information to families

[Content] What do we want this screener to measure?

Development in the following domains:

1. Social & Emotional
2. Language Development
3. Cognition & General Knowledge
4. Physical Well-being & Motor Development
5. Approaches to Learning

[Process] Considerations for Use

1. Time and Ease of Use
 - a. Can be conducted in 20 minutes or less, and point to additional, longer screenings if necessary
 - b. Teacher or child care worker can give with minimal training, administered through both electronic and paper/pencil method
2. Reliable and Valid
 - a. Including for diverse populations, both high-poverty and rural
 - b. For different languages— English, Spanish, and Vietnamese
3. Age
 - a. Provide information on children from birth to age 8
 - b. Track growth and outcomes across multiple years
4. Background Information
 - a. Family survey and observation components, including basic medical history (i.e., premature birth, surgeries, etc)
5. Expected Products
 - a. Family-friendly report
 - b. Instructional planning report for teacher
6. Online data collection and reporting

The CELA selected should meet all of the above criteria, to the greatest extent possible.

CELA RFI and Stakeholder Rating

The MDE staff reviewed all of the current literature, evaluations, and ratings of the nationally used and standardized screening and assessment tools to see which ones best met the criteria set by the committee. Four tools stood out as meeting most of the criteria out of 50 tools reviewed.

The MDE then scheduled a Request for Information with the vendors of the four tools. The vendors presented the information to an early childhood stakeholder committee who rated each tool separately based on how well it met the criteria identified above. The committee consisted of teachers, administrators and key stakeholders throughout the state from early learning collaboratives, school districts, Head Start, child care, state offices, mental health, community colleges, and institutions of higher learning. The committee was also able to provide comments regarding the feasibility of implementation.

4. An explanation of why the source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity;

See Overview in question 2.

5. An explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable;

The online account cost for each child is \$8.95. Each site will receive one kit of materials for every five classrooms to utilize during the assessment. We will need 70 kits and the scoring booklets to total \$34,240.75. The total expenditure for the assessment will be \$49,455.75.

6. The efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity.

Catalog price for assessment online account, assessment kits, and assessment books are: \$67,487.25.
Quoted price for assessment online account, assessment kits, and assessment books are: \$49,455.