

SBE Sole Source Notification

Mastery-Based Learning Evaluation

It is the intent of Washington State to promote open competition and transparency for all contracts for goods and services. In accordance with Department of Enterprise Service (DES) policy #DES-140-00, all intended sole source contracts must be made available for public inspection for a period of not less than ten (10) working days before the start date of the contract. This Sole Source Notification satisfies the requirement.

The State Board of Education resides within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction for administrative purposes only.

The State Board of Education (SBE) intends to award a \$440,000 sole source contract to the North American Council for Online Learning (the Aurora Institute) for the period of November 2021, through June 30, 2024. The purpose of this contract is to consult on and evaluate a Mastery-based learning (MBL) demonstration project providing professional learning to educators in select school districts throughout Washington State. The project's overarching goal is to inform future policy by helping decision-makers better understand what quality MBL looks like, how long it takes to implement, and what resources are necessary. Project evaluation is intended to inform the identification of effective policies, practices, and system changes that can contribute to the application of MBL programs throughout the Washington K-12 education system. Evaluation includes formative evaluation.

Per Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5092, Section 502(2) funds are provided for implementation of mastery-based learning in school district demonstration sites for the purpose of addressing learning recovery and other educational issues related to COVID-19.

In order to effectively carry out its charge (and the overarching goal of informing policy work), SBE needs consultation and evaluation services provided by a contractor with extensive experience consulting on and evaluating mastery-based learning projects.

The Aurora Institute (AI) is uniquely qualified to provide these services as they have influenced mastery-based learning policy in all 50 states, including at least 15 states in 2021. In fact, the Washington's legislative definition of mastery-based learning (2019 E2SHB 1599) is based on the Aurora Institute's definition of competency-based learning, which AI developed in collaboration with 100 experts in the field.

AI's policy team has extensive policy experience at the local, state, and federal levels, with a particular focus on synchronizing policy and practice while driving transformation to personalized, competency-based education. They have worked in policy roles for the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. House of Representatives, legislators, and education foundations and nonprofit

organizations. Members of their team also have extensive experience evaluating state and local education initiatives.

In 2020, AI developed and led the National Research Convening on Building the Evidence Base for K-12 Personalized Learning. In addition, AI has developed more than 100 research-based reports related to student-centered, personalized, and competency-based education, as well as more than 2,000 blog posts on their CompetencyWorks (practice-focused) and Education Domain (policy-focused) blogs.

Consultants contemplating the above requirements shall submit capability statements detailing their ability to meet the state's requirements ***no later than 3:00 pm on November 1, 2021***.

In the absence of other qualified sources, and pending approval by the Department of Enterprise Services, it is SBE's intent to make a sole source award of the contract mentioned above to the North American Council for Online Learning.

Although this Sole Source Notification is not an invitation to bid, if you feel your firm is able to provide the goods or services listed above, you may submit a capability statement to:

Kyla Moore
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Email: contracts@k12.wa.us