

**Nebraska Department of Education
Responds to Questions**

**NDERFA251008
Innovation Grant Learning Platform**

Questions	Answers
For the Questionnaire, if a one-page Appendix is needed to supplement a response, should this page be provided in addition to the text entered in the Questionnaire field, or should it replace the text field response (i.e., limiting the total response length to one page)?	The page should be provided in addition to the text entered in the Questionnaire field.
The RFA uses “or” in describing content areas, while the Questionnaire/response list uses “and.” What is NDE’s expectation for scope of content coverage required for adoption?	Neb. Rev. Statute 79-1054(2)(c)(ii) requires the State Board of Education to establish a grant program to engage students in "coursework and careers in science, technology, engineering, AND mathematics..." and further states the platform "is designed to teach information related to chemistry, physical science, OR mathematics." Vendors should respond to the proposal noting which content areas apply to their respective platform(s).
Questionnaire Item 3 asks about evaluations of program effectiveness. Could NDE clarify whether a formal third-party evaluation is expected, or if internal evaluation methods such as in-application data collection and user feedback would satisfy this requirement? If a formal evaluation is required, may related costs be included in the project budget?	The NDERFA251008 does not call for an evaluation. Should a vendor wish to include evaluation as part of their proposal, such costs should be included in a per student user cost.
The NDE Vendor Cost Sheet includes both a “Cost per Student User (Required)” and “Total Project Costs.” Could NDE clarify how these should relate? For example, should the total reflect a projected number of student users multiplied by the per-student rate, or include any one-time implementation activities?	The NDE intends to reimburse per student usage. Costs should be provided in a per student format and explain how the usage will be verified.
Could NDE clarify the expected funding mechanisms for district outreach, professional development, and training or technical support activities?	The NDE intends to reimburse per student usage. Costs should be provided in a per student format and explain how the usage will be verified.

The RFA indicates that invoices must be based on verified student usage. Could NDE confirm whether vendor-provided tracking and reporting will satisfy this requirement, or if any additional verification or validation processes will be required by NDE?	The NDE intends to reimburse per student usage. Costs should be provided in a per student format and explain how the usage will be verified.
May vendors include additional proposed pricing terms, policies, or explanatory notes in an appendix to supplement the NDE Vendor Cost Sheet, as long as no changes are made to the required fields or structure of the form?	The NDE Vendor Cost Sheet does not allow for additional information. Costs should be provided in a per student format and explain how the usage will be verified.
The RFA requests a development approach and work plan (in “Technical Response”) but also defines the deliverable as a cost-per-student license for an existing platform. Could NDE clarify whether proposals should include new development work, and if so, how that should be reflected in the pricing structure?	The RFA's Technical Response section asks for details around the product and vendor including development approach and work plan. The RFA's Cost section asks for a per student user cost. The vendor may choose to include, or not to include, parts of their work in the per student user cost.
What are "Completed Sections II through IV" referring to? Please clarify what is required for submission.	"Completed Section II through IV" on page 18 refers to the questions posed in Section II: Terms and Conditions, Section III: Vendor Duties, and Section IV: Payment (pages 18 - 31). Submission requirements are detailed throughout NDERFA251008.
Could NDE provide additional guidance on what specific information or level of detail is expected within the Technical Response section of the proposal?	See pages 34-35 of NDERFA251008 for expectations regarding the Technical Response section.
The RFA notes that payment will be “based on the deliverable of student usage.” Could NDE please clarify whether other components—such as initial configuration, educator onboarding, or compliance setup—may also qualify as deliverables for invoicing under the contract?	The NDE intends to reimburse per student usage. Costs should be provided in a per student format and explain how the usage will be verified as described in Section IV C. Invoices on pages 29-30.
May vendors use the “List of Deliverables” field within the NDE Vendor Cost Sheet to summarize multiple deliverable categories (e.g., configuration, training, student access) while retaining the required cost-per-student field?	A vendor may utilize the "List of Deliverables" field on the NDE's Vendor Cost Sheet with the understanding that the NDE intends to reimburse per student usage.

For platforms requiring initial configuration, integration, or readiness activities prior to student use, may vendors include these as part of the cost proposal—either in the total project cost or as a discrete deliverable listed in the Cost Sheet?	The RFA's Cost section asks for a per student user cost. The vendor may choose to include, or not to include, parts of their work in the per student user cost.
Does NDE have interest in localized or Nebraska-specific content, features, or educator training components as part of the implementation? If so, may vendors propose an associated cost structure for such customization?	The RFA's Cost section asks for a per student user cost. The vendor may choose to include, or not to include, parts of their work in the per student user cost.
To support accurate pricing, does NDE plan to provide an estimated or minimum number of student users for the initial performance period, or should vendors propose their own projected usage assumptions?	A vendor may propose what they believe is an attainable number of student users for their own projected usage assumptions.
May vendors include a minimum annual student user commitment within the “Total Project Costs” field of the NDE Vendor Cost Sheet, while retaining the required “Cost per Student User”? This would account for the fixed costs necessary to maintain statewide platform readiness, educator onboarding, and technical support prior to verified student usage.	The RFA's Cost section asks for a per student user cost. The vendor may choose to include, or not to include, parts of their work in the per student user cost.
Will NDE centrally authorize district participation under the awarded contract, or will individual districts be expected to execute separate participation agreements/purchase orders?	The NDE will execute a contract with a vendor to procure a statewide annual license that will be available to all Nebraska school districts. In Attachment C: Questionnaire, applicants are asked, "Describe how your organization would recruit school districts and enroll users to use the learning platform."
Does NDE anticipate providing centralized rostering/SSO (e.g., Google Workspace, Clever, Class Link) at the state level, or should vendors plan for district-by-district onboarding? If centralized, which methods are supported?	The NDE is unable to support centralized rostering at this time.

<p>Page 12 of the RFA outlines a schedule of events. Line 4 indicates the RFA Submission Due Date is Friday, October 31, 2025; however, Line 5 indicates solicitations must be submitted “by electronic mail by the opening date and time,” which is listed as 2:00 p.m. CT on Monday, November 3, 2025. Could you clarify the submission deadline and resolve the discrepancy between these two instructions?</p>	<p>The RFA submission deadline is 2pm CT on November 3, 2025. A revision has been made to the schedule of events on page 12 of NDERFA251008 to reflect this.</p>
<p>The solicitation indicates, "Each evaluation category will have a maximum point potential." What are the sections and the points that will be available to be awarded in each section? What is the criteria for how points will be awarded for each section?</p>	<p>The three categories are Corporate Overview: 0-40 Points, Technical: 0-40 Points, and Cost proposal: 0-20 points. Criteria for each category can be found in section I.P.1-3 in the RFA.</p>
<p>The solicitation indicates, with regard to grading the cost section, “Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-808 allows State agencies to consider a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, the quality of performance of previous contracts to be considered when evaluating responses to competitive solicitations in determining a responsible bidder” and mentions preference to veterans. What information should respondents provide in response to the cost section in addition to the Attachment A – Cost Sheet, which only requests Cost per Student User (Required) and Total Project Costs?</p>	<p>The cost section requires only that Attachment A - Cost Sheet be completed. Page 16 includes additional instructions to note a variety of factors on Attachment B: Contractual Agreement Form, "Therefore, if a resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone submits a solicitation response in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-107 and has so indicated on the Contractual Agreement Form under “Vendor must complete the following” requesting priority/preference to be considered in the award of this contract</p>
<p>Will applicants have an opportunity to respond to any information the review committee plans to take into account while evaluating the proposal that was not included in the proposal submission?</p>	<p>No.</p>

<p>Section T indicates applicants “may submit a response on an ‘all or none’ or ‘lump sum’ basis;” however, other language in the RFA seems to indicate only per-student user solicitations will be accepted. a) Could you clarify whether both cost models will be considered as eligible responses? b) If so, should applicants submit two separate responses – one with each cost model – or may both cost models be proposed in a single response?</p>	<p>a) As stated in Section T, "Applicants may submit a response on an “all or none” or “lump sum” basis but should also submit a response on an item-by-item basis." b) As stated in answer a), if a vendor submits an "all or none" or "lump sum" basis for cost, that vendor should also submit a response on an item-by-item basis. These instructions do not indicate a second and separate response to be appropriate or necessary.</p>
<p>Is NDERFA251008 the RFA Identification referenced in Section (III)(J)(3)?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Standard software practice in State of Nebraska contracts (e.g., Microsoft, Adobe) is that license provisioning follows invoice/payment because vendors incur costs upon provisioning and, in education, pre-implementation coordination and training amplify those costs. If the State proceeds with a per-student model rather than the statute’s annual statewide license, will the RFP be modified to codify standard terms that access is granted only after payment?</p>	<p>Invoice and payment terms will be determined in the contract. The RFA will not be revised as requested.</p>

<p>Enterprise software contracts (including other Nebraska statewide software contracts) typically do not refund “unused” licenses because the vendor’s costs (infrastructure, support readiness, integrations, PD) are largely fixed. If NDE pursues a per-student licensing construct, will the RFP be revised so that (a) invoices reflect the quantity of licenses NDE elects to procure, and (b) unused licenses are not deemed overpayments or cause for refund—consistent with standard software procurement norms?</p>	<p>a) and b): Cost structure is set out in NDERFA251008. The per student user cost may incorporate any fixed costs associated with the platform(s). The RFA will not be revised as requested.</p>
<p>a) Could you provide guidance on the best way to present information in the Cost Sheet if applicants anticipate that a reasonable amount for cost per student usage could foreseeably outpace the grant funds available, particularly given the statutory directive in §79-1054(2)(c)(iv), which requires that any grant recipient to “provide access to and use of its learning platform to all Nebraska school districts”? b) Will an application be rejected if the proposed price per student license multiplied by the amount of students required to provide access to all Nebraska school districts exceeds the amount of funds available for the grant award? c) Will an application be rejected if the per student price and the total costs do not reflect the ability to provide access to all Nebraska school districts?</p>	<p>a) No additional guidance is available. b) As stated on page 32, "Failure to respond to a specific requirement may be the basis for elimination from consideration during NDE’s comparative evaluation." c) As stated on page 32, "Failure to respond to a specific requirement may be the basis for elimination from consideration during NDE’s comparative evaluation."</p>
<p>The solicitation states: “The Questionnaire for this RFA will be made available on the DAS website for the applicant to submit as a separate attachment along with the proposal. Use of the Questionnaire is mandatory.” a) Is the “Attachment C – Questionnaire:” that is posted on the page with the RFA the Questionnaire referenced in this section? c) If not, could you provide i) A direct pointer (solicitation page/section or file name) to the exact questionnaire document and confirm its attachment name/number (e.g., “Attachment A – Bidder Questionnaire”); ii) The submission mechanics (e.g., upload through State</p>	<p>a) Yes. c) Not applicable. d) Scoring for the questionnaire will be included in the Technical category.</p>

<p>Purchasing's bid portal under the solicitation number, or email to a specified address), including any file-naming and cross-reference requirements; iii) The full list of questions/sections contained in the questionnaire (or publish the file) so vendors can confirm compliance and cross-reference within their proposals; and iv) What scoring is associated with the questionnaire? d) Can you clarify what scoring is associated with the Questionnaire that will be made available and/or "Attachment C – Questionnaire:"?</p>	
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