



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

March 29, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Student Growth Assessment Contract Awards

At the request of school divisions interested in purchasing assessments that are valid measures of student growth for local use, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) solicited proposals for Student Growth Assessments through Request for Proposal (RFP) # DOE-SGA-2012-15. A hyperlink to information about this RFP and resulting contract award is located under "Contracts for School Division Use" at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/school_finance/procurement/index.shtml. The resulting notice of intent to award contracts to ten Student Growth Assessment vendors was posted on March 8, 2013, and includes the following vendors and content assessment areas:

- Consulting, Services and Solutions Group (Mathematics, English, History, Science);
- Curriculum Associates, LLC (Mathematics, Reading);
- Discovery Education Assessment (Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Science);
- GlobalScholar, Inc. (Mathematics, Reading, English/Language Arts, Science);
- Interactive Achievement, Inc. (Mathematics, English, Science, History);
- Imagination Station, Inc. doing business as IStation (Reading);
- Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) (Mathematics, Reading, Language Usage, Science);
- Renaissance Learning, Inc. (Mathematics, Reading, Early Literacy);
- Scholastic, Inc. (Mathematics, Reading); and
- Teaching Strategies, LLC (Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten Entry).

These contract awards provide school divisions the option to purchase the assessments directly; however, school divisions may choose other solutions not on this list through locally-initiated procurements. Use of these Student Growth Assessments is not required nor mandated by the VDOE; rather, these contract awards are a means to support school divisions by making available valid student growth data to inform both instruction and teacher evaluation. The VDOE did not rank the Student Growth Assessments and does not prefer any particular Student Growth Assessment over the other awarded assessments. In addition, other Student Growth Assessments not awarded a contract may also be viable solutions as long as the assessment meets the needs of your school division in providing student growth information.

All of the awarded vendors met the minimal requirements of the RFP; however, school divisions are encouraged to consider a number of factors before entering into discussions with any vendor. A list of topics and questions for consideration that school divisions may use in guiding decisions about the growth assessments is included as Attachment A to this memorandum.

Prior to contacting any vendor, school divisions should ensure that a signed contract has been returned to the VDOE by referencing the information under "Contracts for School Division Use" at

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/school_finance/procurement/index.shtml.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Marie Williams, contract officer, at (804) 225-2040 or at Marie.Williams@doe.virginia.gov.

PIW/SLR/cb

Attachment:

- a. [Factors for School Divisions to Consider](#) (Word)