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Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3144

Paul Leather
Deputy Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3801

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, N.H. 03301
FAX 603-271-1953
Citizens Services Line 1-800-339-9900

September 15, 2014

Retroactive

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Education to **retroactively** pay membership dues to the University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc. (KUCR), Lawrence, Kansas, (vendor code 253972), in an amount not to exceed \$16,666.70; effective upon Governor and Council approval for the period of September 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. 100 % Federal Funds

Funding is available in the account entitled State Assessment as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| | | <u>FY2015</u> |
| 06-56-56-562010-64220000-102-500731 | Contracts for Program Services | \$16,666.70 |

EXPLANATION

The Department is requesting that this contract be approved **retroactive** to September 1, 2014 due to the fact that the pro-rated membership fee for 2014-15 was not determined until after the Department of Education's decision to move forward with its request to use Dynamic Learning Maps as the new alternate assessment in English language arts and mathematics.

Kansas Center for Research, Inc. (KUCR) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation affiliated with the University of Kansas, an agency of the State of Kansas and an institution of higher education (University) under a cooperative agreement from the United States Department of Education (USDE), who developed the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment system. KUCR, through the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE), a division of University's Achievement and Assessment Institute, is the organizational home of the Dynamic Learning Maps Consortium (DLM Consortium), a multi-state coalition of state departments of education that acts in collaboration to research, design and implement a standards-based educational system that promotes equitable educational opportunities for students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades three through high school. The DLM Learning Map and DLM Essential Elements form the base of this system. The DLM Essential Elements are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for students in grades 3 through high school.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?

The Center for Educational Testing & Evaluation (CETE) is a nationally recognized research center specializing in large-scale assessment and online test delivery systems. For more than 30 years, CETE has developed cutting-edge testing programs and technology tools including the Kansas

Assessment Program, Dynamic Learning Maps™, Kansas Writing Instruction and Education Tool®, Career Pathways Assessment System™, Adaptive Reading Motivation Measures, and the Accessibility for Technology Enhanced Assessments project. Many of these projects involve working with multiple states, including up to 18 states for Dynamic Learning Maps alone. CETE has worked with the State of Kansas for three decades to provide Kansas schools with a variety of assessment services. Through its partnership with the Kansas State Department of Education, CETE offers computerized assessments to all 286 Kansas school districts using computer testing software CETE created.

This will be the first year that New Hampshire Department of Education has been a member of this Consortium.

2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

No

3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire agency that is a member?

Currently nineteen states belong to the organization. The New Hampshire Department of Education is the sole state agency eligible for membership.

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)

Standard fee for all states. Annual membership fees are prorated and can be paid on a calendar that fits the state's budget cycle.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

This membership entitles state members to full, voting participation in the Consortium's decisions and access to Consortium technical assistance, professional development and resource materials.

6. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

Yes, members of the DLM Consortium have abundant opportunities to participate in the decisions and planning of the DLM Alternate Assessment. They conduct bi-monthly, 90-minute conference calls to share information and gather feedback. Twice a year, in June/July and December, they hold in-person, 2-day Governance Meetings to address bigger issues. Meeting notes and presentation materials provide documentation of the deliberations and decisions for states' reporting requirements. Access to DLM professional development materials is also included in the membership fee.

7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.

No

8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known, and purposes of membership supported trips.

Travel, lodging, and most meals for two State representatives at two DLM Governance Meetings per year (usually June and December) are included in the annual membership fee. These meetings are usually held near the Kansas City, Missouri airport for easy access to members.

9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization)

The Administrator of the Bureau of Accountability and Assessment and the Administrator of the Bureau of Special Education will be directly involved with the organization, having voting participation in the Consortium's decisions.

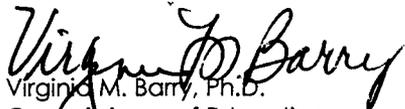
10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

Without this membership, New Hampshire will not have an active voting role in the decisions and planning of the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment system; will not have access to the professional development modules and a virtual community of practice to support educators who teach and assess students participating in the DLM system; and will not have access to the Consortium technical assistance, professional development and resource materials.

In the event Federal Funds no longer become available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Your consideration of this request is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,


Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

VMB:sm:gjt

From: Carter, Gale P. [mailto:gauthier@ku.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 3:57 PM
To: Taylor, Gail; Mantie, Scott
Subject: DLM Consortium Membership

Dear Gail,

The University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc. (KUCR) is a not-for-profit affiliate of the University of Kansas and manages the administration of research grants and contracts for the University. KUCR has been awarded a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Education to develop the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment System. KUCR, through CETE, a division of University's Achievement and Assessment Institute, is the organization home of the Dynamic Learning Maps Consortium, a multi-state coalition of state department of education that acts in collaboration to research, design, and implement a standards based educational system that promotes equitable educational opportunities for students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades three through high school. The Dynamic Learning Maps and the Dynamic Learning Maps Essential Elements which form the base of this system are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for students in grades 3 through high school.

Participation in the Consortium is provided on an annual basis, but may be pro-rated if the term is shorter. For the New Hampshire Department of Education the term is September 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. The cost is a fixed price amount of \$16,666.70 for the ten month period. This amount covers the costs of:

- Two state representatives (one representing assessment and one representing special education) attending one governance meeting- (travel, room, board, miscellaneous expenses)
- Partial share of conference call expenses for monthly governance board calls
- Travel for KU staff to two meetings per year at state department of education
- Expenses associated with 3-4 state educators participating in various development meetings

KUCR is the sole provider; sole publisher; sole hosting source, and sole distributor of the Dynamic Learning Maps® Alternate Assessment Program (DLM), Dynamic Learning Maps Essential Elements®, and ancillary materials. The Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment and the KITE® testing platform necessary to administer it are copyrighted and trademarked and the University of Kansas owns all rights to these programs and has not reassigned rights to any other entities to distribute or sell these programs.

DLM is unique in that it is the only alternate assessment program that includes the following features.

- Fine-grained learning maps to provide instructional and assessment direction.
- A subset of particularly important nodes called Essential Elements that serve as content standards.
- Linkage levels associated with each Essential Element that allow teachers to supply students with cognitively appropriate entry into grade-level differentiated instruction.
- End of year and instructionally-embedded assessments based on the Essential Element linkage levels.
- Instructionally relevant testlets that serve as models for good instruction.
- An instructional teacher interface that provides recommended content to include in the next instructional unit.
- Dynamic assessment to efficiently route students to appropriate testlets, using the structure of the learning map.
- Accessibility features including allowing students to use during assessment the same assistive and augmentive technologies that they use during instruction.
- Professional development materials that can be used in self-directed or facilitated approaches.
- The KITE® technology platform to tie it all together which is not available from any other source.

KUCR can only issue invoices after an agreement is finalized and the project has been set up in our financial system. The financial systems generated invoices and the project specifics must be entered into the system.

Please contact me if you require any additional information.

Thank you.

Gale

Gale Carter, Contract Officer
Contract Negotiations
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.
2385 Irving Hill Road
Lawrence, KS 66045-7568
gauthier@ku.edu
785 864 7462 (P)
785 864 5049 (F)