



STATE OF OKLAHOMA CONTRACT WITH ACS VENTURES, LLC

This State of Oklahoma Contract (“Contract”) is entered into between the State of Oklahoma by and through the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (“State”), ACS Ventures, LLC (“Supplier”) and WestEd (“Third-Party Supplier”) and is effective as of the effective date set forth on a properly issued purchase order or, if no effective date is listed, the date of last signature (“Effective date”). The term of the Contract is one (1) year with the option to renew for four (4) additional one-year periods.

Purpose

The State is awarding the Contract to Supplier for the provision of services to conduct a thorough evaluation of the standard setting process for statewide assessments, as more particularly described in certain Contract Documents. Supplier submitted a proposal with no exceptions, vendor documents or confidentiality requests. This Contract Document memorializes the agreement of the parties with respect to terms of the Contract that is being awarded to Supplier.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual promises set forth herein, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. The parties agree that Supplier has not yet begun performance of work under the Contract. Issuance of a purchase order is required prior to payment to a Supplier.
2. The following Contract Documents are attached hereto and incorporated herein:
 - 2.1. Solicitation EV00000621, Attachment A;
 - 2.2. General Terms, Attachment B;
 - 2.3. Reserved Agency Terms, Attachment C;
 - 2.4. Additional Terms, Attachment E1;
 - 2.5. Master Terms, Attachment E2;
 - 2.6. Pricing, Attachment E3;
 - 2.7. Value Add Offerings, Attachment E4;
 - 2.8. Third Party Terms, Attachment E5;and
 - 2.9. Statement of Work, Attachment E6
3. The parties additionally agree:
 - 3.1. Except for information deemed confidential by the State pursuant to applicable law, rule, regulation or policy, the parties agree Contract terms and information are not confidential and are disclosable without further approval of or notice to Supplier.

- 3.2. All representations made by Supplier in response to the Solicitation regarding specifications and requirements are incorporated herein by reference into this Contract.
 - 3.3. To the extent any term or condition in any Contract Document, including via a hyperlink or uniform resource locator, conflicts with an applicable Oklahoma and/or United States law or regulation, such term or condition is void and unenforceable. By executing any Contract Document which contains a conflicting term or condition, the State or Customer makes no representation or warranty regarding the enforceability of such term or condition and the State or Customer does not waive the applicable Oklahoma and/or United States law or regulation which conflicts with the term or condition.
4. Payment obligations rest solely with the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability.
- Please send invoices and billing inquiries to:
- Office of Educational Quality and Accountability
540 N Grand Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
- Email: billing@oeqa.ok.gov
5. Any reference to a Contract Document refers to such Contract Document as it may have been amended. If and to the extent any provision is in multiple documents and addresses the same or substantially the same subject matter but does not create an actual conflict, the more recent provision is deemed to supersede earlier versions.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

SIGNATURES

The undersigned represent and warrant that they are authorized, as representatives of the party on whose behalf they are signing, to sign this Agreement and to bind their respective party thereto.

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
by and through the OFFICE OF
EDUCATIONAL QUALITY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY :**

By: 
Megan Oftedal (Mar 12, 2025 18:25 CDT)

Name: Megan Oftedal

Title: Executive Director

Date: Mar 12, 2025

ACS VENTURES, LLC


By: 
Chad W Buckendahl (Mar 7, 2025 06:59 EST)

Name: Chad W Buckendahl

Title: Partner

Date: Mar 7, 2025

WESTED

By: 
Rajwant Virk (Mar 12, 2025 14:50 PDT)

Name: **Rajwant Virk**

Title: **Contracts Department Manager**

Date: **Mar 12, 2025**

The State Purchasing Director is signing solely to ensure state agency compliance with provisions of the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act pursuant to 74 O.S., 85.5 concerning acquisitions by state agencies.

By: 
Amanda Otis (Mar 13, 2025 09:25 CDT)

Name: Amanda Otis

Title: State Purchasing Director

Date: Mar 13, 2025

Attachment A

Solicitation No. EV00000621

This Solicitation is a Contract Document and is a request for proposal in connection with the Contract awarded on behalf of the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability by and through the Office of Management and Enterprise Services as more particularly described below. Any defined term used herein but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed in the General Terms or other Contract document.

I. PURPOSE

The Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES), Central Purchasing Division, is seeking responses on behalf of the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability from potential Suppliers to provide a contract for the purchase of services to conduct a thorough evaluation of the standard setting process for statewide assessments. The Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (OEQA), under the authority of the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability (CEQA), issues this RFP to procure a qualified vendor to evaluate Oklahoma's standard setting process for statewide assessments comprehensively. The vendor's responsibilities include analyzing recommendations made by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), benchmarking Oklahoma's assessment standards against those of neighboring states and national criteria, and if discovered, delivering actionable recommendations to enhance alignment with national standards and improve transparency.

Specific tasks include:

- a. Assessing the Oklahoma State Department of Education's (OSDE) proposed performance levels and cut scores for all statewide assessments.
- b. Comparing Oklahoma's assessment content and performance descriptors with those of surrounding states.
- c. Conducting a detailed evaluation of the standard setting process within a 3-month timeline, incorporating stakeholder interviews and a review of relevant documentation.
- d. Preparing and presenting a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations to the CEQA.

A Contract resulting from this Solicitation may be designated for use as a Statewide Contract.¹

The Contract is awarded on behalf of the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability for evaluation of the standard setting process for statewide assessments.

1. Contract Term and Renewal Options:

- 1.1. The initial Contract term, which begins on the effective date of the Contract, is one year and there are (4) one-year options to renew the Contract.

¹ 74 O.S. 85.5(G)(3)

2. Solicitation Criterion:

2.1. The Bid will be evaluated using a best value criterion, based on the following:

- i. Price
- ii. Standard Setting and Assessment Review: Expertise and Experience
- iii. Methodology and Work Plan
- iv. Comparison Expertise
- v. Past Projects

2.2 Scope and Description:

- i. The Bid Response must reflect for each requirement on the Scope of Work the requirement is met by an out-of-the-box solution or whether the requirement necessitates customization to the Bidder's proposed solution.
- ii. The Bid Response shall show the ability of the Bidder to meet or exceed the following mandatory specifications:
 - a. Proven experience in handling similar RFPs, conducting reviews for state agencies, education boards, or overseeing large-scale assessment evaluations and standard-setting processes.
 - b. Comprehensive knowledge of standard-setting frameworks and state educational statutes.
 - c. Expertise(proficient) in performance-level evaluations and cut score adjustments, particularly across states adjacent to Oklahoma.
 - d. Capability to complete the project within three months, encompassing report generation, stakeholder interviews, and presentations.
- iii. Pricing shall be proposed using the Exhibit No.2 titled Pricing.
- iv. Pricing shall be proposed as follows:
 1. Deliverable-based pricing with proposed milestones and associated payments.
 2. Hourly rates and roles for additional professional services in connection with the Project including, without limitation, maintenance and support services and enhancement services to the extent not included in a mutually agreed Statement of Work.
- v. Pricing shall be proposed as a single total firm, fixed cost and include all information concerning fees, other costs, and any other information relevant to the total cost.
- vi. Pricing shall be proposed as a detailed hourly breakdown showing the Supplier staffing roles necessary to complete the work; the number of hours to be worked by each role; the hourly rate for each role and the total hours to be spent on the project.
- vii. Value-added products and/or services within scope of the Acquisition may be included in the Bid.

3. Bidder Responses:

3.1 Executive Summary and Company Information are on Exhibit 01: Executive Summary and Company Information.

3.2 The response to pricing shall be proposed using Exhibit 02: Price Template.

3.3 Value-added products and/or services within scope of the Acquisition are to be included in Exhibit 02

3.4 Business References are to be on Exhibit 03: Bidder Reference Worksheet.

3.5 Past Projects is included on Exhibit 04: Past Projects

3.6 Third-party vendor information is included on Exhibit 05: Third Party Supplier Information.

Request for Proposals for

SWOXOX Title of Contract

Issued by the State of Oklahoma

Solicitation Number EV00000621

Bidder Name:

**Section Two: Executive Summary and Company Information
EXHIBIT 01: OFFEROR RESPONSE WORKSHEET**

Offeror must provide complete and succinct responses to each item below. **Insert your responses into this worksheet directly into the yellow boxes** If your response does not fit into the boxes below a clearly labeled response (Example: 7.2.etc). will be considered. Offeror should provide all information necessary to demonstrate Offeror's ability to meet the requirements of this RFP and the RFP's Scope of Work. Responses to the below questions in this Attachment are mandatory and will be evaluated. Failure to respond to any question may result in your proposal being deemed nonresponsive.

Any bidder responses left blank to any of the below requirements will not proceed further in the evaluation phase.

Section Two: Executive Summary and Company Information

Section Two: Executive Summary and Company Information	
Bidders Instructions	Record Responses Below
7.2	Bidder marketing information, general company information and other similar resources the Bidder wishes to provide
7.2.a	Provide the length of time the Bidder has been in business

7.2.b	Insert a brief description of the company	
7.2.c	Indicate Company size and organization structure (an Organizational chart is recommended)	
7.2.d	The number of years the Bidder has been providing products and/or services of the type requested, (must be at least 36months)	
7.2.e	Describe the core competency of the company	
7.2.f	Estimated Number of clients	
7.2.g	Average client size (i.e., employee count)	

EXHIBIT 02 Pricing Instructions

EXHIBIT 03 contains two (2) spreadsheet tabs. The Contractor is required to respond to the first tab: Price Proposal.

The second (2nd) tab entitled Value-Add is required to be complete if responding to any optional value-add services requested in the RFP.

Not-to-Exceed: \$

Initial Contract Year: 2025

Subsequent Renewals: 4

Is it a fixed price contract based on deliverables(Reference: Exhibit 1 - Final Deliverables)

1. Evaluation and Benchmarking Report as described in 6.a
2. Standard Setting Overview Presentation as described in 6.b
3. Final Findings and Recommendations Presentation as described in 6.c

No other information may be entered on the spreadsheet.

EXHIBIT 02 Price Proposal

You may add additional detail lines to the table as needed.

		SFY Costs					
ITEM NAME	DESCRIPTION	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	TOTAL
Evaluation and Benchmarking Report	Comprehensive report documenting all review activities, findings, and recommendations						
Standard Setting Overview Presentation	Introductory virtual presentation to the CEQA one month before final findings						
Final Findings and Recommendations Presentation	Deliver a formal virtual presentation summarizing final findings and recommendations upon project completion						
Total FIRM FIXED PRICE		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Can have hourly rates, etc. This is specific to the services.

EXHIBIT 02 Value-Add Price Proposal

You may add additional detail lines to the table as needed.

ITEM NAME	DESCRIPTION	SFY Costs						TOTAL
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
Total FIRM FIXED PRICE		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Can have hourly rates, etc. This is specific to the services.

II. STATE OF OKLAHOMA NON-NEGOTIABLE GENERAL TERMS

In addition to other terms contained in an applicable Contract document, Supplier and State agree to the following General Terms:

1 Scope and Contract Renewal

- 1.1** Supplier may not add products or services to its offerings under the Contract without the State's prior written approval. Such request may require a competitive bid of the additional products or services. If the need arises for goods or services outside the scope of the Contract, Supplier shall contact the State.
- 1.2** At no time during the performance of the Contract shall the Supplier have the authority to obligate any Customer for payment for any products or services (a) when a corresponding encumbering document is not signed or (b) over and above an awarded Contract amount. Likewise, Supplier is not entitled to compensation for a product or service provided by or on behalf of Supplier that is neither requested nor accepted as satisfactory.
- 1.3** If applicable, prior to any Contract renewal, the State shall subjectively consider the value of the Contract to the State, the Supplier's performance under the Contract, and shall review certain other factors, including but not limited to the: a) terms and conditions of Contract documents to determine validity with current State and other applicable statutes and rules; b) current pricing and discounts offered by Supplier; and c) current products, services and support offered by Supplier. If the State determines changes to the Contract are required as a condition precedent to renewal, the State and Supplier will cooperate in good faith to evidence such required changes in an Amendment. Further, any request for a price increase in connection with a renewal or otherwise will be conditioned on the Supplier providing appropriate documentation supporting the request.
- 1.4** Upon mutual agreement, the Parties may extend the Contract for ninety (90) days beyond a final renewal term. The Parties may to the extent allowable by law, choose to exercise subsequent ninety (90) day extensions.
- 1.5** Supplier understands that supplier registration expires annually and, pursuant to OAC 260:115-3-3, Supplier shall maintain its supplier registration with the State as a precondition to a renewal of the Contract.

2 Contract Effectiveness

- 2.1** Unless specifically agreed in writing otherwise, the Contract is effective upon the date last signed by the parties. Supplier shall not commence work, commit funds, incur costs, or in any way act to obligate the State until a proper purchase order has been issued.
- 2.2** Any Contract document shall be legibly written in ink or typed. All Contract transactions, and any Contract document related thereto, may be conducted by electronic means pursuant to the Oklahoma Uniform Electronic Transactions Act.

3 Modification of Contract Terms and Contract documents

- 3.1** The Contract may only be modified, amended, or expanded by an Amendment. Any change to the Contract, including the addition of work or materials, the revision of payment terms, or the substitution of work or materials made unilaterally by the Supplier, is a material breach of the Contract. Unless otherwise specified by applicable law or rules, such changes, including without limitation, any unauthorized written Contract modification, shall be void and without effect and the Supplier shall not be entitled to any claim under the Contract based on those changes. No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise affect the terms, conditions, or specifications stated in the Contract.
- 3.2** Any additional terms on an ordering document provided by Supplier are of no effect and are void unless mutually executed. OMES bears no liability for performance, payment or failure thereof by the Supplier or by a Customer other than OMES in connection with an Acquisition.
- 3.3** Except for information deemed confidential by the State pursuant to applicable law, rule, regulation, or policy, the parties agree Contract terms are not confidential and are disclosable without further approval of or notice to Supplier.
- 3.4** Unless mutually agreed to in writing by the State of Oklahoma by and through the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, no Contract document or other terms and conditions or clauses, including via a hyperlink or uniform resource locator, shall supersede or conflict with the

terms of this Contract or expand the State's or Customer's liability or reduce the rights of Customer or the State.

- 3.5** To the extent any term or condition in any Contract document, including via a hyperlink or uniform resource locator, conflicts with an applicable Oklahoma and/or United States law or regulation, such term or condition is void and unenforceable. By executing any Contract document which contains a conflicting term or condition, the State or Customer makes no representation or warranty regarding the enforceability of such term or condition and the State or Customer does not waive the applicable Oklahoma and/or United States law or regulation which conflicts with the term or condition.

4 Pricing

- 4.1** Pursuant to 68 O.S. §§ 1352, 1356, and 1404, State agencies are exempt from the assessment of State sales, use, and excise taxes. Further, State agencies and political subdivisions of the State are exempt from Federal Excise Taxes pursuant to Title 26 of the United States Code. Any taxes of any nature whatsoever payable by the Supplier shall not be reimbursed.
- 4.2** Pursuant to 74 O.S. §85.40, all travel expenses of Supplier must be included in the total Acquisition price.
- 4.3** The price of a product offered under the Contract shall include and Supplier shall prepay all shipping, packaging, delivery and handling fees. All product deliveries will be free on board Customer's Destination. No additional fees shall be charged by Supplier for standard shipping and handling. If Customer requests expedited or special delivery, Customer may be responsible for any charges for expedited or special delivery
- 4.4** Any product to be delivered pursuant to the Contract shall be subject to final inspection and acceptance by the Customer at Destination. The Customer assumes no responsibility for a product until accepted by the Customer. Title and risk of loss or damage to a product shall be the responsibility of the Supplier until accepted. The Supplier shall be responsible for filing, processing, and collecting any and all damage claims accruing prior to acceptance
- 4.5** Pursuant to OAC 260:115-9-1, payment for an Acquisition does not constitute final acceptance of the Acquisition. If subsequent inspection

affirms that the Acquisition does not meet or exceed the specifications of the order or that the Acquisition has a latent defect, the Supplier shall be notified as soon as is reasonably practicable. The Supplier shall retrieve and replace the Acquisition at Supplier's expense or, if unable to replace, shall issue a refund to Customer. Refund under this section shall not be an exclusive remedy.

5 Invoices and Payments

5.1 Supplier shall be paid upon submission of a proper invoice(s) at the prices stipulated in the Contract in accordance with 74 O.S. §85.44B which requires that payment be made only after products have been provided and accepted or services rendered and accepted This section shall not prohibit the payment of membership dues or payment for subscriptions to magazines, periodicals or books or for payment to vendors providing subscription services under 74 O.S. 85.44B.

The following terms additionally apply:

- A.** An invoice shall contain the purchase order number, description of products or services provided and the dates of such provision.
- B.** Failure to provide a timely and proper invoice may result in delay of processing the invoice for payment. Proper invoice is defined at OAC 260:10-1-2.
- C.** Payment of all fees under the Contract shall be due NET 30 days, but shall not be deemed late until 45 days. Payment and interest on late payments are governed by 62 O.S. §34.72. Such interest is the sole and exclusive remedy for late payments by a State agency and no other late fees are authorized to be assessed pursuant to Oklahoma law.
- D.** The date from which an applicable early payment discount time is calculated shall be from the receipt date of a proper invoice. There is no obligation, however, to utilize an early payment discount.
- E.** If an overpayment or underpayment has been made to Supplier any subsequent payments to Supplier under the Contract may be adjusted to correct the account. A written explanation of the adjustment will be issued to Supplier.

- F. If the Supplier accepts payment by Purchase Card they shall do so according to Oklahoma law.

6 Oklahoma Open Records Act

Supplier acknowledges that all State agencies and certain other Customers are subject to the Oklahoma Open Records Act set forth at 51 O.S. §24A-1 et seq. Supplier also acknowledges that compliance with the Oklahoma Open Records Act and all opinions of the Oklahoma Attorney General concerning the Act is required. Customer may be provided access to Supplier Confidential Information. State agencies are subject to the Oklahoma Open Records Act and Supplier acknowledges information marked confidential information will be disclosed to the extent permitted under the Open Records Act and in accordance with this section. Nothing herein is intended to waive the State Purchasing Director's authority under OAC 260:115-3-9 in connection with Bid information requested to be held confidential by a Bidder. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Supplier Confidential Information shall not include information that: (i) is or becomes generally known or available by public disclosure, commercial use or otherwise and is not in contravention of this Contract; (ii) is known and has been reduced to tangible form by the receiving party before the time of disclosure for the first time under this Contract and without other obligations of confidentiality; (iii) is independently developed without the use of any of Supplier Confidential Information; (iv) is lawfully obtained from a third party (without any confidentiality obligation) who has the right to make such disclosure or (v) pricing provided to the State. In addition, the obligations in this section shall not apply to the extent that the applicable law or regulation requires disclosure of Supplier Confidential Information, provided that the Customer provides reasonable written notice, pursuant to Contract notice provisions, to the Supplier so that the Supplier may promptly seek a protective order or other appropriate remedy.

7 Conflict of Interest

In addition to any requirement of law or of a professional code of ethics or conduct, the Supplier, its employees are required to disclose any outside activity or interest that conflicts or may conflict with the best interest of the State. Prompt disclosure is required under this section if the activity or interest is related, directly or indirectly, to any person or entity currently under contract with or seeking to do business with the State, its employees or any other third-party individual or entity awarded a contract with the State. Further, as long as the Supplier has an obligation under the Contract, any plan, preparation or

engagement in any such activity or

interest shall not occur without prior written approval of the State. Any conflict of interest shall, at the sole discretion of the State, be grounds for partial or whole termination of the Contract.

8 State Shall Not Indemnify

The State of Oklahoma cannot lawfully agree to indemnify a private contractor. The credit of the State shall not be given, pledged, or loaned to any individual, company, corporation, or association, municipality, or political subdivision of the State pursuant to Oklahoma Constitution article 10, Section 15, OAC 260:115-7-32(k)(3)(A) and Attorney General Opinion 2012-18.

9 Indemnification Coordination of Defense

9.1 In connection with indemnification obligations under the Contract, when a State agency is a named defendant in any filed or threatened lawsuit, the defense of the State agency shall be coordinated by the Attorney General of Oklahoma, or the Attorney General may authorize the Supplier to control the defense and any related settlement negotiations; provided, however, Supplier shall not agree to any settlement of claims against the State without obtaining advance written concurrence from the Attorney General. If the Attorney General does not authorize sole control of the defense and settlement negotiations to Supplier, Supplier shall have authorization to equally participate in any proceeding related to the indemnity obligation under the Contract and shall remain responsible to indemnify the applicable Indemnified Parties.

10 Termination for Funding Insufficiency

10.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Contract document, the State may terminate the Contract in whole or in part if funds sufficient to pay obligations under the Contract are not appropriated or received from an intended third-party funding source. In the event of such insufficiency, Supplier will be provided at least fifteen (15) calendar days' written notice of termination. Any partial termination of the Contract under this section shall not be construed as a waiver of, and shall not affect, the rights and obligations of any party regarding portions of the Contract that are not terminated. The determination by the State of insufficient funding shall be accepted by, and shall be final and binding on, the Supplier.

10.2 Upon receipt of notice of a termination, Supplier shall immediately comply with the notice terms and take all necessary steps to minimize the incurrence of costs allocable to the work affected by the notice. If a purchase order or other payment mechanism has been issued and a product or service has been

accepted as satisfactory prior to the effective date of termination, the termination does not relieve an obligation to pay for the product or service but there shall not be any liability for further payments ordinarily due under the Contract or for any damages or other amounts caused by or associated with such termination. Any amount paid to Supplier in the form of prepaid fees that are unused when the Contractor certain obligations are terminated shall be refunded.

- 10.3** The State's exercise of its right to terminate the Contract under this section shall not be considered a default or breach under the Contract or relieve the Supplier of any liability for claims arising under the Contract.

11 Suspension of Supplier

- 11.1** Supplier may be subject to Suspension without advance notice and may additionally be suspended from activities under the Contract if Supplier fails to comply with confidentiality, privacy, security, environmental or safety requirements applicable to Supplier's performance or obligations under the Contract.
- 11.2** Upon receipt of a notice pursuant to this section, Supplier shall immediately comply with the notice terms and take all necessary steps to minimize the incurrence of costs allocable to the work affected by the notice. If a purchase order or other payment mechanism has been issued and a product or service has been accepted as satisfactory prior to receipt of notice by Supplier, the Suspension does not relieve an obligation to pay for the product or service but there shall not be any liability for further payments ordinarily due under the Contract during a period of Suspension or suspended activity or for any damages or other amounts caused by or associated with such Suspension or suspended activity. A right exercised under this section shall not be an exclusive remedy but shall be in addition to any other rights and remedies provided for by law. Any amount paid to Supplier in the form of prepaid fees attributable to a period of Suspension or suspended activity shall be refunded.
- 11.3** Such Suspension may be removed, or suspended activity may resume, at the earlier of such time as a formal notice is issued that authorizes the resumption of performance under the Contract or at such time as a purchase order or other appropriate encumbrance document is issued. This subsection is not intended to operate as an affirmative statement that such resumption will occur.

12 Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters

The certification made by Supplier with respect to Debarment, Suspension, certain indictments, convictions, civil judgments and terminated public contracts is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when entering into the Contract. A determination that Supplier knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in

addition to other available remedies, may result in whole or partial termination of the Contract for Supplier's default. Additionally, Supplier shall promptly provide written notice to the State Purchasing Director if the certification becomes erroneous due to changed circumstances.

13 Certification Regarding State Employees Prohibition From Fulfilling Services

Pursuant to 74 O.S. § 85.42, the Supplier certifies that no person involved in any manner in development of the Contract employed by the State shall be employed to fulfill any services provided under the Contract.

14 Notices

All notices, approvals or requests allowed or required by the terms of any Contract shall be in writing, reference the Contract with specificity and deemed delivered upon receipt or upon refusal of the intended party to accept receipt of the notice. Notice information may be updated in writing to the other party as necessary.

In addition to other notice requirements in the Contract and the designated Supplier contact provided in a successful Bid, notices shall be sent to the State at the email address set forth below.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Contract, confidentiality, breach and termination-related notices shall be delivered to the address below in addition to e- mail.

If sent to the State:

State Purchasing Director
2401 North Lincoln Blvd., Second Floor
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

With a copy, which shall not constitute notice, to:

Purchasing Division Deputy General Counsel
2401 North Lincoln Blvd., Second Floor
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

15 Miscellaneous

15.1 Choice of Law and Venue

Any claim, dispute, or litigation relating to the Contract documents, in the singular or in the aggregate, shall be governed by the laws of the State of Oklahoma without regard to application of choice of law principles. Pursuant to 74 O.S. §85.7(F), where Federal awards are involved, applicable federal laws, rules and regulations shall govern to the extent necessary to insure ensure compliance with the terms of the Federal award. Venue for any action, claim, dispute, or litigation relating in any way to the Contract documents, shall be in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. The State expressly declines any terms that minimize its rights under Oklahoma Law, including but not limited to, Statutes of Limitations.

15.2 Employment Relationship

The Contract does not create an employment relationship. Individuals providing products or performing services pursuant to the Contract are not employees of the State or Customer and, accordingly are not eligible for any rights or benefits whatsoever accruing to such employees.

15.3 Failure to Enforce

Failure by the State or a Customer at any time to enforce a provision of, or exercise a right under, the Contract shall not be construed as a waiver of any such provision. Such failure to enforce or exercise shall not affect the validity of any Contract document, or any part thereof, or the right of the State or a Customer to enforce any provision of, or exercise any right under, the Contract at any time in accordance with its terms. Likewise, a waiver of a breach of any provision of a Contract document shall not affect or waive a subsequent breach of the same provision or a breach of any other provision in the Contract.

15.4 Invalid Term or Condition

To the extent any term or condition in the Contract conflicts with a compulsory applicable State or United States law or regulation, such

Contract term or condition is void and unenforceable. By executing any Contract document which contains a conflicting term or condition, no representation or warranty is made regarding the enforceability of such term or condition. Likewise, any applicable State or federal law or regulation which conflicts with the Contract or any non-conflicting applicable State or federal law or regulation is not waived.

15.5 Severability

If any provision of a Contract document, or the application of any term or condition to any party or circumstances, is held invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and enforceable and the application of such provision to other parties or circumstances shall remain valid and in full force and effect. If a court finds that any provision of this contract is invalid or unenforceable, but that by limiting such provision it would become valid and enforceable, then such provision shall be deemed to be written, construed, and enforced as so limited.

15.6 Section Headings

The headings used in any Contract document are for convenience only and do not constitute terms of the Contract.

15.7 Sovereign Immunity

Notwithstanding any provision in the Contract, the Contract is entered into subject to the State's Constitution, statutes, common law, regulations, and the doctrine of sovereign immunity, none of which are waived by the State nor any other right or defense available to the State; provided, however, that the parties hereby agree that the doctrine of sovereign immunity does not apply to actions grounded in contract and therefore does not prohibit Supplier from pursuing claims arising under the Contract against the State and Customers.

15.8 Survival

As applicable, performance under all license, subscription, service agreements, statements of work, transition plans and other similar Contract documents entered into between the parties under the terms of the Contract shall survive Contract expiration. Additionally, rights and obligations under the Contract which by their nature should survive including, without

limitation, certain payment obligations invoiced prior to expiration or termination; confidentiality obligations; security incident and data breach obligations and indemnification obligations, remain in effect after expiration or termination of the Contract.

15.9 Gratuities

The Contract may be immediately terminated, in whole or in part, by written notice if it is determined that the Supplier, its authorized employee, agent, or another representative acting within the scope of their authority violated any federal, State or local law, rule or ordinance by offering or giving a gratuity to any State employee directly involved in the Contract. In addition, Suspension or Debarment of the Supplier may result from such a violation.

15.10 Import/Export Controls

Neither party will use, distribute, transfer or transmit any equipment, services, software or technical information provided under the Contract (even if incorporated into other products) except in compliance with all applicable import and export laws, conventions and regulations.

ATTACHMENT B

STATE OF OKLAHOMA NEGOTIABLE GENERAL TERMS

This State of Oklahoma General Terms (“General Terms”) is a Contract document in connection with a Contract awarded by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services on behalf of the State of Oklahoma.

In addition to other terms contained in an applicable Contract document, Supplier and State agree to the following General Terms:

1 Contract Order of Priority

1.1 Contract documents shall be read to be consistent and complementary. Any conflict among the Contract documents shall be resolved by giving priority to Contract documents in the following order of precedence:

- A.** any Amendment;
- B.** terms contained in this Contract document.
- C.** any Contract-specific State terms contained in a Contract document including, without limitation, information technology terms and terms specific to a statewide Contract or a State agency Contract;
- D.** any applicable Solicitation;
- E.** any successful Bid as may be amended through negotiation and to the extent the Bid does not otherwise conflict with the Solicitation, Contract or applicable law;
- F.** any statement of work, work order, or other mutually agreed Contract documents.

1.2 If there is a conflict between the terms contained in this Contract document or in Contract-specific terms and an agreement provided by or on behalf of Supplier including but not limited to linked or supplemental documents which alter or diminish the rights of Customer or the State, the conflicting terms provided by Supplier shall not take priority over this Contract document or Acquisition-specific terms. In no event will any linked document alter or override such referenced terms except as specifically agreed in an Amendment.

2 Definitions

In addition to any defined terms set forth elsewhere in the Contract, the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act and the Oklahoma Administrative Code, Title 260, the parties agree that, when used in the Contract, the following terms are defined as set forth below and may be used in the singular or plural form:

- 2.1 **Acquisition** means items, products, materials, supplies, services and equipment acquired by purchase, lease purchase, lease with option to purchase, value provided or rental under the Contract.
- 2.2 **Amendment** means any mutually executed, written modification to a Contract document or a written change, addition, correction or revision to a Solicitation.
- 2.3 **Bid** means an offer a Bidder submits in response to the Solicitation.
- 2.4 **Bidder** means an individual or business entity that submits a Bid in response to the Solicitation.
- 2.5 **Contract** means the written, mutually agreed and binding legal relationship resulting from the Contract documents and an appropriate encumbering document as may be amended from time to time, which evidences the final agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter of the Contract.
- 2.6 **Customer** means the entity receiving goods or services contemplated by the Contract.
- 2.7 **Debarment** means action taken by a debarring official under federal or state law or regulations to exclude any business entity from inclusion on the Supplier list; bidding; offering to bid; providing a quote; receiving an award of contract with the State and may also result in cancellation of existing contracts with the State.
- 2.8 **Destination** means delivered to the receiving dock or other point specified in the applicable Contract document.
- 2.9 **Federal award** means the Federal financial assistance that a recipient receives directly from a Federal awarding agency or indirectly from a pass-through entity
- 2.10 **Governmental Entity** means any governmental entity specified as a political subdivision of the State pursuant to the Governmental Tort Claim Act including any associated institution, instrumentality, board, commission, committee, department, or other entity designated to act on behalf of the state.

- 2.11 Indemnified Parties** means the State and Customer and/or its officers, directors, agents, employees, representatives, contractors, assignees and designees thereof.
- 2.12 Inspection** means examining and testing an Acquisition (including, when appropriate, raw materials, components, and intermediate assemblies) to determine whether the Acquisition meets Contract requirements.
- 2.13 Moral Rights** means any and all rights of paternity or integrity of the Work Product and the right to object to any modification, translation or use of the Work Product and any similar rights existing under the judicial or statutory law of any country in the world or under any treaty, regardless of whether or not such right is denominated or referred to as a moral right.
- 2.14 OAC** means the Oklahoma Administrative Code.
- 2.15 OMES** means the Office of Management and Enterprise Services.
- 2.16 Solicitation** means the document inviting Bids for the Acquisition referenced in the Contract and any amendments thereto.
- 2.17 State** means the government of the state of Oklahoma, its employees and authorized representatives, including without limitation any department, agency, or other unit of the government of the state of Oklahoma.
- 2.18 Supplier** means the Bidder with whom the State enters into the Contract awarded pursuant to the Solicitation or the business entity or individual that is a party to the Contract with the State.
- 2.19 Suspension** means action taken by a suspending official under federal or state law or regulations to suspend a Supplier from inclusion on the Supplier list; be eligible to submit Bids to State agencies and be awarded a contract by a State agency subject to the Central Purchasing Act.
- 2.20 Supplier Confidential Information** means certain confidential and proprietary information of Supplier that is clearly marked as confidential and agreed by the State Purchasing Director or Customer, as applicable, but does not include information excluded from confidentiality in provisions of the Contract or the Oklahoma Open Records Act.
- 2.21 Work Product** means any and all deliverables produced by Supplier under a statement of work or similar Contract document issued pursuant to this Contract, including any and all tangible or intangible items or things that have been or will be prepared, created, developed, invented or conceived at any time following the Contract effective date including but not limited to any (i) works

of authorship (such as manuals, instructions, printed material, graphics, artwork, images, illustrations, photographs, computer programs, computer software, scripts, object code, source code or other programming code, HTML code, flow charts, notes, outlines, lists, compilations, manuscripts, writings, pictorial materials, schematics, formulae, processes, algorithms, data, information, multimedia files, text web pages or web sites, other written or machine readable expression of such works fixed in any tangible media, and all other copyrightable works), (ii) trademarks, service marks, trade dress, trade names, logos, or other indicia of source or origin, (iii) ideas, designs, concepts, personality rights, methods, processes, techniques, apparatuses, inventions, formulas, discoveries, or improvements, including any patents, trade secrets and know-how, (iv) domain names, (v) any copies, and similar or derivative works to any of the foregoing, (vi) all documentation and materials related to any of the foregoing, (vii) all other goods, services or deliverables to be provided by or on behalf of Supplier under the Contract and (viii) all Intellectual Property Rights in any of the foregoing, and which are or were created, prepared, developed, invented or conceived for the use of benefit of Customer in connection with this Contract or with funds appropriated by or for Customer or Customer's benefit (a) by any Supplier personnel or Customer personnel or (b) any Customer personnel who then became personnel to Supplier or any of its affiliates or subcontractors, where, although creation or reduction-to-practice is completed while the person is affiliated with Supplier or its personnel, any portion of same was created, invented or conceived by such person while affiliated with Customer.

3 Additional Pricing

- 3.1** The price of a product offered under the Contract shall include and Supplier shall prepay all shipping, packaging, delivery and handling fees. All product deliveries will be free on board Customer's Destination. No additional fees shall be charged by Supplier for standard shipping and handling. If Customer requests expedited or special delivery, Customer may be responsible for any charges for expedited or special delivery.
- 3.2** Supplier shall have no right of setoff.
- 3.3** Because funds are typically dedicated to a particular fiscal year, an invoice will be paid only when timely submitted, which shall in no instance be later than six (6) months after the end of the fiscal year in which the goods are provided or services performed.

4 **Ordering, Inspection, and Acceptance**

- 4.1** Any product or service furnished under the Contract shall be ordered by issuance of a valid purchase order or other appropriate payment mechanism, including a pre-encumbrance, or by use of a valid Purchase Card. All orders and transactions are governed by the terms and conditions of the Contract. Any purchase order or other applicable payment mechanism dated prior to termination or expiration of the Contract shall be performed unless mutually agreed in writing otherwise.
- 4.2** Services will be performed in accordance with industry best practices and are subject to acceptance by the Customer. Notwithstanding any other provision in the Contract, deemed acceptance of a service or associated deliverable shall not apply automatically upon receipt of a deliverable or upon provision of a service.

Supplier warrants and represents that a product or deliverable furnished by or through the Supplier shall individually, and where specified by Supplier to perform as a system, be substantially uninterrupted and error-free in operation and guaranteed against faulty material and workmanship for a warranty period of the greater of ninety (90) days from the date of acceptance or the maximum allowed by the manufacturer. A defect in a product or deliverable furnished by or through the Supplier shall be repaired or replaced by Supplier at no additional cost or expense to the Customer if such defect occurs during the warranty period.

Any product to be delivered pursuant to the Contract shall be subject to final inspection and acceptance by the Customer at Destination. The Customer assumes no responsibility for a product until accepted by the Customer. Title and risk of loss or damage to a product shall be the responsibility of the Supplier until accepted. The Supplier shall be responsible for filing, processing, and collecting any and all damage claims accruing prior to acceptance.

Pursuant to OAC 260:115-9-1, payment for an Acquisition does not constitute final acceptance of the Acquisition. If subsequent inspection affirms that the Acquisition does not meet or exceed the specifications of the order or that the Acquisition has a latent defect, the Supplier shall be notified as soon as is reasonably practicable. The Supplier shall retrieve and replace the Acquisition at Supplier's expense or, if unable to replace, shall issue a refund to Customer. Refund under this section shall not be an exclusive remedy.

- 4.3 Supplier shall deliver products and services on or before the required date specified in a Contract document. Failure to deliver timely may result in liquidated damages as set forth in the applicable Contract document. Deviations, substitutions, or changes in a product or service, including changes of personnel directly providing services, shall not be made unless expressly authorized in writing by the Customer. Any substitution of personnel directly providing services shall be a person of comparable or greater skills, education and experience for performing the services as the person being replaced. Additionally, Supplier shall provide staff sufficiently experienced and able to perform with respect to any transitional services provided by Supplier in connection with termination or expiration of the Contract.
- 4.4 Product warranty and return policies and terms provided under any Contract document will not be more restrictive or more costly than warranty and return policies and terms for other similarly situated customers for a like product.

5 Maintenance of Insurance, Payment of Taxes, and Workers' Compensation

- 5.1 As a condition of this Contract, Supplier shall procure at its own expense, and provide proof of, insurance coverage with the applicable liability limits set forth below and any approved subcontractor of Supplier shall procure and provide proof of the same coverage. The required insurance shall be underwritten by an insurance carrier with an A.M. Best rating of A- or better.

Such proof of coverage shall additionally be provided to the Customer if services will be provided by any of Supplier's employees, agents or subcontractors at any Customer premises and/or employer vehicles will be used in connection with performance of Supplier's obligations under the Contract. Supplier may not commence performance hereunder until such proof has been provided. Additionally, Supplier shall ensure each insurance policy includes a notice of cancellation and includes the State and its agencies as certificate holder and shall promptly provide proof to the State of any renewals, additions, or changes to such insurance coverage. Supplier's obligation to maintain insurance coverage under the Contract is a continuing obligation until Supplier has no further obligation under the Contract. Any combination of primary and excess or umbrella insurance may be used to satisfy the limits of coverage for Commercial General Liability, Auto Liability and Employers' Liability. Unless agreed between the parties and approved by the State Purchasing Director, the minimum acceptable insurance limits of liability are as follows:

- A. Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance in accordance with and to the extent required by applicable law;

- B. Commercial General Liability Insurance covering the risks of personal injury, bodily injury (including death) and property damage, including coverage for contractual liability, with a limit of liability of not less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence;
- C. Automobile Liability Insurance with limits of liability of not less than \$2,000,000 combined single limit each accident;
- D. If the Supplier will access, process, or store state data, then Security and Privacy Liability insurance, including coverage for failure to protect confidential information and failure of the security of Supplier's computer systems that results in unauthorized access to Customer data with limits \$5,000,000 per occurrence; and
- E. Additional coverage required in writing in connection with a particular Acquisition.

5.2 Supplier shall be entirely responsible during the existence of the Contract for the liability and payment of taxes payable by or assessed to Supplier or its employees, agents and subcontractors of whatever kind, in connection with the Contract. Supplier further agrees to comply with all state and federal laws applicable to any such persons, including laws regarding wages, taxes, insurance, and Workers' Compensation. Neither Customer nor the State shall be liable to the Supplier, its employees, agents, or others for the payment of taxes or the provision of unemployment insurance and/or Workers' Compensation or any benefit available to a State or Customer employee.

5.3 Supplier agrees to indemnify Customer, the State, and its employees, agents, representatives, contractors, and assignees for any and all liability, actions, claims, demands, or suits, and all related costs and expenses (including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees and costs required to establish the right to indemnification) relating to tax liability, unemployment insurance and/or Workers' Compensation in connection with its performance under the Contract.

6 Compliance with Applicable Laws

6.1 As long as Supplier has an obligation under the terms of the Contract and in connection with performance of its obligations, the Supplier represents its present compliance, and shall have an ongoing obligation to comply, with all applicable federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, and orders, as amended, including but not limited to the following:

- A. Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 set forth at 41 U.S.C. §81.

- B.** Section 306 of the Clean Air Act, Section 508 of the Clean Water Act, Executive Order 11738, and Environmental Protection Agency Regulations which prohibit the use of facilities included on the EPA List of Violating Facilities under nonexempt federal contracts, grants or loans;
- C.** Prospective participant requirements set at 45 C.F.R. part 76 in connection with Debarment, Suspension and other responsibility matters;
- D.** 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Executive Orders 11246 and 11375;
- E.** Anti-Lobbying Law set forth at 31 U.S.C. §1325 and as implemented at 45 C.F.R. part 93;
- F.** Requirements of Internal Revenue Service Publication 1075 regarding use, access and disclosure of Federal Tax Information (as defined therein);
- G.** Obtaining certified independent audits conducted in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR 200 Subpart F §200.500 et seq. with approval and work paper examination rights of the applicable procuring entity;
- H.** Requirements of the Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act of 2007, 25 O.S. §1312 and applicable federal immigration laws and regulations and be registered and participate in the Status Verification System. The Status Verification System is defined at 25 O.S. §1312, includes but is not limited to the free Employment Verification Program (E-Verify) through the Department of Homeland Security, and is available at [Home | E-Verify](#);
- I.** Requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996; Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act; Payment Card Industry Security Standards; Criminal Justice Information System Security Policy and Security Addendum; and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; and
- J.** Be registered as a business entity licensed to do business in the State, have obtained a sales tax permit, and be current on franchise tax payments to the State, as applicable.

- 6.2** The Supplier's employees, agents and subcontractors shall adhere to applicable Customer policies including, but not limited to acceptable use of Internet and electronic mail, facility and data security, press releases, and public relations. As applicable, the Supplier shall adhere to the State Information Security Policy, Procedures, Guidelines set forth at [Information Security Policy, Procedures, Guidelines \(oklahoma.gov\)](#) Supplier is responsible for reviewing and relaying such policies covering the above to the Supplier's employees, agents and subcontractors.
- 6.3** At no additional cost to Customer, the Supplier shall maintain all applicable licenses and permits required in association with its obligations under the Contract.
- 6.4** In addition to compliance under subsection 6.1 above, Supplier shall have a continuing obligation to comply with applicable Customer-specific mandatory contract provisions required in connection with the receipt of federal funds or other funding source.
- 6.5** The Supplier is responsible to review and inform its employees, agents, and subcontractors who provide a product or perform a service under the Contract of the Supplier's obligations under the Contract and Supplier certifies that its employees and each such subcontractor shall comply with minimum requirements and applicable provisions of the Contract. At the request of the State, Supplier shall promptly provide adequate evidence that such persons are its employees, agents or approved subcontractors and have been informed of their obligations under the Contract.
- 6.6** As applicable, Supplier agrees to comply with the Governor's Executive Orders related to the use of any tobacco product, electronic cigarette or vaping device on any and all properties owned, leased, or contracted for use by the State, including but not limited to all buildings, land and vehicles owned, leased, or contracted for use by agencies or instrumentalities of the State.
- 6.7** The execution, delivery and performance of the Contract and any ancillary documents by Supplier will not, to the best of Supplier's knowledge, violate, conflict with, or result in a breach of any provision of, or constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a default) under, or result in the termination of, any written contract or other instrument between Supplier and any third party.
- 6.8** Supplier represents that it has the ability to pay its debts when due and it does not anticipate the filing of a voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy petition or appointment of a receiver, liquidator or trustee.

- 6.9** Supplier represents that, to the best of its knowledge, any litigation or claim or any threat thereof involving Supplier has been disclosed in writing to the State and Supplier is not aware of any other litigation, claim or threat thereof.
- 6.10** If services provided by Supplier include delivery of an electronic communication, Supplier shall ensure such communication and any associated support documents are compliant with Section 508 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act and with State standards regarding accessibility. Should any communication or associated support documents be non-compliant, Supplier shall correct and re-deliver such communication immediately upon discovery or notice, at no additional cost to the State. Additionally, as part of compliance with accessibility requirements where documents are only provided in non-electronic format, Supplier shall promptly provide such communication and any associated support documents in an alternate format usable by individuals with disabilities upon request and at no additional cost, which may originate from an intended recipient or from the State.

7 Audits and Records Clause

- 7.1** As used in this clause and pursuant to 67 O.S. §203, “record” includes a document, book, paper, photograph, microfilm, computer tape, disk, record, sound recording, film recording, video record, accounting procedures and practices, and other data, regardless of type and regardless of whether such items are in written form, in the form of computer data, or in any other form.
- 7.2** Supplier agrees any pertinent federal or State agency or governing entity of a Customer shall have the right to examine and audit, at no additional cost to a Customer, all records relevant to the execution and performance of the Contract except, unless otherwise agreed, costs of Supplier that comprise pricing under the Contract.
- 7.3** The Supplier is required to retain records relative to the Contract for the duration of the Contract and for a period of seven (7) years following completion or termination of an Acquisition unless otherwise indicated in the Contract terms. If a claim, audit, litigation or other action involving such records is started before the end of the seven-year period, the records are required to be maintained for two (2) years from the date that all issues arising out of the action are resolved, or until the end of the seven (7) year retention period, whichever is later.
- 7.4** Pursuant to 74 O.S. §85.41, if professional services are provided hereunder, all items of the Supplier that relate to the professional services are subject to examination by the State agency, State Auditor and Inspector and the State Purchasing Director.

8 Confidentiality

- 8.1** The Supplier shall maintain strict security of all State and citizen data and records entrusted to it or to which the Supplier gains access, in accordance with and subject to applicable federal and State laws, rules, regulations, and policies and shall use any such data and records only as necessary for Supplier to perform its obligations under the Contract. The Supplier further agrees to evidence such confidentiality obligation in a separate writing if required under such applicable federal or State laws, rules and regulations. The Supplier warrants and represents that such information shall not be sold, assigned, conveyed, provided, released, disseminated or otherwise disclosed by Supplier, its employees, officers, directors, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, representatives, assigns, subcontractors, independent contractors, successor or any other persons or entities without Customer's prior express written permission. Supplier shall instruct all such persons and entities that the confidential information shall not be disclosed or used without the Customer's prior express written approval except as necessary for Supplier to render services under the Contract. The Supplier further warrants that it has a tested and proven system in effect designed to protect all confidential information.
- 8.2** Supplier shall establish, maintain and enforce agreements with all such persons and entities that have access to State and citizen data and records to fulfill Supplier's duties and obligations under the Contract and to specifically prohibit any sale, assignment, conveyance, provision, release, dissemination or other disclosure of any State or citizen data or records except as required by law or allowed by written prior approval of the Customer.
- 8.3** Supplier shall immediately report to the Customer any and all unauthorized use, appropriation, sale, assignment, conveyance, provision, release, access, acquisition, disclosure or other dissemination of any State or citizen data or records of which it or its parent company, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, officers, directors, assignees, agents, representatives, independent contractors, and subcontractors is aware or have knowledge or reasonable should have knowledge. The Supplier shall also promptly furnish to Customer full details of the unauthorized use, appropriation, sale, assignment, conveyance, provision, release, access, acquisition, disclosure or other dissemination, or attempt thereof, and use its best efforts to assist the Customer in investigating or preventing the reoccurrence of such event in the future. The Supplier shall cooperate with the Customer in connection with any litigation and investigation deemed necessary by the Customer to protect any State or citizen data and records and shall bear all costs associated with the investigation, response and recovery in connection with any breach of State or citizen data or records including but not limited to credit monitoring services with a term of

at least three (3) years, all notice-related costs and toll free telephone call center services.

- 8.4** Supplier further agrees to promptly prevent a reoccurrence of any unauthorized use, appropriation, sale, assignment, conveyance, provision, release, access, acquisition, disclosure or other dissemination of State or citizen data and records.
- 8.5** Supplier acknowledges that any improper use, appropriation, sale, assignment, conveyance, provision, release, access, acquisition, disclosure or other dissemination of any State data or records to others may cause immediate and irreparable harm to the Customer and certain beneficiaries and may violate state or federal laws and regulations. If the Supplier or its affiliates, parent company, subsidiaries, employees, officers, directors, assignees, agents, representatives, independent contractors, and subcontractors improperly use, appropriate, sell, assign, convey, provide, release, access, acquire, disclose or otherwise disseminate such confidential information to any person or entity in violation of the Contract, the Customer will immediately be entitled to injunctive relief and/or any other rights or remedies available under this Contract, at equity or pursuant to applicable statutory, regulatory, and common law without a cure period.
- 8.6** The Supplier shall immediately forward to the State Purchasing Director, and any other applicable person listed in the Notices section(s) of the Contract, any request by a third party for data or records in the possession of the Supplier or any subcontractor or to which the Supplier or subcontractor has access and Supplier shall fully cooperate with all efforts to protect the security and confidentiality of such data or records in response to a third party request.

9 Assignment and Permitted Subcontractors

- 9.1** Supplier's obligations under the Contract may not be assigned or transferred to any other person or entity without the prior written consent of the State which may be withheld at the State's sole discretion. Should Supplier assign its rights to payment, in whole or in part, under the Contract, Supplier shall provide the State and all affected Customers with written notice of the assignment. Such written notice shall be delivered timely and contain details sufficient for affected Customers to perform payment obligations without any delay caused by the assignment.
- 9.2** Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Contract may be assigned by Supplier to any corporation or other entity in connection with a merger, consolidation, sale of all equity interests of the Supplier, or a sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Supplier to which the Contract relates. In any such case, said

corporation or other entity shall by operation of law or expressly in writing assume all obligations of the Supplier as fully as if it had been originally made a party to the Contract. Supplier shall give the State and all affected Customers prior written notice of said assignment. Any assignment or delegation in violation of this subsection shall be void.

- 9.3** If the Supplier is permitted to utilize subcontractors in support of the Contract, the Supplier shall remain solely responsible for its obligations under the terms of the Contract, for its actions and omissions and those of its agents, employees and subcontractors and for payments to such persons or entities. Prior to a subcontractor being utilized by the Supplier, the Supplier shall obtain written approval of the State of such subcontractor and each employee, as applicable to a particular Acquisition, of such subcontractor proposed for use by the Supplier. Such approval is within the sole discretion of the State. Any proposed subcontractor shall be identified by entity name, and by employee name, if required by the particular Acquisition, in the applicable proposal and shall include the nature of the services to be performed. As part of the approval request, the Supplier shall provide a copy of a written agreement executed by the Supplier and subcontractor setting forth that such subcontractor is bound by and agrees, as applicable, to perform the same covenants and be subject to the same conditions and make identical certifications to the same facts and criteria, as the Supplier under the terms of all applicable Contract documents. Supplier agrees that maintaining such agreement with any subcontractor and obtaining prior written approval by the State of any subcontractor and associated employees shall be a continuing obligation. The State further reserves the right to revoke approval of a subcontractor or an employee thereof in instances of poor performance, misconduct or for other similar reasons.
- 9.4** All payments under the Contract shall be made directly to the Supplier, except as provided in subsection A above regarding the Supplier's assignment of payment. No payment shall be made to the Supplier for performance by unapproved or disapproved employees of the Supplier or a subcontractor.
- 9.5** Rights and obligations of the State or a Customer under the terms of this Contract may be assigned or transferred, at no additional cost, to other Customer entities.

10 Background Checks and Criminal History Investigations

Prior to the commencement of any services, performance of background checks and criminal history investigations of the Supplier's employees and subcontractors who will be providing services may be required. If required, the Supplier agree to provide the State with a description of the background check process to include any vendor's

used to gather information. Supplier will further attest that each employee and subcontractor providing services has passed the back ground check. Supplier's access to facilities, data and information may be withheld prior to completion of background verification acceptable to the State. The costs of additional background checks beyond Supplier's normal hiring practices shall be the responsibility of the Customer unless such additional background checks are required solely because Supplier will not provide verification of results of its otherwise acceptable normal background checks; in such an instance, Supplier shall pay for the additional background checks. Supplier will coordinate with the State and its employees to complete the necessary background checks and criminal history investigations. Should any employee or subcontractor of the Supplier who will be providing services under the Contract not be acceptable as a result of the background check or criminal history investigation, the Customer may require replacement of the employee or subcontractor in question and, if no suitable replacement is made within a reasonable time, terminate the purchase order or other payment mechanism associated with the project or services.

11 Patents and Copyrights

Without exception, a product or deliverable price shall include all royalties or costs owed by the Supplier to any third party arising from the use of a patent, intellectual property, copyright or other property right held by such third party. Should any third party threaten or make a claim that any portion of a product or service provided by Supplier under the Contract infringes that party's patent, intellectual property, copyright or other property right, Supplier shall enable each affected Customer to legally continue to use, or modify for use, the portion of the product or service at issue or replace such potentially infringing product, or re-perform or redeliver in the case of a service, with at least a functional non-infringing equivalent. Supplier's duty under this section shall extend to include any other product or service rendered materially unusable as intended due to replacement or modification of the product or service at issue. If the Supplier determines that none of these alternatives are reasonably available, the State shall return such portion of the product or deliverable at issue to the Supplier, upon written request, in exchange for a refund of the price paid for such returned goods as well as a refund or reimbursement, if applicable, of the cost of any other product or deliverable rendered materially unusable as intended due to removal of the portion of product or deliverable at issue. Any remedy provided under this section is not an exclusive remedy and is not intended to operate as a waiver of legal or equitable remedies because of acceptance of relief provided by Supplier.

12 Indemnification

12.1 Acts or Omissions

- A. Supplier shall defend and indemnify the Indemnified Parties, as applicable, for any and all liability, claims, damages, losses, costs, expenses, demands, suits and actions of third parties (including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees and costs required to establish the right to indemnification) arising out of, or resulting from any action or claim for bodily injury, death, or property damage brought against any of the Indemnified parties to the extent arising from any negligent act or omission or willful misconduct of the Supplier or its agents, employees, or subcontractors in the execution or performance of the Contract.

- B. To the extent Supplier is found liable for loss, damage, or destruction of any property of Customer due to negligence, misconduct, wrongful act, or omission on the part of the Supplier, its employees, agents, representatives, or subcontractors, the Supplier and Customer shall use best efforts to mutually negotiate an equitable settlement amount to repair or replace the property unless such loss, damage or destruction is of such a magnitude that repair or replacement is not a reasonable option. Such amount shall be invoiced to, and is payable by, Supplier sixty (60) calendar days after the date of Supplier's receipt of an invoice for the negotiated settlement amount.

12.2 Infringement

Supplier shall indemnify the Indemnified Parties, as applicable, for all liability, claims, damages, losses, costs, expenses, demands, suits and actions of third parties (including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees and costs required to establish the right to indemnification) arising from or in connection with Supplier's breach of its representations and warranties in the Contract or alleged infringement of any patent, intellectual property, copyright or other property right in connection with a product or service provided under the Contract. Supplier's duty under this section is reduced to the extent a claimed infringement results from: (a) a Customer's or user's content; (b) modifications by Customer or third party to a product delivered under the Contract or combinations of the product with any non-Supplier-provided services or products unless Supplier recommended or participated in such modification or combination; (c) use of a product or service by Customer in violation of the Contract unless done so at the direction of Supplier, or (d) a non-Supplier product that has not been provided to the State by, through or on behalf of Supplier as opposed to its combination with products Supplier provides to or develops for the State or a Customer as a system.

12.3 Notice and Cooperation

In connection with indemnification obligations under the Contract, the parties agree to furnish prompt written notice to each other of any third-party claim. Any Customer affected by the claim will reasonably cooperate with Supplier and defense of the claim to the extent its interests are aligned with Supplier. Supplier shall use counsel reasonably experienced in the subject matter at issue and will not settle a claim without the written consent of the party being defended and where applicable the Attorney General of Oklahoma, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, except that no consent will be required to settle a claim against Indemnified Parties that are not a State agency, where relief against the Indemnified Parties is limited to monetary damages that are paid by the defending party under indemnification provisions of the Contract.

12.4 Limitation of Liability

- A.** With respect to any claim or cause of action arising under or related to the Contract, neither the State nor any Customer shall be liable to Supplier for lost profits, lost sales or business expenditures, investments, or commitments in connection with any business, loss of any goodwill, or for any other indirect, incidental, punitive, special or consequential damages, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.
- B.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Contract, no provision shall limit damages, expenses, costs, actions, claims, and liabilities arising from or related to property damage, bodily injury or death caused by Supplier or its employees, agents or subcontractors; indemnity, security or confidentiality obligations under the Contract; the bad faith, negligence, intentional misconduct or other acts for which applicable law does not allow exemption from liability of Supplier or its employees, agents or subcontractors.
- C.** The limitation of liability and disclaimers set forth in the Contract will apply regardless of whether Customer has accepted a product or service. The parties agree that Supplier has set its fees and entered into the Contract in reliance on the disclaimers and limitations set forth herein, that the same reflect an allocation of risk between the parties and form an essential basis of the bargain between the parties. These limitations shall apply notwithstanding any failure of essential purpose of any limited remedy.

13 Termination for Cause

- 13.1** Supplier may terminate the Contract if (i) it has provided the State with written notice of material breach and (ii) the State fails to cure such material breach within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice. If there is more than one Customer, material breach by a Customer does not give rise to a claim of material breach as grounds for termination by Supplier of the Contract as a whole. The State may terminate the Contract in whole or in part if (i) it has provided Supplier with written notice of material breach, and (ii) Supplier fails to cure such material breach within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice. Any partial termination of the Contract under this section shall not be construed as a waiver of, and shall not affect, the rights and obligations of any party regarding portions of the Contract that are not terminated.
- 13.2** The State may terminate the Contract in whole or in part immediately without a thirty (30) day written notice to Supplier if (i) Supplier fails to comply with confidentiality, privacy, security, environmental or safety requirements applicable to Supplier's performance or obligations under the Contract; (ii) Supplier's material breach is reasonably determined to be an impediment to the function of the State and detrimental to the State or to cause a condition precluding the thirty (30) day notice or (iii) when the State determines that an administrative error in connection with award of the Contract occurred prior to Contract performance.
- 13.3** The State may terminate the Contract if the scope includes PR Vendor services and the Supplier, or Supplier's employee, violate the lobbying clause. PR Vendor services is defined to include a contract for public relations (PR), marketing or communication services. The State may immediately terminate the Contract with no more than 10-day notice under this section.
- 13.4** Upon receipt of notice of a termination, Supplier shall immediately comply with the notice terms and take all necessary steps to minimize the incurrence of costs allocable to the work affected by the notice. If a purchase order or other payment mechanism has been issued and a product or service has been accepted as satisfactory prior to the effective date of termination, the termination does not relieve an obligation to pay for the product or service but there shall not be any liability for further payments ordinarily due under the Contract or for any damages or other amounts caused by or associated with such termination. Such termination is not an exclusive remedy but is in addition to any other rights and remedies provided for by law. Any amount paid to Supplier in the form of prepaid fees that are unused when the Contract or certain obligations are terminated shall be refunded. Termination of the Contract under this section, in whole or in part, shall not relieve the Supplier of liability for claims arising under the Contract.

13.5 The Supplier's repeated failure to provide an acceptable product or service; Supplier's unilateral revision of linked or supplemental terms that have a materially adverse impact on a Customer's rights or obligations under the Contract (except as required by a governmental authority); actual or anticipated failure of Supplier to perform its obligations under the Contract; Supplier's inability to pay its debts when due; assignment for the benefit of Supplier's creditors; or voluntary or involuntary appointment of a receiver or filing of bankruptcy of Supplier shall constitute a material breach of the Supplier's obligations, which may result in partial or whole termination of the Contract. This subsection is not intended as an exhaustive list of material breach conditions. Termination may also result from other instances of failure to adhere to the Contract provisions and for other reasons provided for by applicable law, rules or regulations; without limitation, OAC 260:115-9-1 is an example.

14 Termination for Convenience

14.1 The State may terminate the Contract, in whole or in part, for convenience if it is determined that termination is in the State's best interest. In the event of a termination for convenience, Supplier will be provided at least thirty (30) days' written notice of termination. Any partial termination of the Contract shall not be construed as a waiver of, and shall not affect, the rights and obligations of any party regarding portions of the Contract that remain in effect.

14.2 Upon receipt of notice of such termination, Supplier shall immediately comply with the notice terms and take all necessary steps to minimize the incurrence of costs allocable to the work affected by the notice. If a purchase order or other payment mechanism has been issued and a product or service has been accepted as satisfactory prior to the effective date of termination, the termination does not relieve an obligation to pay for the product or service but there shall not be any liability for further payments ordinarily due under the Contract or for any damages or other amounts caused by or associated with such termination. Such termination shall not be an exclusive remedy but shall be in addition to any other rights and remedies provided for by law. Any amount paid to Supplier in the form of prepaid fees that are unused when the Contract or certain obligations are terminated shall be refunded. Termination of the Contract under this section, in whole or in part, shall not relieve the Supplier of liability for claims arising under the Contract.

15 Suspension of Supplier

15.1 Supplier may be subject to Suspension without advance notice and may additionally be suspended from activities under the Contract if Supplier fails

to comply with confidentiality, privacy, security, environmental or safety requirements applicable to Supplier's performance or obligations under the Contract.

15.2 Upon receipt of a notice pursuant to this section, Supplier shall immediately comply with the notice terms and take all necessary steps to minimize the incurrence of costs allocable to the work affected by the notice. If a purchase order or other payment mechanism has been issued and a product or service has been accepted as satisfactory prior to receipt of notice by Supplier, the Suspension does not relieve an obligation to pay for the product or service but there shall not be any liability for further payments ordinarily due under the Contract during a period of Suspension or suspended activity or for any damages or other amounts caused by or associated with such Suspension or suspended activity. A right exercised under this section shall not be an exclusive remedy but shall be in addition to any other rights and remedies provided for by law. Any amount paid to Supplier in the form of prepaid fees attributable to a period of Suspension or suspended activity shall be refunded.

15.3 Such Suspension may be removed, or suspended activity may resume, at the earlier of such time as a formal notice is issued that authorizes the resumption of performance under the Contract or at such time as a purchase order or other appropriate encumbrance document is issued. This subsection is not intended to operate as an affirmative statement that such resumption will occur.

16 Certification Regarding State Employees Prohibition From Fulfilling Services

Pursuant to 74 O.S. § 85.42, the Supplier certifies that no person involved in any manner in development of the Contract employed by the State shall be employed to fulfill any services provided under the Contract.

17 Force Majeure

17.1 Either party shall be temporarily excused from performance to the extent delayed as a result of unforeseen causes beyond its reasonable control including fire or other similar casualty, act of God, strike or labor dispute, war or other violence, or any law, order or requirement of any governmental agency or authority provided the party experiencing the force majeure event has prudently and promptly acted to take any and all steps within the party's control to ensure continued performance and to shorten duration of the event. If a party's performance of its obligations is materially hindered as a result of a force majeure event, such party shall promptly notify the other party of its best reasonable assessment of the nature and duration of the force majeure event and steps it is taking, and plans to take, to mitigate the effects of the force majeure event. The party shall use commercially reasonable best efforts to

continue performance to the extent possible during such event and resume full performance as soon as reasonably practicable.

17.2 Subject to the conditions set forth above, non-performance as a result of a force majeure event shall not be deemed a default. However, a purchase order or other payment mechanism may be terminated if Supplier cannot cause delivery of a product or service in a timely manner to meet the business needs of Customer. Supplier is not entitled to payment for products or services not received and, therefore, amounts payable to Supplier during the force majeure event shall be equitably adjusted downward.

17.3 Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other provision in the Contract, (i) the following are not a force majeure event under the Contract: (a) shutdowns, disruptions or malfunctions in Supplier's system or any of Supplier's telecommunication or internet services other than as a result of general and widespread internet or telecommunications failures that are not limited to Supplier's systems or (b) the delay or failure of Supplier or subcontractor personnel to perform any obligation of Supplier hereunder unless such delay or failure to perform is itself by reason of a force majeure event and (ii) no force majeure event modifies or excuses Supplier's obligations related to confidentiality, indemnification, data security or breach notification obligations set forth herein.

18 Security of Property and Personnel

In connection with Supplier's performance under the Contract, Supplier may have access to Customer personnel, premises, data, records, equipment and other property. Supplier shall use commercially reasonable best efforts to preserve the safety and security of such personnel, premises, data, records, equipment, and other property of Customer. Supplier shall be responsible for damage to such property to the extent such damage is caused by its employees or subcontractors and shall be responsible for loss of Customer property in its possession, regardless of cause. If Supplier fails to comply with Customer's security requirements, Supplier is subject to immediate suspension of work as well as termination of the associated purchase order or other payment mechanism.

19 Miscellaneous

19.1 Transition Services

If transition services are needed at the time of Contract expiration or termination, Supplier shall provide such services on a month-to-month basis, at the contract rate or other mutually agreed rate. Supplier shall provide a proposed transition plan, upon request, and cooperate with any successor

supplier and with establishing a mutually agreeable transition plan. Failure to cooperate may be documented as poor performance of Supplier.

19.2 Publicity

The existence of the Contract or any Acquisition is in no way an endorsement of Supplier, the products or services and shall not be so construed by Supplier in any advertising or publicity materials. Supplier agrees to submit to the State all advertising, sales, promotion, and other publicity matters relating to the Contract wherein the name of the State or any Customer is mentioned or language used from which, in the State's judgment, an endorsement may be inferred or implied. Supplier further agrees not to publish or use such advertising, sales promotion, or publicity matter or release any informational pamphlets, notices, press releases, research reports, or similar public notices concerning the Contract or any Acquisition hereunder without obtaining the prior written approval of the State.

19.3 Mutual Responsibilities

- A.** No party to the Contract grants the other the right to use any trademarks, trade names, other designations in any promotion or publication without the express written consent by the other party.
- B.** The Contract is a non-exclusive contract and each party is free to enter into similar agreements with others.
- C.** The Customer and Supplier each grant the other only the licenses and rights specified in the Contract and all other rights and interests are expressly reserved.
- D.** The Customer and Supplier shall reasonably cooperate with each other and any Supplier to which the provision of a product and/or service under the Contract may be transitioned after termination or expiration of the Contract.
- E.** Except as otherwise set forth herein, where approval, acceptance, consent, or similar action by a party is required under the Contract, such action shall not be unreasonably delayed or withheld.

19.4 Entire Agreement

The Contract documents taken together as a whole constitute the entire agreement between the parties. The Contract documents include this Contract, any Amendments to this Contract, applicable Solicitation, and any successful bid as may be amended or limited through negotiation. No statement, promise,

condition, understanding, inducement or representation, oral or written, expressed or implied, which is not contained in a Contract document shall be binding or valid. The Supplier's certifications, including any completed electronically, are incorporated by reference into the Contract.

ATTACHMENT C

Intentionally left blank.

ATTACHMENT E1
ADDITIONAL TERMS

Intentionally left blank.

ATTACHMENT E2

MASTER TERMS

Intentionally left blank.

**ATTACHMENT E3
PRICING**

		SFY Costs					
ITEM NAME	DESCRIPTION	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	TOTAL
Evaluation and Benchmarking Report	Comprehensive report documenting all review activities, findings, and recommendations	\$ 55,171.00	\$ 57,353.00	\$ 59,621.00	\$ 61,978.00	\$ 64,428.00	\$ 298,551.00
Standard Setting Overview Presentation	Introductory virtual presentation to the CEQA one month before final findings	\$ 7,882.00	\$ 8,193.00	\$ 8,517.00	\$ 8,854.00	\$ 9,204.00	\$ 42,650.00
Final Findings and Recommendations Presentation	Deliver a formal virtual presentation summarizing final findings and recommendations upon project completion	\$ 15,763.00	\$ 16,387.00	\$ 17,035.00	\$ 17,708.00	\$ 18,408.00	\$ 85,301.00
Total FIRM FIXED PRICE		\$ 78,816.00	\$ 81,933.00	\$ 85,173.00	\$ 88,540.00	\$ 92,040.00	\$ 426,502.00

ATTACHMENT E4
VALUE ADD OFFERINGS

Intentionally left blank.

ATTACHMENT E5

THIRD PARTY TERMS

Intentionally left blank.

ATTACHMENT E6

STATEMENT OF WORK

Based on the request from the OEQA, ACS in collaboration with our partner WestEd, are proposing to provide a range of evaluation activities related to the standard setting activities. These specific activities were provided in Exhibit 6 of the RFP with the proposed services for each element of the scope of work described within each section.

1. Review Standard Setting Process

- a. Evaluate standard setting activities, including prior (2017) study as a point of comparison, as presented by the current vendor, ensuring compliance with state guidelines and industry standards.
- b. Evaluate the TAC's advice on cut scores and performance levels, assessing their alignment with industry best practices and Oklahoma statutory requirements.
- c. Analyze the results, observer insights, and full technical reports produced during the standard setting activities.

To review the 2024 and 2017 standard setting processes, ACS and WestEd propose an evaluation design that is based on Kane's (1994; 2001) recommended framework in addition to state guidelines and the expectations in the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (AERA, APA, & NCME, 2006). This framework organizes technical sources evidence into three categories – procedural, internal, and external. Within these sources, information will be collected about the qualifications of participants, appropriateness of the standard setting methodology, evidence about the preparation and training of the panelists, empirical information provided to support panelists' judgments, evidence of convergence of recommendations from participants, input from stakeholders, and documentation from implementation of the standard setting activities including observer insights. As one source of evidence from technical stakeholders, ACS and WestEd will evaluate advice from the state's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) related to the cut scores and performance levels. The artifacts for evaluating this advice will be found in the meeting agendas and minutes from TAC meetings in 2024 and 2017.

As suggested by Ferrara, Davis-Becker, Kannan & Reynolds (in press), the table below illustrates each source of evidence, some of the artifacts/documentation that could be collected, and indicators of success that would be systematically considered in the review.

Table 1

Framework to Guide Workshop Design and Gather Validation Evidence to Support Claims about the Interpretation of Cut Scores

Validity Expectation	Suggested Documentation
<p><i>Design Evidence</i></p> <p><i>The study design aligns with the purpose and characteristics of the test and cut score(s) to be set.</i></p>	
<p>1. The standard setting method and its cognitive-judgmental task are suited to the format of the test, expertise of the panelists, and the intended interpretation and use of test scores.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rationale for the selected standard setting method and how the cognitive-judgmental task is appropriate for the panelists and intended interpretation and use of test scores.
<p>2. Empirical information presented during the standard setting (e.g., external benchmarks and target cut scores, item difficulty, performance distributions) is consistent with the standard setting workshop design and method.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Description of the empirical information including the sample of examinees represented and when it was collected. – Details as to when and how empirical information was presented during the standard setting including instructions provided to panelists to guide interpretation and inform judgments.
<p>3. The panel collectively represents the range of expertise needed to inform the cut score recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Panelist qualifications such as employer, position, years of experience, geographic location, and populations served.
<p>4. Standard setting activities (i.e., training, judgment activities, feedback), ways of integrating expert judgment, empirical information, and discussion are specified in the workshop design.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Details about the standard setting plan that includes the inputs to, and collection of, judgments used to determine the recommended cut score(s).
<p><i>Preparation Evidence</i></p> <p><i>Panelists are adequately prepared to make the necessary judgments.</i></p>	
<p>5. Panelists developed a shared understanding of the item response demands and expectations for each performance level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Details about the review of Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) and/or the development of threshold PLDs. – Panelist evaluation responses indicating they had a sufficient understanding of the expectations for each performance level and/or the threshold performance expectations.
<p>6. The training adequately prepared panelists for the standard setting task, including following the cognitive-judgmental task and addressing potential heuristics, biases, and other factors that can distort decision-making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Details about the training activities including topics covered and specific instructions provided to panelists including what to think about and what shortcuts to avoid. – Panelist evaluation responses indicating they felt adequately prepared to follow the cognitive-judgmental task.

Decision Making Evidence

Panelists make standard setting judgments following the standard setting design and plan.

7. Panelists applied the method’s cognitive-judgmental task as intended, including consideration of additional feedback information that was provided.	– Panelists’ evaluation responses indicating they followed the cognitive-judgmental task during each round of judgments.
8. The process provided opportunities for panelists to receive and discuss meaningful feedback on their judgments and revise their judgments, if warranted.	– Panelists’ evaluation responses indicating that the feedback and discussions were valuable to inform their judgments.
9. Workshop facilitators managed processes without unduly influencing judgment and decision-making about cut score recommendations.	– Panelists’ evaluation responses indicating that they have confidence in their recommended cut scores.

Outcomes Evidence

The results show consistency in panelist expectations and the results are reasonable¹.

10. The results indicate the panel’s shared understanding of the knowledge and skill expectations for each performance level.	– Empirical information on the similarity in recommended cut scores among panelists (e.g., range, standard error).
11. The results indicate that panelists were consistent in their application of the cognitive-judgmental task.	– Empirical information that shows consistency between panelists’ judgments and other measure of the item response demands (e.g., targeted performance level, empirical item difficulty).
12. The results are reasonable, based on external information or review by stakeholders.	– External evaluation of results that indicate reasonableness which may be empirical (e.g., comparison to historical results, results from another measure, results from another standard setting method) or subjective (e.g., review by policy body or subject matter experts).

¹ Although there is no way to judge cut scores as correct or incorrect, ‘reasonable’ means the cut scores (or resulting impact) would be judged as fair or appropriate by informed stakeholder groups.

2. Conduct Stakeholder Interviews

- a. Interview key stakeholders involved in the standard setting process, including the State Department of Education (SDE), TAC members, the current vendor, and teachers who participated in the standard setting.
- b. Gather insights on the process, challenges, and overall effectiveness.
- c. Provide examples of potential process improvements after these discussions.

As part of evidence collection and focused on the 2024 study, ACS and WestEd will conduct a series of stakeholder interviews to better understand their experiences in different parts of the standard setting process. These interviews could also be conducted as focus groups to gather feedback. The key stakeholder groups in the process will be educators who participated in the standard setting study, the current vendor including facilitators, members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and policymakers at the State Department of Education. Information from process evaluation surveys conducted during the standard setting will supplement the evidence gathered through these interviews. Based on the number of participants, we anticipate conducting interviews or focus groups with 2-3 SDE staff, 2-3 members of the TAC, 2-3 representatives of the current vendor, and 6-8 educators who participated in the standard setting studies, representing the range of participants.

Prior to conducting any interviews or focus groups, ACS and WestEd will develop a structured interview protocol that focuses on key aspects of standard setting activities. These areas would include understanding of the policy goals, interpretations and uses of scores from the assessment, standard setting methodology, appropriateness and completeness of training in the methods, concerns or challenges that were raised in the process, use of external benchmarks to support interpretation of results, and how results from the study could inform and support action.

The outcome of these interviews and focus groups will be transcribed with notes and feedback on the standard setting process. These comments will be synthesized to support the evaluation of the convergence, or not, of perspectives of these diverse stakeholder groups. From these findings, recommendations for improvements to process and/or practice will be shared.

3. Post-Standard Setting Review

- a. Evaluate the processes for the adoption of standard setting results by the State Board of Education, identifying any gaps or areas for improvement.
- b. Review post-standard setting activities, including stakeholder feedback and how adjustments were handled and communicated with the public.

Following evidence collection from a review of documentation and stakeholder groups, ACS and WestEd will review and evaluate the processes and decision rules for the adoption or adjustment of standard setting results by the State Board of Education. Evidence of these processes may be artifacts, presentations, recorded meetings, executive summaries, or similar communications related to deliberations that occurred with the cut score recommendations. We will also review the communications strategy as related to the rollout of the final cut scores and the policy rationale.

4. Cut Score Adjustment

- a. Provide a detailed method for determining and adjusting cut scores based on the ongoing review and comparison with other states.
- b. Propose evidence-based guidelines for potential cut score adjustments, informed by performance comparisons with other states and aligned with Oklahoma's educational goals.

As part of our discussion of the policy deliberations, we will discuss different options for policy adjustments such as using one of several standard error calculations, smoothing through vertical articulation of a system of cut scores, consideration of the consequences of Type I (false positive) and Type II (false negative) errors, or a compilation of these sources (e.g., Haertel et al. 2012), at the point of making achievement level classifications for students.

From this information collection and in combination with best practices in standard setting (see, for example, Hambleton & Pitoniak, 2006) and policy rationale, ACS and WestEd will recommend evidence-based guidelines for when adjustments may be made to recommended cut scores to support how the results are used. Some of these guidelines will also discuss the alignment of performance level descriptors (PLDs) and academic content standards with these sources in other states and at the federal level.

5. Comparison to Surrounding States

- a. Compare Oklahoma's statewide assessment content, performance descriptors, and cut scores to those of surrounding states and to a national benchmark, such as NAEP, to evaluate rigor and alignment with national proficiency standards. Report on any significant differences in assessment rigor or performance descriptors and recommend cut score adjustments as needed for accurate reporting of student achievement.
- b. Identify and report any disparities between Oklahoma's performance standards and those reflected in NAEP results, with a focus on ensuring accurate representation of student achievement.

As part of the evaluation, ACS, in collaboration with our partner WestEd, will compare Oklahoma's performance level descriptors (PLDs) and cut scores at grades 4, 8, and high school to surrounding states and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). For comparability of results and interpretation of student-level classifications, a series of analyses will be conducted to evaluate the proportion of students classified at each proficiency level across these assessments. Conducting these comparisons will occur primarily through a series of empirical linking studies.

The linking studies will apply equipercentile smoothing methods for interpreting student relative to surrounding states and national indicators. These analyses will assume the comparability of policy-level PLDs and random equivalence of the students who participated in the respective statewide or national assessments. In addition to the linking studies, a qualitative analysis of the comparability of the Threshold or Range PLDs, as available, will be conducted to further evaluate the comparability of the content at these selected grade levels.

6. Final Deliverables

- a. Evaluation and Benchmarking Report: Submit a comprehensive report documenting all review activities, findings, and recommendations, including a section on comparisons with surrounding states and NAEP benchmarks.
- b. Standard Setting Overview Presentation: Provide an introductory virtual presentation to the CEQA one month before final findings to outline the standard setting process and familiarize the board with the work.
- c. Final Findings and Recommendations Presentation: Deliver a formal virtual presentation summarizing final findings and recommendations upon project completion. Present the final findings in a formal virtual presentation to the CEQA upon completion of the project.
 - Include a detailed section on the comparison of Oklahoma's cut scores to NAEP benchmarks, with recommendations for adjustments to align with national proficiency standards.
 - Highlight any identified rigor gaps that may affect the accuracy of Oklahoma's reported student achievement levels.

ACS and WestEd will produce a comprehensive draft report of all evaluation activities, findings, and recommendations. The report will include a section on comparisons with surrounding states and NAEP benchmarks. Following delivery of the draft report, ACS and WestEd will prepare and deliver a presentation to the CEQA that describes the standard setting process, who was involved, study activities, and how the results were translated into recommendations. As part of this presentation, we will also include an orientation to the policy considerations that are an important component of the process.

Finally, ACS will present the final findings and recommendations from the evaluation to the CEQA. This presentation will correspond to the final version of the comprehensive report that will be delivered as part of the project. As part of the presentation, we will discuss how Oklahoma's cut scores compare with surrounding states and NAEP benchmarks along with any potential gaps that may impact Oklahoma's reported student levels. Another part of this presentation will be to discuss reasons why any observed gaps exist and the policy considerations that can be used to inform any adjustments.

Project Schedule

A proposed timeline for the initial year of the contract is proposed here with schedules for subsequent years determined by the anticipated standard setting activities that occur each year.

Activity	Initial Year	Renewal Year 1	Renewal Year 2	Renewal Year 3	Renewal Year 4
Project Planning	February 2025	July 2025	July 2026	July 2027	July 2028
Evaluation and Benchmark Reporting	March – May 2025	August – October 2025	August – October 2026	August – October 2027	August – October 2028
Standard Setting Overview Presentation	May 2025	November 2025	November 2026	November 2027	November 2028
Final Findings and Recommendations Presentation	June 2025	December 2025	December 2026	December 2027	December 2028