


Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

June 28, 2022

APPROVED BY BOARD

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Interim Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Contract Approval for RFP No. 1154.4, Digital Content Products for MDK12 Digital Library Consortium—Extension

This is the first one-year renewal to pre-qualify online digital content products to include four product additions, for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium (MDK12 Consortium), a statewide purchasing consortium of 24 local school systems (LSS). It is designed to provide teachers, students, parents and guardians cost-effective access to a collection of appropriate online digital content products to support school library media programs and to offer enhanced opportunities to support effective teaching and learning for Grades K–12 students at a savings to each LSS. Online digital content products include online subscription databases and electronic library resources. As a member of the MDK12 Consortium, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) acts as the soliciting agent on behalf of the other 23 LSS to pre-qualify online digital content products for purchase by MDK12 Consortium members.

The MDK12 Consortium's purchasing authority is set forth under state statute Sections 7-9A-01 through 7-9A-05 Annotated Code of Maryland. Under state law, the purposes of the MDK12 Consortium are to:

- Provide equitable access to digital content for all Maryland K–12 students and teachers;
- Improve school library media programs with advanced technologies;
- Create fiscal efficiencies in the purchase of digital content through enhanced cooperation among school libraries; and
- Support effective teaching and learning by connecting digital content with the Maryland Content Standards; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics initiatives; and workforce development.

Members of the MDK12 Consortium began working together in 2002 to purchase online digital content products. Since that time, the MDK12 Consortium has leveraged the LSS' collective resources to negotiate pricing with providers of online digital content products to serve approximately 850,000 public school students and more than 42,000 nonpublic school students enrolled in Grades K–12. The benefits of purchasing through the MDK12 Consortium include greater equity of access, cost savings to LSS' shared professional development, and effective partnerships among school librarians.

To facilitate the continued purchase of online digital content products through the MDK12 Consortium, MCPS released Request for Qualification No. 1154.4, Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium on February 25, 2019 to solicit high-quality online subscription databases and electronic library resources. MCPS staff organized and conducted a thorough product selection process with representatives from members of the MDK12 Consortium.

Based on the outcome of the product selection process, the superintendent of schools recommends that the Board of Education approve certain pre-qualified online digital content products for purchase by LSS participating in the MDK12 Consortium through June 30, 2023. The pre-qualification award will be for an initial term of three years with up to three one-year renewal options.

In addition, regarding MCPS purchases of pre-qualified online digital content products, funds have been budgeted for MCPS offices and schools to purchase pre-qualified online digital content products for a total amount not to exceed \$1,208,826 for FY 2023.

WHEREAS, As a member of the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium, Montgomery County Public Schools acts as the soliciting agent on behalf of the other 23 local school systems to pre-qualify online digital content products for purchase by MDK12 Digital Library Consortium members; and

WHEREAS, To facilitate the continued purchase of online digital content products through the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium, Montgomery County Public Schools released Request for Qualification No. 1154.4, Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium on February 25, 2019, to solicit high-quality online subscription databases and electronic library resources; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools staff organized and conducted a thorough product selection process with representatives from members of the MDK12 Consortium; and

WHEREAS, Based on the outcome of the product selection process, the superintendent of schools recommends that the Board of Education approve certain pre-qualified online digital content products for purchase by local school systems participating in the MDK12 Consortium through June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The pre-qualification award will be for an initial term of three years with up to three one-year renewal options; and

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for Montgomery County Public Schools offices and schools to purchase pre-qualified online digital content products for a total amount not to exceed \$1,208,826 for Fiscal Year 2023; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the following online digital content products are pre-qualified for purchase by each Local School System participating in the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium in its discretion and in accordance with the specifications of Request for Qualification No. 1154.4:

1154.4 Online Digital Content Products for the MDK12 Digital Library Consortium
Responsible Office: Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs

Pre-Qualified Products (See note on page 4)

<u>Vendor Name, Location</u>	<u>Products</u>
FWD Media, New York, New York	BrainPop Platform
Buncee LLC, Speonk, New York	Buncee Web Platform
Coughlan Companies, Inc., North Mankato, Minnesota	Capstone Interactive eBook; PebbleGo
Cavendish Square Publishing LLC, New York, New York	Cavendish Square Digital
Cengage Learning Inc., Farmington Hills, Michigan	Gale Testing and Education Reference Center; Gale Platform
EBSCO Industries, Inc., Birmingham, Alabama	EBSCO Platform; Learning Express, Flipster, Academic Search Complete, Academic Search Ultimate
Digital Theatre (US) LLC, Chicago, Illinois	Digital Theatre Plus Online Learning Resource*
Gareth Stevens Publishing LLLP, New York, New York	Report Builder Database
Infobase Holdings Inc., New York, New York	Databases; Streaming Video; World Almanac for Kids; World Almanac Online; World Geography and Culture Online; Writer's Reference Center; Facts on File
Kids Discover LLC, New York, New York	Kids Discover Online
Lincoln Library Press Inc., Cleveland, Ohio	FactCite
MT Library Services Inc., Plain City, Ohio	Junior Library Guild
Nearpod Inc., Dania Beach, Florida	Digital Platform
Nicholas M Glass, Madison, Wisconsin	TeachingBooks.net
One More Story Inc., Brooklyn, New York	Read Aloud Picture Book Database
OverDrive, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio	OverDrive Digital Platform
Press4Kids, Inc., New York, New York	News-O-Matic*
ProQuest LP, Ann Arbor, Michigan	CultureGrams; SIRS Discover
Scholastic Library Publishing Inc., Danbury, Connecticut	BookFlix; FreedomFlix; Go! ScienceFlix; Teachables; True Flix; Watch & Learn Library; Westin Woods Streaming Plus

Vendor Name, Location

Scott Allen, Culpeper, Virginia
Smartbook Media Inc., New York, New York
The Chancellor Masters and Scholars of the
University of Oxford, Cary, North Carolina

The Rosen Publishing Group Inc.,
New York, New York
Tumbleweed Press Inc., Toronto, Ontario

Weigl Publishers Inc., New York, New York
Wonderland Ventures, LLC, Silver Spring, Maryland
World Book Inc., Chicago, Illinois
Zoobean, Inc., Arlington, Virginia

Products

LibraryTrac
Smartbook Media - LightBox
Oxford African American Studies
Center; Oxford Art Online;
Oxford Music Online; Oxford
Press Encyclopedias; The New
Oxford Shakespeare; The Oxford
English Dictionary; Very Short
Introductions*
EPointPlus; Interactive eBooks
Spotlight On; Rosen Databases
TeenBook Cloud Collection;
TumbleBooks Library & Math
EyeDiscover; World Languages
Project Muse
Encyclopedia Databases
Beanstack

*New product added for 2022–2023

Note: Contract amounts will be based on individual requirements.

and be it further

Resolved, That the interim superintendent of schools be authorized to negotiate and execute agreements for the purchase of pre-qualified online digital content products for Montgomery County Public Schools for a total amount not to exceed \$1,208,826 for fiscal year 2023; and be it further

Resolved, That the interim superintendent of schools be authorized to execute all other documents and grant any approvals necessary for the purchase of pre-qualified online digital content products for Montgomery County Public Schools.

MBM:ESD:amd