



DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF STATE PROCUREMENT
ACTION AGENDA
January 28, 2026



REVISED
SUPPLEMENTAL

Contact: Jenna Meinl 443-610-1493
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48-S. **SERVICES CONTRACT**
Department of Education

Contract ID: Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program; R00B6600070
ADPICS No.: R00B6600070

Contract Description: Provides comprehensive assessment services including test design, development, administration, scoring, and reporting for Maryland's statewide K-12 academic assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

Award: NCS Pearson, Inc.; Bloomington, MN

Contract Term: 02/19/2026 - 02/18/2031(w/one 3-year renewal option)

Amount:
\$95,327,067 (Base Term)
\$58,804,665 (Renewal Option #1)
\$154,131,732 Total Contract

Procurement Method: Competitive Sealed Proposals

Proposals:

<i>Offerors</i>	<i>Technical Rankings</i>	<i>Financial Offers (Rankings)</i>	<i>Overall Rankings</i>
NCS Pearson, Inc.; Bloomington, MN	1	\$154,131,732.00 (1)	1
Cognia, Inc.; Alpharetta, GA	2	\$175,165,010.43 (2)	2
Educational Testing Service; Princeton, NJ	3	\$202,632,051.03 (3)	3

*Technical and financial proposals were weighted equally.

Living Wage Eligible: Yes

MBE/VSBE Participation: 20.51% / 9.01%

Performance Security: No



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48-S. SERVICES CONTRACT (cont'd)

Incumbent: Cognia, Inc.; Alpharetta, GA
Educational Testing Service; Princeton, NJ
NCS Pearson, Inc.; Bloomington, MN

Requesting Agency Remarks: The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) provides comprehensive assessment services for Maryland's statewide K-12 testing program, serving approximately 600,000 students annually across all 24 Local Education Agencies. The selected Contractor will design, develop, administer, score, and report results for general education assessments spanning grades 3-8 and high school end-of-course examinations. Services include transitioning to a next-generation, digitally delivered multi-stage testing system, maintaining and expanding MSDE's item bank, delivering stakeholder training and technical assistance, and providing actionable reporting to inform instructional decisions and accountability measures. Approving this contract enables MSDE to modernize its assessment program, maintain compliance with federal and state requirements, and advance core principles of trust, transparency, accessibility, equity, innovation, and efficiency.

A Notice of the availability of a Request for Proposals (RFP) was advertised on eMaryland Marketplace Advantage on September 22, 2025, and sent directly to 34 prospective vendors. A copy of the RFP was provided to the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women's Business Affairs.

Five (5) proposals were received in response to the RFP. Three proposals were determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. Two proposals did not meet the Minimum Qualifications listed in the RFP.

Upon completion of comprehensive technical and financial evaluations, NCS Pearson was determined to be the most advantageous offeror to the State. NCS Pearson ranked highest technically and submitted the lowest financial pricing. The vendor's proposal is the most responsive and responsible, making NCS Pearson the recommended awardee for this procurement.

MSDE set a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) participation goal of 20.5% and a Veteran Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) participation goal of 9.0% for this solicitation, which NCS Pearson has committed to meet. **The contractor has committed to exceed the established 9% VSBE participation and achieve 9.01% participation.**

Fund Source: 100% General Funds

Approp. Code: R00.A6316



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48-S. **SERVICES CONTRACT** (*cont'd*)

Resident Business: No

MD Tax Clearance: 26-057-1111

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

THIS ITEM WAS:

APPROVED

DISAPPROVED

DEFERRED

WITHDRAWN

WITH DISCUSSION

WITHOUT DISCUSSION