STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Service Agreement for Systemwide Diagnostic Assessment System
FY 2018-19

Request: The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) requests approval for a third contract extension with the College Board for the period of July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, with an increased cost of $1.70 per unit to not exceed $1,000,000.

Strategic Plan Reference(s):
Theme: Clear and Supported Pathways for Student Progress and Success
Goal: Provide a continuum of education, training, advising, and support to help learners make informed decisions that lead to credentials and careers.
  • Objective 2.3. Increase completion of credentials for successful transition to careers and/or further education.
    o Strategy 2.3.2. Refine foundational and developmental education strategies to accelerate student readiness for college-level instruction.

Background: In 2010, the NCCCS Developmental Education Initiative State Policy Team began its work to redesign developmental math, reading, and English courses. In February 2012, the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) adopted a policy to approve a new single diagnostic placement test. The NCCCS received approval from the SBCC on March 16, 2012, to contract with the College Entrance Examination Board (College Board) for the delivery of a comprehensive diagnostic placement testing system at a cost of $1.35 per unit.

The initial contract expired on June 30, 2016. On May 20, 2016, the SBCC approved the current contract extension with the College Board for the period of July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2018. The extension of the contract maintained the cost at a discounted price of $1.35 per unit from July 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016. The price per unit in the 2017-2018 contract period increased to $1.50 per unit for the remaining 18 months (January 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018).

Rationale: The customized, statewide diagnostic assessment system supports student placement into the current developmental curricula. The current diagnostic assessment is an improvement over past placement tests; however, the research and analysis conducted during the current extension revealed the need to further improve not only the developmental education structure, but also the assessment tool. The request for a second extension allows colleges to maintain current assessment services while the changes in the developmental education structure are developed.

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, approval was sought by outside purchasing authorities. Approval was received on February 15, 2018 from the Division of Purchase and Contract.

SBCC
03/16/2018
**Contract Amount and Time Period:** The contract amount is $1.70 per unit, not to exceed $1,000,000, for the period of July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019.

**Fund Source and Availability:** The College Board will invoice each community college separately.

**Contacts:**
James “JW” Kelley  
Academic Programs & Student Services