

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Contract Amendment for 2013 GED Scoring Services

Request: The State Board is asked to approve additional funds for scoring to Oklahoma Scoring Service, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$18,360. This is the second amendment to FC 5 which was approved at the State Board meeting on November 15, 2012, in the amount of \$175,000. The first amendment was approved by the State Board in November 2013 on FC 8 for an amount not to exceed an additional \$75,000.

Background: The North Carolina State Board of Community College awards a General Educational Development Diploma (High School Diploma Equivalency) to individuals attaining passing scores on the GED® tests. The GED Testing Service is a joint venture of the American Council on Education and Pearson VUE, two industry leading organizations with a common focus on adult learning. The North Carolina Community College System has the state-level responsibility for the administration of the GED® tests through the local colleges. Local colleges administer the tests as part of their Basic Skills Programs to meet the needs of students enrolled in the GED program.

The North Carolina Community College System does not have the capability to provide scoring services for the entire battery of the English, Spanish, and French test editions, as well as the multiple-choice ESL test. The offeror will provide the services at \$2.00 per test per individual to score each of the five GED tests in English, Spanish, and French test editions, as well as the optional multiple-choice ESL test of the GED tests.

Rationale: Approval for additional funds is requested for the following reasons:

- Effective January 1, 2014, GED Testing Service offers computer-based testing (CBT) exclusively. The 2002 Series of GED tests expired on December 31, 2013. As a result of the test series ending, testing volume increased significantly in the last quarter of 2013. More than 16,000 individual GED tests were administered in the month of December alone compared to the usual 2,000 test administrations in an average month.
- Allocating additional funds for the OK Scoring contract through the end of 2013 enables NCCCS to receive scores and reports of GED testing which allows for consistency in NCCCS GED testing data.

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, approval is being sought by outside purchasing authorities. Approval of the contract by the State Board is contingent upon approval by the State Purchasing and Contract office.

Contract Amount and Time Period: The second contract amendment is for an amount not to exceed \$18,360 for scoring services through December 31, 2013. The total amount for this 2013 contract including both amendments will be \$268,360.

Fund Source & Availability: The \$35.00 GED testing fee will be used to cover the cost of scoring all five GED tests and the optional multiple-choice ESL test.

Contact:

Diane Steinbeiser
North Carolina State GED Administrator