

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) NO. 20-041

Infrastructure for the CNMI PSS State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Questions and Answers

1. [AdminPlus] How many years of historical data is available in the SIS database?

Historical data is available for 13 years or longer for most schools.

What database platform stores the SIS data?

This information cannot be disclosed at this time, but it will be provided to the offeror when the contract is awarded.

For the historical data, is it expected that the vendor solution links historical PEDMS ID's to the APID?

The APID is a student record ID that changes every year. The Student Information System (SIS) Unique ID links students with their historical data and the PEDMS ID is used as a secondary key. However, we welcome offerors to recommend the most cost-efficient and optimal solution.

2. [AdminPlus] Is the student program participation data also tracked at the student level in AdminPlus? We would need to identify the start and end dates by academic year for Free/reduced Lunch program recipients, English Learners, Special Education, Homeless, Foster Care and Children of Military Families?

Yes, student program participation data in all of the above is tracked at the student level in AdminPlus.

If not, how many different sources are there for storing the various federal program level data?

The SIS is the only source for storing this data.

3. [AdminPlus] What are the different types of student grades that are stored in AdminPlus (Progress grades, end of course grades, transcripts grades)?

The following are the different types of student grades stored in AdminPlus:

- Quarterly Standards Based Grades (Elementary School),
- Quarterly Percentage Grades (Middle School),
- Semester Percentage Grades (High School),
- Transcript Grades (Percentage and 4.0 Weighted and Unweighted Scales).

AdminPlus does not store Progress Report grades.

4. [AdminPlus] Attendance – Is data for both Period and Daily attendance also stored in SIS?

Yes, both are stored in the SIS.

Does the state perform ADA and ADM calculations or is that data stored in SIS?

Yes, the SIS performs and stores ADA and ADM calculations.

5. [AdminPlus] Are Teacher and Student course schedules stored by academic year and are these easily correlated to school calendars?

Yes, student and teacher course schedules are stored by academic year. The SIS has a calendar feature that allows for a user to input the date a school is in session for attendance purposes; however, it does not store dates for school holidays, events, and/or activities.

6. [AdminPlus] Will the state be able to provide the necessary permissions to source data from AdminPlus into the vendor-hosted SLDS data warehouse?

Data integration through SIF and One Roster is possible. If the offeror has a different permission request requirement to source data, we will need to know what method is required and the CNMI PSS will work with AdminPlus to work on a solution.

7. [ChildPlus] What is the database platform hosting the ChildPlus data?

This information cannot be disclosed at this time, but it will be provided to the offeror when the contract is awarded.

8. [ChildPlus] How many years of historical data is available?

10+ years of historical data is available.

9. [Assessments] How many years of state assessments is available and is expected to be loaded in the SLDS solution for analysis and reporting?

ACT Aspire data is available from the 2014-2015 school year onward, with all years expected to be loaded in the SLDS solution.

10. [Assessments] How many years of Renaissance Learning Assessments data available in AdminPlus?

Renaissance Learning Assessments data is not available in AdminPlus. Data must be obtained directly from Renaissance where there is over 10 years of data available.

11. [Assessments] ACT Aspire – How long has this been the State assessment?

The CNMI PSS has used the ACT Aspire assessment since the 2014-2015 school year.

12. [Assessments] Does the state use an alternate state assessment for Special Education participants? If so, what is the state's Alternate assessments?

The alternate assessment is the Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) and a portfolio-based alternate assessment for select grades.

13. [Assessments] What is the State's assessments for English Learners? Does the state also administer the alternate assessment for English Learners?

PSS administers the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 which is an English language proficiency test for all identified English Learners. It also administers the WIDA ACCESS Alternate Assessment to students with IEPs with significant cognitive disabilities also identified as English Learners.

14. [Assessments] For the Renaissance Learning STAR Read/Math assessments, is that data collected by the State and how many years of data is available that must be loaded into the SLDS solution?

Data is available from Renaissance but is not stored in the SIS. The expectation is that 10+ years of historical data be included in the SLDS solution.

15. [Assessments] What are the different types of formative and Interim assessments that the state collects? Are these consistent across academic years? If not, please provide the list of these assessments by academic year.

STAR Early Literacy & STAR 360 tests Kindergarten through 3rd Grade, with screener and outcome assessments given throughout the year (and includes 10+ years of historical data). The general testing schedule each year is:

- Screening #1 Fall Beginning/Mid-September to end of October
- Screening #2 Winter Beginning of January to end of January
- Screening #3 Spring Beginning/Mid-March to end of March
- Screener #4/Outcome End of the school year (May - June)

ACT Aspire Tests 3rd-10th grade, with interim and summative assessments administered throughout the year (and includes historical data as far as the 2014-2015 school year).

The general testing schedule each year is:

- Interim 1 (Mandatory) All Contents October to November
- Interim 2 (optional) All Contents (school selects dates)
- Interim 3 (Mandatory) All Contents February to March
- Interim 4 (Optional) (school selects dates)
- Summative Test Window End of Year

16. [Assessments] What are the assessments in measuring program outcomes for Early Childhood Education?

Teaching Strategies Gold.

17. [Assessments] Are all the original vendor raw files available for all state assessments by academic year?

Yes, they are available by academic year.

18. [SLDS and State/Federal Reporting] How is the state currently supporting EdFacts/EDEN reporting? Is it expected that the SLDS solution should be used as the source for EdFacts reporting?

We expect the SLDS to be aligned to, and to support, the Generate Tool to execute the EdFacts reporting.

19. [SLDS and State/Federal Reporting] Federal Accountability/ESSA reporting: Does the office of Accountability, Evaluation and Research plan to produce public accountability reporting from the SLDS?

Yes, the Office of ARE plans to produce accountability reports using the SLDS data. These accountability reports will contain the percentage of students, by school and grade level, demonstrating learning growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics; and other indicators, including absenteeism.

20. [Teacher and Staff] Is the JDEdwards system hosted on Oracle database? Which version of Oracle?

No, JDE uses the AS400 Database.

21. [Teacher and Staff] How many years of teacher certification data is available?

The teacher certification data is available for over 10 years.

22. [Teacher and Staff] How does the teacher certification system store data for identifying “out of field” or teachers that are not fully certified?

JDE does have information for “out of field” and teachers who are not fully certified. The database may not be up to date.

23. [Teacher and Staff] Are staff/teacher ID’s (identifiers) linked with the teacher identifiers in AdminPlus or TeacherPlus Gradebook?

Employee ID’s in JDE are not linked with the teacher identifiers in AdminPlus nor TeacherPlus.

24. [Financial Data] Are data from federal grants awards and claim level data available in the JDE system?

Yes, data from federal grants awards and claim level data are available in our JDE system.

25. [Financial Data] Is school-level financial data available and is expected that per pupil expenditures are reported from the SLDS?

Yes, school-level financial data is available. It is not a requirement, but we eventually would like to include data on CNMI PSS finances such as per pupil spending on specific programs. This would improve the CNMI’s ability to organize and analyze student-level education data including achievement outcomes.

26. [Financial Data] Is the state expecting to support educational spending data from the SLDS system?

This is not within the scope of the RFP.

27. [Portal] Is the state expecting a new portal that will offer reporting to the school system across teachers, principals, district management and state officers to measure student outcomes? Or is the state wanting to expose reporting from SLDS into an existing portal?

The CNMI PSS is expecting a new portal since there is no portal that currently exists.

28. [Portal] What are the different categories of student outcomes would the state want to implement as reports available to school system?

Categories of student outcomes will include graduation rates, attendance, and academic achievement summative assessments by subgroups: ELL, students with IEP, race/ethnicity, etc.

29. [Portal] Early Warning System: Would the state be interested in implementing an “At Risk” dashboard across all school levels? Also, for the current EWS, is it expected that the data from the current EWS is also loaded into the SLDS?

The EWS is currently in the pilot phase for the K-3 grades with data sorted on Microsoft® Excel files or Google Sheets by schools and shared through a secure portal. Following the pilot, the EWS system will transition to using the CNMI SLDS data to include early childhood data. Data reports should be accessible through web-based visualization tools such as the data dashboard, and should include the pilot year data.

30. [Category Cost/Financial] Does CNMI PSS have a desired format for the expected cost response?

We do not have a desired required format for expected costs. Vendors must provide a cost breakdown for proposed solutions and spell out acronyms throughout the proposal.

31. [Category Cost/Financial] Does CNMI PSS want the vendor to differentiate between maintenance and support in Phases 2-4?

Yes, please differentiate between maintenance and support for Phases 2-4.

32. [Category Cost/Financial] Will CNMI view negatively a solution requiring an O&M contract to sustain the hardware and software post grant period?

Yes, we prefer a solution that does not require an O&M contract to sustain the hardware and software post grant period.

33. [Category Cost/Financial] Would CNMI view it as beneficial if the proposed solution could onboard post-secondary and wage information during the term of the contract?

It would be great if the proposed solution could move the timeline ahead and beyond Phase 4 within the contract term, but we want the cost to match the scope in as much detail as possible. If the vendor would like to include supplemental alternatives to the scope as detailed, you are more than welcome to include those additional solutions.

34. [Category Cost/Financial] Does CNMI desire only 1 costing structure, or would it be more beneficial if a vendor provided multiple costing options? i.e. Single Firm Fixed Price, SaaS, or a mix of FFP and T&M

It would be preferred for the vendor to provide multiple costing options.

35. [Category Technical / Business] What is the typical bandwidth at the SEA and LEA level? Are there bandwidth/connectivity issues at any of the CNMI PSS locations which the vendor should be aware of?

The CNMI Public School System is an SEA and an LEA, and our bandwidth/connectivity is stable on all sites in the CNMI.

36. [Category Technical / Business] What types of 'persons' (or objects) are you looking to track (in addition to students)? The RFP states that there are several unique

identifiers, including for Students, Teachers, Households, etc. Is CNMI PSS expectation to track all of these, only students, or a combination, or all? If the expectation is a combination, which persons or objects is the system expected to track?

The system is expected to track students (and their historical data for 10+ years), and a way to identify educators and match them to their students.

37. [Category Technical / Business] Can CNMI PSS share with us the expected requirements around end user authentication and authorization, to include specific roles and permissions if possible?

End User Authentication: 2 Factor Authentication (with options for users to choose methods)

Specific Roles: SLDS Director/Program Manager, Technical Support Team, Teachers, School Administrators, General Public (Data Dashboards), Researchers, District Offices/Programs, Parent/Students

38. [Category Technical / Business] Does CNMI have a preferred technology stack?

The CNMI PSS does not have a preferred technology stack; however, the solution must be scalable to include P-20W in the future. We expect vendors to recommend the most cost-efficient and optimal solution.

39. [Category Technical / Business] What is the expected data refresh frequency for each of the data sources provided in the RFP, specifically for the EC and K12 SLDS? E.g. as daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly. Note this is different than the data feed to the P20W.

There is no existing Early Childhood nor K12 SLDS. The expected data refresh frequency for each data source is as follows:

- Child Plus System (EC) - Daily (Real Time Data)
- K-12 Student Information System - Daily (Real Time Data)
- Renaissance (STAR Reading, STAR Math) - Quarterly (Based on Scheduled District Testing Window)
- WIDA - Quarterly
- Standard Based Assessments - Yearly
- Act Aspire (Interim Tests) - Quarterly
- Act Aspire (Summative) - Yearly
- Multi-State Alternative Assessment (MSAA) - Yearly
- McREL Teacher Evaluation - Yearly
- JDE - Daily
- Achieve 3000/Smarty Ants - Quarterly
- TS Gold - Trimester

40. [Category Technical / Business] How frequently will new data be provided to the P-20W solution?

There is no P-20W solution as part of the RFP for this grant period. The RFP is focused on the EC through K12 system, however, we would like the system to be scalable to a P-20W solution sometime in the future after the grant period.

41. [Category Requirements] Are the reporting requirements outside the scope of the proposed bid?

No, the reporting requirements are not outside the scope of the requested proposal. They are listed under the Phase 1 Deliverables - Development of the infrastructure.

42. [Category Requirements] Will CNMI PSS provide the EWS requirements to the vendor, or should the proposal assume requirements gathering for the EWS is in scope to the project?

Requirements gathering for the EWS is within the scope of the project.

43. [Category Requirements] A deliverable in Phase 1 is 'Facts & figures for schools, community, legislature, PSS departments/offices/programs, NMC'. Can CNMI PSS provide requirements for these deliverables or is requirements definition considered in scope for the project?

Requirements gathering for the Facts & Figures is within the scope of the project.

44. [Category Requirements] A deliverable in Phase 1 is the School Report Card. Can CNMI PSS provide requirements for these deliverables or is requirements definition considered in scope for the project?

Requirements gathering for the School Report Card is within the scope of the project.