

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendation of \$500,000 or Less FY21-054 – Head Start and Early Childhood Digital Tools

Introduction

Responsible: Procurement and Warehousing Services (PWS)

This request is to approve the agreement between Teaching Strategies LLC. (TS) and The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC), for three (3) years, starting July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023, with an option for two (2) additional one (1) year renewals periods. The vendor will provide an observation-based assessment system utilized in the Head Start and Voluntary Prekindergarten program. Teaching Strategies Gold (GOLD) helps teachers and administrators measure what students know and are able to do and provide appropriate and differentiated instruction and will be funded by Head Start/Early Intervention Budget. The Head Start grant is currently funded through June 2024.

Due to the COVID-19, the spending authority being requested is \$90,771, and covers the estimated amount projected for the first twelve (12) months; therefore, additional spending authority to cover the remaining term of the Agreement will be requested in a future date.

Goods/Services Description

Responsible: Head Start/Early Intervention Department

About Teaching Strategies

GOLD is an authentic, ongoing, observation-based assessment system utilized in the Head Start and Voluntary Prekindergarten program. GOLD helps teachers and administrators measure what students know and are able to do, so they can then provide appropriate and differentiated instruction. GOLD measures thirty-eight (38) industry-recognized, researched-based objectives for development and learning for children ages birth through five (5), and is aligned with the Florida Early Learning and Development Standards as well as the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. GOLD automatically links teaching and assessment, thus providing the information needed to tailor instruction and provide direct feedback to parents.

GOLD fulfills Head Start Performance Standard 1302.33 - Child Screening and Assessments, stating that Head Start programs must use one (1) or more research-based developmental standardized screening tools.

Curriculum Alignment with Head Start and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

GOLD is recognized throughout the nation as a premier assessment tool and is aligned with Head Start/Early Intervention's established curriculum, The Creative Curriculum System for Preschool. The Head Start/Early Intervention Department purchased The Creative Curriculum System for Preschool in the summer of 2016 for use beginning in the 2016-2017 school year in both the Head Start and VPK classrooms throughout the District. This curriculum meets the Head Start Performance Standard (1302.32) requiring a developmentally appropriate, research-based, early childhood curricula and is aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to five (5). It is also on The Florida Department of Education's Office of Early Learning list of approved VPK curricula. The Early Learning Coalition of Broward (ELC) continues to promote its use for VPK and School Readiness providers.

GOLD provides resources that help the teacher plan instruction based upon the assessment data and is automatically adjusted for every child, thus removing the possibility of inappropriate planning and instruction. GOLD data is used to track progress toward School Readiness Goals and is reported three (3) times per year to the School Board, District Departments, and Community Stakeholders.

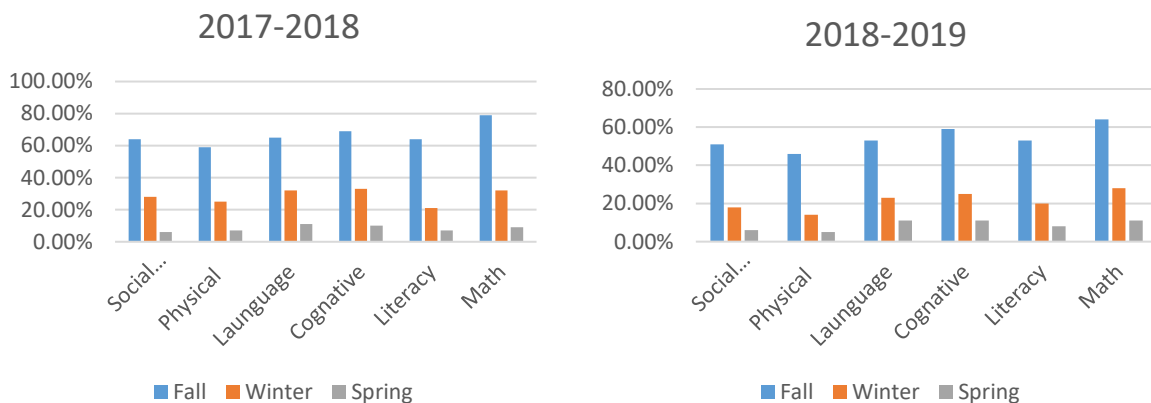
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Growth and Expansion

The recommendation is a multi-year agreement with allowances for growth and expansion of the VPK program. By entering into this contract and combining resources for Head Start and VPK, more competitive pricing was able to be negotiated. The National List price with standard volume discount pricing is \$15.00 per student portfolio, but SBBC's price is \$12.95 per student portfolio.

Supporting Data

GOLD provides teachers with the ability to track student progress throughout the year. This data is utilized to individualize instruction, determine teacher needs, and guide program-wide improvements. A School Readiness Goals Report is developed (baseline, mid-year, and end-of-year) to present the data in relation to the goals and benchmarks, determine progress, and identify program-wide trends. Program decisions and improvements are then made based on the data. The graph below shows the overall performance of Head Start students during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.



% of students not meeting or exceeding expectations in each domain

Yearly data shows a decrease in students not meeting or exceeding expectations from Fall to Spring across six (6) domains to include Social-Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, and Math. This decrease is tracked with GOLD. From the collected data, curriculum suggestions are provided at the individual student level that aligns with the designated curriculum, Creative Curriculum, used by the Head Start and VPK programs. Using Teaching Strategies Gold and Creative Curriculum concurrently makes it possible to track student growth and link classroom observations with day-to-day instructional decisions and customize learning for each student within the program that shows a direct correlation to the decreasing number of students not meeting or exceeding expectations throughout the school year.

Procurement Method

Responsible: PWS & Head Start/Early Intervention Department

The Agreement was negotiated in accordance with Rule 6A -1.012 (11B and 14), Florida Administrative Code and Purchasing Policy 3320, Section II, H, SBBC is authorized to purchase copyrighted materials, instructional materials and computer software without competitive solicitations.

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Financial Impact

Responsible: PWS and Head Start/Early Intervention Department

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This will be funded by the Head Start/Early Intervention Budget. The Head Start grant is currently funded through June 2024.

Please see below the breakdown for the entire bid term.

Year one (1): \$90,771
 Year two (2): \$90,771
 Year three (3): \$90,771
Total: \$272,313

Year 1-3 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023)			
PRODUCT	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	EXTENDED PRICE
Digital Curriculum Resources	188	\$250	\$47,000
Florida GOLD Bundle	3,380	\$0	\$0
GOLD Online Assessment Portfolios	3,380	\$12.95	\$43,771
GOLD Archives	67,600	\$0	\$0
Total (Estimated)			\$90,771

The financial impact represents an estimated contract value; however, the amount authorized will not exceed the estimated contract award amount.