QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
RFI - DIGITAL CURRICULUM WITH A LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

1. Is the learning management system (LMS) identified in this RFI equivalent to the LMS that is being sought in SCS’ recently released Request for Proposal (RFP) for Learning Management System for SCS? **No**

Is the expectation that both LMS are the same (ref. section 1.1, bullet 1)? **No**

2. Does this LMS and integration with current district student management portals need to provide a forward and backward integration of grades, etc. or just a one-way integration from the LMS to the portals (ref. section 1.1, bullet 1, sub-bullet 2)? **2 Way, forward and backward**

3. Besides PowerTeacher and PowerSchool, with which other district-owned applications must the LMS integrate (ref. section 1.1, bullet 1, sub-bullet 2)? **None**

4. With regard to the RFI specification: “Must offer a rigorous digital curriculum for all or individual subjects in grades Pre K–1;” can a vendor submit curriculum for just one grade level (e.g., grade 1) or must it be for the entire grade span (ref. section 1.1, bullet 4)? **Vendors must submit solutions that cover all grade spans. This can include multiple solutions.**

5. With regard to the RFI specification: “Must be able to accommodate delivery in multiple languages;” must the LMS be available in multiple languages (ref. section 1.1, bullet 6)? **No, the LMS is not required to be available in multiple languages**

6. At the top of page 9 of the RFI addresses “Duration of the Agreement.” Is it the intent of SCS to enter into a contract award as a result of this solicitation, or is this RFI merely a preliminary step prior to the release of a formal RFP (ref. section 2.0)? **The latter…an RFP will follow the RFI**

7. If this RFI is a precursor to an RFP through which a contract award will be made, must a vendor respond to this RFI in order to participate in the RFP process (general)? **No, responding to the RFI is not a requirement in order to participate in the RFP process.**

8. This RFI is on a similar condensed timeline as the aforementioned RFP and three other similar RFIs. To give vendors who are contemplating responding to all five solicitations adequate time to prepare comprehensive responses to each, would SCS consider extending the due date for this and/or any of the other open solicitations (general)? **No extensions will be provided.**

9. Must be able to accommodate delivery in multiple languages. Are you looking to be able to input materials in different languages into the system? **We would like the curriculum to be available in different languages not the ability to input in different languages**
10. **Section A, Announcement, Background of Request**
   a. What metrics/factors will Shelby County Schools consider to determine the scalability of the initial pilot program? **Student engagement via access of digital curriculum after school hours, student gains in academics related to digital curriculum, and cost**

11. **Section A, Announcement, Objective**
   a. Will Shelby County Schools ensure that each of the 12,000 students participating in the pilot consistently has adequate internet and digital device access in a home environment or at ancillary sites such as Boys and Girls Clubs, public libraries, etc.? **Yes**
   b. Who will be accountable for promoting regular usage of the virtual tool to all students? **Teacher/Principal/School**
      Will students be required to spend a certain amount of time using in the virtual tool in a specific week, month, semester, etc.? **Yes**

12. **Section 1. Scope of Services, 1.0 The Services, Digital Curriculum Requirements**
   a. Will Shelby County Schools consider different providers for the Pre-K to grade 1 content and the grades 2-12 content? **Vendors must submit solutions that cover all grade spans. This can include multiple solutions.**

13. **What are the success criteria for the pilot program?** **Student engagement via access of digital curriculum after school hours and resulting academic gains as evidenced on PARCC testing.**

14. **How much budget has been allocated for the 2014-15 school year? Is there budget allocation for additional years after 2014/15?** **The budget is not disclosed. Yes, there is a budget for additional years.**

15. **Who will be responsible for the pilot implementation within Shelby County Schools?** **Cleon Franklin**

16. **How does an information request (RFI) differ from a request for a proposal (RFP) in the Shelby County Schools process?** **This RFI is for information purposes only. The RFP will include a required scope of services for proposal submission for a possible award based on evaluation of proposals.**

17. **How will the 16 schools be selected for participation in the pilot program?** **Application process vetted by Office of Innovation**

18. **Will all students at the selected schools use the same curriculum within a subject area or will there be separation by ability level or other criteria?** **Same common core centered curriculum - but curriculum should be adaptive to the needs and ability levels of each individual student.**
19. Will classroom time be allocated for use of the digital curriculum, in addition to use of non-traditional hours? **Yes, this will be a Blended Learning model.**

20. Has the district identified the specific blended learning models intended for evaluation during the pilot program? If so, please describe in detail, the blended learning models you intend to evaluate. **We will use a combination of a classroom rotation model with direct instruction from a teacher using traditional methods or the chosen digital curriculum, a flex model that allows students to progress beyond grade level at their own pace, and the flipped classroom model where students asynchronously use the digital curriculum to engage in new content and the instructor clarifies confusion during class the next day.**

21. Has the district identified and contracted the necessary consulting resources to assist with the blended learning model definition, implementation and training required to ensure a successful pilot evaluation? If so, who are the contracted vendors? **No. All models are chosen internally and will be evaluated internally. All training requirements are outlined in the RFI or RFP.**

22. What specific programs (credit recovery, remediation, test preparation, RTI, after school programs, title I tutoring, ELL support, gifted & talented) will be targeted for pilot program evaluation? **No specific program will be targeted. The success measure is academic gains for all students.**

23. How will you implement student account creation and management? Will you require single sign-on capability? Is there a required standard (ADFS, SAML, etc.)? **Vendor selected will create accounts and partner with district IT to facilitate single sign on.**

24. What technology, support, and supervision will be provided for students using the program during non-traditional hours? **This is a separate RFI for access to web based curriculum, but selected vendor will be responsible for direct curriculum support after hours and off site per student needs.**

25. Which languages are required under multiple language delivery? **Respondents should submit the digital curriculum in all languages current available.**

26. For the multiple language delivery requirement; are you expecting fully translated content, or multiple language support and scaffolding, or teacher guided support and scaffolding? **Full translation for ESL needs**

27. Will teachers participating in the pilot program be provided with professional development, and if so how will that be structured? **Yes**

28. Will the pilot program be implemented in a 1:1 environment? If so, will students be allowed to take devices to/from school? **Yes and Yes**
29. Which specific data objects are required for PowerSchool, PowerTeacher and/or current district management portals? Is there a required integration standard? **Unknown - Vendors should contact Pearson for answers.**

30. Who should be able to print individualized student progress reports (students, parents, teachers, administrators, etc.)? **Teachers, Administrators and Parents**

31. How should the required data dashboard be customizable? **See specifics in RFI.**

32. Will responses be considered that meet a subset of the required content areas and/or grade levels? For instance, will a vendor who only provides 9-12 Science Content be considered? **This is the RFI process.**

33. Will multiple vendors be awarded for the pilot program? **Possibly**

34. Should built-in resources available for student help outside of the classroom during non-traditional hours include access to human delivered support or will technology based (knowledge base, help files, tutorials) resources suffice? **Submit pricing for both.**

35. Is there a rubric which will be used to evaluate proposals? Will that rubric be made available to vendors? **A rubric will be used for evaluation during the RFP process. The RFP will indicate criteria for evaluation.**

36. When will a first-round of vendors be selected? Will there be a second round of presentations to the selection committee? When will second-round presentations be held? When will a final decision be made? Will you provide a more detailed timeline for implementation, testing, go-live and other important dates? **This is only the RFI process. The upcoming RFP process will dictate other details.**

37. How will prior district experience be factored into award decisions? **This is only the RFI process.**

38. May vendors include pricing for optional software or services not specifically required in the proposal? **Yes**