

RFP No. BLR-190001, Education Adequacy Consulting Services
Vendor Questions and BLR Responses – April 5, 2019

Q: Is there a budget amount set for this study?

A: No, please submit your best pricing proposal.

Q: Is there clarification on what is wanted in 3.0.C.8 regarding capital needs. It can be read as a full scale capital study or just a recommendation on best practices for funding capital. If it is a more detailed study, is there a current facility review done by the state or some other organization of school buildings and building needs?

A: The purpose of the RFP is for the Education Committees to receive information and recommendations from a consultant regarding best practices in other states and input regarding the current process used in Arkansas for studying adequacy and funding of K-12 education in the state, as well as suggestions for reform to the current process. While the RFP sets out the foundation of the study to be conducted by the Successful Vendor in collaboration with the Committees and the basis for the contract, the requests for work by the Committee members and the discussions between the Successful Vendor and the Committees will influence the overall work performed.

Specifically, with regard to this question #2, the Committees are interested in best practices, but as the study goes along, this could grow into a more in-depth study. Please provide us with your best proposal for serving the Committees, including handling other issues that may arise as information is presented to them.

The Research Services Division staff for the Bureau of Legislative Research currently assists the Committees with conducting their biennial adequacy study. There is data available from BLR, the Department of Education, and the local school districts that the Successful Vendor will have access to once it begins the work under the contract.

Samples of the available facilities reports can be found at:

[http://arkansasfacilities.arkansas.gov/public/userfiles/Commission_Meeting_2/July_2018/Tab_6 - Report.pdf](http://arkansasfacilities.arkansas.gov/public/userfiles/Commission_Meeting_2/July_2018/Tab_6_-_Report.pdf)

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/education/K12/AdequacyReports/2018/2017-11-29/AcademicFacilitiesFunding-ExpendituresandDistress-ReportBLR13.pdf>

Q: 3.0.A.7. Is the intent to identify CTE programs currently available to students in Arkansas or effective programs nationally?

A: The purpose of the RFP is for the Education Committees to receive information and recommendations from a consultant regarding best practices in other states and input regarding the current process used in Arkansas for studying adequacy and funding of K-12 education in the state, as well as suggestions for reform to the current process. While the RFP sets out the foundation of the study to be conducted by the Successful Vendor in collaboration with the Committees and the basis for the contract, the requests for work by the Committee and the discussions between the Successful Vendor and the Committees will influence the overall work performed.

The Committees are interested in information regarding what is available both in Arkansas and nationally.

Q: 3.0.B.5. Does this refer to public input into statewide school size standards or guidelines by local school boards, or both?

A: This could be clarified with the Committees when work begins by the Successful Vendor. The purpose of the RFP is for the Education Committees to receive information and recommendations from a consultant regarding best practices in other states and input regarding the current process used in Arkansas for studying adequacy and funding of K-12 education in the state, as well as suggestions for reform to the current process. While the RFP sets out the foundation of the study to be conducted by the Successful Vendor in collaboration with the Committees and the basis for the contract, the requests for work by the Committee and the discussions between the Successful Vendor and the Committees will influence the overall work performed.

Q: 3.0.C.13. Could they provide clarification of the issues they would like the contractor to address?

A: The minimum quantity and type of professional development that should be funded at the state level, as well as how other states define, allocate, restrict, and fund extra duty time.

Q: 3.0.B.3 Is information available on extracurricular programs and activities at a school level?

A: General extracurricular expenditures are available at the district level. Some school-level expenditures may be available, but it is unclear how consistently those may be coded. Other data may be available upon request to the Department of Education and the school districts.

Q: Is school building capacity information available in order to compare actual enrollment to capacity?

A: Yes, through the Facilities Division of the Department of Education.