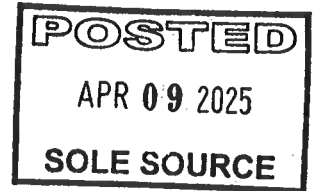




## Department of Purchasing

100 N. Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Suffolk, VA 23434  
(757) 925-6762 Fax (757) 942-4333

### NOTICE Sole Source Purchase



**Date:** April 9, 2025

**For:** WIDA Consortium Access for English Language Learners (Online)

**Vendor Name:** Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER)

**Requested by:** Instructional Services

**Description:** Kinder Access for ELL (Online) and Grades 1-12 Access for ELL (Online)

**Cost:** Not to exceed \$15,000.00 per year

**Justification:** The Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER), part of the University of Wisconsin - Madison is the fiscal and administrative agent for the WIDA Consortium, which is a group of forty-one (41) State Education Agencies (SEAs) seeking to meet the federal requirements of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 or ESSA) related state requirements by developing and implementing customized, standards-based English proficiency assessments for English language learners. The Consortium member agencies have approx. 2,800,000 English language learners (ELLs) in over 47,000 schools. ESSA requires assessment of these students for proficiency in learning English annually at all grade levels, K-12

**Approved By:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Robin Booth'.

Robin Booth, MAOL, VCA  
Buyer

A handwritten date in blue ink that reads 'April 9, 2025'.

Date

Date: April 9, 2025

To: Suffolk Public Schools, VA

From: Jenni Monie de Torres, Ed.D. – Executive Director, WIDA Consortium

RE: WIDA Consortium Sole Source Justification

The Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER), part of the University of Wisconsin – Madison, is the fiscal and administrative agent for the WIDA Consortium, which is a group of forty-one (41) State Education Agencies (SEAs) seeking to meet the federal requirements of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 or ESSA) and related state requirements by developing and implementing customized, standards-based English proficiency assessments for English language learners. The Consortium member agencies have approximately 2,800,000 English language learners (ELLs) in over 47,000 schools. ESSA requires assessment of these students for proficiency in learning English annually at all grade levels, K–12.

The WIDA Consortium is a sole source provider for the following reasons:

- Individual states and school districts do not possess the large-scale, secure testing infrastructure to handle these required tasks.
- WIDA, as a group of member states, has already conducted competitive bidding for the technology, printing, distribution, scoring and reporting of the assessments using rigorous state government standards. Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) was the winner of the competition and will remain as WIDA's vendor for at least the next three years.
- US ED requires that ELP assessments be aligned to state academic standards and approvable English proficiency standards. WIDA conducts the necessary alignments and can provide states with the required reports.
- The WIDA Consortium has partnerships with nationally recognized contractors with unique skills in the area of ELL standards and assessment development and implementation. These national partners include the Center for Applied Linguistics, TMS Management, the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and numerous individuals like Dr. Akihito Kamata, Dr. Greg Cizek, Dr. Claudia Flowers, Dr. Micheline Chalhoub-Deville, Tim Kurtz and Dr. Michael Young. The collaboration among these institutions and national experts has created a truly unique set of products and services for the WIDA Consortium and states affiliated with us.

Thank you,



Jenni Monie de Torres  
Executive Director  
WIDA Consortium