

Mississippi State University Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

Mississippi State University anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):
AIM Pathways to Proficient Reading Licensure Program provided by AIM Institute for Learning and Research. The purchase includes 20 participant licenses, access to the AIM Learning Management System, online coursework, assessments, instructional resources, facilitator support, Community of Practice sessions and participant completion certificates.

2. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s), how is it unique from all other options, and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:
The program is needed to support Mississippi educators in meeting Elementary Education licensure requirements related to the science of reading. AIM Pathways provides a comprehensive licensure pathway that combines online coursework, assessments, instructional resources, facilitator support, Community of Practice sessions aligned to Mississippi licensure requirements. The curriculum, instructional materials and delivery model are unique to AIM and are not available through other providers.

3. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):
AIM Institute for Learning & Research is the sole provider of the AIM Pathways to Proficient Reading Licensure Program. AIM owns and maintains the proprietary curriculum, learning platform, instructional resources, assessments, and facilitator support services associated with this program. No other vendors is comparable to provide this specific program or its associated materials.

4. Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:

The estimated cost is \$17,000 for 20 participant licenses and related services for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The cost includes participant access to the online platform, coursework, assessments, instructional resources, facilitator support, reporting, implementation, training, and Community of Practice Sessions. The prices is considered reasonable based on the comprehensive services provided and the specialized licensure-focused training offered through the program.

5. Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price:

AIM Pathways was identified as the only program that provides specific combination of licensure aligned coursework, proprietary instructional resources, assessments, facilitator support and Community of Practice sessions required for this initiative. Because AIM is the sole owner and provider of the program, comparable quotes were not available. The PI for the Grant worked directly with AIM to secure pricing for the required number of participant licenses and services.

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the commodity listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Jennifer Mayfield, CPPO

Director of Procurement Services, Chief Procurement Officer

jmayfield@procurement.msstate.edu

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection"

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MSU determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MSU will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If MSU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then MSU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. MSU will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.