

**DETERMINATION & FINDINGS  
FOR A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

**AGENCY:** D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)  
**CAPTION:** Common Core Transition  
**CONTRACTOR:** CTB/McGraw Hill

**FINDINGS**

**1. AUTHORIZATION:**

D.C. Official Code § 38-102 (2001) and District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, Title 5, Chapter 2, sections 2300, 2310, 2312

**2. MINIMUM NEED:**

The Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE) is transitioning to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for 2011 – 2012. The CCSS were adopted by the State Board of Education July 2010 and are a requirement under the Race to the Top application. In that application, OSSE stated that DC would adopt the CCSS and implement the standards in 2011 - 2012. In order to transition to the CCSS, OSSE must alter the state assessment system, DC CAS, to align with the standards. CTB/McGraw Hill is our current vendor for the DC CAS, and therefore the only vendor who can make this transition. This statement of work is different from our current contract in that it covers transition activities outside the normal realm of designing and creating the DC CAS.

**3. ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:**

The fair and reasonable price is estimated at \$494,067.

**4. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:**

- a. Under the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended, all states are required to give an annual assessment. Currently, our assessment system is aligned to the DC Content Standards. Once the CCSS were adopted, OSSE must transition the alignment of the assessment system to the new standards. The adoption of these standards and the following implementation is a requirement under Race to the Top which gives OSSE 75 million dollars in grant money. Without changing the alignment and transitioning to the CCSS, OSSE is in jeopardy of not meeting the requirements of the Race to the Top grant.
- b. Due to the nature of the work, the only contractor who can perform such a transition is the current contractor, CTB/McGraw Hill. CTB/McGraw Hill has been producing the DC CAS since 2006. The company houses all our DC owned test items and ensures that the assessment quality and comparability is maintained from year to year. No other company has access to this data. However, this work, the transition to the CCSS is not covered in our current contract. Our current contract only covers the creation and production of the test from year to year. It does not cover the realignment work that must take place so that we can align eh DC CAS to the CCSS and fulfill our obligations to Race to the Top.
- c. The U.S. Department of Education requires the assessment system be aligned to the current content standards. Therefore, if we are requiring schools to teach the CCSS in 2011 – 2012,

we must then also align our assessment system to test the CCSS in 2011 – 2012. This takes a tremendous amount of work outline in the statement of work provided by CTB/McGraw Hill. The District of Columbia is one of the first states in the nation to transition to the CCSS, and by doing this work will lead the nation in this initiative.

- d. CTB/McGraw Hill has a history of providing high-quality assessments to states across the country. OSSE has done business with them since 2006 and has been very pleased with their work. In collaboration, we have increased the quality of the DC CAS, making it a valid, reliable, and trust worthy assessment. On staff CTB/McGraw Hill has content experts who are working with OSSE to create the most reliable transition plan that is high in quality and keeps fidelity to the standards. Currently CTB/McGraw Hill is developing in house items aligned to the CCSS, so they bring a wealth of experience to this transition plan. Their track record of providing reliable assessment, moreover, means it has support from and connection to the community that is unmatched in the District of Columbia and will ensure the assessments maintain the high quality and validity that has become know in the city.

Therefore, the Contractor is the only source capable of meeting the District's minimum needs, and fulfilling the state requirements.

5. **CERTIFICATION BY AGENCY DIRECTOR:**

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct, and complete.

July 15, 2011  
Date

Hosanna Mahaley for  
Hosanna Mahaley  
State Superintendent