



**Solicitation of Assessments**

**Proposals Due:** February 1, 2019

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|  | **READ Act****Interim Reading Assessment Solicitation** **School Year 2018-19** |  |
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**For more information contact:**

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Issued by:



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 *Director of Human Resources*

 *Colorado Department of Education*

 *201 East Colfax Avenue, #201*

 *Denver, CO 80203*

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# Background

House Bill 12-1238, the Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (Colorado READ Act) was passed by the Colorado Legislature during the 2012 legislative session. The READ Act repeals the Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA) as of July 1, 2013. The READ Act differs from CBLA by focusing on students identified as having a significant reading deficiency, delineating requirements for parent communication, and providing funding to support intervention. Interim assessments are a required part of the READ Act and are to be administered to all students grades K-3 throughout the school year. The READ Act requires that at least one interim assessment be available in Spanish.

# Purpose of Request

The purpose of this solicitation is to accept proposals for reading interim assessment tools, in both Spanish and English, for inclusion on the 2019 *Read Act Colorado State Board of Education Approved List of Interim Assessments*, pursuant to C.R.S. 22-7-1209. The State Board of Education approved list will be available to Colorado schools and school districts via the Colorado Department of Education’s website: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/ReadAct/index.asp>. Districts and schools may voluntarily choose from the approved list for their use of an interim assessment. This solicitation does not include a provision for expenditure of state funds to providers on the list, and there is no guarantee that providers will be selected by schools/districts. The state may revise its criteria over time as needed.

Currently approved READ Act Assessments will not need to submit for review unless there is a new edition or version of the assessment that replaces the current version approved in 2013. To see a list of currently approved assessments please see the [READ Interim Assessments web page](http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/readinterimassessments)

The purpose of an interim assessment in the Colorado READ Act is to identify “students with a significant reading deficiency” in grades K-3. Interim assessments are administered to all K-3 students throughout the school year. Those students identified as having a “significant reading deficiency” must then have diagnostic assessment(s) administered to pinpoint those students’ specific area(s) of weakness in reading, and provide in-depth information about students’ skills and instructional needs. Students identified with a significant reading deficiency are required to have an intervention plan called READ Plan. The students’ READ Plan will include targeted, scientifically-based or evidence-based intervention instruction to address and remediate the students’ specific diagnosed “reading skill deficiencies”. Then, once instruction has begun, teachers must use progress-monitoring assessments to determine whether students are making adequate progress and to determine whether instruction needs to be adjusted.

Both Istation and Amplify Education, Inc. have assessments that were approved in 2013 and were awarded contracts pursuant to Request for Proposal RFP DAA 2018000004, Early Literacy Assessment Tool. Those contracts have one-year options to renew through June 30, 2023. As per paragraph directly above, those assessments will NOT need to be submitted for review unless there is a new edition or version. If there is a new edition or version, Istation and Amplify are hereby notified that when submitting their proposal responses with new editions or versions for inclusion on the 2019 Read Act Colorado State Board of Education (SBE) Approved List of Interim Assessments, that the rates listed in those contracts cannot be modified based on what they submit now for SBE consideration. In addition, the assessments that they submit cannot be significantly modified from those that were submitted with the Request for Proposal.

# Eligibility Requirements English and Spanish Assessments

(Please see additional eligibility requirements for Spanish assessments)

To be included on the list of *Colorado State Board of Education Approved List of READ Act Interim Assessments*, providers must have interim reading assessments that meet the following minimum threshold (minimum thresholds are also explained on the attached Scoring Rubric):

* The assessment has been designed to measure changes in early reading ability across a school year and across the grade-levels of K-3 which are the targeted grade levels for The READ Act.
* The assessment can be administered no less than three times, meaning there must be multiple forms, each school year from Kindergarten through Grade 3.
* The assessment has established cut-scores that can be used to identify students with *“significant reading deficiencies”* across the school year.
* The assessment has been psychometrically reviewed by the vendor or outside evaluator.

The interim assessments will be evaluated on the following criteria:

* Evidence of test reliability
* Evidence of consistency in scoring
* Evidence of representative samples in reliability studies
* Alternative forms available for multiple assessments with demonstrated equivalence or comparability
* Evidence of content and construct validity
* Evidence that resulting classifications are valid for identifying students with “significant reading deficiency”
* Evidence that the assessment is free of bias
* Evidence for standardization of procedures and materials
* Evidence for efficiency in administration
* Evidence for efficiency in scoring
* Accommodations are clearly stated for students with disabilities and for Second Language Learners

# Eligibility Requirements for Spanish Assessment

A vendor may submit a Spanish assessment if there is a parallel English assessment being submitted or already approved. Any Spanish assessment that is a simple, direct translation of an English assessment will not be considered. Spanish assessments will be evaluated for the same reliability, validity and consistency as the English assessments and additionally will be evaluated for the following:

* Development of the assessment by highly qualified personnel
* Representative sample size
* Comparable resulting scores
* A method of accounting for dialectical differences among Spanish speakers
* Culturally appropriate
* Free from damaging stereotypes

# Review Process

HB 13-1893, section 22-7-1005 allow for the use of a third party evaluator in assessment review and the State Board Rules for administration of The Colorado Read Act in section 12 outlines a process for selecting a third party evaluator. The department will be engaging with The University of Houston to review the assessments for reliability, validity and Spanish considerations. For more information on the scoring criteria, please see the attached Scoring Rubric.

 The assessments that are deemed satisfactory will then be reviewed by Colorado stakeholders with early literacy and assessment expertise. Each proposal will be scored using the Scoring rubric. Recommendations of assessments will be submitted to the Colorado State Board of Education for final approval in May of 2019. Applicants will be notified of final status pending SBE vote.

Applicants with successful written proposals, that have met all criteria, may be asked (and must agree) to participate in a virtual interview if necessary. The interview will be used to ask follow-up questions and provide any necessary clarification. Applicants that do not meet the qualifications will be notified and may appeal the decision and/or reapply in future years. The next application cycle is anticipated to occur in approximately July of 2023 The appeals process will be governed by the state board promulgated rules which read, “On appeal, the department and the state board must, at a minimum, consider any findings that an appellant may submit from a nationally recognized, evidence-based information clearinghouse that demonstrate that a program has achieved positive results for a substantially similar population of students who are identified as having significant reading deficiencies.”

# Timeline

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| January 2, 2019 | Solicitation for READ Act assessments available on the CDE website at link <https://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy> |
| February 1, 2019  | **\*\*Proposal must be received by February 1, 2019 by close of business 5:00pm Mountain Time and must be received by both the University of Houston and the Colorado Department of Education.**University of HoustonJeremy Miciak, Ph.D.Jeremy.Miciak@times.uh.eduTexas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics4849 Calhoun Rd., Rm 373Houston, TX 77204-6022Colorado Department of EducationMarisa CalzadillasLiteracy Projects Coordinator201 E Colfax Ave, Suite 106Denver, CO 80203E-mail: Calzadillas\_M@cde.state.co.us |
| February 2, 2019 – March 4, 2019 | Proposals reviewed by The University of Houston and external stakeholders.\*\* As time allows during this timeframe if an assessment does not pass this portion of the rubric vendors will be notified and the appeal process will apply (each vendor will have 14 days to respond to the assessment review the appeals will be sent to The University of Houston and The Colorado Department of Education) |
| March 8, 2019 | Vendors notified of results for reliability and validity review. \*\*Vendors who may not have received results during the January-March review process and who have not passed this portion of the rubric will have 14 calendar days to appeal the results.  |
| March 22, 2019 | All appeals due to the University of Houston and the Colorado Department of Education by close of business 5:00 pm Mountain Time. Email to Jeremy Miciak, Ph.DJeremy.Miciak@times.uh.eduandMarisa Calzadillas, Colorado Department of EducationCalzadillas\_m@cde.state.co.us |
| March 14th or 15th , 2019 | CDE will notice the State Board of Education of the proposed list of interim assessments  |
| April 22, 2019  | All final responses to appeals are sent by the Colorado Department of Education to the assessment vendors. |
| Pending Board Approval by May | CDE will present to the State Board of Education their recommendations for approval and inclusion on the approved list of interim assessments. Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposal per the State Board of Education vote. |
| Pending Board Approval by June | The Colorado Department of Education will post to their website the State Board approved list of interim reading assessments. |
| **The Department reserves the right to revise the dates in this timeline. If revisions are made changes will be made via a modification to this document on the CDE website.** |

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# Required Format

Proposals should include the required elements outlined below.

* All pages must be standard letter size, 8-1/2” x 11” using no smaller than 12 point type.
* Publishers who have an interest may submit no more than a four-page narrative which addresses the criteria for approved interim assessments. The criteria for approval may be found in the Eligibility Requirements section of this solicitation and on the following website: http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/ReadAct/resourcebank.asp
* Use document footer with the name of the entity and page numbers.
* Use 1-inch margins.
* All interested publishers must submit the interim assessment, or provide access to the assessment they wish to have included on the approved list, via a web source with access clearance that is accessible from January 2019 through March 2019, ensure that all passwords are activated and that multiple users may use same password. Supplemental materials such as technical adequacy reports should also be submitted.
* Proposals will only be considered complete when the following have been received: electronic document in PDF format, separate technical reports referred to in the proposal, supplemental materials, and a copy, or electronic access to, the specific assessment.
* The Department and the University of Houston reserve the right to reject any or all proposals for non-compliance with the formatting and submittal requirements; to waive non-compliance with formatting and submittal requirements; or to ask vendors to re-submit proposals that do not meet the formatting and submittal requirements as deemed in the best interest of the State.

# Required Elements

A complete proposal includes:

Part I: **Cover page**

Part II: **Detailed description outlining how the assessment meets the referenced criteria**

Part III: **Copy of the assessment in its entirety**

Part IV: **Supplemental or ancillary materials designed for the assessment**

Part V: **Spanish assessment (optional); detailed description outlining how the assessment meets the referenced criteria**

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# Submissions Instructions

**All Submissions will be sent to The University of Houston and The Colorado Department of Education:**

1. Mail hard copy submissions (2 hard copies to The University of Houston and 2 hard copies to The Colorado Department of Education) on or before, February 1, 2019 (all submission must be postmarked January 31, 2019)
2. Electronic submissions (PDF FORMAT) due on February 1, 2019 by 5:00 pm mountain time
3. The Colorado Department of Education cannot accept files submitted through Drop Box please contact Marisa Calzadillas for approved ways to submit to the CDE.
4. CDE and the University of Houston, at their discretion, may decide whether to accept late submissions for consideration or to exclude late submissions from consideration. Thus, vendors are cautioned to ensure that their submissions are received on or before the submissions due dates.

## PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF CONFIDENTIAL / PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Any restrictions of the use or inspection of material contained within the proposal shall be requested by the vendor by February 1, 2019 via email to Calzadillas\_m@cde.state.co.us. The request must include a letter indicating what portion of the Colorado Open Records Act at Colorado Open Records Act, C.R.S. Title 24, Article 72, Part 2, as amended, applies to the suggested confidential/proprietary information and must specifically state what elements of the proposal are to be considered confidential/proprietary. The Department will make a written determination as to the apparent validity of any written request for confidentiality. The written determination will be sent to the Vendor.

For requests granted, the vendor must provide a separate proposal containing the entire proposal with all confidential/**proprietary information redacted**. The proposal should be submitted in one (1) sealed envelope labeled “Confidential Information Redacted” and the solicitation number. Co-mingling of confidential/proprietary information with other proposal documents will nullify the confidential/proprietary status and will remove any restrictions on the use or inspection of the material.

A proposal in its entirety will not be granted confidential/proprietary status. After award, the proposals will be open to public inspection pursuant to the Colorado Open Records Act, subject to any continued prohibition on the disclosure of confidential data.

##

## SUBMIT TO:

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