

**DETERMINATION AND FINDING
FOR A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

AGENCY: District of Columbia Public Schools
Office of Specialized Instruction
CAPTION: Rethink Platform
PROPOSED CONTRACTOR: Rethink Autism, Inc.
CONTRACT NO. N/A

FINDINGS

1. AUTHORIZATION:

D.C. Code 2-354.04.5 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1702.

2. MINIMUM NEED:

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Office of Specialized Instruction has an immediate need to procure the services of Rethink to provide a web-based special education performance management solution.

3. ESTIMATED COST:

The estimated cost is \$121,500.

BACKGROUND :

During the summer of 2014, the Office of Specialized Instruction's Inclusive Programming Team began to research technology-based solutions and to explore potential partnerships with an organization that can assist in supporting DCPS' mission of inclusive practices and parent engagement.

The objectives of the partnership are to:

1. Train teachers and related service providers to track, assess, and design interventions to manage problem behavior using a support tool;
2. Train teachers, coaches and related service providers to collaborate on targeting skills to increase meaningful inclusion opportunities using Rethink Inclusion video-based curriculum library;
3. Train teachers and coaches to utilize the web based platform to inform and support parents and care-givers; and
4. Train coaches in providing onsite support to teachers and paraprofessional staff.

LAWS AND REQUIREMENTS:

No Child Left Behind stipulates that “all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments”. (20 USC Section 6301)

The 2006 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act regulations require that the annual goals in a student’s IEP include academic and functional goals designed to “meet the child’s needs that result from the child’s disability to enable the child to be involved in and progress in all areas of the general curriculum...” (34 CFR 300.320(a)(2)(i)).

The adoption of the Common Core State Standards by the District of Columbia mandates that DCPS’ Special Education teachers provide students with disabilities instructional access to grade level standards, even when a student’s skill is below assigned grade level or he/she is challenged by behavior, social or emotional needs.

PRODUCT AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Vendor selection was based on evaluation of the following product and program requirements:

1. Product must be an online tool
2. Contractor must provide train-the-trainer training
3. Video based training for school staff
4. Product has a behavior plan data collection system
5. Provide mobile application for tracking behavior based on applied behavior analysis
6. Product must have interface where parents can access lessons and data reports
7. Product must have report capability

Four (4) vendors who provide on-line and in person support in the program requirements were evaluated; Review 360 Behavior Matters, Teachtown, Rethink, and Insights to Behavior.

The following is the results of the evaluations:

Teachtown and Insights to Behavior were non-responsive to requests for information.

Review 360 Behavior Matters system did not include parent interface, video based training for school staff, and mobile application for behavior tracking

Rethink Autism, Inc. Rethink system met or exceeded every key performance indicator and; therefore was the selected vendor.

3. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:

In order to be in compliance with the above referenced laws and requirements, the District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of Specialized Instruction, Inclusive Programming Team recommends the web-based solution provided by Rethink Autism, Inc. (Rethink). Rethink’s software program integrates all the tools and components required to run a successful special education program into one solution. Rethink’s platform supports schools on three levels; behavior, inclusion and parental engagement.

Rethink is uniquely qualified to provide a web-based special education management tool because:

1. Rethink's product is geared towards children with special needs from early intervention through adolescence, who have impairments ranging from mild to severe, and covers a broad range of skills such as academics, language, social, motor, daily living, inclusion and behavior management.
2. Rethink's fully integrated platform includes a comprehensive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)-based curriculum with over 1,500 video demonstrations and a video-based training series that provides an introduction to the principals of ABA.
3. Rethink's solution provides behavior intervention planning and monitoring, and robust data collection and progress monitoring tools for teachers and staff.
4. Rethink provides a fully-integrated mobile application for tracking behavior, an activity center for students featuring computer-based activities aligned with the curriculum, as well as administrative dashboards on student IEP progress and staff utilization for district and school-level administrators.
5. The Rethinks exclusive, comprehensive video-based curriculum is created by Rethink Autism, Inc. and meets a specific set of needs unique to special educators serving children with IEP's.

Based on the aforementioned information, it is both necessary and in the best interest of DCPS, Office of Specialized Instruction to contract with Rethink Autism, Inc. as the sole source for providing a comprehensive, web-based special education performance management solution.

CERTIFICATION BY THE DCPS PROGRAM OFFICE:

I hereby certify that the above findings are correct and the anticipated cost to DCPS is fair and reasonable.

Date

Jennifer, Parker
Director, Office of Specialized Instruction

CERTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION

Based on the above certified findings in accordance cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive bidding process under Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; DC Official Code § 2-354 and 27 DCMR 1304 and 1700. Accordingly, I determine that the District is justified in using the sole source method of procurement.

Date

Chief Procurement Officer

