

**Sole Source  
Written Determination**

**Agency Identification:** [South Carolina Department of Education](#)

**Description of the agency need that this procurement fulfills:**

The PowerSchool Student Information System (SIS) is used as the primary source for district data about students. It is also used as the point from which data are collected and sent to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). This data is used for a wide variety of purposes, such as reporting (e.g. Ed Facts) and the Direct Certification Process. In order to support the SCDE's Data Quality Initiative, it is vital that the district PowerSchool systems contain both timely and accurate data from several different systems in each district, such as Transportation, Assessment, Textbook and Food/Nutrition Management applications. Currently, these data are typed into the PowerSchool system by district personnel. This process is time consuming and prone to (data entry) errors. SCDE spends hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars each year correcting these data errors. In order to improve the overall Data Quality of the data that are sent to SCDE by each South Carolina school district, SCDE proposes to integrate the PowerSchool system with each of the other primary district systems. Integrating these systems and allowing them to share data with each other will decrease the volume of erroneous data that SCDE receives, increase the speed with which SCDE can turn these data into useful school level performance reports and save our school districts both time and money.

**Describe the Market Based on Research Performed:** *(See instructions on last page for guidance)*

The scope of work has been developed over ten years of school district, SCDE and vendor interaction resulting in hundreds of business rules and validations. Level Data is the only PowerSchool authorized partner that can operate within the PowerSchool interface. <https://www.powerschool.com/company/partners/level-data/> The product is purchased directly from the service provider. The product is fully implemented in participating school districts. SCDE has attended multiple conferences and utilized internet research to support this determination.

**Sole Source Vendor Name:** [Level Data](#)

**Based upon the following determination, Agency proposes to acquire the supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services described herein from the vendor named above per SC Code Ann § 11-35-1560 and SC Regulation 19-445.2105, Sole Source Procurement.**

**Description of supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services vendor will provide under the contract:**

[Data Integration Services](#)

**Explain why the described solution is the only solution that meets the agency's need and how no other identified solutions were sufficient.**

Level Data is the only company that can provide these services with PowerSchool SIS because they do not violate the support agreement that SCDE maintains with PowerSchool and support SCDE's security policies and data quality initiative goals. Furthermore, Level Data is able to implement data validation and processing rules that ensure important and required data are correctly entered by each school district into their PowerSchool system. Level Data accomplishes this through their Data Correction and Validation screens. These screens are designed to look like PowerSchool screens and be easy to use by district personnel that are already familiar with the PowerSchool application. The benefit of this approach to SCDE is that this dramatically reduces the need "to explain" to district personnel how the Data Validation screens should be used. Data that needs to be reviewed or

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corrected are highlighted and the user is presented with two clear choices as to how they would like that data to be updated and stored. Level Data is able to accomplish this through the use of a private application-programming interface (API). An API is specific piece of software code that allows computer systems to exchange information with each other. The Level Data API allows other applications to 'talk to' and store data in the PowerSchool system. Writing data to the PowerSchool system in this way will eliminate the need for district personnel to spend hours typing (transportation, special education, nutrition, etc.) system data into the PowerSchool system each week. Instead, the districts' systems will operate in an integrated fashion and when, for example, a student's home address is changed in the Transportation system this change will automatically be made in the PowerSchool system as well. It is worth noting that the integration services Level Data provides are fully supported by Pearson and may be used by any PowerSchool client in full compliance with any and all Product Support or Maintenance services that are provided by Pearson. An additional benefit of the Level Data solution is that it allows data from the multiple systems which power each school district to be both methodically orchestrated and regularly collected/processed by SCDE. For example, a district's Transportation system can be set to be the authoritative source for Student Address information. Once this decision and configuration have been made, (potentially) conflicting student address information from other applications such as library, textbook or nutrition systems will be ignored. The ability to prevent these types of data collision and their resulting confusion is quite advantageous to SCDE and will allow us to dramatically improve the quality and accuracy of the data that we collect from districts and use for both state and federal reporting purposes. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Level Data solution that sets it apart from competing products and makes it unique is that district level data are never stored off-site. While the Level Data software does allow for district systems to integrate and share their data, these data physically reside inside each district until such times as they are securely transferred to SCDE. This is unique in that all other Managed Integration Services providers pull school district data into their own cloud storage locations. SCDE Security Policies do not allow Personally Identifiable Information (PII) to be stored offsite on vendor-provided cloud platforms; therefore, Level Data is singularly qualified to provide managed integration services to SCDE because they comply with and operate in accordance with SCDE Security and Data Storage policies related to the storage and use of Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

**Required Signatures:**

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Date: 10 / 13 / 25

Printed Name: Jessica Baxter

Title: Program Coordinator I

Approved by: Ellen E. Weaver

Approval Date: 10/21/25

Printed Name: Ellen E. Weaver

Title: State Superintendent of Education