

**Sole Source
Written Determination - Instructions**

Agency Identification: South Carolina Department of Education - 155881

Description of the agency need that this procurement fulfills: *(See instructions on last page for guidance)*

The Office of Career Readiness - Adult Education requires a one (1) year contract with the option of four one (1) year renewals for comprehensive data management system to support our 52 statewide adult education programs. This procurement fulfills the need for a centralized platform that enables accurate tracking, reporting, and compliance with federal and state regulations. Without a specialized data management solution, the agency risks inefficiencies, data inconsistencies, and compliance issues that could impact funding and program effectiveness. The predicted total contract amount is \$926,300.00

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

A comprehensive analysis was conducted on three data management platforms used for adult education data: LACES (by LiteracyPro Systems, Inc.), My One Flow, and School Cues. The evaluation focused on key criteria relevant to Title II/WIOA funded adult education programs, including federal guidelines alignment, integration capabilities, storage capacity, and adult education-specific data monitoring. After conducting market research on adult education data management solutions, it was determined that while several platforms are available, LACES is the only solution that fully meets the specific needs of South Carolina adult education programs.

LACES is a comprehensive student accountability and data management system designed exclusively for federally and state-funded adult education programs. It provides robust data aggregation, customizable reporting, and built-in compliance tracking aligned with National Reporting System (NRS) requirements. Its functionality, reliability, and established use in adult education make it uniquely suited to support South Carolina's 52 statewide programs.

Although other vendors such as MyOneFlow and SchoolCues offer case management or school administration features, they do not fully meet SCDE's requirements for standardized federal reporting, education-specific data tracking, and compliance monitoring. Additionally, these systems would require significant customization and re-integration of other services such as GED Testing and Open Time Clock, increasing cost, implementation time, and the risk of data inconsistencies.

LACES is proprietary to and obtained directly from LiteracyPro Systems, Inc., the sole provider. The system includes ongoing compliance updates, technical support, and training to ensure proper implementation and continued alignment with state and federal requirements. Its integration capabilities with GED Testing and Open Time Clock further support seamless data management across critical systems.

Due to these factors, LACES is being procured as a sole source solution, as no other vendor can provide the same level of specialized functionality, compliance assurance, and direct support required to effectively manage adult education data in South Carolina.

Sole Source Vendor Name: LiteracyPro Systems dba Genius Learning

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.

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Description of supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services vendor will provide under the contract: *(See instructions on last page for guidance.)*

LiteracyPro Systems, Inc. will provide comprehensive data management and reporting capabilities through its LACES software.

The services provided include:

Annual Maintenance Agreements for local providers (52 agencies) and the SCDE, ensuring continued software functionality, updates, and technical support.

Secure cloud-based hosting for LACES software and associated data.

Online student portal access for 52 agencies, allowing students to self-enroll in adult education programs.

Annual Maintenance for online student Portal customizations, ensuring tailored features remain operational and up to date.

Open Time Clock Integration Annual Maintenance, supporting time-tracking functionalities within the system.

GED Testing services integration and annual maintenance.

Bank of Customization Hours, providing 20 hours for system modifications to meet specific agency needs.

Five, 2-hour webinar trainings, offering instructional sessions for state data entry staff and users to maximize software utilization.

Explain why the described solution is the only solution that meets the agency's need and how no other identified solutions were sufficient. *(See instructions on last page for guidance)*

Based on market research and an assessment of available solutions, the sole source procurement of LACES data software is justified due to its unique capabilities and proprietary nature, as well as existing integration capabilities with various other critical systems including GED Testing Services and Open Time Clock. LiteracyPro Systems, Inc. holds exclusive copyright and is the sole producer and publisher of all LACES software, including the LACES Student Portal and all customizations completed for the SCDE. In FY 24/25, the SCDE purchased \$40,600 worth of customizations to tailor LACES to the exact and specific needs of SC Adult Education Programs. The SCDE has made customizations the LACES software each year since 2004, and 10 years of customizations would not be feasible or cost effective if transitioning to new software.

The agency has conducted a thorough evaluation of the market space and determined that no other vendor provides a solution with the same fit and function required for its operations. Market Research is documented in the attached file. LACES software is specifically designed to meet the agency's reporting and data management needs, ensuring compliance with federal and state requirements. Additionally, the software's proprietary nature means that no alternative provider can offer an equivalent system with the same level of integration, customization, and support.

While vendor assertions regarding product differentiation have been considered as part of market research, the agency's determination is based on its independent analysis of available solutions. The agency has found that LACES software is the only viable option that meets its operational and regulatory requirements without requiring extensive modifications or third-party integrations.

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Note: Determination is not complete without required signatures and dates

Required Signatures:

Prepared by: *Giovanna Perry*

Date: 7/8/2026

Printed Name: Giovanna Perry

Title: Education Associate, Career Readiness

Approved by: *Eden E. Healy*

Approval Date: __/__/__

Printed Name: Enter Authorized Approver Name

Title: Enter Authorized Approver Title

The last page contains instructions and is not required to be retained