

South Carolina Department of Education
2026 CALL FOR BIDS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
WITH BID INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The State Board of Education (SBE) of South Carolina hereby gives notice that noon, March 31, 2026, is the deadline to submit bids for instructional materials in the subject areas listed. The materials adopted for these areas are to be used in the public schools of this state, for which the said SBE may lawfully prescribe and adopt instructional materials (print/digital). The state six-year contract for adopted instructional materials shall begin June 1, 2027.

Intent to Bid

To indicate interest or tentative plans to participate in the 2026 Instructional Materials Adoption cycle, use the link ([Intent to Bid](#)) to submit the 2026 Intent to Bid on or before the February 6, 2026, deadline. Successful proposals will confirm the vendor's willingness and ability to meet the defined technical specifications. SC content sample in Thin Common Cartridge (TCC) is due by November 2, 2026, in preparation for the January 2027 State Board of Education meeting to approve the adoptions.

Publisher/Vendor Registration

All publishers and vendors planning to bid on South Carolina instructional materials are required to register on or before noon on February 1, 2026. To register in the new IMBP:

- Select "Registration" using the link ([Registration](#)).
- A separate registration submission is needed for each company representative or individual.
- After submitting the registration application, the publisher/vendor will receive a Member Services email with instructions to set up a Community Account. It is necessary to follow all steps of the instructions to complete this process.
- A Community Account is required to access the IMBP and to submit bids.
- The publisher/vendor will receive an email from the OIM when access to the IMBP is granted.

Note: If you registered through the IMBP for the previous Call for Bids, you are required to login, review, and update your company's current information on the IMBP.

Adoption Subject Areas

Bids will be received for instructional materials in the subject areas listed below. Publishers/vendors are to bid materials (print/digital), including ancillary materials (free with an order and/or reduced rate) that meet the appropriate South Carolina College and Career-Ready (SCCCR) standards or Career and Technical Education (CTE) course standards for these areas (see Subject Specific Bid Requirements Section).

The SCDE intends to provide South Carolina educators and students with rigorous, engaging curricula through its instructional materials adoption process. To that end, the SCDE requires that a substantial portion of the materials included in each proposal meet modern standards for high-quality digital content. In alignment with that expectation and to support South Carolina's vision for instructional excellence, all digital content approved via this solicitation process will be uploaded and distributed via the South Carolina (SC) Instruction Hub.

Review Panels, in consultation with SCDE, determine what items included in the publishers' bids are essential or core to the state-funded Instructional Materials program.

Note that the adoption areas for the 2026 Call for Bids are expanded to include appropriate instructional materials for students of varied ability levels.

Subject Areas Opened for Adoption
Academic Areas

Visual and Performing Arts

Dance K-8
Theater K-8
Media Arts K-12
World Music K-12
Composition 9-12
Steel Pans K-12
Piano K-12
Guitar K-12
Band K-12
Orchestra / Strings K-12
Photography
Music Appreciation 9-12
General Music K-8
Art K-12

CTE Areas by Career Cluster

Advanced Manufacturing

Electronics Technology 1,2,3,4
Mechatronics 1,2,3,4
Engineering Courses
Welding Technology 1,2,3,4

Arts, Entertainment, and Design

Architectural Design 1,2
Mechanical Design 1,2
Media Technology 1,2,3,4

Construction

Electrical Line Worker 1,2,3,4
Plumbing 1,2,3,4
Building and Construction Intro, 1,2,3,4
Carpentry 1,2,3,4
HVAC Technology 1,2,3,4

Digital Technology

Cybersecurity Fundamentals & Advanced Cybersecurity
Computer Forensics
Fundamentals of Computing 1, 2

IT Fundamentals
Networking Fundamentals
Advanced Networking
Computer Repair and Service
Introduction to Computer Programming
Intermediate Computer Programming

Education

Introduction to Teaching 1,2
Child Development 1,2
Early Childhood Education 1,2 Intro
Introduction to Career Clusters
Fashion, Fabric, and Design 1,2
Housing and Interiors 1,2

Financial Services

Advanced Real Estate Practice
Banking Services
Fundamentals of Real Estate Practice
Insurance and Risk Management

Healthcare and Human Services

Introduction to Health Professions
Health Science 1,2, Clinical Study
Medical Terminology
Human Structure, Function, & Disease
Introduction to Behavioral Health
Sports Medicine 3
Pharmacology for Medical Careers
Medical Billing and Coding
Natural Hair Braiding
Esthetics 1,2,3,4
Emergency Medical Services 1,2,3
Advanced Principles of Public Health

Hospitality, Events, and Tourism

Baking and Pastry
Culinary Arts Management 1,2
Hospitality and Tourism Management, Introduction

Management and Entrepreneurship

Administrative Support Technology
Business Principles Management
Principles of Digital Technology
Virtual Enterprise 1,2,3,4

Entrepreneurship

Marketing and Sales

Advanced Real Estate Practice
Advertising
Fundamentals of Real Estate Practice
Social Media Marketing

Public Service and Safety

Law Enforcement Services 1,2

Supply Chain and Transportation

Automotive and Hybrid / BEV Technology 1,2,3,4
Global Logistics & Supply Chain 1,2,3,4
Power Equipment Technology 1,2,3,4
CDL 1,2,3,4

2026 BID INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Intent to Bid

To indicate interest or tentative plans to participate in the 2026 Instructional Materials Adoption cycle, use the link ([Intent to Bid](#)) to submit the 2026 Intent to Bid on or before the February 6, 2026, deadline. Successful proposals will confirm the vendor’s willingness and ability to meet the defined technical specifications. SC content sample in the Thin Common Cartridge (TCC) is due by November 2, 2026, in preparation for the January 2027 State Board of Education meeting to approve the adoptions.

2026 Bid

The South Carolina Department of Education’s (SCDE) Office of Instructional Materials (OIM) will receive bids through the SCDE’s Instructional Materials Bid Portal ([IMBP](#)) and required documents/forms by email on or before 12 o’clock noon, March 31, 2026. Registration is required to gain access to the IMBP ([Registration](#)). No bids will be accepted after the deadline. (Note: Review of online courses for initial credit and credit recovery is not part of the 2026 instructional materials adoption process.)

Publishers/vendors are required to enter their bid data using the Instructional Materials Bid Portal (IMBP) as well as email the required bid documents/forms. All bidders must complete the IMBP submission on or before the bid deadline of 12 o’clock noon on March 31, 2026. A completed bid affidavit must accompany the sealed bids and be uploaded into the IMBP submission as it will be made part of any contract that may result from this bid.

All of the following bid document/forms are available on the SCDE’s website under 2026 Call for Bids. They must be emailed by the deadline of 12 o’clock noon on March 31, 2026, to OIMinfo@ed.sc.gov Subject: 2026 Bid Forms. These items are not available through IMBP but must be emailed by the bid deadline.

- 2026 Call for Bid Cover Sheet

- Publisher-provided circular, catalogue, certified written statement, or catalogue website to establish prices.

Publishers/vendors are to bid for materials (print/digital/ combo) including ancillary materials (free with order and/or reduced rate for the duration of the contract) that meet the appropriate SCCCR standards or the CTE course standards.

Each Instructional Materials Review Panel, in consultation with the SCDE, will determine which program components are core student materials. Program components and consumable items determined acceptable but not to be core student materials will be listed as supplemental materials for districts and schools to purchase using local funds. In addition, student materials “bundled” with workbooks will be listed as supplemental materials.

Publishers/vendors must bid on materials at the lowest price possible with consideration of the Most Favored Purchaser Provision (Section VI of the instructional materials contract). Each bid must specify the lowest net wholesale price for each item bid for purchase. Each bid must include the website or the printed circular, catalogue, or certified statement giving established prices effective June 1, 2027. During the bid or contract period, the publisher/vendor agrees if any reduction is made in the official list or catalogue prices, corresponding reductions will be made in the prices named in this bid. (See statement below*)

Review Panels will be instructed to consider:

- the strong alignment to the appropriate standards,
- attributes associated with high-quality instructional materials (HQIM), scope and sequence
- activities, ranges of instruction, etc.,
- external reviews of the instructional materials, including independent organizations
- ability to meet the technical requirements as specified

For the 2026 Call for Bid, the only acceptable items that can be considered a combo are the print and digital student editions combined with one ISBN. Publishers that plan to bid a combo print and digital edition must include the individual cost and bid information for each combo item including prices for all options that provide one-year, three-year, and six-year print and digital access. A combo is defined as print/digital student materials to include class sets of print student editions for grades 6-8, and 9-12. No additional materials may be packaged with adopted materials unless they are considered ancillary for the duration of the contract.

Exclusion of Prohibited Concepts and Unsolicited Strategies

Anticipating the likely passage and enactment of both H.3728 (Transparency and Integrity in Education Act) and South Carolina Reg. 43-170 (Uniform Procedure for Selection or Reconsideration of Instructional Materials), “the following prohibited concepts may not be included or promoted in a course of instruction, curriculum, assignment, instructional program, instructional material (including primary or supplemental materials, whether in print, digital, or online), surveys or questionnaires:”

- 1) members of one race, sex, ethnicity, color, or national origin are inherently superior to members of another race, sex, ethnicity, color, or national origin.

- 2) an individual, by virtue of the race, sex, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin of the individual, inherently is privileged, racist, sexist, contributive to any oppression or oppressive, whether consciously or subconsciously.
- 3) an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse or favorable treatment because of the race, sex, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin of the individual.
- 4) the moral character of an individual is determined by the race, sex, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin of the individual.
- 5) an individual, by virtue of the race, sex, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin of the individual, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race, sex, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin.
- 6) meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic:
 - a. are racist, sexist, belong to the principles of one religion: or
 - b. were created by members of a particular race, sex, or religion to oppress members of another race, sex, ethnicity, color, national origin or religion; and
- 7) fault, blame, or bias should be assigned to members of a race, sex, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin because of their race, sex, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin.

However, “nothing in this section prohibits concepts as part of a course of instruction, in a curriculum or instructional program, or through the use of supplemental instructional materials if these concepts involve:”

- 1) the history of an ethnic group, as described in the South Carolina State Standards and instructional materials adopted pursuant to the South Carolina Code of Regulations.
- 2) the fact-based discussion of controversial aspects of history or current events.
- 3) the fact-based instruction on the historical oppression of a particular group of people based on race, sex, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion, or geographic region;
- 4) the fact-based and historically accurate discussion of the history of slavery; or
- 5) the fact-based and historically accurate discussion of Reconstruction, the Jim Crow era, and segregation with an emphasis on lynchings and other crimes committed based upon the race of the victim.

Additionally, “all materials made available to students including, but not limited to, primary and supplemental instructional material, reference material, extracurricular material, library and media center material, both printed and electronically accessible, must be age-appropriate, grade-appropriate, or appropriate to the academic grade level of the student.” “ ‘Age and Developmentally Appropriate’ means topics, messages, materials, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group. Instructional Material is not ‘Age and Developmentally Appropriate’ for any age or age group of children if it includes descriptions or visual depictions of ‘sexual conduct,’ as that term is defined by [Section 16-15-305\(C\)\(1\)](#).”

Finally, the following are considered extraneous, unsolicited strategies in any instructional materials, are not a part of the subject-area standards, and are prohibited within the specifications for instructional materials:

- Culturally Responsive Teaching
- Social Justice
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

*****Piloting of Instructional Materials*****

Publishers/vendors must not pilot programs or instructional materials bid for the 2026 adoption cycle from the approval date of the adoption areas until the beginning of the contract period (June 1, 2027) or until the date materials are funded. Pilot materials currently in schools or districts must be removed at publisher’s/vendor’s expense by the bid submission date of March 31, 2026. The intent of this policy is to avoid publishers/vendors influencing districts and schools prior to and throughout the adoption process.

Interoperability and Digital Access

Publishers/vendors selected through this bid will collaborate with the SCDE to ensure high-quality instructional materials are readily accessible by approximately 800,000 students in over 1,160 schools across the state.

As an integral part of this Call for Bids, the SCDE intends to ensure that modern digital tools and resources for the SBE approved instructional materials are available to users. Publishers for specialized courses in CTE may be exempt from the Instruction Hub interoperability requirements. The digital aspect of instructional materials, content, and resources should be accessible and distributed through the state’s Instruction Hub, and instructional materials should have the capability of being placed in the state’s Instructional Hub in digital format.

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is establishing a consistent taxonomy for content stored and/or distributed via the instruction hub. Tags/metadata must be included with all content, assessments, including supplemental resources, for ingestion in the Instruction Hub. All content submission requirements (format, hierarchies, tagging/metadata, etc.) will be prescribed by the SCDE during the performance of services under a contract resulting from this Call for Bids, in most cases, compliance with 1EDTECH Global standards (Thin Common Cartridge, LTI. etc.). SC content sample in Thin Common Cartridge (CC) is due by November 2, 2026, in preparation for the January 2027 State Board of Education meeting to approve the adoptions. Any adopted materials will need to submit a final TCC by May 3, 2027.

Digital learning objects are defined as a digital resource used to engage the learner and/or support instructors in the delivery of instruction. The content integration should be comprehensive. An object-count of total objects must be included with the purchase, as well as a count of the objects included in the integration, both should match. Content that is not included in the integration needs to be identified. The integration needs to support embedding of content in third party systems, for example via an iframe, to improve learner experience.

Minimum

- Required LTI 1.3
- Required Common Cartridge (TCC) 1.3 – IEDTECH Global standards
<https://www.imsglobal.org/activity/common-cartridge>

- LTI 1.3 links
- Object or Weblink Metadata
- State Standard alignment for core instructional learning objects
- Clear and unique title
- Object meaningful descriptions
- Grade range
- Object type
- User level permissions
- Links provided to learning object thumbnails
- Additional metadata outlined in guideline documentation of LTI Advantage
- Deep Linking via TCC
- Assignment and Grade Services

User Provisioning

The content provider (LTI tool) needs to recognize individual users as they access content. This requirement ensures that the user experience is consistent whether users are accessing resources directly from the content provider's system or embedded in the instruction hub (SCDE LOR-Learning Object Repository). Options for user provisioning are below. A match for user identity can be based on one of these fields. User State Student Number, username, or email address.

- OneRoster 1.1
- LTI Advantage Names and Role Provisions Services via integration from Learning Object Repository
- User Identity sharing via LTI TCC content links.

Content

Content and technical functionality must demonstrate alignment/compliance with the SC standards, frameworks, and support 1EDTECH CASE standards. As technical specifications are updated and priorities shift, the successful proposer(s) will be expected to modify/adjust content and products to ensure alignment with State RFP Standards Interoperability (1EDTECH). The successful proposer(s) will be expected to work with the SCDE on any modifications or adaptations to its products and services that may be necessary during the term of the contract and any renewal terms because of changes to the applicable standards, frameworks, and strategies.

All resources should be able to be used individually or combined in lessons, playlists, etc. for varied instructional purposes.

Content provided or suggested must be available in different formats (e.g., video, documents, interactive files, eBooks, images, audio files) to appeal to different learning styles and instructional needs. Proposer(s) must agree to transfer all content and data to the SCDE in a usable and readable digital format throughout the term of contract and in the event of termination of any contract(s). The State will define the transfer process for successful proposer(s) at the point of contract.

Content that is accurately translated to Spanish will be considered higher quality than untranslated content. For vendors providing translated content, Spanish language tracks and closed captioning

(English and Spanish) should be provided for videos and other resources with audio. Inclusion of tracks from other languages (in addition to Spanish) will be seen as a strong benefit of any proposal.

The SCDE will distribute comprehensive courses, units, and lessons via the Instruction Hub. Content that is organized by course into units, chapters and lessons will be considered more technically compliant. This approach is intended to accelerate the curriculum development process while supporting differentiation.

Successful proposer(s) will be required to collaborate extensively with the SCDE and its partners and other digital vendors. Proposer(s) must commit to ongoing, professional collaboration that adjusts to the ever-changing circumstances of a large, complex, public environment.

The SCDE maintains the right to reject certain content based on a quality assessment.

Browser and OS Support

The system will utilize a cross platform (e.g., PC, Mac, Chrome, Mobile) web-based interface that provides users of all ability levels with easy-to-learn access.

Project Management – Technical Integration

A Technical Point of Contact must be assigned to work with the State throughout all integration phases. Documentation can only be finalized per SCDE approval.

Information and Security Requirements for all Products and Services Provided Pursuant to the Call for Bids

Successful proposer(s) shall be required, where applicable, to comply with certain security requirements for both operations and the proposed technological products and services, as follows:

- Provide security to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the information systems and data in compliance with the South Carolina approved security frameworks.
- Develop, implement, maintain, and use appropriate safeguards as outlined by the South Carolina approved security framework that will reasonably prevent the misuse of data and information systems and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data and information systems.

Access Controls

Ensure that any user, including a third-party vendor, employee, or subcontractor to whom access is granted agrees to the same restrictions, standards, and conditions that apply through the agreement, and that access to South Carolina data is approved by South Carolina.

Ensure that any user, including a subcontractor, employee, or another third party to whom access is granted to South Carolina data and the information systems, agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate safeguards to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of South Carolina data and the information systems.

Maintain a security plan that complies with SCDE approved security frameworks.

Report security incidents that occur within the proposer's information systems that may affect the Proposer, or the South Carolina to the Chief Information Officer of the South Carolina within twenty-four (24) hours of discovery.

Maintain audit records according to policy and provide this information to South Carolina upon request. These audit logs must be kept according to the South Carolina records retention policy for student records.

Develop and implement policies and procedures regarding the use of information systems that describe how users are to protect against intrusion, tampering, viruses, etc.

Development of a disaster recovery plan for restoration of the data and system in the event of a disaster or major incident, where RPO, RTO, and SLA language is documented and approved by South Carolina.

Instructional Materials Contract

The state instructional materials contract is a six-year contract with the option to extend. Extensions are granted if the publisher has the materials available. The term of this Contract shall be from June 1, 2027, through May 31, 2033. If the S.C. General Assembly changes the statutory length of instructional materials contracts at any time during the term of this Contract, those changes in the law shall apply to and shall, after the first contract year, be binding to this Contract. **If at any time after the first year of this Contract, funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available, the Board may terminate this Contract.** The State Board may terminate this Contract should the subject area of the materials be opened for adoption before the end of the six-year contract.

Should funding for an adoption area not be available at the beginning of the contract period, the SCDE has the option to base the contract start date on the year of funding for the adoption area to ensure six-year digital access to the student and teacher materials. A change in the contract dates will require an amendment to the contract with appropriate signatures from all parties. Publishers/vendors may request a substitution for consideration through OIM.

Moratorium Period

Following the approval of adopted instructional materials a formal no-contact period will be in effect until two weeks after the conclusion of the state caravan. During this open bid phase, publishers are prohibited from initiating contact with school districts regarding instructional materials. Additionally, both publishers and districts are strongly discouraged from organizing or participating in local events that resemble the state caravan. This policy is intended to preserve the integrity of the open bid process and ensure equitable access to information for all stakeholders.

Professional Development

To support successful implementation of newly adopted instructional materials, publishers are expected to provide professional development (PD) services during the first year of adoption at minimal to no additional cost to districts. These Year 1 PD services should be designed to build educator capacity and ensure effective use of the materials in classroom settings.

Professional development offerings may include, but are not limited to:

- **Onsite and virtual workshops** tailored to instructional needs

- **Instructional coaching** to support classroom integration
- **Implementation support sessions** focused on best practices
- **Digital platform training**, including navigation and use of systems such as I Hub

This commitment to professional development reflects the shared goal of equipping educators with the tools and knowledge necessary to deliver high-quality instruction aligned with South Carolina’s standards.

Intellectual Content

Only those items having intellectual content that serve as a tool for assisting in the instruction of a subject or course such as hardbound or softbound textbooks, eBooks, digital materials, consumables, learning laboratories, manipulatives, electronic media, and computer courseware or software may be offered. Bids cannot include for adoption or as ancillary (free with order and/or a reduced rate) any equipment and/or supplies that do not have intellectual content. The SCDE reserves the right to reject any items bid, which it deems lacking in intellectual content or not suitable for providing instruction

Ancillary Materials and Services Bid Requirements

- The Ancillary Materials and Services Bid items must be submitted through IMBP, as it will be an addendum to the contract.
- Publisher/vendor must include ancillary materials with prices and ISBNs on the bid to allow schools to purchase additional or replacement copies.
- The publisher/vendor agrees to furnish on an equitable basis as specified to all school districts in South Carolina adopting the publisher’s /vendor’s book, series, or program (print/digital) the materials and/or services.
- In the Ancillary section of the IMBP, publishers/vendors must provide a detailed description of services (professional development) to be provided to the adopting school districts.
- No amendments to the Ancillary Bid (free with order and/or a reduced rate) will be considered from the bid submission date (March 31, 2026) until one year after the date of funding unless required by the most favored purchaser provisions in the contract. Should the Most Favored Purchaser Provision in Section VI of the contract require new or additional ancillary offerings, the publisher/vendor must file with the OIM a certified statement setting forth the nature, circumstances, and details (what, when, where why) of the offering for approval.

Note:

- Teacher editions provided by publishers/vendors as ancillary materials are the responsibility of the publishers/vendors and not the SCDE.
- Publishers/vendors bid teacher materials as ancillary materials on a ratio per pupil of 1:20 for K-5, 1:30 for grades 6–12, and a rate of one per classroom set for 6–12 special needs classrooms.

Publisher/Vendor SCSOS Registration

In addition to the required publisher/vendor registration on or before 12 o’clock noon February 1, 2026, all bidders doing business in South Carolina must register with the South Carolina Secretary of State (SCSOS) to file your Agent for Service of Process (contact 803-734-2158 or SCSOS). Registration information includes the names, email addresses, and telephone numbers of all agents, employees, or persons retained for legal or other services to whom there is being paid any salary, commission, or

royalty for representing the bidder or publisher in the State of South Carolina for the 2026 adoption cycle. Failure to comply with this provision shall be deemed sufficient cause for rejection of the bid of such bidder or publisher.

Nonrefundable Bid Submission Fee

Each bid shall include a **nonrefundable** bid submission fee submitted electronically through the IMBP in the amount of \$500.00 for each item on the bid (print/digital/combo). The non-refundable bid submission fee cannot exceed in the aggregate \$7,000.00 plus a non-refundable processing charge from any publisher or vendor. (Note: Calculated at submission, the non-refundable charge is 1.7% of the amount of the Bid Submission Fee charged by the credit card company plus (+) \$1.00 charge to the state (sc.gov) per transaction.) The IMBP will not allow a bid to be submitted until the required steps for the Bid Submission Fee are successfully completed.

National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)

The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) is a technical standard used by publishers/vendors to produce source files (in XML) of instructional materials that may be used to create multiple specialized formats (such as Braille or audio books) for students with print disabilities. By agreeing to deliver the materials marked with "NIMAS" on this contract, the publisher/vendor agrees to prepare and submit, on or before April 30, 2027, a NIMAS file set to the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) that complies with the terms and procedures set forth by the NIMAC, (IDEA Title I, Part D, sec. 674(e)). The publisher/vendor also agrees to markup materials eligible for NIMAS submission that contain mathematical and scientific instructional content by using the MathML3 (refer to latest applicable version) module of the DAISY/NIMAS Structure Guidelines as posted and maintained at the DAISY Consortium website (DAISY Consortium Website).

Should the vendor be a distributor of the materials and not the publisher/vendor, the distributor agrees to immediately notify the publisher/vendor of its obligation to submit NIMAS file sets of the purchased materials to the NIMAC. The files will be used to produce alternate formats as permitted under the law for students with print disabilities (IDEA Title I, Part B, sec. 612(a)).

For additional information about NIMAS, refer to (NIMAS) and for additional information about the NIMAC, refer to (NIMAC)

Accessibility - WCAG for Section 508 and WCAG Compliance

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act requires Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities. The vendor represents that the digital instructional materials delivered under this contract conform to, at a minimum, the standards for accessibility as set forth in Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794d), and its implementing regulations (36 C.F.R. § 1194), and in the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 (minimum of Level AA conformance).

Should any portion of the materials not conform to the aforementioned standards of accessibility, vendor agrees to provide a written explanation of the reason for non-conformance. Submission of a complete Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) will satisfy the requirement to provide a written explanation. Vendor further agrees to provide alternative means for access to the instructional

materials during the period of non-conformance to students who may qualify in accordance with the Act entitled "An Act to provide books for the adult blind" approved March 3, 1931 (2 U.S.C. 135a).

- Link to VPAT Template
- For a sample WebAIM WCAG 2.1 checklist, refer to WCAG Checklist
- For a quick Section 508 reference guide, refer to Standards and Guidelines or Quick Reference Guide
- Accessible Education Materials (AEM) (About AEM)

Manufacturing Specifications (Form B and Form M)

All books and electronic media offered for adoption shall be manufactured in accordance with, or in excess of, the official Manufacturing Standards and Specifications for Textbooks (MSST) established by the Advisory Commission on Textbook Specifications (ACTS), as revised and amended. Provided, however, the SBE reserves the right to waive deviations and technicalities from the specifications. In the Instructional Materials Bid Portal (IMBP), publishers/vendors must complete and submit a statement (Form B) for each hardbound pupil edition and a statement (Form M) for each electronic media student edition by 12 o'clock noon on April 30, 2027. Publishers/vendors must indicate on the appropriate form if the item does, or does not, meet the terms of the manufacturing standards.

Right to Reject

The SCDE retains the right to reject any bid in whole or part and waive all technicalities. The SBE, at its option, may terminate the contract in compliance with State law and State Board Regulations. The SBE may terminate the contract for a subject area should the area be opened for adoption and funded before the end of the six-year contract.

SUBJECT SPECIFIC BID REQUIREMENTS

The Instructional Materials Review Panels will evaluate the instructional materials including digital materials using criteria based on the appropriate South Carolina College- and Career-Ready (SCCCR) standards or Career and Technical Education (CTE) course standards. Publishers/vendors should bid instructional materials that are aligned to these standards and provide Panel members and SCDE with electronic copies of correlations by June 1, 2026. Publishers/vendors may use their company's form or format for correlations. Website locations are included for the standards.

Publisher/Vendor Requirements for Review Panels and SCDE

SCDE and Review Panel Samples

On or before June 1, 2026, publishers/vendors must provide digital material samples, correlations, and evaluation briefs to each appropriate Review Panel member and appropriate SCDE staff as outlined below.

- One set of digital access to all materials bid,
- One set of digital ancillary materials bid,
- One electronic copy of the correlations, and
- One electronic copy of the evaluation briefs.

On or before August 1, 2026, publishers/vendors must provide print copies of the samples to each appropriate Review Panel member and appropriate SCDE staff as outlined below.

- One set of printed materials bid and
- One set of printed ancillary materials bid.

Review Panel and SCDE contact information with sampling instructions and additional information will be provided to publishers/vendors by June 1, 2026.

Bidders of digital materials must ensure that Panel members and SCDE retain access to the materials throughout the review process. The SCDE action on Panel recommendations will be considered as the completion of the review process. All sample boxes and information shipped to SCDE, and Review Panels must be clearly labeled “Official Review Samples” with the appropriate subject area.

Evaluation Brief

Bidders are required to furnish by email an evaluation brief to the appropriate Review Panel members and the SCDE for each instructional program, textbook, or series (print/digital) being offered. Failure to do so will exclude materials from the review process. Briefs must be submitted by June 1, 2026, via email to Panel members and SCDE and include the information below in the order as listed.

- Name of bidding company
- Title of the textbook, program, or series (print/digital)
- Subject area of the materials
- Annotation or description that provides an overview of the instructional materials bid.
- Author's name and background
- Copyright of student materials
- Intended grade levels of the materials (advanced, honors, college prep, etc.) or ability level (above, on, or below grade level, etc.).
 - Indicate accessibility - WCAG 2.1 for Section 508 and WCAG Compliance for digital student materials.
 - Indicate availability of NIMAS file set for print student materials.
 - Indicate compliance with 1EdTECH Global standards to ensure interoperability with a variety of platforms (indicate for digital content and print content).
 - Indicate if print student materials bid are consumable.
 - Indicate if the materials bid is in manuscript format (print/digital).
- Attach the Ancillary Materials and Services list (must be identical to the ancillary bid data submitted in the IMBP and include detailed descriptions of training and professional development).
- For hardbound pupil editions, indicate if the texts do or do not meet the terms of the Manufacturing Standards and Specifications for Textbooks established by the Advisory Commission on Textbook Specifications.
- Any additional information that will assist the Review Panel in the evaluation of the materials/programs.
- Name of publisher's/vendor's representative, telephone number, and email address

Materials in Manuscript Format

Materials may be bid in manuscript format. Adoption will be subject to approval of material in its complete and final format (print and digital). Content of manuscript samples must be complete and submitted according to the instructions for Official SCDE and Review Panel Samples (Sample deadline: August 1, 2026). Publishers/vendors with manuscripts that have received tentative approval by SBE must

provide the final version to Review Panel members and the SCDE by deadline of August 1, 2026. The final version is subject to approval by the OIM and the appropriate Review Panel.

Disposition of Instructional Material Samples

Sample copies of instructional materials furnished and digital access to materials shall remain available to the Review Panel members until the adoption process is completed. The SCDE's action on the Panels' recommendations on January 5, 2027, will be considered the completion of the adoption cycle. The publisher/vendor shall notify the SCDE of its intent to reclaim or not to reclaim samples when bids are submitted. (See Bid Affidavit and 2026 Bid Cover Sheet available on the SCDE's website 2026 Call for Bid.

Publishers/vendors opting to retrieve sample materials must do so within thirty (30) days of the completion of the adoption cycle (January 5, 2027) and at their own expense. Shipping instructions to return materials must be provided to Panel members with the delivery of samples (i.e., enclose a mailing label with company's FedEx/UPS account number and instructions to each Panel member and SCDE). The SCDE will retain the official samples of all instructional materials associated with programs adopted by the SCDE including ancillary and supplemental materials.

Bidders of digital materials must ensure that the SCDE retains access to the materials through the duration of the contract. Appropriate SCDE must retain access to ALL content via the Instruction Hub.

Instructional Materials Review Panel Presentations

The Instructional Materials Review Panels will plan to meet during the week of June 22-26, 2026, for orientation and presentations by bidding publishers/vendors. Publishers/vendors will receive the schedule of the June presentations with information on the presentation format (in person or virtual). Presenting to the Review Panels is optional and will not be a factor in the evaluation of the materials.

Panel Q&A Sessions

The Instructional Materials Review Panels will plan to meet as needed during the week of September 21-25, 2026, to deliberate on the materials bid and to make their adoption recommendations. Should the Panels have questions on the materials/programs; the publishers/vendors will have an opportunity to respond by phone during the individual Panel Q&A Sessions. Publishers/vendors will receive the Q&A Session schedule and instructions for designating their Q&A contact person by August 31, 2026.

Cure Period

At the discretion of SCDE a cure period may be inserted. During the cure period, publishers may address identified concerns by making edits, clarifying content, or correcting omissions. Revised materials will undergo a second review by our panel, applying the same rubric used during the initial review process. A fee of **\$25,000 per grade span** (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) will apply to cover the costs of the second review, including reconvening the panel and administrative expenses. The cure period reflects our commitment to ensuring a fair, collaborative process and providing publishers with a meaningful opportunity to refine and align their materials to meet South Carolina's standards.

Virtual and In-Person Public Review of Materials

- A required 30-day public review for ALL student editions will be held virtually. For the virtual public review, publishers must provide links, instructions, and passwords to access digitally all student editions by July 26, 2026, for posting on the SCDE’s OIM website. Links, instructions, and passwords must be sent to OIMinfo@ed.sc.gov Attention: Public Review. Public Review comments submitted will be shared with the Panel members during deliberation meetings.
- A required 30-day public review of Panel-recommended student materials will be held at display sites across the state. Information for providing print copies will be provided to publishers/vendors. Publishers/vendors must ship to all review sites a print copy of the student editions for each grade level of the recommended program. For 100% digital materials, publishers/vendors must send sufficient print information to provide citizens with a thorough overview of the program to each review site.

Panel recommendations for instructional materials with citizen comments from both public reviews will be submitted to the SCDE on January 5, 2027.

Instructional Materials Caravan

The SCDE will coordinate with publishers/vendors to conduct an instructional materials caravan in February 2027 that will give school and district staff the opportunity to review new state adopted instructional materials through presentations by participating publishers/vendors. Presentations included on the caravan are those subject areas with anticipated funding that have large student enrollments or a large number of state adopted programs. Publishers/vendors will receive the caravan guidelines and schedule after designation of the presentation areas. Participating publishers/vendors are responsible for the costs of conducting the caravan. Dates and locations for the 2027 Instructional Materials Caravan will be provided upon confirmation of caravan meeting sites. Participation in the caravan is not mandatory.

Contact Information

For questions or additional information about the bid and adoption process, please send emails to Nicole Barker (nmbarker@ed.sc.gov)