

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) is seeking a vendor to supply computer-based/online language proficiency testing across the district in a variety of languages.

Project Overview

BPS requires language proficiency tests to be used for a variety of purposes across the district, including:

Purpose	Details	Estimated Quantity of Tests	Cost Per Test OR Package Cost	SY26-27 Cost	SY27-28 Cost	SY 28-29 Cost
Seal of Biliteracy testing <i>Wide variety of languages required (see item #1 under "Vendor Requirements")</i>	Testing of all eligible seniors across the district for the purpose of earning the MA State Seal of Biliteracy. All 4 domains when available (some limited languages are approved for 2-domain tests).	SY26-27: 1000 SY 27-28: 1500 SY28-29: 2000 ASL: SY26-27: 5 SY 27-28: 7 SY28-29: 10				
World Language course credit conferral <i>Wide variety of languages required (see item #1 under "Vendor Requirements")</i>	Testing to prove existing language proficiency in order to confer Mass Core graduation credit. All 4 domains when available (some limited languages are approved for 2-domain tests).	SY26-27: 300 SY 27-28: 400 SY28-29: 500				
Dual language course placement Grades 7-12 <i>Spanish, Chinese, Haitian</i>	Testing to place students appropriately in levels of World Language courses or dual language course	SY26-27: 700 SY 27-28: 800 SY28-29: 900				

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<i>Creole, Vietnamese, Cape Verdean Creole (more languages could be added)</i>	sequences. 4-domain or 2-domain tests at the discretion of the school.					
World Language course placement Grades 7-12 <i>Spanish, French, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, German, Italian (more languages could be added)</i>	Testing to place students appropriately in levels of World Language courses or course sequences. 4-domain or 2-domain tests at the discretion of the school.	SY26-27: 1000 SY 27-28: 1250 SY28-29:1500				

Vendor Requirements: General Requirements

1. The vendor must offer language proficiency testing for a wide variety of languages, including languages taught in the district such as Spanish, French, ASL, Japanese, Mandarin, Arabic, Latin, Italian, and German in addition to a variety of home languages spoken by students, including but not limited to Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Somali, Cantonese, Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese, Pashto, etc. The vendor must be able to accommodate a wide variety of languages and/or offer flexibility for alternative options for less common languages, so that all students have equitable access to test in any language they may speak.
2. Vendor's language proficiency tests must be approved by [MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#) to serve as Seal of Biliteracy tests (see World Language Assessments document under "Assessments" on the webpage menu).
3. The test must assess language proficiency across all four domains in many languages: speaking, reading, writing, listening.
4. Vendor must include scoring services for the tests in all languages, providing scores that can be translated to the proficiency levels used by DESE for MA State Seal of Biliteracy awarding. Scoring for all languages must be included as part of the overall pricing structure. Scores must be provided within a predictable timeline and in a timely manner.
5. Ensure that all components outlined under the purposes column for Seal of Biliteracy testing; World Language course credit conferral; Dual language course placement

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Grades 7-12; World Language course placement Grades 7-12 can be achieved by using your assessment platform/tool.

6. Provide a central online portal for BPS Central Office employees to access cross-district test scores and manage data, including organizing scores by school. Also provide access for school-based BPS employees to access their school's test scores and data.
7. Provide a means of ending access to the test as needed (e.g. when the budgeted number of tests has been used, or when the designated district testing window has closed, so that schools no longer can administer the test).
8. The test must be appropriate for students in grades 7-12 & the vendor offers a testing option for Elementary grade levels, should BPS need to expand access for dual language schools or other contexts.
9. The testing company must provide a clear point/points of contact for the district who can support with billing, test updates, technical issues (including on-call support during test proctoring at schools), and other needs. The vendor must be responsive to inquiries, requests for phone calls or meetings, etc.
10. If certain languages' per-test pricing differs, the vendor must specify which languages cost differently and allow BPS to budget a specific number of tests for these languages.

Vendor Requirements: Technology, Security, Privacy, and Data Requirements

1. **Technology Governance:** The selected solution must successfully complete all applicable Boston Public Schools technology, cybersecurity, privacy, accessibility, and implementation reviews prior to production deployment. Contract award does not constitute implementation approval.
2. **Identity & Access Management:** The solution shall support:
 - Google Workspace Single Sign-On (SSO) through SAML 2.0 or equivalent standards.
 - Role-based access controls for district administrators, school administrators, and other authorized users.
 - Administrative user management capabilities.
 - User provisioning and deprovisioning processes.
 - Audit logging of administrative activities.
 - The Offeror shall describe available authentication methods and administrative controls.
3. **Student Data Privacy:** The Offeror shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding student information and privacy.

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The Offeror shall describe:

- Types of student data collected.
- Types of student data stored.
- Data retention practices.
- Data deletion practices.
- Data sharing practices.
- Use of subcontractors or subprocessors.

Boston Public Schools shall retain ownership of all student, assessment, reporting, and administrative data.

4. **Data Export & Portability:** The Offeror shall provide the ability for BPS to export student records, assessment results, score reports, and related data in commonly used machine-readable formats including, where available, CSV, XLSX, or other commonly used formats. The Offeror shall describe available export methods and any limitations.
5. **Security Requirements:** The Offeror shall maintain reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect Boston Public Schools data.

The Offeror shall:

- Encrypt data in transit.
- Encrypt data at rest.
- Maintain documented incident response procedures.
- Maintain documented business continuity procedures.
- Maintain appropriate access controls to protect student information.

The Offeror shall describe its information security program and security controls used to protect customer data.

6. **Security Incident Notification:** The Offeror shall notify Boston Public Schools without unreasonable delay, and no later than twenty-four (24) hours after confirming, any actual or suspected unauthorized access, disclosure, security incident, or breach involving BPS data.
7. **Accessibility:** The Offeror shall provide a current Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) and describe compliance with WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility standards.

The Offeror shall identify any known accessibility limitations.

The platform shall support equitable access for students and staff with disabilities.

8. **Reporting & Administrative Access:** The platform shall support role-based access controls that allow BPS to manage district-level and school-level permissions.

The platform shall provide:

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- District-level administrative access.
- School-level administrative access.
- Student-level reporting.
- School-level reporting.
- District-level reporting.
- Data export capabilities.

The Offeror shall describe available reporting tools and export formats.

9. Integration Capabilities: The Offeror shall describe:

- Single Sign-On capabilities.
- Available APIs, if applicable.
- Available roster import methods.
- Available student information system integration options.
- Any additional costs associated with integrations.

10. Artificial Intelligence (If Applicable): If the solution includes any artificial intelligence functionality, the Offeror shall disclose:

- AI features included within the platform
- Third-party AI providers or models utilized
- Administrative controls available
- Use of customer data for AI training
- Methods used to validate AI-generated outputs

BPS data, student information, prompts, outputs, and related content shall not be used to train public, shared, or third-party artificial intelligence models.

If no AI functionality is included, the Offeror shall explicitly state that no AI functionality is utilized.

Selection

BPS seeks to partner with one vendor who can provide pricing either as a whole annual contract or by test, including any price differences by test language. Vendor must provide pricing for each contract year separately for the next 3 school years (2026-2027, 2027-2028, & 2028-2029).

Criteria Requirement

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Criteria/Requirements	Yes/No
I. Language Offering and Equitable Access	
Offers language proficiency testing for a wide variety of languages, including all district-taught and home languages.	
Provides flexibility or alternative options for less common languages to ensure equitable access.	
II. Assessment Quality and MA/BPS Compliance	
MA DESE approval for Seal of Biliteracy.	
Test supports all outlined purposes for BPS (Seal of Biliteracy, BPS World Language credit conferral, Dual/World Language course placement).	
Assessment across all 4 language domains.	
Test is proven to be a valid & reliable measure of language proficiency.	
Test is approved, appropriate, & validated for students in Grades 7-12.	
Vendor offers a testing option that is approved & appropriate for students in Grades K-6, should BPS need to expand testing within the 3 years of the contract.	
Test is scored using a rigorous, standardized system with trained, qualified raters.	
Score reporting timelines are clearly defined, predictable, and consistently met.	
III. Platform and Data Management	
Score reports clearly align to language proficiency levels and Seal of Biliteracy eligibility requirements.	
Provides district-level and school-level administration and access to testing data, including a means of ending access to the test for schools after the testing window.	
Provides student-, school-, and district-level data and reporting.	
Supports export of assessment and reporting data.	

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Criteria/Requirements	Yes/No
Provides central portal, through which district employees can view district-wide data, organize data by school & student, and access reporting tools.	
Portal supports exporting, filtering, and reporting by student, school, language, and testing cycle.	
Vendor provides school-level access to data for all scores from that school, including individual student score reports. School administrators and teachers can access school-wide & student-specific data.	
District administrators can monitor assessment usage and testing participation in real time.	
District administrators can centrally manage testing windows and control access to assessments. Supports role-based access controls.	
Supports Google Workspace SSO (SAML or equivalent).	
Provides documented data retention and deletion procedures.	
Encrypts data in transit and at rest.	
Provides security incident response procedures.	
Provides a current VPAT.	
Discloses AI functionality and data usage practices, if applicable.	
IV. Vendor Service and Pricing	
Pricing is transparent, scalable, and cost effective.	
Vendor clearly identifies any language-specific pricing differences and allows district budgeting by language, or provides a clear package price that includes tests in all languages or quotes by language for each year (2026-2027, 2027-2028, 2028-2029).	
Pricing includes scoring services for all languages without hidden or separate fees.	
Vendor provides a clear point/points of contact for the district who can support with billing, test updates, technical issues, and other needs.	

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Criteria/Requirements	Yes/No
Vendor provides timely technical support during testing windows, including on-call support for urgent testing issues.	
V. Vendor Experience & Support	
Vendor is proven able to support a large public district with schools serving grades 7-12.	
Vendor offers a testing option for Elementary grade levels, should BPS need to expand access for dual language schools or other contexts.	

Submission Requirement

The vendor must complete the [spreadsheet](#) attached to the bid event, which includes the criteria requirement and the pricing table.