## Request for Proposal (RFP) RFP ALSDE 2025-18 Alabama State Department of Education, Career and Technical Education / Workforce Development

**Alabama State Department of Education** 



Request for Proposal RFP ALSDE 2025-18

# Career and Technical Education (CTE) Professional Development and Coaching Services to Support CTE Programs

## Alabama State Department of Education

## **Career and Technical Education / Workforce Development**

Inquiries related to this RFP are to be emailed to:

Cindy Gillespie Office of Operations Alabama State Department of Education Email: <u>rfpproposals@alsde.edu</u>

Deadline: NEW ELECTRONIC PROCEDURES FOR SUBMISSION

Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on August 13, 2025. It is required that each vendor clearly note the RFP Number & Vendor Name in the subject line and email to: rfpproposals@alsde.edu

## The proposal package must contain the following and be submitted electronically.

- 1. The proposal must be signed by an official authorized to legally bind the vendor to the information provided.
- 2. Must be currently registered with the Alabama Department of Finance, Division of Procurement as a State Vendor and provide vendor number. Division of Procurement
- 3. The vendor must complete the affidavit for business entity/employer/vendor. Verification of enrollment in E-verify shall be presented on the form found in Appendix A.

Pursuant to Alabama Administrative Code Rule 355-4-3.03(12), proposal openings are not open to the public

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#### Section 1.00 Administrative Overview

#### 1.1 <u>Purpose and Background</u>

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to secure high-quality professional development and coaching services to support the continued advancement of Alabama's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. CTE plays an essential role in preparing students for high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand careers by combining rigorous academic instruction with relevant technical training and real-world application.

To ensure CTE teachers and leaders are fully equipped to meet these expectations, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) seeks a qualified provider to deliver a comprehensive suite of services that will:

- Strengthen teacher effectiveness and instructional quality;
- Increase student achievement and career readiness;
- Support new and transitioning teachers through structured induction and mentorship;
- Expand the use of project-based learning and simulated workplace models in CTE classrooms;
- Deepen the integration of academic content into CTE instruction;
- Develop the leadership capacity of CTE administrators to lead and sustain continuous improvement.

These services will play a vital role in building the instructional capacity, innovation, and alignment needed to ensure all Alabama students are prepared to thrive in today's dynamic workforce.

#### **Background:**

*Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day* is more than a guiding motto for the ALSDE—it is the foundation of our commitment to ensure that every student, regardless of background or circumstance, has access to a high-quality education and the tools needed to succeed in school, career, and life.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is central to this mission. CTE programs empower students by equipping them with academic knowledge, technical expertise, and essential career readiness skills. Through authentic, hands-on learning experiences, students are able to make meaningful connections between the classroom and the workplace, explore high-demand career pathways, and gain the confidence to pursue postsecondary education, credentialing, or immediate entry into the workforce.

As career development becomes increasingly critical in today's evolving job market, the ALSDE is committed to expanding access to robust professional learning and coaching services for CTE educators and leaders. By investing in high-quality training and support, we are strengthening Alabama's workforce pipeline and reinforcing our belief that Career and Technical Education is a key driver in creating opportunity, promoting equity, and preparing every student for a successful future.

## 1.2 <u>Anticipated Time Table</u>

July 31, 2025, 3PM Question Submission Deadline

August 1, 2025, 5PM Question Responses Due

August 13, 2025 Proposal Submission Deadline

NOTE: All Questions must be emailed to <u>rfpqanda@alsde.edu</u> by the deadline noted above. All Q & A will be posted in STAARS and on the Alabama Achieves website <u>Alabama State Department of Education - Alabama Achieves -</u> <u>ALSDE</u> on the designated date noted above.

## 1.3 <u>Proposal Evaluation</u>

An Evaluation Team will review the proposals and make a recommendation. The criteria listed below will be used to evaluate the proposals for the purpose of ranking them in relative position based on how fully each proposal meets the requirements of this RFP.

Evaluation Criteria:	
Vendor qualifications and experience	35 points
Cost Proposal	30 points
Detailed description and delivery of services	35 points

## **Best and Final Offers:**

The ALSDE may either accept a vendor's initial proposal by award of a contract or enter into discussions with vendors whose proposals are deemed to be reasonably acceptable of consideration for award. After discussions conclude, a vendor may be allowed to submit a "Best and Final Offer" for consideration in a manner and method prescribed by the ALSDE. By submitting a proposal each vendor accepts and agrees to all conditions and requirements herein.

The ALSDE will make all decisions regarding evaluation of the proposal. The ALSDE reserves the right to judge and determine whether a request is compliant with and satisfactorily meets the requirements of the RFP. The ALSDE reserves the right to waive technical and other defects if, in its judgment, the interest of the ALSDE so requires. Any further information disclosed about the RFP during this process will be provided to all vendors in a manner and method prescribed by the ALSDE.

## **Rejection of Proposal:**

ALSDE reserves the right to reject any or all proposals it deems non-responsive, late in submission, or unsatisfactory in any way. ALSDE shall have no obligation to award a contract for work, goods and/or services as a result of this RFP.

Qualified bidders aggrieved in connection with the solicitation of a contract may protest to the Chief Procurement Officer. *See generally* State of Alabama Department of Finance Administrative Code Regulations at Administrative Code Regulations.

## **Confidentiality:**

All information contained in the RFP is considered to be the exclusive property of the ALSDE. Recipients of this RFP are not to disclose any information contained within the RFP unless such information is publicly available. This RFP is provided for the sole purpose of allowing vendors to respond to these specifications.

## **Selection Process:**

The ALSDE will select the vendor that provides the most technically sound and cost-effective proposal that best fits the needs of the ALSDE. Final selection of the successful vendor will not be based solely on cost. The vendor product will be evaluated primarily on the scope of the activities linked to associated costs as detailed in the RFP. RFPs will be reviewed to ascertain that minimum requirements have been met. The ALSDE reserves the right to conduct discussions with potential vendors in order to clarify information contained in their proposals, but the ALSDE has no obligation to do so. This may include requesting a presentation of top finalists for final scoring. The vendor will provide notice to the ALSDE of any partnership with another firm to provide parts of the solution; however, the vendor must provide management of the partner and is responsible for all project performance. Any subcontractor or partner will be subject to the same vetting process as the vendor, and the vendor is responsible for ensuring that each subcontractor acknowledges and is contractually bound by the staffing plan and other commitments listed in this RFP.

Unless provided by law, nothing in this RFP shall be construed to create any legal obligation on the part of the ALSDE or any respondents. The ALSDE reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to amend, suspend, terminate, or reissue the RFP in whole or in part, at any stage. In no event shall the ALSDE be liable to respondents for any cost or damages incurred in connection with the RFP process, including, but not limited to, any and all costs of preparing a response to this RFP or any other costs incurred in reliance on this RFP. No respondent shall be entitled to repayment from the ALSDE for any costs, expenses, or fees related to the RFP. All supporting documentation submitted in response to the RFP will become the property of the ALSDE. Respondents may also withdraw their interest in the RFP, in writing, at any time, as more information becomes known. If, within the confines of this RFP, the contents of the RFP, including any intellectual property the vendor provides to the ALSDE as part of the RFP, is subject to Open Records Act laws and thus is subsequently in the public domain.

## Intent to Award

Division of Procurement will send out an intent to award to participating suppliers, defining the protest period. The CPO (Chief Procurement Officer) is the awarding authority and as such is a signatory on the agreement/contract.

## **Disclaimer Notice:**

The ALSDE shall not be liable for any costs associated with the preparation of proposals or negotiations of a contract incurred by any party.

## **Availability of Funds:**

It is expressly understood and agreed that the obligations of the ALSDE to proceed are conditioned upon the continued availability of funds that may be expended for these purposes.

## 1.4 <u>Conditions and Terms</u>

## **Contract Terms:**

The ALSDE intends to execute an initial contract with Contractor for a period of up to two (2) years, with contract renewals equaling no longer than three (3) additional years, pending written agreement of the vendor and ALSDE dependent upon required state approvals, availability of funds, performance evaluations of the project, at the full discretion of the ALSDE. The contract will commence pending CPO signature, Legislative Review Committee approval, and the Governor's signature. Each contract renewal will be presented to the Legislative Oversight Committee for approval.

The vendor shall be fully prepared to commence work after full execution of the contract by parties and the receipt of required governmental approvals.

Proposals must reference each element in the RFP by number on the cover of each copy and be arranged in the same sequence. All fees and costs are to be stated in United States currency. Vendors must reply to each element of the RFP.

## Section 2.00 Scope

## 2.1 Scope of Vendor's Work and Responsibilities

## **Planning & Coordination**

- Conduct planning sessions with ALSDE to review scope, sequence, and scheduling of services.
- Design and deliver customized professional development and training to K12 partners focused on following:
  - Strengthening teacher effectiveness and instructional quality;
  - Increasing student achievement and career readiness;
  - Supporting new and transitioning teachers through structured induction and mentorship;
  - Expanding the implementation of project-based learning and simulated workplace models in CTE classrooms;
  - Deepening the integration of academic content into CTE instruction; and
  - Developing the leadership capacity of CTE administrators to lead and sustain continuous improvement.

## **Professional Development & Coaching**

- Deliver face-to-face and virtual training sessions for CTE teachers, mentor teachers, and administrators.
- Facilitate multi-day training modules on topics such as instructional planning, engagement strategies, classroom culture, assessment, project-based learning, academic integration, and simulated workplace practices.
- Provide coaching support, including virtual and in-person observations, feedback, and individual planning assistance for participants.
- Offer specialized leadership training for CTE administrators, including summer institutes, quarterly seminars, and one-on-one coaching.
- Provide all participant training materials.

## Mentorship & PLC Facilitation

- Support development of teacher mentor capacity.
- Facilitate virtual Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for participants to collaborate, reflect, and share best practices.

## **Online Support & Resources**

- Create and maintain a virtual classroom and discussion board for teachers.
- Disseminate training materials and resources online.
- Track participation, deliverables, and assignment submission through virtual platforms.

## **Evaluation & Impact Reporting**

- Use needs assessments to customize training.
- Monitor program effectiveness through participant feedback and implementation outcomes.
- Collect and share teacher-created artifacts and success stories.
- Prepare cohort presentations for statewide CTE conferences.

## 2.2 Scope of Alabama State Department of Education's Work and Responsibilities

## **Oversight & Coordination**

- Identify target participants and priority schools/sites for services (e.g., new teachers, simulated workplace sites, academic integration participants).
- Collaborate with the vendor to determine training dates, locations, and logistics.
- Organize and coordinate facility arrangements for face-to-face sessions.

## **Program Implementation Support**

- Ensure alignment of professional development with the ALSDE's CTE improvement goals, Perkins V requirements, and accountability indicators.
- Promote participation among local school systems and CTE centers.
- Support participant follow-through with coaching, deliverables, and session attendance.

## **Monitoring & Communication**

- Review implementation progress and provide guidance or feedback to the vendor as needed.
- Participate in planning sessions and periodic check-ins to ensure program fidelity.
- Collect and use implementation data to inform continuous improvement.

## Statewide Engagement & Recognition

- Coordinate opportunities for cohort participants to present at the ALSDE's CTE-related conferences.
- Highlight best practices and outcomes through department-led events and communications.

## Section 3.00 General Requirements

#### 3.1 Requirements of Proposal

The vendor must provide the following mandatory information. <u>Failure to provide this information may be</u> <u>cause for the proposal to be rejected</u>. Qualifications, experience, and cost will be evaluated for contract award. The proposal may be submitted under the same cover with Vendor Requirements and Cost Proposal in two distinct sections. E-verify information is required to be submitted for all employees to include contractors of the vendors if necessary and applicable.

## Part I Signed Cover Letter:

The cover letter shall serve as the first page of the vendor's proposal. The vendor shall complete the cover letter and attach it to the proposal in response to the RFP. The cover letter must be signed by an official authorized to legally bind the vendor. It will state that the vendor is a legal entity that will meet the specifications. The cover letter must accompany the submitted proposal. The letter accompanying the proposal must have original signatures and must include contact numbers and e-mail addresses for the authorized official signing the letters.

## Part II

## Vendor Qualification and Experience:

Vendor shall provide satisfactory evidence of the vendor's capability to coordinate the types of activities and to provide the services described in the RFP in a timely manner. Special attention should be given to the discussion of qualifications to include:

- Demonstrated experience working with a broad range of clients, including state education agencies, local school districts, career and technical education centers, and other educational institutions.
- Demonstrates experience in delivering CTE focused professional development and coaching.
- Demonstrated experience working with K12 partners to provide professional development and coaching services.

The discussion shall include a description of the vendor's background and relevant experience as related to the required activities in the RFP.

#### Part III

Vendor shall provide a detailed plan describing how the services will be performed to meet the requirements of the RFP. The description shall encompass the requirements of this RFP. The response must be prepared and organized in a clear and concise manner that is easily understandable.

#### Vendor Organization:

Describe your organizational structure and explain how your organization qualifies to be responsive to the requirements of this RFP.

#### **References:**

The vendor shall provide a minimum of three (3) references that can support and validate training and/or projects and outcomes, including names or persons who may be contacted, position of person, addresses, and phone numbers where similar training and/or projects to that described in this RFP have been conducted.

## **Executive Summary:**

An executive summary is required. This summary will condense and highlight the contents of the vendor's proposal.

## Part IV Cost Proposal:

Vendor shall include the fee structure and pricing for the training sessions/program if applicable or requested. The vendor shall submit a cost proposal in addition to other required information. The cost proposal should include a budget justification that is detailed, transparent, and well-aligned with the scope of work.

In addition to the budget justification, the proposal will be evaluated based on:

- Cost Effectiveness: the overall cost in relation to the expected benefits and outcomes. Consideration will be given to whether the proposed budget demonstrates a strong return on investment and reflects the efficient use of resources while maintaining the quality and scope of services.
- Available Funding: Assessment of whether the proposed budget fits within available funding.

## Subcontractor Disclosure:

If the execution of work to be performed requires hiring Subcontractors, <u>you must clearly state this in the bid</u> <u>proposal and provide qualification for such individuals</u>. Subcontractors must be identified and the services they will provide or work they will perform must be clearly defined. The ALSDE will not refuse a proposal based upon use of a Subcontractor; however, the ALSDE reserves the right to refuse the Subcontractor a vendor selects. Vendor and associated personnel shall remain solely responsible for the performance of all work, including work that may be subcontracted.

A vendor must describe its rationale for utilizing Subcontractors including relevant past experience partnering with stated Subcontractor(s). Providing documents for E-verification of subcontractors is the sole responsibility of the Contractor and must be available upon request to ensure compliance.

Subcontractors may not be employees/agents of the ALSDE or LEA, nor any entity or agency receiving education trust funds.

## Section 4.00 General Terms and Conditions

#### 4.1 Governance

This RFP and its terms shall be governed and construed according to the laws of the state of Alabama. Any dispute arising out of this RFP shall be brought in the state of Alabama, with venue in Montgomery County, Alabama. Vendors agree to comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Per the current FPPM (Fiscal Policy and Procedures Manual): Non-appropriation and Proration (Section 41-4-144(c)).

#### **Fiscal Policy Procedures**

When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be cancelled, and, to the extent permissible by law, the supplier shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any non-recurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the supplies or services delivered under the contract. To the extent permissible by law, this cost of cancellation may be paid from any appropriations available for that purpose.

In the event that proration of appropriated funds from which the State is to pay the supplier is declared by the Governor pursuant to Section 41-4-90 of the Code of Alabama, the contractor shall have the option, in addition to the other remedies of the contract, of renegotiating the contract to extend or change payment terms or amounts, or terminating the contract. In all circumstances, it is agreed that the terms and commitments of this contract shall not constitute a debt of the State of Alabama in violation of Section 213 of the Constitution of Alabama, as amended."

## 4.2 Immigration

The proposal must contain a statement that the vendor is aware of and in compliance with the requirements of the Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act; a statement that the vendor is enrolled in the E-Verify as required by Section 31-13-9 (b), Code of Alabama 1975, as amended:

## BEASON-HAMMON ALABAMA TAXPAYER AND CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT

#### COMPLIANCE

The Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act (31-13-1 et seq, Code of Alabama, 1975 as amended by Act 2012-491) regulates illegal immigration in the state of Alabama. All contracts with the State or any political subdivision thereof must fully comply with each provision as provided by law.

A proposal must include a statement that the vendor has knowledge of this law and is in compliance. Before a contract is signed, the vendor awarded the contract must submit a Certificate of Compliance using the form at Appendix A. E-Verify enrollment can be accomplished at the website of the United States Department of Homeland Security at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Website.

See Section 10 for additional language required by Section 10(k) of the Act to be included in the contract.

*Rev.5-24-13* 

## 4.3 <u>Conflict of Interest</u>

The vendor attests that no employee, officer, or agent of the vendor shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract if a real or apparent conflict of interest may be involved. A conflict would arise when the employee, officer, agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein has a financial or other interest in the organization selected for an award. The officers, employees, and agents of the vendor, if selected as the career planning system vendor, shall neither award nor offer gratuities, favors, nor anything of monetary value from vendors or subcontractors.

## 4.4 **Discrimination**

#### Alabama Non-Discrimination Statement:

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, gender, race, religion, national origin, color, age, genetic information, or any other category protected under the law. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972; Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008. Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 694-4717.

#### 4.5 <u>Artificial Intelligence (AI) Systems</u>

## AI Model Development and Use Attestation:

The proposal shall include a written statement attesting to the following:

- a. <u>Pretrained AI System</u>: The AI System to be provided in the performance of this RFP has been pretrained.
- b. <u>Responsibility in AI System Development</u>: The vendor used all responsible measures necessary during the development of the AI System to be provided in the performance of this RFP.
- c. <u>Human-in-the-Loop AI System Training</u>: A human-in-the-loop approach was used, wherever possible, in training the AI System, ensuring human oversight and intervention were integral parts to the AI System training process.
- d. <u>Unbiased Data Selection and Algorithm Development</u>: The process of data selection for AI System training was conducted in an unbiased manner, wherever possible, adhering to the principles of fairness and non-discrimination.
- e. <u>Expected Outcomes</u>: The results produced by the AI System met the expected outcomes as identified and defined by the vendor.

The vendor further attests and agrees that any violation of this subsection will be considered a material breach of this RFP, and may result in its termination, legal action, or both, at the sole discretion of the ALSDE. If the vendor's software solution does not use, contain or incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI), the proposal shall include a written statement attesting that the software solution does not use, contain, or incorporate any AI.

#### **APPENDIX "A"**

State of	
County of	

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE BEASON-HAMMON ALABAMA TAXPAYER AND CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT (ACT 2011-535, as amended by ACT 2012-491)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

RE Contract/Grant/Incentive (describe by number or subject):

_ by and between	
(Contractor/Grantee) and	
(State Agency, Department or Public Entity	

The undersigned hereby certifies to the State of Alabama as follows:

- The undersigned holds the position of \_\_\_\_\_\_ with the Contractor/Grantee named above, and is authorized to
  provide representations set out in this Certificate as the official and binding act of that entity, and has knowledge of the provisions of
  THE BEASON-HAMMON ALABAMA TAXPAYER AND CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT (ACT 2011-535 of the Alabama Legislature, as amended by
  ACT 2012-491) which is described herein as "the Act."
- 2. Using the following definitions from Section 3 of the Act, select and initial either (a) or (b), below, to describe the Contractor/Grantee's business structure.

<u>BUSINESS ENTITY</u>. Any person or group of persons employing one or more persons performing or engaging in any activity, enterprise, profession, or occupation for gain, benefit, advantage, or livelihood, whether for profit or not for profit.

a. Self-employed individuals, business entities filing articles of incorporation, partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, foreign corporations, foreign limited partnerships, and foreign limited liability companies authorized to transact business in this state, business trusts, and any business entity that registers with the Secretary of State.

b. Any business entity that possesses a business license, permit, certificate, approval, registration, charter, or similar form of authorization issued by the state, any business entity that is exempt by law from obtaining such a business license, and any business entity that is operating unlawfully without a business license.

<u>EMPLOYER</u>. Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, joint stock association, agent, manager, representative, foreman, or other person having control or custody of any employment, place of employment, or of any employee, including any person or entity employing any person for hire within the State of Alabama, including a public employer. This term shall not include the occupant of a household contracting with another person to perform casual domestic labor within the household.

\_\_\_\_\_ (a) The Contractor/Grantee is a business entity or employer as those terms are defined in Section 3 of the Act.

\_\_ (b) The Contractor/Grantee is not a business entity or employer as those terms are defined in Section 3 of the Act.

- As of the date of this Certificate, the Contractor/Grantee does not knowingly employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama and hereafter it will not knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama;
- 4. The Contractor/Grantee is enrolled in E-Verify unless it is not eligible to enroll because of the rules of that program or other factors beyond its control.

Certified this	day of	20	<u> </u> .		
					Name of Contractor/Grantee/Recipient
			Ву:		
			lts		
	tion was signed in my pre _day of	, ,	vhose name ap	pears above, on	
		WITNESS:			