

**APPROVE ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ABOUT LEARNING, INC.
FOR MAGNET CLUSTER INITIATIVE EVALUATION SERVICES**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve entering into an agreement with About Learning, Inc. to provide magnet cluster initiative evaluation services to the Office of Academic Enhancement at a cost not to exceed \$152,000.00. Consultant was selected on a competitive basis pursuant to a Request for Proposal (Specification Number 03-250191). A written agreement for these services is currently being negotiated. No payment shall be made to vendor prior to the execution of the written agreement. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written agreement is not executed within 90 days of the date of this Board Report. Information pertinent to this agreement is stated below.

Specification Number: 03-250191

Contract Administrator: Martha Escareno

CONSULTANT: About Learning, Inc.
1251 N. Old Rand Road
Wauconda, IL 60084
Contact: Steven C. Kozlowski
Tel. No.: 847 487-1800, Ext. 227
Vendor #:38943

USER: Office of Academic Enhancement
125 S. Clark – 9th floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Contact Person: Ryan Crosby and Jeffrey Gray
Tel. No.: 773 553-1456, 773 553-2188

TERM: The term of this agreement shall commence January 1, 2004 and end June 30, 2005. The Contract shall have two (2) options to renew for periods of one (1) year each

SCOPE OF SERVICES: About Learning Inc. will provide evaluation services for the Magnet Cluster Initiative of the cluster schools implementing the Fine and Performing Arts, International CPS Scholars, Literature and Writing, Math and Science, and World Language Magnet Programs at the Chicago Public Schools. Approximately 240 schools are currently part of this Program.

Consultant shall provide an overview of the progress of the Program over the past three years which overview will include the following: Analysis of student achievement data (standardized test scores, grades, graduation/promotion rates, etc.), student mobility data, parent and student satisfaction/dissatisfaction opinions about their school choices, principal and teacher satisfaction/dissatisfaction opinions about the services provided to them through the magnet program, and other data drawn from all participating magnet cluster schools. Methodologies shall include analysis of quantitative and qualitative data (i.e., test scores, survey questionnaires, focus groups, interviews, etc.).

DELIVERABLES: Consultant will provide the following reports: 1.Phase I: Data collection and analysis will take place between January, 2004 and the end of the 2004 school year. A report will be due by July 31, 2004. 2. Phase II: Data collection will begin with the start of school in September 2004 and continue through December 2004. 3. A final report that combines the Phase I report with the research done in Phase II will be due by March 31, 2005.

OUTCOMES: Consultant's services will result in a comparative study of a sample of cluster and non-cluster schools. This comparative study will measure the degree of implementation of the magnet programs and gauge the effectiveness of the cluster professional development in improving teaching and learning at the schools. This will be compared to non-cluster schools that do not implement program-specific curricula or receive professional development through the Magnet Cluster Initiative office.

COMPENSATION: Consultant shall be paid for Phase I \$91,200.00; for Phase II and a final report that combines Phase I and Phase II the amount of \$60,800.00. Total compensation not to exceed: \$152,000.00.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the General Counsel to include other relevant terms and conditions in the written agreement. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the agreement.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: The M/WBE goals for this contract include: 35% total MBE, 22% total African American, 10% total Hispanic , 2% total Asian and 5% total WBE.

However, the Waiver Review Committee recommends that a partial waiver of the M/WBE participation goals for this contract as required by the Revised Remedial Plan be granted because the scope of services is not further divisible.

The vendor has, however, identified and scheduled the following firms and percentages:

Total MBE 35%

Total 25% African American

B2B Strategic Solutions, Inc. 430 E. 162 nd . St. South Holland, Il. 60473	\$38,000	25%
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Total 10% Hispanic

Pinata 3604 So. Iron St. Chicago IL.60609	\$22,800	15%
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Total WBE 51%

About Learning Inc. 1251 N. Old Rand Road Wauconda, IL 60084	\$77,520	51%
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LSC REVIEW: Local School Council approval is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: Charge to Office of Academic Enhancement \$152,000.00	Fiscal Year: 2004
Budget Classification: 0310-239-929-7981-5410	Source of Funds: State Grant

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Inspector General – Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts – The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness – The Board’s Indebtedness Policy adopted July 26, 1995 (95-0726-EX3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics – The Board’s Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995 (95-0927-RU3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.


Contingent Liability – The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

Approved for Consideration:



Heather A. Obora
Chief Purchasing Officer

Approved:




Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to legal form: 



Ruth Moscovitch
General Counsel