

Addendum #1

Culturally Responsive Project Based Learning

Issue Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Bids Due: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 1:00PM

1. Will project-based learning be a steady component of the school day across the entire year or will time for project-based learning happen at specific intervals?

We anticipate a gradual rollout of PBL based on effectiveness and capacity.

2. Which teachers will engage with/ support project-based learning?

This will be determined through a partnership with the vendor, district, and schools.

3. What are the expectations of leader and staff coaching being in person vs. virtual (eg over zoom)?

A majority of all PBL professional development will be in-person.

4. What is the current list of PPSD curricula and topics that are required?

Elementary and Middle Schools use American Reading Company for ELA and Social Studies; Elementary Schools use Great Minds Eureka for Mathematics; Middle and High Schools use McGraw Hill Illustrative Math; High Schools use StudySync for ELA. The selection of universal curricula for other content areas is still being decided.

5. Does each school have its own budget for curriculum development or will this be funded at the district level?

This will be funded at the district level.

6. Will there be specific PD days that schools come together for strategic planning or are you anticipating that this will be individual coaching for each of the 11 school teams?

We anticipate a combination of planning and coaching ranging from individual to district.

7. When will teachers and school leaders begin implementing changes in practice? Fall 2022, winter 2023, other?)

The initial implementation is expected for Fall 2022.

8. Is it a total of 11 schools that would be supported?

Yes.

9. How many teachers are there per school who would be supported? We are looking to clarify an approximate number of attendees for professional development and for embedded coaching.

School faculty sizes vary. The specific number of teachers for the initial pilot will be determined in partnership with the vendor based on estimated effectiveness and capacity.

10. Would the professional development sessions be school-specific, grade-span-specific (such as based on elementary, middle, or high school grades), or could they be led for all schools/teachers together?

This can be determined in partnership with the vendor during planning.

11. Which subject areas would incorporate PBL? All? What about electives/itinerants?

We expect PBL will be integrated across all content areas.

12. As the contract term would begin July 1, 2022, do you anticipate that teachers will be available to attend extended summer professional learning experiences? Or would we wait until the start of the school year to begin these services?

Work would commence in Summer 2022 and into the school year with option years available for further work.

13. Approximately how many professional learning days will educators have available in PPSD next school year? We know there were monthly opportunities this year, will those opportunities exist next year?

At a minimum, the same number of professional days from last year will be available next year.

14. Many PPSD schools currently have an early release day each week to allow for faculty to meet for professional learning, CPT, etc. Is that anticipated to continue next year?

A combination of job-embedded and outside-the-school-day professional development will be reserved for PBL.

15. The RFP states that we would "Provide a menu of projects that utilize PPSDs approved curriculum" - can you clarify what this menu would look like? Does it mean that you want fully developed projects to be provided for teachers? If so, how many? Or, does it mean you want us to provide basic topics that could be used? Or does it mean we will work together with educators to create this menu? Please clarify.

The topics will be based on PPSD's curriculum and the vendor will be expected to develop unit plans to integrate the different subjects (by grade levels).

16. Have the schools that will pilot project-based learning been selected? If so, what schools are participating in this initiative?

The 11 schools designated as in need of Redesign or Comprehensive School Improvement by RIDE prior to the 22-23 school year are eligible to be the initial participants.

17. What was the selection process used to identify the schools that will participate? If the schools have not yet been selected, what will be the process of identifying those schools, and what criteria are considered?

Schools designated as in need of Redesign or Comprehensive School Improvement by the Rhode Island Department of Education's accountability system prior to the 22-23 school year are the initial participants.

18. What are the "programming themes" at the selected schools?

Themes are to be determined if they are applicable to the school.

19. Will all teachers/subject areas be expected to lead PBL in SY22-23?

No. PBL will be a gradual rollout based on capacity of the vendor, district, and schools.

20. How many teachers will participate in the professional learning? Will those teachers be across content areas and grade levels?

There are 780 educators across the 11 schools. We will work with the vendor to determine the frequency by which the professional development is provided

21. Is there an estimated budget for this contract?

This will be contingent on available funding and on the scope of the work as defined between the district and the selected vendor.

22. Does the District have a current provider for the services requested in this RFP?

No.

23. Are there specific pain points the District feels would be helpful for respondents to be aware of when responding to this request?

The vendor must be able to demonstrate the ability to work with chronically underperforming schools in an urban school district. The vendor should have a track record of supporting teachers to instruct students from diverse backgrounds through PBL.

24. Does the District use one or more internal coaching or leadership models at this time? If so, can you share what methods or models for learning are currently being utilized?

The district has internal coaching and leadership models. More information will be shared with the selected vendor.