

**Submitted Questions and Answers Regarding
the Request for Proposals (RFP) for
EDUCATION FINANCE IN VERMONT:
ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Questions and responses have been listed in order of receipt.

- 1. *Will bidders be able to access the report recently produced by a contractor for the Vermont Agency of Education on the costs of career and technical education (CTE), including its recommendations for funding? If so, could that report, and the methodology used in this report, be shared as part of the RFP materials?***

Yes. The report, *Vermont Career and Technical Education Governance and Funding Recommendations*, prepared for the Vermont Agency of Education and published on February 14, 2025, is publicly available at the following link:

<https://education.vermont.gov/src/doc/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-apa-cte-report-20250214.pdf>

- 2. *What data does the state collect/report regarding CTE enrollment, by LEA? Do they have data on enrollment by program and percentage of student time in CTE coursework versus general education coursework by LEA?***

The Vermont Agency of Education collects semester-based sending school data for each student. While sending school codes can be matched to an LEA, the LEA itself is not included in the initial data collection.

Average Daily Minutes are collected for each student in every CTE program. Student participation generally falls into two categories: half-time CTE students and full-time CTE students.

- 3. *Could you clarify how the work proposed under this solicitation is intended to intersect with, or build upon, the ongoing work currently being funded by the Agency of Education and its contractor, who are examining the state's funding formula and its key components (e.g., weights and base spending amount)?***

The work solicited in this RFP is independent of any existing work funded by the Agency of Education.

As set out in Section 3f of this RFP, depending on how the scope of work within the RFP is divided, Contractor(s) may be required to coordinate with other Contractors engaged by JFO also selected to work on related components of this RFP.

4. *What is the contract type for this work? What is the contract type/payment structure for this work (ex. fixed price or time-and-materials)?*

JFO anticipates a fixed payment structure tied to a schedule of deliverables.

5. *Will the state accept proposals who can aid with financial cost structures within the Early Childhood space?*

This RFP is not focused on Early Childhood. However, JFO will consider any proposals that align with the scope of work, or pieces thereof, outlined in Section 2 of the RFP.

6. *Will exceptions to the general terms and conditions of the contract be considered? If exceptions are not considered at the proposal stage, will negotiation be possible upon award?*

The State will consider negotiating certain provisions on a case-by-case basis. If a Contractor wishes to negotiate provisions of the Standard State Provisions, JFO requests the proposal include a brief statement specifying which provision(s) the Contractor wishes to negotiate and what changes the Contractor(s) would propose.

7. *Is there an anticipated budget for this work?*

The budget will depend on the proposal(s) and Contractor(s) selected.

For context, Act 73 of 2025 appropriated \$400,000 to the JFO to hire one or more contractors for this work. The appropriation language can be found in Attachment A of the RFP which provides the relevant legislation.

As outlined in Section 5d of the RFP, JFO requests that proposals include any and all costs associated with the bid. All proposals should also describe the cost structure of the project, including billing rates and estimated hours for key staff, payments to any subcontractors, overhead rates, and estimated non-salary expenses, including travel.

8. *To what extent, if at all, will the contractor be expected to solicit input from the public, educators, and/or district and state leaders?*

The authorizing legislative language neither mandates nor prohibits solicitation of input from any source. The decision to solicit input from the public, educators, and/or district and state leaders is at the discretion of the Contractor(s). If the Contractor anticipates soliciting input from any of these groups, JFO requests that the proposal clearly describe as part of the Contractor's proposed methodology how input will be collected and used.

As outlined in Section 3f of the RFP, the Contractor(s) will be required to have regular check-ins with JFO and may also be required to coordinate with other Contractors, depending on how the scope of work is divided.

9. *What data will the state provide to support the consultant in completing this work?*

The State will work with the Contractor(s) to provide data requested by the Contractor(s) to the extent feasible. Depending on the nature of the requested data, JFO and the Contractor(s) may need to coordinate with other State agencies.

10. *Is there an incumbent contractor that the state expects to bid?*

There is no incumbent contractor for this opportunity. While JFO has previously contracted with vendors for similar work, this RFP represents a new contract opportunity. No portion of the work described in this RFP has been awarded to any contractor.

11. *What coordination, if any, is expected between the contractor and the School District Redistricting Task Force?*

JFO does not anticipate that Contractor(s) will need to work with the School District Redistricting Task Force. Depending on the scope of work awarded to the Contractor(s), the Contractor(s) may need to reference the Task Force's work and findings as a starting point or to inform the Contractor's own work.

12. *Will the contractor be tasked with determining what constitutes "an adequate and equitable education" as referenced in Task B. of the RFP (page 3)?*

Yes. Depending on the scope of the work provided, the Contractor may need to define what constitutes an adequate and equitable education. This term is not defined in Act 73.