The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School
Curriculum K-12

RESPONSES TO RFI QUESTIONS
September 26, 2018

1. Is this RFI for all subject areas K-12?

   ANSWER: This RFI is for all subject areas, including, but not limited to English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, world languages, and electives.

2. Is this RFI for full digital curriculum or can it be for supplemental materials as well?

   ANSWER: This RFI is for digital curriculum that can be delivered through a Learning Management System (LMS). Vendors who supply elective courses and supplemental materials are also welcome and encouraged to submit for information for those particular courses.

3. Please clarify the term 'courses'? How do I interpret questions such as "Do you offer core and elective courses?" We publish K-12 Visual Arts Curriculum.

   ANSWER: The term course is defined as the course content, assessments, activities, materials, and books associated with a class. This RFI is for all subject areas, including, but not limited to English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, world languages, and electives. Visual Arts courses would be considered elective courses.

4. Does Section VI. Meetings apply to the RFI?

   ANSWER: Yes

5. Is the Charter open to or seeking teachers to go along with the online courseware/curriculum, or is the Charter only interested in curriculum?

   ANSWER: PA Cyber currently utilizes our own teachers for the core content area courses including English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. We would potentially be open to seeking teachers to go along with the online curriculum for elective courses.

6. Is there a required number of copies to submit? What format is preferred (binder, tabs, etc)?

   ANSWER: Only one copy is required. However, additional copies will be accepted. There is no preferred format.

7. Does question 32 refer to a sequence of a series of courses such as Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, or something else?

   ANSWER: Question 32 is asking whether the sequence of lessons in a particular course (i.e. Algebra I) can be adjusted by the school or does the sequence of lessons need to remain in the

order supplied by the curriculum vendor. For example, could PA Cyber move a lesson from Day 30 to Day 120 if desired.

8. Does PCC have a preferred LMS?

   ANSWER: PA Cyber does not have a preferred LMS.

9. If we do not currently have a capability, but plan to add it by 2019-20 or 2020-21, can we include it in our responses? One example is B2 - "If you have a proprietary LMS, does it have single sign on capability with Genius Student Information System ("SIS")? If yes, please describe this capability."

   ANSWER: Please include in your response your current capabilities. Please feel free to share capabilities that are on your future roadmap and a timeframe for each.

10. For the question, "Is your curriculum research based? If yes, what methodology was employed?" Does this mean based on the research conducted by the education field as a whole or based on studies done on the product itself.

    ANSWER: This question is referring to research conducted by the education field as a whole. However, please feel free to include research that is relative to your particular product if it makes sense to do so.

11. For the question, "Is your curriculum sequences according to assessment anchors and eligible content? If yes, please describe your curriculum sequencing." What is eligible content in reference to?

    ANSWER: Assessment anchors are one of the many tools the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has developed to better align curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices throughout the state. Eligible content is referring to what a student may see on a state assessment. Please visit the below site to learn more:
    https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/PSSA/Pages/Assessment-Anchors.aspx

12. For the question, "Is your curriculum NIMAS compliant?" We assess our Accessibility compliance against WCAG 2.0. Can we present our compliance with WCAG 2.0 or do we need to translate it to NIMAS compliance?

    ANSWER: Please answer the question based on whether you are NIMAS compliant but please feel free to share in the comments box your compliance with WCAG 2.0.

13. For the question, "Do you have a course transfer process for student grades?" Can you please share some details on what you mean by this, and your needs in this area?

    ANSWER: PA Cyber typically enrolls a large number of new students throughout the course of a school year. We want to understand how we can transfer a student's course grade from their previous school district to a vendor's course? We would need to understand how a vendor's current gradebook functions.

14. For the question, "Do you use placement exams to evaluate students by skill and/or grade level? If yes, please describe the examination process?" Is there a requirement/preference on this modality? Is there a requirement/preference on subject area tested?

    ANSWER: There is no requirement/preference. Our goal is understand if a vendor utilizes placement exams and the process/philosophy behind them if the answer is yes.

15. For the question, "Can teachers and administrators see the assessment and assignment answers and explanations for assessment questions?" What is meant by explanations for assessment questions? Can you please clarify?

    ANSWER: Some vendors supply pre-determined explanations for auto-grades assessment questions for each possible answer that a student could select. If pre-determined explanations are provided, we would like to understand if these are visible to teachers and administrators.

16. For the question, "Can teachers create personalized rubrics to be included with Vendor created assessments?" Does "included with" mean part of the online materials, printed materials, or both.

    ANSWER: This is meant to reference whether a PA Cyber personalized rubric can be part of the online material.

17. Section IV on page 2 indicates where responses should be submitted. Would you please confirm that it is acceptable to submit a response via email only? If a print version is desired, how many copies should be provided?

    ANSWER: A print version of a vendor's response is desired. Only one copy is required. However, additional copies will be accepted.

18. Is there a specific format desired for the response beyond responding to the items in Section VII / Exhibit A?

    ANSWER: There is no preferred format. Responses should be written in narrative form and numbered appropriately.

19. Should we provide pricing information with our RFI response?

    ANSWER: While pricing information is not a required part of the RFI, please feel free to provide this information if you would like.

20. For the question, "Do you supply parent resources?" Are there examples of the resources currently supplied to parents? Is there a list of materials the school envisions supplying to parents?

    ANSWER: PA Cyber believes that parents play an integral role in the education of the child. Example parent resources may include, but are not limited to, answer keys, additional content examples to be utilized with the instruction, and written directions for how to teach a student

and concept. PA Cyber is interested in understanding what, if any, parent resources are available by vendors.

21. For the question, "Do you provide writing instruction within all subject areas and at all grade levels for which you provide curriculum?" For clarification, are you asking if (a) are students required to complete written responses throughout the curriculum? Or (b) are students provided with instruction on writing convention and strategy throughout the curriculum?

    ANSWER: We are looking to understand a vendor's philosophy on how writing is incorporated across grade levels and subject areas. We are looking to understand when and how writing is introduced and taught throughout the curriculum. We want to understand if students are required to write each day, if writing is addressed on assessments, and what type of writing is required by students.

22. Are there examples of manipulatives currently shipped to students? Is there a list of age-appropriate materials for each course or grade level?

    ANSWER: Manipulatives currently shipped to students coincide with the content and concepts being addressed within the curriculum. Some example manipulatives currently shipped to students include dry erase boards, crayons, paint, clay, pipe cleaners, highlighters, base ten blocks, fraction circles, die, centimeter cubes, fake money and coins, ruler, clock, microscope, thermometer, seeds, balance, beaker, googles, cylinder lab supplies, and many other items that work in conjunction with the curriculum.

23. For the question, "Can teachers finalize individual student grades throughout the course of the year?" Would it be possible to define a use case for this scenario?

    ANSWER: Use Case: A student begins a course in August and finishes the course in March despite the end date of the course occurring in June. We want to understand if a teacher can finalize individual student grades upon completion of all course assessments

24. Can you provide a list of evaluator roles for this RFI?

    ANSWER: Individuals who will review vendor information include, but are not limited to, Administration, Directors of Curriculum, Director of Special Education, Senior Technology Director, SIS Administrator, LMS Administrator, Director of Academic Advisors, and Teachers.

25. What, if any, evaluation prioritization exists for these questions? For instance, are the items listed in Exhibit A listed in order of priority?

    ANSWER: Exhibit A is not listed in order of priority. Exhibit A is meant to identify our school's critical needs so that vendors are aware.

26. Is there a primary contact that the response document should be addressed to?

    ANSWER: Please address the response document to Brian Hayden, Chief Executive Officer.

27. Section IV lists both a physical address and email address for submission. Is there a preferred submission method – physical, digital, or both?

   ANSWER: A print version of a vendor's response is desired. Only one copy is required. However, additional copies will be accepted and a digital submission is always helpful.