

RFP 66 – NYS Center for School Safety Technical Assistance Center
Questions & Answers Summary

Q1: What is the expected contract type for this work (e.g., fixed price, cost reimbursement)?

A: Quarterly payments will be made to the contractor once quarterly progress reports are reviewed and approved by NYSED program staff. See the Planning, Reporting, and Payment section of the RFP. Payment by the State will be made in the ordinary course of State business upon receipt of properly prepared vouchers.

Q2: Are there any formatting requirements for the technical proposal?

A: There are no formatting requirements regarding fonts and margins. However, the technical and cost proposal documents should be submitted in Microsoft Office. PDF files that are editable and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) searchable are acceptable. Please do not submit the Technical or Cost Proposal as a scanned PDF.

Q3: Would NYSED please extend the deadline for proposals to November 14?

A: NYSED will not extend the deadline to submit bids at this time.

Q4: If the incumbent is not awarded the contract, what support would be provided for an effective transition? Would additional time and funds be offered to support transfer of key records and materials, including the website?

A: NYSED will not provide any additional time or funds to either the incumbent or the new contract awardee; however, NYSED staff will work with both parties to assist in any transfer of records and materials, including the website.

Q5: Would NYSED confirm if staff working remotely from their home in New York qualifies as having a New York office?

A: To be eligible for this contract, the Center must maintain an office in New York State and bidders must indicate the location of their New York State office in the Mandatory Certification form. If, of record, the company or entity does not formally occupy the home from which staff work remotely, it would not be considered a New York office for the purposes of this requirement.

Q6: To what extent does the scope of work include providing professional development for school administrators and educators on integrating SEL, CRSE, and school climate standards into existing class lessons (e.g., lesson planning design and instructional focus on these standards/conditions)?

A: The work of the Center is to provide information, training and resources to schools to assist them in meeting the requirements in law. Local schools and districts make their own determinations of how they implement the requirements.

Q7: Would you be open to including PD options within this center for an existing BOCES Model School contract job-embedded professional learning platforms that allow for quick, easy integration of SEL, CRSE, and school climate standards into existing class lessons?

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A: That is beyond the work of the contractor.

Q8: For the program evaluation, are you seeking new assessments and benchmarks of school climate and conditions of learning data or from those currently collected data and surveys?

A: In addition to evaluating data derived from existing data collections and surveys, the contractor should be prepared to collaborate with NYSED to develop new assessments and benchmarks of school climate and conditions of learning as needed.

Q9: What is the count of schools meeting the criteria as Persistently Dangerous (PD) and Potentially Persistently Dangerous (PPD)?

A: As posted on the [NYSED SSEC webpage](#), there are no schools designated as PPD or PD for the 2025-26 school year.

Q10: For professional development for school personnel, which could include school personnel responsible for safety and Dignity Act Coordinators, what is the potential count of this population needing this professional development? (this is the population considered for the 20-25% that should receive training in the RFP language).

A: Each school/district determines the number of staff who will fulfill particular roles and NYSED does not collect this information from schools. The number of schools, school buildings and staff is available on the [NYSED data website](#).

Q11: Please confirm as to whether the prime submitter should be a New York State registered company and/or a New York-based company or at minimum, have the required office in New York State for the Center.

A: The RFP does not require a submitter to be a New York registered company or a New York-based company, but as stated in the Mandatory Requirement section of the RFP the Center must maintain an office in New York State. Bidders will indicate the location of their New York State office in the Mandatory Certification form.

Q12: Will the Center be involved in the planning, conducting and implementation of drills at schools and/or data related to these activities?

A: The work of the Center is to provide resources, professional development and technical assistance to schools to assist them in meeting the requirements in law. The Center does not work directly with schools on the implementation of the drill requirements.

Q13: What is the current expectation of Professional Learning for NYS staff? (minimum hours, planned timeframes for PD, staff availability)?

A: Educators who hold one or more professional certificates are subject to the continuing teacher and leader education (CTLE) requirements outlined on the NYSED [Office of Teaching Initiatives website](#). NYSED cannot comment on planned timeframes for PD and staff availability expectations that local schools and districts may establish.

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Q14: The approximate count of schools and organizations in NYS that will utilize these materials? (determining scale of PD population). Public schools, charter schools, BOCES/BOCES staff, community organizations, other stakeholders which are?

A: The work of the Center is to assist public schools, inclusive of charter schools and BOCES, in meeting the requirements in law. Information on the number of schools is available on the [NYSED data website](#).

Q15: Are there currently Incident Reduction Plans (IRP) being utilized and can a sample be shared?

A: The Incident Reduction Plan (IRP) template is located on the NYSED [School Safety and Educational Climate \(SSEC\) website](#).

Q16: Is the intent for the website to include both publicly accessible information and restricted-access content (e.g., safety and security procedures) that should only be available to designated school staff?

A: All of the content on the Center's website is publicly available.

Q17: Does the Center for School Safety include responsibilities for crisis response or post-incident consultation, or is the focus strictly preventive and educational?

A: Page 14 of the RFP requires the Center to assist NYSED upon request, which may include an emergency or crisis situation.

Q18: Can NYSED clarify expectations for web-based resources — should bidders propose developing new content, maintaining existing materials, or curating resources from external sources?

A: Bidders should review the existing Center's website. The Center is expected to develop new content, maintain existing materials and host resources from external sources. All content is NYSED-approved prior to posting.

Q19: Will any current Center staff or materials from the 2020–2025 contract be available for transition or knowledge transfer?

A: The Center's website materials will be available.

Q20: Will NYSED provide access to data systems or templates for data collection and analysis, or is the contractor expected to design its own?

A: Depending on the circumstances, the Center may be given access to NYSED data systems and templates, but the contractor will also be expected to design its own data systems and templates to meet the deliverables.

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Q21: Are subcontracted professional development providers (e.g., regional specialists or consultants) considered part of the 30% subcontracting cap?

A: Yes, subcontracted professional development providers, such as regional specialists or consultants, are considered part of the 30% subcontracting cap.

Q22: How will “Web-based Resources” (10 points) be evaluated — on functionality, accessibility, originality, or volume of resources?

A: The applicant must describe the deliverables and how the bidder will meet the objectives and outcomes as described in the narrative section of the RFP. Applications will be evaluated based on the completeness of the applicant’s plan for each of the required activity categories to include: the appropriateness of the activities to achieve the intended results; the alignment of data-based evidence to expected outcomes; how well the plan for evaluation reflects valid and reliable conclusions; and that outcomes are met as described in the required activities section of the RFP.

Q23: The RFP calls for 8 professional development trainings per month. Does this mean 8 sessions on any topics or one session for each of eight specific topics?

A: The RFP requires eight unique professional development (PD) events annually, with a minimum of one PD presented per month per year.

Q24: The RFP calls for 10 initial site visits to schools identified as Persistently Dangerous, along with follow-up visits to each of those schools for the purpose of disseminating findings and providing additional support based on those visits. Please confirm if this interpretation is accurate, as it will directly impact how we structure our staffing, timelines, and budget planning for this component of the project.

A: Page 10 of the RFP Deliverables section states that the Center will: Conduct at least one annual site visit to each of the schools designated as PD, as well as schools identified with any other designation such as but not limited to PPD, approved and/or requested by the Commissioner of Education, averaging 5-10 site visits each year.