RENAISSANCE®

RE: Sole Source Letter for Renaissance Star Math®

Dear TJ,

In compliance with state procurement requirements for sole source purchases, we submit this letter as justification to wave the bid process and purchase Star Math from the sole provider, Renaissance Learning, Inc.®

This letter confirms that Renaissance, located at 2911 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, is the sole source provider of the following product and associated materials:

- Star Math

The computer-adaptive Star Math assessment is built on item-response theory. This means that the Star Math software continually tailors the test based on a student's response to the current question—increasing the difficulty after a correct answer and decreasing difficulty after an incorrect answer. In this way, each assessment is built for the individual student, and test blueprint content is concentrated at the student's current performance level. This yields extremely accurate information about the skills that the student has and has not learned, using relatively few test items. Having regular feedback from tests enables educators to adjust their teaching so they can help students achieve personalized learning goals as well as master state standards.

Star Math measures skills in math domains at the basis of modern educational standards and assesses the math achievement of students in grades 1–12. It provides both norm-referenced and criterion-referenced scores. Each test includes questions in four broad domains:

- Numbers and Operations

- Algebra

- Geometry and Measurement

- Data Analysis, Probability, and Statistics

The Star Math item bank includes thousands of items that test a total of 550 skills, with multiple items available to measure each skill. Star Math also offers Algebra and Geometry assessments so that high school math teachers can assess these subjects directly.

Star Math provides an on-screen calculator that students can use for test items that do not assess basic computational skills. On-screen formula reference sheets are provided for items that require formulas but that do not test recall of those formulas.

The Star Math computer-adaptive test have met the high standards for reliability and validity that were set forth by the National Center on Response to Intervention, a trusted source for unbiased evaluation of screening assessments and progress monitoring tools, and have also met the high psychometric standards for reliability and

validity used for more frequent progress monitoring established by the National Center on Intensive Intervention.

Renaissance holds all copyright, patent, trademark and other intellectual property rights to the above products, services and associated materials. Additionally, Renaissance does not sell Star Math through distributors or third-parties.

We consider this letter to be the required justification to provide schools Star Math in compliance with state procurement regulations. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at Chad.Edwards@reanissance.com or (800) 338-4204.

Sincerely,

Chad Edwards
Vice President of Inside Sales

Star Math specifications

The Star Math computer-adaptive test is built on sound psychometric theory and years of careful research and development. Teachers and students benefit from the wide range of actionable data that these assessments deliver in minimal testing time. Results are available on score reports that educators can run immediately after students complete a test. These reports display both criterion-referenced and norm-referenced data, and present results in graphical, easy-to-read formats.

Having regular feedback from tests enables educators to adjust their teaching so they can help students achieve personalized learning goals as well as master the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Star Math was designed for frequent administration and can be used for a variety of purposes. They help educators make data-driven decisions by providing the following:

- **Validity and reliability.** The Star Math computer-adaptive test has met the high standards for reliability and validity that were set forth by the National Center on Response to Intervention, a trusted source for unbiased evaluation of screening assessments and progress monitoring tools, and have also met the high psychometric standards for reliability and validity used for more frequent progress monitoring established by the National Center on Intensive Intervention.
- **Versatility.** Star Math can be used for a number of purposes, including: universal screening, progress monitoring, differentiating instruction, predicting California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress assessment proficiency, mastery of CCSS, and measuring growth.
- **Comprehensive skills-based reports.** Available immediately after students complete an assessment, the full complement of reports gives educators and parents essential information about students' learning progress and growth over time. Dashboards give educators and school and district administrators a clear picture of reading and math skills mastery and achievement across a school or district.
- **Alignment to state standards.** Star Math is aligned with the CCSS for math, so students are assessed in terms of the content they are learning in today's classrooms.
- **Efficiency.** Average testing times are 25 minutes for Star Math, leaving more classroom time than other assessment systems for learning and skills-based practice. Teachers also gain valuable teaching time because the online system administers and scores the tests.
- **Complete solution:** Star Math includes K–12 learning progressions that place skills in a teachable order and clearly identify CCSS grade-level performance expectations. As an intervention tool, Star Math allows teachers to group students for instruction and intervention. The system allows users to view performance data for student subgroups.

The Star Math computer-adaptive assessments are built on item-response theory. This means that Star Math continually tailors the tests based on a student's response to the current question—typically increasing the difficulty after a correct answer and decreasing difficulty after an incorrect answer. In this way, each assessment is built for the individual student, and test blueprint content is concentrated at the student's current performance level. This yields extremely accurate information about the skills that the student has mastered, still needs to practice, or is ready to learn next, using relatively few test items. While each testing experience is unique to a specific student, all items are statistically placed on the same scale, so student scores are comparable on across that scale.

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