

**CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

THIS CONTRACT made the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019, in the Territory of the U. S. Virgin Islands by and between the Government of the Virgin Islands, **DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY AND PROCUREMENT**, on behalf of the **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**, 1834 Kongens Gade, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-6746 (hereinafter referred to as "Government"), and **American Institutes for Research in the Behavioral Sciences, Inc.**, (hereinafter referred to as "**American Institute for Research**" or "**AIR**") 1000 Thomas Jefferson St., NW, Washington, DC 20007 (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor").

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education ("Department" or "VIDE") is in need of a Contractor to provide support for the implementation, operation, and delivery of Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 11 Summative and Interim Assessments built with Smarter Balanced items in English, Language, Arts ("ELA") and Mathematics ("Math"); and

**WHEREAS**, on September 30, 2010, the Virgin Islands Standards, Assessment and Accountability Initiative Policy Committee unanimously voted to approve the adoption of the new Common Core State Standards ("CCSS"); thus VIDE became an affiliate member of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium ("SB" or "Consortium") and began to pilot the Smarter Balanced CCSS assessments during the 2013-2014 School Year; and

**WHEREAS**, as a member state of the Consortium, the Department entered into a Multi-Agency Assessment Cooperative ("MAAC") in February of 2014, a procurement group initiative comprising of six (6) United States Department of Education of the States of Idaho, Hawaii, South Dakota, Washington, West Virginia and the Virgin Islands to solicit and evaluate qualified bids intended to support each agency with its transition to the Smarter Balanced Assessments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contractor was selected as the successful bidder under Request for Proposals number MAAC RFP NO 2014-09 in accordance with Title 31 V.I.C. Section 239(a)(4) and was approved by the Government on September 30, 2014 under Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement No. GC077DOE14; and

**WHEREAS**, a Contract was executed between the Parties' on October 24, 2014 to deliver the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments which terminated in May 2018 prior to the Parties' executing their final option to renew; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department wishes to enter into a Contract with the Contractor to deliver the Spring 2019 assessments since educators, students and external stakeholders have been trained on the Contractor's assessment platform and have utilized the Contractor's test delivery system since 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contractor, represents that it is willing and capable of providing such services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contractor represents that it has complied with all applicable local and federal laws, rules and regulations, as they apply to the implementation of this contract; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained and intending to be legally bound by this written instrument, the parties hereto do covenant and agree as follows:

**1. SERVICES**

The Contractor will provide the services described in Addendum I (Scope of Services) and Attachment A to Addendum I attached hereto and made a part of this Contract.

**2. TERM**

The term of this Contract shall commence upon the execution by the Governor of the Virgin Island and shall terminate twelve (12) months thereafter. The Government shall have the option to renew the contract for two (2) additional one (1) year period subject to the appropriation and availability of funds, and provided that the Government serve written notice of its decision to exercise said option prior to the expiration of the contract term.

**3. COMPENSATION**

The Government, in consideration of the satisfactory performance by the Contractor of the services described in Addendum I (Scope of Services), agrees to pay the Contractor the sum not to exceed **FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$459,198.00)**, in accordance with the provisions set forth in **ADDENDUM II** (Compensation), attached hereto and made a part of this Contract.

**4. TRAVEL EXPENSES**

Inclusive of the compensation for services as specified in Paragraph 3 above, the Government agrees to pay documented transportation, subsistence, lodging, and other travel expenses, while in travel status for trips, which have been authorized in writing, in advance, by the Government. These costs shall be advanced or reimbursed on the same basis as is applicable to non-contract employees of the Government, or as agreed to by an addendum to this Contract, however, said costs and expenses shall not exceed **NOT APPLICABLE (\$N/A)**.

**5. RECORDS**

The Contractor, when applicable, will present documented precise records of time and/or money expended under this Contract.

**6. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

The Contractor agrees to maintain the professional standards applicable to its profession and to consultants doing business in the United States Virgin Islands.

**7. DOCUMENTS, PRINTOUTS, ETC.** All documents, books, records, instructional materials, programs, printouts, and memoranda of every description derived therefrom and pertaining to this Contract shall become the property of the Government and shall be turned over to the Government at the termination of this Contract. The above-described materials shall not be used by Contractor or by any other person or entity except upon the written permission of the Government.

**8. LIABILITY**

Nothing in this Contract shall be construed to impose any liability upon the Government to persons, firms, associations, or corporations engaged by Contractor as servants, agents, or independent contractors, or in any other capacity whatsoever, or make Government liable to any such persons, firms, associations or corporations for the acts, omissions, liabilities, obligations and taxes of Contractor of whatsoever nature including, but not limited to, unemployment insurance and social security taxes for Contractor, its servants, agents or independent contractors.

**9. ASSIGNMENT**

The Contractor shall not subcontract or assign any part of the services under this Contract without prior consent of the Government.

**10. INDEMNIFICATION**

The Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Government from and against any and all loss, damage, liability, claims, demands, detriments, cost, charges and expense (including attorney's fees) and causes of action of whatsoever character which Government may incur, sustain or be subjected to, arising out of or in any way connected to the services to be performed by Contractor, its employees, agents, or subcontractors under this Contract and arising from any cause, to the extent caused by Contractor's negligence, except the sole negligence of Government.

**11. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

The Contractor shall perform this Contract as an independent contractor and nothing herein contained shall be construed to be inconsistent with this relationship or status.

**12. GOVERNING LAW**

This Contract shall be governed by the laws of the United States Virgin Islands and jurisdiction shall remain in the United States Virgin Islands.

**13. WAIVERS AND AMENDMENTS**

No waiver, modification or amendment of any term, condition or provision of this Contract shall be valid or of any force or effect unless made in writing, signed by the parties hereto or their duly authorized representatives and specifying with particularity the nature and extent of such waiver, modification or amendment. Any such waiver, modification, or amendment in any instance or instances shall in no event be construed to be a general waiver, modification, or amendment of any of the terms, conditions or provisions of this Contract, but the same shall be strictly limited and restricted to the extent and occasion specified in such signed writing or writings.

**14. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This Contract constitutes the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and all prior understanding, communications, written, or oral, with respect to the Project, which is the subject matter of this Contract, are merged herein.

**15. RIGHT TO WITHHOLD**

If work under this Contract is not performed in accordance with the terms hereof, the Government will have the right to withhold out of any payment due to Contractor, such sums as the Government may deem ample to protect it against loss or to assure payment of claims arising therefrom, and, at its option, the Government may apply such sums in such manner as the Government

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may deem proper to secure itself or to satisfy such claims. The Government will immediately notify the Contractor in writing in the event that it elects to exercise its right to withhold.

No such withholding or application shall be made by the Government if and while Contractor gives satisfactory assurance to the Government that such claims will be paid by Contractor or its insurance carrier, if applicable in the event that such contest is not successful.

**16. CONDITION PRECEDENT**

This Contract is subject to the availability of funds appropriated for such purpose and to the approval of the Governor of the Virgin Islands.

**17. TERMINATION**

Either party shall have the right to terminate this Contract with or without cause on thirty (30) days written notice to the other party specifying the date of termination.

**18. PARTIAL TERMINATION**

The performance of work for services under this Contract may be terminated by the Government, in part, whenever the Government shall deem such termination advisable. This partial termination shall be effected by delivering to the Contractor a Notice of Partial Termination specifying the extent to which the term and/or duties under this Contract are terminated and the date upon which such termination becomes effective. The Contractor shall be entitled to receive payment for services provided to the date of termination, including payment for the period of the 30-day notice.

**19. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

No person shall be excluded from participating in, be denied the proceeds of, or be subject to discrimination in the performance of this Contract on account of race, creed, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

**20. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- (a) The Contractor covenants that it has no interest and will not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services required to be performed under this Contract.
- (b) The Contractor further covenants that it is:
  - (1) not a territorial officer or employee (i.e., the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, member of the Legislature or any other elected territorial official; or an officer or employee of the legislative, executive or judicial branch of the Government or any agency, board, commission or independent instrumentality of the Government, whether compensated on a salary, fee or contractual basis); or
  - (2) a territorial officer or employee and as such, has:
    - (i) familiarized itself with the provisions of Title 3, Chapter 37, Virgin Islands Code, pertaining to conflicts of interest, including the penalties provision set forth in section 1108 thereof;
    - (ii) not made, negotiated or influenced this contract in its official capacity; and
    - (iii) no financial interest in this Contract as that term is defined in Section 1101(1) of said Code chapter.

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**21. EFFECTIVE DATE**

The effective date of this Contract shall be the day of execution of the Contract by the Governor of the Virgin Islands.

**22. NOTICE**

Any notice required to be given, by the terms of this Contract shall be deemed to have been given when the same is sent by certified mail, postage prepaid or personally delivered, addressed to the parties as follows:

**GOVERNMENT:** Anthony D. Thomas, Commissioner Designee  
Department of Property & Procurement  
Sub Base, Building No. 1  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Racquel Berry-Benjamin, Commissioner Designee  
Department of Education  
No. 1834 Kongens Gade  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-6746

**CONTRACTOR:** Jann Mouer  
Contracts Officer  
American Institute for Research in the Behavioral Sciences, Inc.  
1000 Thomas Jefferson Street NW  
Washington, D.C 20007-3835

**23. LICENSURE**

The Contractor covenants that it has:

- (a) obtained all of the applicable licenses or permits, permanent, temporary or otherwise as required by Title 27 of the Virgin Islands Code;
- (b) familiarized itself with the applicable provisions of Title 27 of the Virgin Islands Code pertaining to professions and occupations; and

**24. FALSE CLAIMS**

The Contractor warrants that it shall not, with respect to this Contract, make or present any claim upon or against the Government, or any officer, department, board, commission, or other agency of the Government of the Virgin Islands, knowing such claim to be false, fictitious, or fraudulent. Contractor acknowledges that making such a false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim is an offense under Virgin Islands law.

**25. NOTICE OF FEDERAL FUNDING**

The Contractor acknowledges that this Contract is funded, in whole or in part, by federal funds. Contractor warrants that it shall not, with respect to this Contract, make or present any claim knowing such claim to be false, fictitious, or fraudulent. The Contractor acknowledges that making such a false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim is a federal offense.

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**26. DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION**

By execution of this Contract, the Contractor certifies that it is eligible to receive contract awards using federally appropriated funds and that it has not been suspended or debarred from entering into contracts with any federal agency. The Contractor shall include this provision in each of its subcontracts hereunder and shall furnish it subcontractors with the current "LIST OF PARTIES EXCLUDED FROM FEDERAL PROCUREMENT OR NON-PROCUREMENT." In the event the Contractor or subcontractor misrepresents its eligibility to receive contract awards using federal funds, the Contractor or subcontractor agrees that it shall not be entitled to payment for any work performed under this contract or any subcontract and that the Contractor or subcontractor shall promptly reimburse the Government of the Virgin Islands for any progress payments heretofore made.

**27. LIABILITY INSURANCE**

The Contractor shall provide the Government with proof of General Liability Insurance coverage and Professional Liability Insurance coverage for the entire period of this Contract. The Contractor shall be insured under each policy in an amount of not less than **One Million Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,000,000.00)** for each occurrence. In the event that the Contractor's existing coverage will expire before the end of the term of this Contract, the Contractor shall provide proof of the renewal of coverage within ten (10) days after beginning of the new period of the insurance. The policies shall be maintained with insurer(s) and in a form satisfactory to the Government, and the Contractor shall submit a Certificate of Liability Insurance and Declaration/Endorsement pages naming the Government as an additional insured and certificate holder on the commercial General Liability Policy. Contractor shall supply current coverage under the Government Insurance fund or other form of coverage.

The Contractor shall supply current Workers' Compensation coverage under the Government Insurance Fund or other form of coverage.

**28. BILLING PROCEDURES and PAYMENT**

The Government will pay Contractor upon receipt of properly completed invoices that shall describe and document to the Government's satisfaction, and shall contain information, including but not limited to, the period of services covered by the invoice, description of the services performed, and the amount of fees in accordance with the compensation schedule in ADDENDUM II. Each invoice must be accompanied by applicable supporting documents, including but not limited to any reports/results due for the applicable invoice period.

Payment shall be considered timely if made by the Government within thirty <sup>PR</sup>~~30~~ days after receipt of properly completed invoices, and verification that the services invoiced were provided in accordance with the Contract and all applicable federal and local laws and regulations, including all applicable policies, rules, and procedures pertaining to this Contract or the services provided hereunder. Payment shall be sent to the address designated by the Contractor. The Government may, at its sole discretion, withhold payments claimed by the Contractor for services rendered if the Contractor fails to satisfactorily comply with any term or condition of this Contract. No payments in advance or in anticipation of services or supplies to be provided under this Contract shall be made by the Government.

**29. FORCE MAJEURE**

Neither Party shall be liable to the other for any delays or failure to perform under this Contract, as a result of conditions reasonably beyond the Party's control including but not limited to war, terrorist acts, riot, strikes, fire, earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, or any act of God.

**30. DEFAULT AND FAILURE TO PERFORM**

In the event of any failure or refusal of the Contractor to perform its obligations under this Contract, except as defined in Paragraph 29, all costs, charges, and expenses that the Department suffers shall be a part of the damages to be paid by the Contractor to the Department, as a result of such failure or refusal to perform

**31. SEVERABILITY**

If any of the provisions of this contract are determined to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or impair the validity of the other provisions, which shall be considered severable and shall remain in full force and effect.

**32. OTHER PROVISIONS**

Addendum I, Attachment A to Addendum I, Addendum II, Addendum III, and the Contractor's eligibility documents are attached hereto, and made a part of this Contract and are incorporated herein by reference.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties intending to be legally bound have hereunto set their hands on the day and year first above written.

WITNESSES:

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

[Signature]  
Govern Atanasi

Racquel Berry-Benjamin 3/5/19  
Date  
Commissioner Designee  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Signature]  
Anthony D. Thomas

[Signature] 3.25.19  
Date  
Commissioner Designee  
DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY AND PROCUREMENT

CONTRACTOR

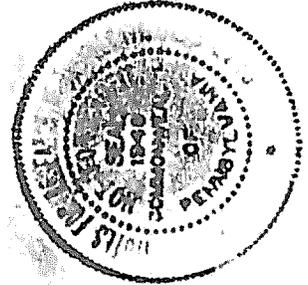
AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH IN THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES, INC. ("AIR")

[Signature]  
Monica Rubiano

[Signature] 26 Feb 19  
Date  
Jann Mauer  
Contracts Officer

APPROVED:

[Signature] 3-29-19  
Date  
HONORABLE ALBERT BRYAN, JR.  
GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS



APPROVED FOR LEGAL SUFFICIENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE:

[Signature] 3/26/19  
Date  
ARC

Account Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

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