

# Vendor Questions for the 2026-2027

## List of Approved Assessments Common RFQ

- Q. Recommended submission date and final submission date. Please clarify the difference between the recommended submission date and final submission date. Are there any advantages to submitting prior to the recommended submission date or concerns about waiting to submit by the final submission date?**
- A. There are no advantages or disadvantages to using the recommended submission date other than having the submission done before holiday vacations begin. The Department's review will begin in the new year so you can choose to submit before the holidays or after if you would like to use those additional weeks.
- Q. Does the RFQ include assessments for *preschool and kindergarten*, or is it limited to grades 3 and above?**
- A. The Department does not approve tests for use with students younger than kindergarten age. Gifted Identification tests are available for K-12. HQSD is available for students in grades 4-12 for any subject area that fits the requirements and in K-3 for any subject area that fits the requirement other than math, reading, or other language arts.
- Q. Could you confirm what is meant by High-Quality Student Data (HQSD) in this context? Specifically, does it refer to assessments used to support teacher practice and differentiate instruction, and what grade levels are covered?**
- A. Yes, [HQSD](#) does refer to assessments used to support teacher practice as part of [Ohio's teacher evaluation system](#). You can find more information on the State Board of Education's website.
- Q. Are digital signatures accepted?**
- A. Yes, digital signatures are accepted and encouraged. We prefer a digital signature rather than signatures that are printed, signed, scanned, and emailed to the Department.
- Q. Is the Department looking for an entire sample test for review or will sample items across grade levels suffice?**
- A. The Department does not require sample items or a sample test with your application for the Common RFQ. However, many vendors do include these as part of their

documentation with regards to depth and range of knowledge examples and item type examples.

**Q. Will you approve an assessment that is part of another program?**

- A. The Department only approves assessments that districts can purchase or use as stand-alone assessments.

**Q. For assessments that assess multiple subjects, do we submit a single application/Submission Tool and FileDrop, or a separate submission for each subject area?**

- A. If one assessment assesses different content areas that all fall under the same category (e.g., ABC Assessment submitted for approval as 4-8 reading and 4-8 math for HQSD) or if you will be submitting one assessment to be approved in more than one category (e.g., ABC Assessment submitted for approval for Gifted ID and HQSD), then it is one submission tool, one FileDrop request, and one submission packet.

If you have two or more separate assessments that are applying for the same or different categories (e.g., ABC Reading assessment will be submitted for 4-8 HQSD for reading and XYZ Math Assessment will be submitted for approval for 4-8 HQSD for math), then it is two submission packets, two vendor tools, and two FileDrop requests.