

RFQ Questions and Answers

1. Regarding the analysis requested under "Human Resources", given that human resources is subject to collective bargaining, how does the County Office envision a consultant approaching this area?

It is our understanding that this is primarily a legal issue involving the EERA, PERB regulations and decisions. The Sonoma County Office of Education will rely on the individual affected districts to utilize their own legal counsel to address, analyze and resolve any such legal issues. SCOE anticipates that a consultant would address non-legal issues that may affect any interrelation between unification and collective bargaining mainly from an issue spotting and resulting alternative perspective rather than an analytical one.

2. Although we have worked on several school district reorganization studies with other consultants, including involving potential unification, they may not have been made public. Given this, we are not sure that the county office that commissioned these reports would wish the studies to be provided as work samples or to be specifically identified as having commissioned them. Therefore, would it be okay to generally describe the types of studies we have worked on rather than providing specific examples and to provide county office references without specifically identifying those for whom we have done reorganization studies?

Yes, this approach is acceptable. However, it is anticipated that any such alternative approach would clearly justify and explain the facts and circumstances for withholding any reorganization studies as exempt from public disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act. It is also anticipated that the consultant will provide a declaration fully documenting the consultant's efforts to seek disclosure permission from the affected county offices of education notwithstanding any claim that a study is protected by a CPRA exemption.

3. Under "Business Operations", the analysis requested includes "Five-year declining enrollment cohort district vs. unified: sustainability of individual district vs. unified per configuration" and "Enrollment Cohort study". Is the County Office envisioning a demographic study such as would be performed by a demographics consultant?

The County is envisioning that the Consultant will use data available from the districts and/or data available from the CDE website.

4. Under "Impact on General Educational program benefits K-12", the analysis requested includes "Studies cited related to academic continuum utilizing state assessments" and "Cite research studies re: education benefits of K-12 unified vs. multiple feeder districts". We are not sure what these areas are or how this fit. Can you please clarify?

If there are studies that address this issue, we would like them included or cited in this Study. If there are none, please so advise.

5. If the County Office does wish to have a demographic study performed by a demographics consultant, would the County Office consider us proposing to assist with a request for quotes propose to identify a firm? If not, and the County Office prefers to identify a demographics consultant now, does the County Office have a preference for using a firm that is different than the firm that has recently worked with Santa Rosa City Schools?

The County is not asking for a demographic study.