

**JUSTIFICATION FOR
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

Agency: South Carolina Department of Education

Sole Source Vendor: LINQ

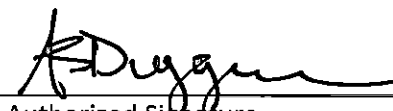
Based upon the following determination, Agency proposes to acquire the supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services described herein from the Vendor named above per S.C. Code Ann. §11-35-1560 and S.C. Regulation 19-445.2105, Sole Source Procurement.

Description of the Agency need that this procurement meets: Grants Management System previously solicited covering 2017–2020 (5400012800), followed by contract number 4400016602. Hosting and Maintenance Contract and an LEA Support Contract supporting the grants management system. A one (1) year agreement with four (4) options to renew. An estimated value of \$1,500,000.

Description of market research Agency performed to determine the availability of products or services that would meet the Agency's needs: LINQ is the vendor for the current Grants Management System (GEMS) and support agreement and is the only company that can provide these services. These agreements are critical to the operation of the system, which is utilized by the OFSA, public school districts, and public schools within South Carolina.

Description of supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services Vendor will provide under the contract: Hosting and Maintenance of Grant Management System and an LEA Support Contract.

Detailed explanation why no other vendor's supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services will meet the needs of the Agency: LINQ is the vendor for the current Grants Management System (GEMS) and support agreement and is the only company that can provide these services. These agreements are critical to the operation of the system, which is utilized by the OFSA, public school districts, and public schools within South Carolina. The cost to transition to a different system is cost time and training prohibitive.



Authorized Signature
Printed Name: Abbey Duggins
Title: Deputy Superintendent
Date: 6/2/2026

Notes:

Authorized signature is the agency head unless the agency head has delegated that authority. Delegation of authority must be submitted to the Materials Management Officer in writing.

The Agency must obtain a Drug-free Workplace certification from the Vendor if the sole source procurement is \$50,000 or greater.