

**Sole Source
Written Determination - Instructions**

Agency Identification: South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE)

Description of the agency need that this procurement fulfills: *(See instructions on last page for guidance)*

The IT Department at SCDE is charged with providing accurate, reliable, and timely data services for the agency and its constituent communities. These services enable well-informed decisions related to policy and practice. To fulfill this mission, SCDE requires a robust analytics platform capable of integrating, analyzing, and forecasting data from multiple internal and external sources, including text data and complex performance indicators.

Describe the Market Based on Research Performed: *(See instructions on last page for guidance)*

SCDE conducted a comprehensive internet search and consulted with the state's Enterprise Information Systems (EIS) team, who confirmed via email that SAS Visual Analytics is not included in the state contract. The market research identified only SAS Institute, Inc. as the provider of SAS Visual Analytics licensing and platform. No other vendors were found to offer this specific solution. The product is only available directly from SAS Institute, Inc., and not through third-party resellers. The agency's requirements for advanced analytics, text analysis, data integration, and forecasting across multiple data sources are uniquely met by SAS Visual Analytics. No other commercially available off-the-shelf products or vendors were identified that could provide the necessary functionality, integration, and support. Training, implementation, and support are provided directly by SAS Institute, Inc.

Sole Source Vendor Name: SAS Institute, Inc.

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 SC Code Ann § 11-35-1560 and SC Regulation 19-445.2105, Sole Source Procurement.

Description of supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services vendor will provide under the contract: *(See instructions on last page for guidance.)*

SAS Institute, Inc. will provide licensing and platform access for SAS Visual Analytics, including all necessary modules for data integration, text analytics, forecasting, and dashboard/reporting capabilities. The contract includes technical support, updates, and training services as required for SCDE staff.

Explain why the described solution is the only solution that meets the agency's need and how no other identified solutions were sufficient. *(See instructions on last page for guidance)*

SAS Visual Analytics is the only known solution capable of meeting SCDE's requirements for strategic management and operational indicators, text data analysis, integration of disparate data files, identification of critical relationships and key performance indicators, and forecasting future student performance using advanced models. The agency's market research confirmed that SAS Institute, Inc. is the sole provider of this product, and no alternative vendors or products were identified that could deliver the required functionality. The unique combination of features, direct vendor support, and proven reliability in the education sector make SAS Visual Analytics the only viable solution for SCDE's needs. The absence of other sources in the market, as verified by EIS and independent research, supports this sole source determination.

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Note: Determination is not complete without required signatures and dates

Required Signatures:

Prepared by: Jessica Baxter

Printed Name: Jessica Baxter

Approved by: Ellen E. Weaver

Printed Name: Ellen E. Weaver

Date: 11/13/2025

Title: Program Coordinator

Approval Date: 11/21/2025

Title: State Superintendent of Education