QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES
RFP NO. 088-GGI0 STUDENT SCHEDULING SYSTEM

QUESTION: Please describe your VMWare environment. Is it a standard installation or adapted to your environment?

RESPONSE: M-DCPS is currently using VMWare version 3.0 - running on HP BL45 quad processor hardware with 32-64 Gbs of memory. M-DCPS uses standard tools provided like "vmotion" etc.

QUESTION: Please describe the student and staff data structures in the M-DCPS system.

RESPONSE: Please see the attached pdf file.

QUESTION: Describe the M-DCPS fat client security currently in place.

RESPONSE: The "mandatory" client software on all desktops is the "BigFix" client used for patch management and the "Sophos" client used for anti-virus. M-DCPS really does not have a "Fat Client Security" component. M-DCPS users are network authenticated using Microsoft's "active directory" technology.

QUESTION: Please provide M-DCPS's SIS import/export functionality.

RESPONSE: Scheduled DTS packages from/to SQL 2005 backend.

QUESTION: Are there distributed network centers with computing capacity (e.g., at the building, cluster or . . .) levels? If so please describe their capabilities.

RESPONSE: M-DCPS is a "hub and spoke" model. ITS is the "hub" - remote schools and admin sites are the "spokes". A typical remote school site has a NMLI (Metro Ethernet) connect of 10 MBs.
Our connection to the SBAB site is DS3. ITS provides all major services such as mainframe access, access to district Email, Grade Book, Internet etc.

QUESTION: Is it the desire that the vendor provide all end user training or will M-DCPS staff be involved; if so how involved?

RESPONSE: Vendor is to train district staff (including some trainers) and M-DCPS will train the schools.

QUESTION: XII. A. page 10 of the RFP states there is an Attachment A - Affirmative Action Employment Breakdown that needs to be completed and submitted. This form is not attached. Please advise if this form will still be needed or attached in a future addendum.

RESPONSE: The Form is attached to the document (Page 26).

QUESTION: Due to the level of detail and care that are needed to formulate a comprehensive and thorough response for a Student Scheduling system for a district as large and complex as Miami-Dade, a request is made for an extension of the current due date of August 2, 2007.

RESPONSE: The opening date has been extended to August 28, 2007.

QUESTION: On page 16, Cost Section, you ask for "at least one licensing model per price proposal". Does this mean you are expecting to see a price for just the Scheduler and one for a complete SIS with the Scheduler included?

RESPONSE: The RFP contains two price proposal sheets, one for District-Wide Enterprise Level Perpetual License and one for District-Wide Subscription (per year). The District is expecting pricing for the two licensing models.

QUESTION: Can you clarify where I can find Attachment C (referenced to on page 6, IX paragraph 1) Sworn Statement pursuant to oath and penalty of perjury.

RESPONSE: The Sworn Statement is not longer required.

QUESTION: Can you clarify where I can find the Proposal Acknowledgement Form.

RESPONSE: The Proposal Acknowledgement Form is page 2 of the RFP.

1. **Does M-DCPS currently use a fully automated mass schedule builder/loader?** yes

2. **What difficulties is M-DCPS finding with the current system?** Hardware dependent and integration built on old technology that cannot be updated

3. **In order to scope the interface for data exchange between the X2 Aspen scheduler and the student information system(s) in use by M-DCPS schools, please describe the current architecture for student information. (I.e., school-based application & servers, centralized application housing all district data, elementary/middle schools on school-based systems with secondary schools centralized, etc.)**

4. **Who currently performs data exchanges—export and re-import—between the student information system(s) and the scheduler? (I.e., school-based personnel, district technical support, etc.) Currently school-based personnel control the invoking of automated processes built in –house by us**

5. **How many elementary, middle and senior high schools are using schedules (with either automatic or manual placement of students into sections)? Not sure of this question; all our schools use schedules to some extent (>400)**

6. **Does M-DCPS require cross school scheduling for students and/or staff? Would like this for our students "shared" between a regular high school and a vo-tech center**

7. **Approximately, how many concurrent users will be using the system? During the scheduling preparation it would be only two or three per school but when school starts could conceivably be all counselors at every secondary school in addition to the elementary schools registrars. (Note: could be 24/7 either via VPN or authentication to ADS directly)**

8. **Does M-DCPS require a rotating schedule? If so, will the rotation be different across multiple grades? Most secondary schools use a rotating block schedule**

9. **Does M-DCPS use platoons, houses, teams or any other form of student grouping? yes**

10. **Does M-DCPS require a system that allows students to request and be scheduled into a portion of a course? For example: Semester 1 content of a full year course. No, managed by course offering set up by registrar**

11. **Does M-DCPS require a class/section to meet in multiple rooms? no**

12. **Does M-DCPS have a single course that meets in different patterns across its sections? For example, section 1 meets every other day for a full year**

while section 2 of the same course meets everyday for a single semester. **Not at this time**

13. Does M-DCPS need to schedule multi-period lunches? **Especially for elementary schools**

14. Does M-DCPS need various durations of periods and/or overlapping periods? **Possibly, but currently managed by bell schedule that is not actually stored with the data**

15. Are there schools where different grades meet on a different schedule cycle? For example, 5th and 6th graders meet on a 6 day cycle while 7th and 8th graders meet on a 7 day schedule. **Not at this time**

16. Does M-DCPS need class management, i.e., multiple sections in the same room at the same time and management of the max and enrollment at any given time? **yes**

17. Does M-DCPS require the scheduler to take the room location into consideration? **yes**

18. For implementation how early can schools start the scheduling process? Can schools begin next years schedule as early as January? **Yes, and before for the initial curriculum and course set up, February for student subject selection**

19. How many schools will schedule on the new system in 2008 for 2009 school year? **Limited pilot**

20. How do you normally collect student requests? **Data entry into our SIS**

21. What student information system are you currently using?
A home grown COBOL/CICS/ADABAS system we call Integrated Student Information System (ISIS); much of this is extracted nightly to an Operational Data Store on a Microsoft SQL 2005 platform

22. Page 13, Q3 - Will you provide an example of a cyclical report that you would expect to support various phases of the scheduling process?
For example: during scheduling preparation a Course Tally to see total number of requests or a Course Conflict matrix, *during throwing a master* a Student Conflict report, *after scheduling* a Room Utilization and Teacher Utilization report

23. Page 19, Section XVI, paragraph 1 - Does the paragraph imply that the annual maintenance costs will not increase for the life of the software?
No. On page 16 under Cost Section you'll see where you put in the annual maintenance cost and the maximum percent (cap) that the cost can increase each year