

**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**SSP 22\_005**

The University of Southern Mississippi anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

**1. Description of the commodity that USM is seeking to procure:**

The subscription includes student-teacher onboarding, training materials, and access to myTeachstone Class learning community, CLASS strategy cards and a CLASS dictionary for each participant. CLASS is an assessment process that allows student-teachers to acquire the tools and skills they need to improve their interactions with young children. The professional development component will allow them to connect with other teachers in a learning community.

**2. Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that meets the needs of the agency:**

Teachstone Training, Inc. is the sole provider of CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) training programs and associated certificates for this platform. Teachstone is the sole source provider of the authorized training/affiliate license program that allows individuals to provide licensed Teachstone training outside of their identified organization. They are also the sole provider of CLASS printed and online materials.

**3. Explanation of why the source is the only source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity:**

Teachstone Training, Inc. is the sole provider of CLASS training programs and associated certificates for this platform.

**4. Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable:**

This is reasonable because we are paying for subscription/seats. This allows us to enroll, or unenroll, students and/or add others. We also can pay for 1 subscription and use the

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same platform across several classes. In addition to the subscriptions for the students we are allowed to have as many faculty/instructors as we choose to add to the platform. With our paid subscription we also will receive personalized TA and training on managing, cleaning, and using the platform. This will also make our students much more marketable upon graduation as they will have experience in the platform used by all Head Start Programs across the country.

**5. Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:**

This is a standard fee for the online platform.

<b>Advertisement Schedule</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>9-25-21</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled</b>	<b>10-2-21</b>

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the commodity listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Steve Ballew  
Director of Procurement & Contracts  
steve.ballew@usm.edu

**Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection"**

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, USM determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then USM will withdraw

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the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If USM determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then USM will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. USM will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.