



**Troy, Michigan, August 1st, 2009:** Systems Technology Group, Inc. (STG) is pleased to announce that the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has awarded STG an IT Application Outsourcing contract for the design, development, implementation and maintenance of a new Item Bank System.

The State of Michigan Department of Education currently relies on contractors to maintain the platform for development of and the inventory of test items (Item Bank) that are used to create the various Michigan Department of Education provided tests such as ELPA, MEAP, MME, MI-Access and SCAS. Test items are the individual questions within each test (for multiple choice items this will also include the answer options).

MDE works with various educational professionals to create new items to populate the Item Bank. Each test item has various statistics linked to it that show how well students were able to understand and respond to that item from small-scale sampling (pilot and field tests) to operational testing. Each item is also identified as to which curriculum standard and grade level that item would be used to measure students' proficiency. Most items are reviewed by formal committees with representatives from various demographics and content specialization to ensure fairness prior to, and following, each small-scale sampling. In developing assessments from the Item Bank contents, consideration of data from both the statistical and content/curriculum domains helps to ensure psychometrically sound tests.

Most of the vendors that provide these services do not have a dynamic Item Bank system. They rely on manual record keeping and simple spreadsheets to keep track of test items. This results in lengthy lead-time to create each test form. Each vendor has their own system with a result of transitioning from one vendor to another being very lengthy and problematic. Therefore, a dynamic item development, Item Banking and test development system is needed to improve the efficiency of item and test development as well as reduce the state's reliance on contracted services.

The purpose of this project is to develop and maintain a dynamic test bank system for all of State of Michigan Office of Education Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) assessment programs: English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA), Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), Michigan Merit Exam (MME), Michigan Alternate Assessment Program (MI-Access) and Secondary Credit Assessment System (SCAS).

The goal is to build a system that will allow for the creation and tracking of edits and various other attributes of assessment items, as well as to create its own assessment forms based on readily available information from its development and psychometric models built into the system. Additionally, the system should restrict the amount and type of information available to each user through an end user security structure.

**About Systems Technology Group, Inc. (STG)**

Headquartered in Troy, Michigan, USA, STG is SEI CMMi Level 5 information technology Services Company specializing in providing the Fortune 500 companies with



software and systems integration services. Specifically, STG specializes in Software Application Development, Data warehouse, Business Intelligence/Analytics, Service Oriented Architecture, Legacy Migration, and Software Integration services.

STG's clients gain a competitive advantage by leveraging STG's unique onsite, offsite and Global Offshore Delivery capabilities and SEI CMMi Level 5 processes. STG's successful on-time and within budget track record has helped STG achieve a 90% repeat business referral rate from customers including General Motors, Mercedes Benz, Ford Motor Company, Chrysler Corporation, La-Z-Boy, Sears Corporation, Master Brands Cabinets, and several others.

For more information about STG, please visit our web site: [www.stgit.com](http://www.stgit.com)