

School Mapping Data Program – Questions

1. Has Alabama previously attempted school mapping initiatives? **Yes.** If so, what challenges were encountered and what lessons were learned? **Unknown.**
2. Is there an incumbent contractor currently performing similar services that will be bidding on this RFP? **Unknown if incumbent vendor will submit a proposal, however the previous project had different requirements compared to this RFP.** Were any vendors formally or informally consulted prior to drafting the RFP? **No** If yes, please disclose.
3. What is the total number of K-12 schools to be mapped? Please provide a breakdown by district or region, and addresses if available. **Approximately 1,500 public K-12 schools across approximately 130 school districts**
4. What is the approximate square footage of K-12 schools to be mapped **This information will be provided upon award of a contract.**
5. Is there a preferred timeline or sequence for completing schools (e.g., by district, grade level, or geographical region)? **A priority list will be established each year. Available funding from the Legislature will determine the amount of mapping done each year.**
6. How will emergency planning and response training be coordinated with the mapping deliverables? **This will be formalized once a school mapping program is in place within ALEA.**
7. What percentage of schools have existing CAD drawings or floor plans available? What is their format and how current are they? **Unknown.**
8. For schools without adequate architectural data, what is the expected process? Will the vendor be expected to create new floor plans from measurements? **The proposal should address a plan for this scenario that conforms to the requirements of the RFP.**
9. What specific public safety software platforms are currently used by Alabama emergency agencies that would need to integrate with the mapping data? **Most Alabama emergency agencies utilize the AlaCop platform which is managed by ALEA.**
10. Could ALEA provide more details on the specific NG911 GIS Database integration requirements? Are there specific formats or standards that must be adhered to? **Contact the Alabama 911 Board**

- What existing IT systems should the data interface with? **This information will be provided upon contract award.**
 - Do the schools have a single IT system that will need to be coordinated, or do they each use different systems? **No IT integration is expected with the schools.**
 - Does ALEA have a preferred GIS platform (e.g., ArcGIS, QGIS)? No If Esri is preferred, will ALEA provide existing licenses? **No licenses will be provided.**
 - Does ALEA prefer data maintenance via web-based GIS (e.g., ArcGIS Online) or desktop (e.g., ArcGIS Pro)? Should both be supported? **Both need to be supported.**
 - Should the platform support mobile access for field users (e.g., tablets, iPads)? **Yes.**
 - Will the system need to support real-time data feeds (e.g., CCTV, alerts), or is static mapping sufficient? **Real-time data feeds are not listed in the requirements.**
11. Are there specific data accuracy standards (e.g., spatial accuracy requirements) that must be met? **FGDC, NPSG Symbology Standard preferred.**
 12. Will schools' existing security systems need to be mapped and included in the deliverables? **Not listed in the requirements.**
 13. Are there specific symbology requirements beyond NPSG Foundation guidelines that should be incorporated? **No. NPSG is preferred.**
 14. Will vendors need to capture and document temporary structures (e.g., portable classrooms)? **Yes**
 15. Is ALEA open to a phased implementation approach (e.g., by county or school district)? If so, are there priority regions to be completed first? **A priority list will be established each year. Available funding from the Legislature will determine the amount of mapping done each year.**
 16. Will ALEA facilitate formal introductions and access to school facilities for the mapping process? **There will be an established process.**
 17. Does ALEA anticipate a pilot or proof-of-concept before full rollout? If so, what local or state agencies will need to review and approve the mapping data before final acceptance? **Should be included in proposal.**
 18. Will vendors be held responsible for staying current with school renovations and construction after initial mapping is complete? **Yes. There will be an established process for school districts to communicate with the vendor.**

19. How will changes and updates to the mapping data be handled after initial delivery? **The proposal should address this. See “service and maintenance” section on page 4 of the RFP.**
20. Will facilities be available during non-school hours or summer breaks to minimize disruption? **This will be up to the school district.**
21. How will ALEA measure successful completion of the project? Are there specific metrics or milestones? **A priority list will be established each year. Available funding from the Legislature will determine the amount of mapping done each year.**
22. Is there a target budget range for this project that vendors should be aware of? **Available funding from the Legislature will determine the amount of mapping done each year. As a reminder, the proposed budget is 25% of the evaluation criteria.**
23. How will ALEA handle situations where schools may have security concerns about sharing detailed mapping information? **Act 2024-356, section 4, directs ALEA to collaborate with local boards of education to produce the mapping data.**
24. I read the scope to say that the successful firm will verify facility data directly in the field, meaning the contractor will need to physically walk each facility in the state: is that accurate? **Yes** Will ALEA coordinate access to each school, or will vendors be responsible for scheduling with each district? **ALEA will not coordinate access to each school.**
25. We would like to request a brief extension to the proposal’s submission deadline, to provide sufficient time to fully digest the information and prepare a comprehensive response. **An extension will not be granted.**
26. Our understanding is that the schools already provide similar information to local law enforcement. What overlap does this have with the RFP requirements? **This is a new RFP and a new school mapping project.**
27. Is there a current vendor who provides mapping information for law enforcement or do the schools generate the maps themselves? **A previous vendor did map some schools in Alabama.**
28. If the floor plan is deemed inaccurate, can LiDAR be used for more accurate reporting? **Yes.**

29. Is there a square footage or facility requirement each year? **A priority list will be established each year. Available funding from the Legislature will determine the amount of mapping done each year.**
30. Does Alabama have a system in place for two factor authentication for personnel to access secure sites? **ALEA has MFA in place for ALEA Enterprise users and Alacop users. ALEA will not be providing an authentication solution for users outside of these domains.**
31. Does ALEA have an estimate of the average number of buildings and floors per school? **No**
32. What is the anticipated kickoff date following contract award and required approvals? **To be determined**
33. Are there any anticipated use cases for artificial intelligence or machine learning, such as threat detection? **Not at this time**
34. Can ALEA confirm whether the vendor may reuse de-identified or anonymized data internally for non-commercial improvements? **To be discussed if contract awarded.**
35. Can ALEA clarify the boundaries of permissible data use, especially for vendors handling long-term storage or off-site hosting? **Between ALEA and the State Department of Education this data would need to be categorized.**
36. If student data is integrated, will ALEA provide guidance to ensure FERPA and other privacy regulation compliance? **Student data will not be integrated**
37. Will mapping data be subject to open records laws? **No** If so, is the vendor expected to support ALEA in such requests? **In the event of any legal demand—such as a subpoena, court order, or other lawful request, ALEA will review and respond to such requests in accordance with applicable laws and agency policy. If ALEA determines that vendor involvement is necessary, the vendor may be asked to provide technical assistance or documentation to support the agency's response.**
38. Are there specific minimum coverage thresholds for liability or malpractice insurance? **Vendor must provide evidence of adequate liability insurance coverage for the services to be provided in vendor's proposal.**

39. If vendors include third-party GIS tools or plugins, will ALEA cover associated licensing costs, or should they be included in the proposal? Are costs related to integration with external platforms (e.g., CAD, VMS) the vendor's responsibility, or will ALEA provide APIs/access? **ALEA will not cover any additional cost for integration, conversions, licensing, etc. ALEA will support some level of interface connectivity, if necessary.**
40. If all work is done on secure U.S.-based infrastructure, can ALEA confirm whether a model involving offshore partners (with no data transferred or accessed outside the U.S.) is acceptable? **This depends on the level of access to ALEA network/enterprise that the system will have and the data classification designated for this solution.**
41. Are subcontractors required to meet all the same compliance standards as the prime contractor (e.g., e-Verify, insurance)? **No contract shall be made with any other party for furnishing any of the work or services contracted for without the consent, guidance, and approval of ALEA. The vendor shall be responsible for the performance of any approved subcontractor for services provided and shall ensure that the subcontractor conforms with the terms and conditions specified in the agreement between ALEA and vendor.**
42. What level of training is required (basic, advanced, admin)? Should it be delivered in person, online, or hybrid? How many users per agency are expected to be trained initially? Should training be repeated annually or post-updates? **The vendor proposal should address these items.**
43. What constitutes acceptable response/resolution times for support requests? **The vendor proposal should address these items**
44. Will ALEA require dedicated support personnel for this contract? If so, what are the expected hours? **The vendor proposal should address these items**
45. Should the proposed fixed fee include all future on-demand updates for the 2-year base term, or are those separately priced? **The vendor proposal should address these items**
46. Are vendor travel and equipment expenses reimbursable or expected to be absorbed into the fixed fee? **Travel and equipment will not be reimbursable.**
47. Will ALEA provide a tax exemption certificate for purchases made under this contract? **No.**

- Will ALEA consider multiple pricing options, such as: Option A: Full-service fixed fee
 - Option B: Modular core fee + optional add-ons (e.g., hosting, analytics)? **Yes**
48. Should the system be cloud-hosted, on-premises, or follow a hybrid model? If cloud-hosted, does ALEA prefer a specific provider (e.g., AWS, Azure, Google)? **The vendor proposal should address options**
49. Should hosting and storage be included in the fixed fee, or will ALEA cover these costs separately? **ALEA will not provide hosting or storage.** If vendor-hosted, what is the required duration? **Proposal may address these options**
50. If licensing is vendor-provided, how many licenses are needed? What types (ArcGIS Online, Pro, Enterprise)? Are they perpetual or subscription-based? **Proposal may include options**
51. Should maintenance, updates, and tech support for GIS systems be included in the fixed fee or priced separately? **Proposal may include options**
52. If data is vendor-hosted, does ALEA require it to be stored after the contract ends? If so, for how long and under what security standards? **The state of Alabama will own the data stored, even after a contract ends. The vendor must be able to provide the state of Alabama all the data. Details will be worked out during the contract drafting phase.**
53. What internal ALEA resources will be available (e.g., IT, school contacts, project coordination)? **School contacts and high-level project coordination, at a minimum.**
54. What is the expected cadence for project coordination meetings—weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly? **The proposal should address this and will be worked out during the contract drafting phase.**
55. Under what circumstances can ALEA terminate the contract early or disqualify a vendor? **A vendor may be disqualified from consideration if they do not meet the requirements stated in the RFP. Regarding early termination of the contract, the contract must contain a statement allowing for the termination of the contract, with or without cause, by either party within a specified period of time. The specifics of that termination clause can be negotiated. Additionally, the following non-appropriation and proration language is required in all contracts:**

“When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be cancelled, and, to the extent permissible by law, the supplier shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any non-recurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the supplies or services delivered under the contract. To the extent permissible by law, this cost of cancellation may be paid from any appropriations available for that purpose.

In the event that proration of appropriated funds from which the State is to pay the supplier is declared by the Governor pursuant to Section 41-4-90 of the Code of Alabama, the contractor shall have the option, in addition to the other remedies of the contract, of renegotiating the contract to extend or change payment terms or amounts, or terminating the contract. In all circumstances, it is agreed that the terms and commitments of this contract shall not constitute a debt of the State of Alabama in violation of Section 213 of the Constitution of Alabama, as amended."

56. Will the vendor be evaluated on performance metrics (e.g., accuracy, completion rate)? Will penalties or remediation apply if targets are missed? **The parties can negotiate performance metrics as part of the contract negotiations.**
57. Will invoicing be milestone-based (e.g., every 10 schools), monthly, or upon full completion? **Details to be determined during the contract drafting phase, however, milestone-based is preferred.**
58. Will ALEA give preference to Alabama-based vendors or those with prior experience with ALEA or other state agencies? **The selection committee will evaluate all proposals using the provided evaluation criteria and then make a determination on which vendor is selected.**
59. Has ALEA participated in any related pilots or product demonstrations in the last 12 months? If yes, please disclosure **No**
60. Will ALEA award a single contract, or is it open to awarding multiple contracts by region, workload, or specialty? **Single**
61. Will ALEA provide a list of vendors or potential bidders who have expressed interest in this project, to facilitate possible teaming or subcontracting opportunities? **No**

62. Is the use of drones permitted for capturing current aerial imagery of school campuses to support mapping efforts? If so, are there any state-specific regulations or approvals required for drone operations over school properties? **The use of drones for capturing aerial imagery of school campuses is permitted as long as it complies with all applicable Alabama and federal laws. It is the responsibility of the potential vendor to research and ensure compliance with state-specific regulations, FAA requirements, and any necessary approvals for drone operations over school properties. Vendors should also coordinate with local school districts and authorities to address any site-specific policies or restrictions.**
63. What is the project budget? Is it for a one year? Or for the entirety of the project. **Available funding from the Legislature will determine the amount of mapping done each year.**