

## **Request for Proposal – Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS) Program Evaluation**

### **A. Statement of Purpose**

Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS) is seeking a qualified consultant to evaluate the effectiveness of VIPS programming from the 2024 – 2025 school year, including its *EveryBody Reads* program.

### **B. Background Information**

Volunteers In Public Schools was established as an independent nonprofit in 1981 following a Baton Rouge city-wide busing mandate handed down from the federal court. Due to the mandate, that was designed to forge integration, many families opted out of public schools, leaving the East Baton Rouge Parish Public Schools with decreased student population and public support. VIPS' founders believed that the entire community is responsible for ensuring every child receives a quality education and designed a pathway that allows citizens to participate in public education by sharing their time and resources. Each school year, VIPS recruits, trains, screens and places over 500 dedicated volunteers and community partners into East Baton Rouge Parish Public Schools to support under-performing students and provide resources for declining schools.

### **C. Subject of Analysis**

VIPS operates two volunteer-driven programs, *EveryBody Reads* and *EveryOne Counts*. For this analysis, the consultant is to analyze the effectiveness of the *EveryBody Reads* program.

Each school year, around 1,000 students in East Baton Rouge Parish Public Schools get referred to VIPS for services. Due to a lack of volunteers, not all students who are referred to VIPS for support receive services.

#### **i. EveryBody Reads**

Research dictates that when students fall behind in reading, individualized or small group assistance proves to be most beneficial. *EveryBody Reads* is based on this theory and individually pairs dedicated volunteers called Reading Friends with students who are underperforming in reading by one or two levels. Pre-k – second graders are recommended to the program by their teachers who advise staff on the students' reading deficiencies as well as the most appropriate times during the school day to schedule the tutoring sessions. Volunteers are trained to strengthen literacy skills in the following areas: fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, phonics, and sight words. The most overarching goal of the program is to create a nurturing



environment filled with fun and friendship that allows students an opportunity to begin to enjoy reading.

#### D. Components of the Program Evaluation

The consultant will evaluate the effectiveness of the *EveryBody Reads* program that occurred during the 2024 – 2025 school year. The consultant will analyze DIBELS test scores to evaluate the effectiveness of this program. Test scores are available from the East Baton Rouge Parish School System and will be provided to the consultant by VIPS staff. The program evaluation should help VIPS understand how the following factors impact DIBELS test scores:

- Whether a referred student receives or does not receive services;
- Number of visits between a volunteer and a student;
- Area or school in which the student is located.

#### E. Program Evaluation Outcomes

The consultant's analysis should clearly determine and communicate the effectiveness of VIPS programming with respect to the factors outlined in (D).

#### F. Summary of Deliverables

The consultant will prepare a summary-style report in a PowerPoint or PDF format. The report should clearly communicate the results of the analysis and be suitable for a general audience.

#### G. How to Submit a Proposal

Please email your proposal to [jbethly@ebrschools.org](mailto:jbethly@ebrschools.org) to be considered. Your proposal should include the following information:

1. Name of consultant or consulting team
2. A summary of the consultant's or team's experience
3. A summary of the consultant's or team's approach to completing this project
4. Cost estimate to complete the project
5. Estimated timeline to complete the project
6. List of references from recent projects

VIPS will accept proposals until 11:59pm on August 15, 2025. Proposals submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

We look forward to receiving your proposal. If you have questions, please email them to [jbethly@ebrschools.org](mailto:jbethly@ebrschools.org).

