



National Transcript Center

Press Release

National Transcript Center Awarded Contract for Statewide Electronic Record and Transcript System by Texas Education Agency

System to Facilitate Record Exchange for 4.5 Million Students

February 13, 2007

AUSTIN, TEXAS – The National Transcript Center (NTC) announced today that it was awarded a three-year contract from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for the development and deployment of the Texas Records Exchange System (TReX). Edvance Research, Inc. (ERI), a leading research firm to educational agencies was subcontracted to direct statewide training and customer support.

NTC is a division of ESP Solutions Group, the leading designer and developer of large-scale data systems for PK-20 education. TEA is the second largest state education agency in the country with approximately 4.5 million public school students and 8,000 campuses. The union of industry giants such as NTC/ESP and TEA makes the TReX program a ground-breaking venture.

TReX will improve the efficiency, cost, and security of student record exchange in Texas. It will allow every Texas public school district to transfer student records in an electronic format to other schools in Texas. In addition, districts can send high school transcripts to every public college and university in the state of Texas electronically through the SPEEDE Server at The University of Texas at Austin, at no cost to the district. Private schools and colleges will be able to join TReX for a fee.

Texas school districts will also have the ability to send Individual Education Programs and Personal Graduation Plans at no cost to the district. These documents will be sent as attachments to the student record when appropriate.

In addition, TReX participants have the option to send records and transcripts electronically to out-of-state colleges and universities and school districts via the NTC National Server. Through a connection to the NTC National Server, Texas school districts will also have the option to send Certified PDFs to employers, scholarship providers, certifying bodies, and other non-academic recipients. NTC's strategic partnership with Avow Systems, Inc., enables the electronic student records and transcripts provider to deliver Avowed™ certified PDF documents containing the highest level of security and authentication available – Adobe® blue ribbon certification. School districts will be charged a fee for using these optional services.

"The TReX system is scheduled for statewide roll-out starting in Fall 2007," said Mark Johnson, president of the National Transcript Center. Johnson adds, "TEA has always been a visionary leader with student data systems, so it is no surprise that they are out in front of electronic student record and transcript exchange."

“Registrars and counselors will welcome the arrival of an electronic student records transfer system,” stated Dr. Barbara Clements, chief standards officer of NTC. “Instead of spending hours at the copier and looking up addresses, the TREx system will reduce the time to send a transcript from weeks to seconds. More importantly, it brings unparalleled improvements in security and confidentiality.”

Dr. Glynn Ligon, chief executive officer of ESP Solutions Group commented, “NTC is the leading electronic student record and transcript solution available to State Education Agencies.” He added, “NTC addresses both K-12 student mobility needs as well as college transcripts for higher education institutions. Together, TREx and NTC will establish a cutting-edge program for the exchange of student records, a program that will in turn be a model for other states.”

The TREx system is scheduled for statewide roll-out starting in Fall 2007. “Texas school districts will be pleased with the high degree of support they will receive through these providers,” stated Dr. Dean Nafziger, chief executive officer at ERI. “ERI and NTC stand ready to help usher in the digital age for registrars and counselors.”

For More Information:

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About the National Transcript Center

The National Transcript Center was established to improve the efficiency, reliability, cost, and security of academic transcript exchange for K-12 schools, state education agencies, colleges and universities, and co-academic organizations. Based in Austin, Texas, the National Transcript Center is a highly secure and highly scalable trading network. Please visit <http://www.transcriptcenter.com> for more information on the National Transcript Center.

About Edvance Research, Inc.

Edvance Research is a leading provider of high-quality, rigorous educational research and is committed to identifying and promoting scientifically valid educational programs that can be utilized to close the achievement gap in the southwest. In March 2006, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education awarded Edvance Research a five-year contract to run the Regional Educational Laboratory-Southwest (REL Southwest). Founded in 2005, Edvance Research is headquartered in San Antonio, Texas. www.edvanceresearch.com

About Avow Systems

Avow Systems is the industry leader in providing end-to-end solutions for electronic Educational document processing. Leveraging Adobe®'s certified PDF technology, Avow's Authentic Document Delivery Services (+ADDS(TM)) offers cost effective alternatives to paper. +ADDS(TM) provides a secure, integrated and streamlined solution for any official electronic documents, i.e. digital transcripts. www.avovsystems.com