



**AVANCE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – ADDENDUM**

**RFP Title:** Systems Partnerships Design

**Issue Date:** April 10, 2026

**Questions Due:** April 24, 2026

**Addendum Issued:** April 27, 2026

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AVANCE provides the following Questions and Answers in response to inquiries received during the question period for the above-referenced Request for Proposals (RFP). Written questions were accepted through April 24, 2026. No inquiries submitted after this date were considered. This Addendum is issued for informational purposes only and shall be considered part of the RFP. All responses apply equally to all prospective respondents.

Respondents are responsible for reviewing and incorporating the information contained in this Addendum into their proposals.

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**Question 1**

**How many existing Head Start–ISD partnerships has AVANCE identified for the partnership analysis?**

**Response:**

AVANCE has identified four (4) existing Head Start–ISD partnerships within our network that will serve as an initial reference point for the partnership analysis. This number is subject to change, as additional partnerships may be identified throughout the course of the project as part of the ongoing landscape assessment.

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**Question 2**

**What is the expected number of interviews and/or workshops to be conducted with AVANCE staff and ISD partners?**

**Response:**

AVANCE does not prescribe a specific number of interviews and/or workshops for this project. Respondents should propose an approach—including the anticipated number and type of interviews, working sessions, or workshops—that they believe is appropriate to meet the project objectives and deliver the required outcomes. The proposed scope should be clearly described and justified in the proposal.

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### Question 3

**Will AVANCE facilitate introductions to individuals involved in existing Head Start–ISD partnerships, or will the contractor be responsible for identifying and contacting them (e.g., Head Start administrator, finance leadership, HR, board liaison, etc.)?**

**Response:**

AVANCE will facilitate introductions to relevant individuals within existing partnerships in our network as a starting point. This may include Head Start administrators or other key points of contact. The contractor will be responsible for coordinating follow-up outreach, scheduling interviews, and conducting the analysis with those individuals. This approach is intended to support access while allowing the contractor flexibility in managing engagement activities.

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### Question 4

**Is AVANCE specifically looking at partnerships where the ISD is the Head Start grant recipient, or partnerships where a child development center is the Head Start grant recipient (as is the case in SB1882 partnerships) - or both?**

**Response:**

AVANCE is interested in both partnership structures:

- Partnerships where the ISD is the Head Start grant recipient, and
- Partnerships where a child development center or nonprofit is the Head Start grant recipient, including models similar to SB 1882 partnerships.

Contractors should consider and, where relevant, analyze insights across both models.

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### Question 5

**Should the partnership models and replication tools account for state-specific policy and regulatory variation, or is the expectation that the deliverables remain state-agnostic? If state-specific considerations are required, can AVANCE specify the number of states and level of depth expected?**

**Response:**

Deliverables should be state-agnostic to the greatest extent possible, with the goal of producing partnership models and replication tools that can be broadly applicable to Head Start operators nationally. AVANCE recognizes that its existing partnerships within its network are located in Texas, and therefore some state-specific considerations may emerge during the analysis.



However, respondents are encouraged to identify opportunities to translate findings into a generalized blueprint that can be adapted by Head Start operators in other states, rather than developing tools tailored to a specific set of state policies.

AVANCE does not require analysis of a predefined number of states or in-depth state-by-state comparisons as part of this project.

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### **Question 6**

**Will AVANCE coordinate scheduling and participation for interviews and working sessions?**

**Response:**

AVANCE will facilitate initial connections to existing partners within its current network, where appropriate. The contractor will be responsible for coordinating scheduling, confirming participation, and managing logistics for all interviews and working sessions.

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### **Question 7**

**Will there be AVANCE staff available throughout the duration of the proposed project timeline to support project needs?**

**Response:**

AVANCE will designate a primary point of contact to respond to questions, provide clarification, and serve as the liaison for the project. However, AVANCE will not assign staff to provide ongoing project management or hands-on support beyond this role.

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### **Question 8**

**"Terms and Conditions, Section A" of the RFP states that the contract will last for six months from the date of award, however the delivery schedule states that deliverables are due no later than September 15, 2026. Will the contractor have only the four months (May - September) to complete the deliverables?**

**Response:**

While *Terms and Conditions, Section A* indicates a six-month contract term from the date of award, the delivery schedule requires that all deliverables be completed no later than September 15, 2026.

Contractors should plan to complete all required deliverables within the timeframe specified in the delivery schedule. The contract term allows for administrative closeout activities beyond



the final deliverable date, if needed, but substantive work and deliverables are expected to be completed by September 15, 2026.

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### **Question 9**

**Is it possible to receive a list of all questions asked during the RFP process and their accompanying answers?**

**Response:**

Yes. AVANCE will compile and distribute all questions received during the RFP process, along with official responses, in a manner consistent with its procurement procedures to ensure transparency and fairness to all respondents.

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### **Question 10**

**How many of your current Avance sites offer Head Start? How many currently dually enroll children?**

**Response:**

AVANCE currently offers Head Start services at three sites within our national network, located in Houston, San Antonio, and the Rio Grande Valley.

Across the network, we presently serve 830 children who are dually enrolled. Dual enrollment varies by site and is dependent on local program design, funding, and partnership agreements.

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### **Question 11**

**Are you anticipating all work to be completed between May 11, 2026 and September 15, 2026?**

**Response:**

Regarding timing, we anticipate the majority of work to take place between May 11, 2026, and September 15, 2026. Proposers may include a proposed timeline within this window, particularly if it strengthens the quality or feasibility of the work.

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### **Question 12**

**Are you anticipating any of this work to be done in person?**



**Response:**

At this time, we anticipate that the work can be completed remotely. We do not currently expect in-person work to be required, though we note that limited in-person engagement could be considered if mutually agreed upon and clearly scoped.

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**Question 13**

**I see that you note a two-page limit for the executive summary, but wondered if there was a page limit for the entire proposal as well.**

**Response:**

The RFP specifies a two-page limit for the Executive Summary only. There is no page limit stated for the full proposal. Proposers should ensure that all required sections are included and presented in the format outlined in the RFP.

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**Question 14**

**Could you clarify how many Head Start–ISD partnerships are expected to be included in the analysis and whether representation from all AVANCE chapters is required?**

**Response:**

For the purposes of this analysis, AVANCE anticipates including a purposeful sample of Head Start–ISD partnerships rather than an exhaustive review of all partnerships nationwide. The sample would be selected to reflect variation in geography, size, and partnership maturity, with the goal of surfacing transferable lessons.

While representation from all AVANCE chapters is not required, AVANCE is interested in ensuring that insights are relevant across the network and resonate with diverse local contexts.

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**Question 15**

**Does AVANCE want this work to focus only on Head Start–ISD dual enrollment partnerships, or should insights from other partnership types, like grantee–delegate relationships, also be considered?**

**Response:**

The primary focus of this work should be on Head Start–ISD dual enrollment partnerships, as these represent AVANCE’s core strategic interest.



That said, AVANCE welcomes the inclusion of insights from other partnership types—such as grantee–delegate or other formal collaborations—when they offer transferable practices, structures, or lessons that can strengthen dual enrollment partnerships. These may be incorporated selectively to deepen the analysis, rather than serving as a central focus.

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## **Question 16**

**How does AVANCE define successful replication? Is the goal adaptation within AVANCE chapters, expansion to new communities, or use by external partners?**

**Response:**

AVANCE defines successful replication primarily as adaptation and uptake within AVANCE chapters, enabling local leaders to implement proven partnership practices in ways that respond to their unique community contexts.

In addition, AVANCE intends for the resulting blueprint to serve as a resource for external partners or systems aligned with AVANCE’s mission, particularly those interested in developing or strengthening Head Start–ISD dual enrollment partnerships. In this way, the blueprint may support learning, partnership design, and systems alignment both within and beyond the AVANCE network.

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## **Question 17**

**Are there existing partnership agreements, MOUs, or documentation that will be made available to inform the analysis?**

**Response:**

Yes. AVANCE anticipates making available existing partnership agreements, MOUs, or related documentation from selected chapters, to the extent feasible. These materials are intended to inform the analysis by illustrating how partnerships are structured, governed, and operationalized in practice.

The availability and level of detail of documentation may vary by chapter, but AVANCE views these artifacts as an important complement to interviews and case examples.

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