

Kent State University Request for Proposal no. 2034
(Student Organization Engagement and Management System)
Vendor Questions and University Answers

Vendor 1 of 4

- 1) Is Kent State open to a multi-vendor solution where certain components (e.g., event management and campus calendar) are provided by an integrated third-party platform, or is the expectation that a single vendor will fulfill all functional requirements outlined in the RFP?

We are open to a multiple vendor solution, so long as all of the requirements are met.

- 2) Within the scope of this RFP, how critical is the campus-wide event calendar and event discovery experience relative to student organization lifecycle management and engagement functionality?

A campus wide event calendar is not a high priority, but could be seen as beneficial addition to the solution chosen.

- 3) Does the university currently utilize a campus-wide event calendar or event marketing platform? If so, are there known gaps or goals for improvement that should be considered as part of this RFP?

We do currently have a university wide campus event calendar. While potentially not optimized it does seem to work well. An improvement to that function is not necessarily included in this RFP, but could be a differentiating factor when deciding on a vendor.

- 4) For the requirement to display event data on the university's central calendar, is the expectation that the proposed system will serve as the primary public-facing event platform, or integrate with an existing system?

The system would not need to be the primary or public facing event calendar, but it could be. What we need is for this software solution to display to whatever current university wide event calendar we are using, whether part of the software package or external.

- 5) Which departments are primary stakeholders in the evaluation process, particularly regarding event-related functionality (e.g., Student Affairs, Marketing/Communications, IT)?

Student Life- Center for Student Involvement

- 6) Beyond student organization management, does the university have broader goals related to improving event visibility, external audience engagement, or recruitment through events?

Increasing visibility and engagement are both goals of the university and unit, but the primary need of this RFP is to find a system that will manage our student organizations and their processes.

**Kent State University Request for Proposal no. 2034
(Student Organization Engagement and Management System)
Vendor Questions and **University Answers****

Vendor 2 of 4

- 1) Could you please confirm the approximate number of active students and staff administrators expected to use the system?

25,000-30,000 students and up to 400 administrators (inclusive of student organization advisors)

- 2) Could you please confirm whether data migration from an existing system is required and, if so, provide the source system, types of data to be migrated, estimated data volumes, and number of years of historical data expected?

Data migration would be required from our existing system, or at least the archiving of information that is in our current system for future reference. We are currently using the Engage platform from Anthology.

- 3) Could you please list the university systems expected to be integrated with the proposed solution (e.g., SIS, LMS, authentication/SSO, etc.)?

SIS, authentication/SSO, LMS would be ideal but not required.

- 4) Could you please confirm the authentication method currently used by the university (e.g., SAML, Shibboleth, Azure AD, Okta) and whether Single Sign-On is required for all users?

Current is Microsoft Entra ID, Single Sign on would be required for all users, SAML2 preferred.

- 5) Could you please confirm the expected implementation timeline and target go-live date?

We are flexible on go-live date. To be live by August 1, 2026 would be our ideal state, but can work with a vendor for a later time if needed.

- 6) Are there any specific hosting or data residency requirements, and is the university required to host data within the United States or open to data being hosted in other regions?

University data is required to be hosted within the United States.

- 7) Could you please indicate whether there is an approved or indicative budget range for this initiative to help vendors align their proposed solution and pricing appropriately?

The university does not share budgetary information.

- 8) Are there any state or university-specific vendor registration, eligibility, or certification requirements that vendors must complete prior to contract award?

No.

Kent State University Request for Proposal no. 2034
(Student Organization Engagement and Management System)
Vendor Questions and University Answers

- 9) Does the university currently use an existing platform for this capability, and if so, could you please share the system name and scope of current usage?

We currently use the Engage platform, formerly with Anthology. It manages approximately 350 student organizations, their rosters, governing documents, financial request processes, and organizational management.

- 10) Would the university consider international higher education client references, or are references from U.S.-based institutions preferred or required for this RFP?

US-based preferred.

Vendor 3 of 4

- 1) Is the proposed launch date of July 2026 flexible? It appears quite close to the formal contract award date, and we want to ensure the team isn't being set up for a compressed implementation timeline.

Yes

- 2) Communications (page 21): Could you clarify what is meant by "patient records"?

Please disregard as this is a vestige of another RFP.

- 3) Student Organization Management (page 22, item 4): Which SIS are you currently using, and does it support open APIs for integrations?

Banner is our current system. We can build integrations to/from any system that does comply with the Open API standard.

- 4) Student Organization Management (page 22, item 6): Could you expand on what you mean by "discussions"- e.g. chats, emails, text messages, etc.? And who to?

The ability to message within the system, either from administrators to student leaders, or between members of a group.

- 5) Other (page 23, item 2): What platform currently hosts the Anti-Hazing training? Would you be open to exploring our training module to support this?

We currently are contracted with Prevent Zone, and yes we would be open to exploring options to move to a solution provided by the vendor.

Kent State University Request for Proposal no. 2034
(Student Organization Engagement and Management System)
Vendor Questions and University Answers

Vendor 4 of 4

- 1) Which date is the correct date for your response to our questions? The RFP shows Wednesday, April 18, 2026. Should the date be Wednesday, April 15, 2026?

Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

- 2) For scoping the proposed system, should vendors base the Full-Time Equivalent Student (FTE) number on 26,000 or 41,000 (across all eight campuses)?

The primary focus is on the 26,000 students on the Kent campus, but it may be picked up on regional locations as well. If pricing is different for these two options please provide both options.

- 3) Should the proposed system support segmented experiences for all eight campuses?

This would be an ideal scenario, but is not required.

- 4) Would you elaborate more on patient data, patient billing, HIPAA, and the relevance to this project?

Please disregard as this is a vestige of another RFP.

- 5) Would you expand on the functional specifications for Central System and Peripherals?

Within the RFP on Page 21- Top of page 22 is a detailed functional specification breakdown.

- 6) Is there a Reporting appendix based on Item 9, page 22, Reporting section?

There is not, but if sample reports are requested they may be able to be provided.

- 7) Please elaborate on the SSO requirements. How do you manage user IDs using LDAP?

Current SSO authentication is Microsoft Entra ID, SAML2 is preferred configuration for new vendors.

- 8) Would you expand on the time schedule you have defined on page 21 as it relates to this project?

The Time Schedule is in reference to the scheduled reporting/Custom reporting configuration. We would want the information regarding what time schedules are available in their reporting structure (Examples: report to run every Thursday at 8 am for the last 7 days and emailed to a specific email, Monthly report that runs on the 1st every month at 6am and emailed to multiple emails).

(End of list.)