

## Bid or Request for Proposal Requirements

The board recognizes the importance of:

- maximizing the use of district resources;
- the need for sound business practices in spending public money;
- the requirement of complying with state and federal laws governing purchasing and public works;
- the importance of standardized purchasing and public works regulations; and
- the need for clear documentation.

### **I. Procurement and Public Works Using State Funds**

#### **A. Furniture, Supplies or Equipment**

Whenever the estimated cost of furniture, supplies, or equipment (except books) will cost:

- less than \$40,000, no competitive bidding process is required to make the purchase;
- between \$40,000 and \$75,000, the board will follow the informal competitive bidding process by requiring quotes from at least three different sources to be obtained in writing or by telephone and recorded for the public to review;
- over \$75,000, the board will follow the formal competitive bidding process by:
  1. preparing clear and definite plans and specifications for such purchases;
  2. providing notice of the call for formal bids by publication in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the district at least once each week for two consecutive weeks;
  3. ensuring that the district takes steps to assure that when possible, the district will use small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises and labor surplus firms;
  4. providing the clear and definite plans and specifications to those interested in submitting a bid;
  5. requiring that bids be in writing;
  6. opening and reading bids in public on the date and in the place named in the notice; and
  7. filing all bids for public inspection after opening.

#### **B. Exemptions**

The board may waive bid requirements for purchases:

- clearly and legitimately limited to a single source of supply;
- involving special facilities or market conditions;
- in the event of an emergency;
- of insurance or bonds; and

- involving public works in the event of an emergency.

"Emergency" means unforeseen circumstances beyond the district's control that present a real, immediate threat to the proper performance of essential functions or will likely result in material loss or damage to property, bodily injury, or loss of life if immediate action is not taken.

Whenever the board waives bid requirements, the board will issue a document explaining the factual basis for the exception and record the contract for open public inspection.

### **C. Rejection of Bids**

The board may by resolution reject any and all bids and make further calls for bids in the same manner as the original call.

### **D. Interlocal Cooperation Act**

The board reserves the right to enter into inter-local cooperative agreements for purchases and public works with other governmental agencies pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 39.34 RCW.

### **E. Crimes Against Children**

The board shall include in any contract for services with an entity or individual other than an employee of the district a provision requiring the contractor to prohibit any employee of the contractor from working at a public school who has contact with children at a public school during the course of his or her employment and who has pled guilty to or been convicted of any felony crime specified under RCW 28A.400.322. The contract shall also contain a provision that any failure to comply with this section shall be grounds for the district immediately terminating the contract.

The superintendent will establish bidding and contract awarding procedures for all purchases of furniture, equipment, supplies (except books), or public works projects consistent with state law.

### **F. Use of State Funds for Improvements or Repairs**

The board may make improvements or repairs to district property through a district department without following the competitive bidding process if the total cost of improvements or repairs does not exceed \$75,000. If the board estimates that the total cost of a building, improvement, repair, or other public works project is \$100,000 or more, the board will follow the formal competitive bidding process outlined above unless the contract is let using the small works roster process authorized by RCW 39.04.155 or under any other procedure authorized for school districts. There are no statutory bidding requirements for public works projects involving improvements or repairs that are within the \$75,000 to \$100,000 range. For projects in this range, the district may consider: using its small works roster process, under RCW 39.04.155; using an inter-local agreement or contract with a vendor of the district's choice, without any competitive process, under RCW 28A.3353190; or choosing to require quotes for the work to make the process more competitive.

## **II. Procurement Using Federal Funds**

### **A. Goods**

When the district uses federal funds for procurement of **goods** (furniture, supplies, equipment, and textbooks):

- Purchases of \$10,000 or less do not require quotes. However, must consider price to be reasonable, and, to the extent practical, distribute equitably among suppliers.
- Purchases between \$10,000 and \$75,000 must be procured using price or rate quotations from three or more qualified sources.
- Purchases of \$75,000 or more must be publicly solicited using sealed bids or requests for proposals.

### **B. Services**

When the district uses federal funds for procurement of **services**:

- Purchases of \$10,000 or less do not require quotes. However, must consider price to be reasonable, and, to the extent practical, distribute equitably among suppliers.
- Purchases between \$10,000 and \$250,000 must be procured using price or rate quotations from a reasonable number of qualified sources.
- Purchases of \$250,000 or more must be publicly solicited using sealed bids or requests for proposals.

### **C. Noncompetitive Procurement**

Noncompetitive procurement may be used only when one of the following four circumstances applies:

- The item is only available from a single source;
- The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation;
- The awarding agency (e.g., OSPI) authorizes noncompetitive procurement in response to a written request from the district; or
- After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

The district must maintain documentation supporting the applicable circumstance for noncompetitive procurement.

### **D. Suspension and Debarment**

Before entering into federally funded vendor contracts for goods and services that equal or exceed \$25,000 and any subcontract award, the district will ensure the vendor is not suspended or debarred from participating in federal assistance programs.

### **E. Conflict of Interest**

No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by federal funds if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate

family, his or her partner, or an organization that employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

No employee, officer, or agent of the district may solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. Violation of these standards may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension, dismissal, or removal.

### **III. Procedures**

The superintendent or designee will establish bidding and contract awarding procedures consistent with state and federal law.

#### Legal References:

- RCW 28A.335.190 Advertising for bids — Competitive bid procedures — Purchases from inmate work programs — Telephone or written quotation solicitation, limitations — Emergencies
- RCW 28A.400.330 Crimes against children — Contractor employees — Termination of contract
- RCW 39.04.155 Small works roster contract procedures — Limited public works process — Definition
- RCW 39.04.280 Competitive bidding requirements — Exemptions
- RCW 39.26.160 Bid Awards – Considerations – Requirements and criteria to be set forth – Negotiations – Use of enterprise vendor registrations and bid notification system
- RCW 39.30.060 Bids on public works — Identification, substitution of contractors
- Chapter 39.34 RCW Interlocal Cooperation Act
- 2 CFR Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards
- 2 CFR 200.67 Micro-purchase
- 2 CFR 200.88 Simplified Acquisition Threshold
- 2 CFR 200.318 General Procurement Standards
- 2 CFR 200.320 Methods of Procurement to be Followed
- 2 CFR 200.318-.326
- 2 CFR 3485 Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension

#### Management Resources:

- 2019 – January Policy Alert
- 2018 – August Issue
- 2017 – July Issue
- 2016 – March Issue
- 2015 – June Issue

2013 – June Issue  
2012 – April Issue  
2011 – February Issue

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## Bid or Request for Proposal Requirements

The following procedures will be in effect for purchasing and public works through the bidding or request for proposal process:

- A. The district will publicly open and read formal bids on the date, time, and place named in the notice and then will file the bids for public inspection. Any interested member of the public may attend the bid opening. It will be the bidder's sole responsibility to see that the district receives his/her bid prior to the time set for opening of bids. The district will return any bid received after the time set for opening the bids to the bidder unopened and without consideration. The district will accept proposals in the place named and no later than the date and time named in the notice;
- B. Formal bid or proposal tabulations may be presented at a meeting of the board for study purposes;
- C. The board will award formal contracts on the basis of staff recommendations;
- D. Specifications using brand names and manufacturers' catalog numbers are for identifying and establishing a quality standard. The board may consider bids or proposals on equal items providing the bidder or proposer specifies brand and model and furnishes descriptive literature. The board will condition its acceptance of alternative "equal" items upon its inspection and testing after receipt. If the board does not find the items to be equal, the board will return the items at the seller's expense and cancel the contract;
- E. The district will reserve the right to reject any or all bids or proposals, waive any formalities and/or irregularities, and cancel the solicitation, if a reason exists;
- F. On construction projects, the bidder will include a notarized statement agreeing to comply with prevailing wage and affirmative action requirements. The bidder will also provide payment and performance bonds;
- G. The superintendent or designee may solicit bids or proposals by telephone and/or written quotation for purchases of furniture, equipment, and supplies that have an estimated cost in excess of \$40,000 up to \$75,000. At least three telephone or written quotations will be secured prior to the date established by the superintendent or designee. All telephone quotations must be confirmed promptly in writing to constitute a valid quotation;
- H. For public works projects estimated to cost \$300,000 or less, the superintendent or designee may solicit bids by telephone, electronic, or written quotations from contractors on the appropriate small works roster. The district will not break a project into units or phases in order to come within the scope of the small works roster process or limited public works process. Each year, the district will publish a notice of opportunity regarding the small works roster in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the district and then revise the small works roster accordingly. The district will also add responsible contractors to the small works roster any time a contractor submits a written request and necessary records. The application form be designed to collect such information as (1) name of contractor, (2) state of Washington contractor's license

number, (3) bonding verification, (4) liability insurance coverage, (5) related contracts completed, and (6) references (bond and clients). Contractors desiring to be placed on or remain on the small works roster are required to keep current records of applicable licenses, certifications, registrations, bonding, insurance or other appropriate matters on file with the district.

The district will employ the following steps to engage a contractor for a small works project:

1. Invitations for quotations shall include an estimate of the scope and nature of the work to be performed as well as materials and equipment to be furnished. Completion date; contractor's assurances (prevailing wages, fair employment, etc.); bid and payment and performance bond requirements; opportunity to visit the work site; closing date; and bid form may be provided, however, detailed plans and specifications need not be included in the invitation;
2. The district may invite quotations from all appropriate contractors on the appropriate small works roster. As an alternative, the district may invite quotations from at least five contractors on the appropriate small works roster who have indicated the capability of performing the kind of work being contracted, in a manner that will equitably distribute the opportunity among the contractors on the appropriate roster. However, if the estimated cost of the work is from \$150,000 to \$300,000, and the district chooses to solicit bids from less than all the appropriate contractors on the appropriate small works roster, the district will notify the remaining contractors on the appropriate small works roster that it is seeking quotations on the work. The district has the sole option of determining whether this notice to the remaining contractors is made by: (i) publishing notice in a legal newspaper in general circulation in the area where the work is to be done; (ii) mailing a notice to these contractors; or (iii) sending a notice to these contractors by facsimile or other electronic means;
3. Immediately after an award is made, the bid quotations obtained will be recorded, open to public inspection, and available by telephone inquiry; and
4. The district will award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder as defined in RCW 39.04.010. The district will make available a list of the contracts awarded under that process at least once every year. The list shall contain the name of the contractor or vendor awarded the contract, the amount of the contract, a brief description of the type of work performed or items purchased under the contract, and the date of award. The list shall also state the location where the bid quotations for these contracts are available for public inspection.

The following will be in effect for purchasing and public works awards:

- A. The contract for the work or purchase shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder as described in RCW 39.26.160(2) but the board may by resolution reject any and all bids and make further calls for bids in the same manner as the original call. In determining whether the bidder is a responsible bidder under RCW 39.26.160(2), the district must consider the following elements:

1. The ability, capacity, and skill of the bidder to perform the contract or provide the service required;
  2. The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the bidder;
  3. Whether the bidder can perform the contract within the time specified;
  4. The quality of performance of previous contracts or services;
  5. The previous and existing compliance by the bidder with laws relating to the contract or services;
  6. Whether, within the three-year period immediately preceding the date of the bid solicitation, the bidder has been determined by a final and binding citation and notice of assessment issued by the department of labor and industries or through a civil judgment entered by a court of limited or general jurisdiction to have willfully violated any provision of chapter 49.46, 49.48, or 49.52 RCW, as defined in RCW 49.48.082. (Before award of a contract, a bidder shall submit to the district a signed statement in accordance with RCW 9A.72.085, verifying under penalty of perjury that the bidder is in compliance with the responsible bidder criteria requirement of this subsection of RCW);
  7. The district may secure such other information as may have a bearing on the decision to award the contract.
- B. Before award of a public works contract, a bidder must meet the following responsibility criteria to be a responsible bidder and qualified for award of a public works project. The bidder must:
1. At the time of bid submittal, have a certificate of registration in compliance with chapter 18.27 RCW;
  2. Have a current state unified business identifier number;
  3. If applicable, have industrial insurance coverage for the bidder's employees working in Washington as required in Title 51 RCW; an employment security department number as required in Title 50 RCW; and a state excise tax registration number as required in Title 82 RCW;
  4. Not be disqualified from bidding on any public works contract under RCW 39.06.010 or 39.12.065(3);
  5. If bidding on a public works project subject to the apprenticeship utilization requirements in RCW 39.04.320, not have been found out of compliance by the Washington state apprenticeship and training council for working apprentices out of ratio, without appropriate supervision, or outside their approved work processes as outlined in their standards of apprenticeship under chapter 49.04 RCW for the one-year period immediately preceding the date of the bid solicitation;
  6. Until December 31, 2013, not have violated RCW 39.04.370 more than one time as determined by the department of labor and industries; and
  7. Within the three-year period immediately preceding the date of the bid solicitation, not have been determined by a final and binding citation and notice of assessment issued by the department of labor and industries or through a civil judgment entered



by a court of limited or general jurisdiction to have willfully violated, as defined in RCW 49.48.082, any provision of chapter 49.46, 49.48, or 49.52 RCW (before award of a contract, a bidder shall submit to the district a signed statement in accordance with RCW 9A.72.085 verifying under penalty of perjury that the bidder is in compliance with the responsible bidder criteria requirement of this subsection).

In addition to the bidder responsibility criteria, the district may adopt relevant supplemental criteria in accordance with RCW 39.04.350(3) for determining bidder responsibility, applicable to a particular project with which the bidder must meet.

- I. Formal written contracts will be prepared for all major construction and repair projects. After a majority of the board votes to approve a contract, the board president and secretary sign the contract on behalf of the board and record the action in the minutes. All contracts will provide that, in the event that the district files suit to enforce the terms of the contract, the venue will be the county where the district is located. All contracts will also provide that if the district is successful in the suit, the court may order reimbursement of the district's attorney fees and court costs, as the court deems reasonable. Any contract for services with an entity or individual other than an employee of the district shall include a provision requiring the contractor to prohibit any of its employees who have pled guilty to or been convicted of any felony crime specified under RCW 28A.400.322 and who would have contact with children at a public school during the course of their employment from working at a public school. The contract shall also contain a provision that any failure to comply with this section shall be grounds for the district immediately terminating the contract.