

**Department of Procurement
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
45 West Gude Drive, Suite 3100
Rockville MD 20850**

Invitation for Bid # 4065.15, Ceramic Supplies

GENERAL CONDITIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS

GENERAL CONDITIONS

A. Intent

The specifications contained herein are intended to cover the furnishing and delivery of ceramic supplies. Deliveries are to be made to the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Material Management, Supply Warehouse, 502 North Stonestreet Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850, and to various Montgomery County Public Schools and/or offices located within Montgomery County, Maryland, as indicated on the purchase order.

B. Delivery

Delivery will be required within 15 days after receipt by the successful bidder(s) of a purchase order issued and signed by the director of the Department of Procurement.

Deliveries to the MCPS Supply and Property Management Warehouse will be accepted between 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Bidder(s) shall call 240-740-5160, 24 hours prior to delivery to set up a delivery appointment. Deliveries must be accompanied with a shipping/packing list, which refers to a MCPS purchase order. Deliveries without a shipping/packing list may be refused by MCPS. Deliveries refused due to delivery hours or shipping/packing lists will be reshipped at the bidder's expense.

Part A of Item Specification is for delivery to MCPS Supply Warehouse.

Part B of Item Specification is for delivery to individual locations within MCPS, as noted on the purchase order.

C. Contract Term

The term of the contract shall be for one year as stipulated on the Invitation for Bid. However, the contract may not begin until one day after approval by the MCPS Board of Education and will conclude as stated under the contract term. MCPS reserves the right to extend this contract at existing prices, terms and conditions for up to four additional one-year terms. Written notice indicating MCPS' intention to pursue the extension of the contract will be issued to the successful bidder(s) 90 days prior to the expiration of the original contract. The bidder(s) shall have 10 days from the date of notification to return

the notice acknowledging intent to accept or reject the extension. Once all responses are evaluated, MCPS staff may make a recommendation to the MCPS Board of Education to extend the contract or to rebid. If the contract is extended by the MCPS Board of Education, a contract amendment will be issued.

D. Descriptive Literature

All bidders are required to furnish with their bid response literature properly bound and labeled showing full illustrations and detailed specifications on items bid even if bidding as specified. The literature and specifications are to be arranged and labeled according to item sequence. The literature shall be clearly marked with the bid number, item number, and company name. Bidders shall show manufacture's code and catalog number of the item offered. **Failure to submit marked descriptive literature may result in automatic disqualification.**

E. Interpretation of Specifications

The commodities listed are specified to meet minimum requirements. Therefore, bidders are informed that they must provide the items in conformance to quality standards equal to the brand specified.

F. Samples

Samples are required subsequent to or at bid opening on all items unless bidding the specified brand and model, or when noted on item specifications as "Sample Required". Samples shall be separate from the bid response. The outside of the sample package shall be marked "Samples" and identified with bid number affixed to packaging.

Samples shall be of sufficient quantity to allow thorough testing of the product and shall be packaged in the same manner as they will be packaged during the contract term. Each individual sample submitted shall bear the name of the bidder, item number, bid number and shall be carefully tagged or marked in a substantial manner. If samples are not properly marked, the samples may not be considered. (See Article XXIV of the General Stipulations and Instructions To Bidders).

Failure to deliver samples as required may result in automatic disqualification.

G. Brand Names

Reference to brand names and code or model numbers in the attached specifications is offered as a point of reference in order for bidders to consider style, sizes, weights, and similar characteristics. The use of brand names should not be interpreted as the exclusive brand desired.

In the brand column state the brand name, code or model number on each item being offered, even if bidding the specified brand. If a brand and code or model number is not shown your bid may not be considered.

If an item specification shows code or model numbers that have been discontinued, the bidder shall so state and indicate the current code or model number.

Commodity descriptions that state "Only a specified brand will be considered" are brands that have been evaluated and tested for inclusion on this bid and are the only brands acceptable at this time. Other brands will be evaluated and tested if materials are submitted at no cost to MCPS. Forward samples to Montgomery County Public Schools Department of Procurement, 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 3100, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Testing normally requires a minimum of 60 days to complete; therefore, your samples for testing may be approved for a future bid if the evaluation is satisfactory.

H. Deviations

All bids meeting the intent of the invitation will be considered for award. Bidders offering and quoting on substitutions or who are deviating from the terms, conditions, and/or specifications shall list such and explain fully on a separate sheet to be submitted with the bid. The absence of such a sheet shall indicate that the bidder has taken no exception and shall be held responsible for performing in accordance with the terms, conditions and specifications as stated herein.

I. Quantities

The item quantities specified herein under Part A of the items specifications reflect a variable of plus or minus 20% of the totals indicated. It is not the intention to purchase entire quantities shown at one time. Individual purchase orders will be issued to the successful bidder(s) as needs arise during the contract term.

The number of units shown on this bid may vary as needs arise during the contract term and as budget limitations permit. MCPS shall not be obligated to purchase any specific quantity. Partial quantities may be shown on each purchase order. The usual quantity per order is one fourth of the total quantity stated. Quantities in this request are subject to change and are dependent upon the requirements of MCPS on budgetary limitations.

J. Quotations

Bidders must specify any minimum order requirements for each product or combination of products with their bid submission. The bid price shall include processing and delivery of the specified product. No bidder will be allowed to offer more than one price on each item even though it may feel that it has two or more types that will meet specifications. Bidders must determine for themselves which to offer. If said bidder should submit more than one price on any item, all prices for that item will be rejected. However, this stipulation does

not preclude the offering of new products that do not meet specifications in every respect from being offered as a separate item for consideration for future bids. Such product should be identified as a new product and a brief explanation written as a part of the offer detailing the advantages that can normally be expected of this product over the product specified.

A bidder may restrict its bid to consideration in the aggregate by so stating, but shall name a unit price on each item bid upon. Any bid in which the bidder names a total price for all the articles without quoting a price on each and every separate item may be considered informal. If there is any discrepancy between the unit cost and total cost, the unit cost shall prevail.

K. Warranty and Service

The supplier warrants the items delivered to be of the highest quality, complying with specifications and free from all defects whatsoever in workmanship and materials. The supplier agrees that any replacements and/or adjustments made necessary because of such defects will be made promptly without any cost to MCPS and to the satisfaction of MCPS.

L. Emergency Purchases

MCPS reserves the right to make emergency purchases from other sources should the awarded bidder(s) be unable to furnish the item within the required time frame.

M. Provision for Price Adjustment

Unit prices quoted herein are subject to price adjustment downward in accordance with decreases in prices announced by the manufacturer of the subject item any time prior to the award. Recommendations for awards, however, shall be made based on the original bid submission only.

Subsequent to the award, the unit prices quoted herein may be subject to price adjustment upward or downward in accordance with increases and decreases announced by the manufacturer after the contract award. The successful bidder must notify the director of the Department of Procurement or his/her designee of any announced manufacturer's price reductions and give immediate benefit to MCPS in a proportionate amount.

Price increases will not be considered for the first 180 days of the contract. Thereafter, the successful bidder must submit a written request for price relief. The request for a price increase shall include documentation from the manufacturer to verify the basis for such a request. MCPS reserves the right to accept or reject the request as may be determined to be in the best interest of MCPS. If the request for a price increase is approved, a contract amendment will be issued. Any orders received by the bidder prior to a request for a price increase shall be honored at the original contract price.

N. Special Conditions

1. Audit Provisions – MCPS shall have the right to examine the successful bidder(s) records pertaining to work performed under the contract to determine and verify their compliance with all contractual conditions. MCPS shall be granted access to such records at all reasonable times during the contract period and for three years thereafter.
2. Contingent Fee – The successful bidder (s) hereby represents that they have not retained anyone to solicit or secure this contract from MCPS upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies maintained by the person so representing for the purpose of securing business, or any attorney rendering professional legal services consistent with applicable canons of ethics.
3. Assignments – Neither this contract nor any interest therein nor claim there under shall be assigned or transferred by the successful bidder(s) except as expressly authorized in writing by MCPS and no contract shall be made by the successful bidder(s) with any other party for furnishing any of the work or services herein contracted for without the written approval of MCPS.
4. Disputes – Any dispute concerning a question of fact arising under this contract shall be disposed of by written agreement between the contractor and the contracting officer. Pending the final decision of a dispute hereunder, the contractor shall proceed diligently with the contract performance.

O. Customer References

Bidders shall provide three references with their bid submission. The references shall have company name, contact person, address and phone number of three current customers for which a contract for similar size and type of project has been provided. If the reference information is not accurate and MCPS cannot contact the person(s) named then your bid may not be considered. MCPS may request additional references.

Note: ALL BIDDERS must provide references, including bidders currently engaged in business with MCPS.

<u>Company Name and Address</u>	<u>Phone</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Contact</u> <u>Person</u>	<u>Contract</u> <u>Number</u>
1. _____			
Email address _____			
2. _____			
Email address _____			

3. _____
Email address _____

P. Invoices

Payment depends on receipt of a proper invoice and satisfactory contract performance. All invoices are to be transmitted to the Division of Controller, 45 West Gude Dr, Suite 3200, Rockville, MD 20850. Every invoice must include name and address of contractor, taxpayer identification number, purchase order number and invoice number. Price quoted shall not include federal excise or state sales taxes. Exemption certificates will be furnished upon request. See Article XIII.

Section 326 (a) of Chapter 452 of the Laws of Maryland, 1968, provides, among other things, for the taxation of "any sale ... of tangible personal property to Contractors or Builders to be used for the construction, repair, or alteration of real property...". Sales tax, as applicable, shall be included in any bid made to MCPS.

Contractor inquiries concerning payments shall be made to accountspayable@mcpsmd.org

Q. Submission of Bids

One original and one copy of the bid are requested. The cover page of each copy must be clearly marked original or copy. Bidders may wish to reproduce and retain an additional copy.

R. eMaryland Marketplace Advantage

Maryland law requires local and state agencies to post solicitations on eMaryland Marketplace Advantage. Registration with eMaryland Marketplace is free. It is recommended that any interested supplier register at <https://emma.maryland.gov/>, regardless of the award outcome for this procurement as it is a valuable resource for upcoming bid notifications for municipalities throughout Maryland.

S. Multi-Agency Participation

MCPS reserves the right to extend the terms and conditions of this solicitation to any and all other agencies within the state of Maryland as well as any other federal, state, municipal, county, or local governmental agency under the jurisdiction of the United States and its territories. This shall include but not be limited to private schools, parochial schools, non-public schools such as charter schools, special districts, intermediate units, non-profit agencies providing services on behalf of government, and/or state, community and/or private colleges/universities that required these goods, commodities and/or services. Use of this solicitation by other agencies may be dependent on special local/state requirements attached to and made a part of the solicitation at time of contracting.

The supplier/contractor agrees to notify the issuing agency of those entities that wish to use any contract resulting from this bid and will also provide usage information, which may be requested. A copy of the contract pricing and the bid requirements incorporated in this contract will be supplied to requesting agencies. Each participating jurisdiction or agency shall enter into its own contract with the Award Bidder(s) and this contract shall be binding only upon the principals signing such an agreement. Invoices shall be submitted “directly” to the ordering jurisdiction for each unit purchased. Disputes over the execution of any contract shall be the responsibility of the participating jurisdiction or agency that entered into that contract. Disputes must be resolved solely between the participating agency and the Award Bidder. MCPS assumes no authority, liability, or obligation on behalf of any other public or non-public entity that may use any contract resulting from this bid. MCPS pricing is based on the specifications provided in this solicitation. A negative reply will not adversely affect consideration of your bid/proposal.

This contract will be used by members of the MAPT Purchasing Groups. Bidders shall submit pricing that will be in effect for all agencies and jurisdictions.

T. Award Criteria

1. Conformance to specifications
2. Ability to perform
3. Price
4. Past performance

U. Award

It is the intention to award this contract to the bidder(s) submitting the most favorable unit prices with consideration being given to any previous performance for the Board of Education as to quality of service and acceptable merchandise, and with regard to the bidder(s) ability to perform should it be awarded the contract. Awards may be made to one successful bidder submitting the lowest aggregate quotation on items of a similar nature or on an individual item basis. However, the MCPS Board of Education reserves the right to make awards according to the best interests of the Board of Education of Montgomery County, Maryland. In addition, the Board reserves the right to remove or add additional items to the specifications as our requirements change, as well as, add suppliers throughout the contract term should a need arise that cannot be facilitated by an awarded supplier.

V. Addenda/Errata

Changes and addenda to a solicitation may occur prior to the solicitation opening date and time. It is the sole responsibility of the bidder to check the “Event Calendar” on the MCPS website, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/procurement> or contact Saudy Espinal, Buyer II, in the MCPS Department of Procurement at saudy_espinaldeveloz@mcpsmd.org and Procurement@mcpsmd.org at to verify whether addenda/errata have been issued. Failure to provide the signed acknowledgement of the addenda/errata may result in the bid being deemed non-responsive.

W. Inquiries

Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be submitted in writing to Saudy Espinal, Buyer II, Montgomery County Public Schools, Department of Procurement, 45 W. Gude Drive Suite 3100 Rockville, Maryland 20850 via email to saudy_espinaldeveloz@mcpsmd.org and Procurement@mcpsmd.org. Questions shall be received no later than four business days prior to bid opening in order for the bidder to receive a reply prior to submitting its bid. The MCPS Board of Education will not be responsible for any oral or telephone explanation or interpretation. Bidder contact with any other MCPS employee regarding this solicitation until the contract is awarded by the MCPS Board of Education will be considered by MCPS as an attempt to obtain an unfair advantage and result in non-consideration of its bid. The Department of Procurement website is <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/procurement>

X. Contractors' Obligation Regarding Criminal Records of Individuals Assigned to Work in MCPS Facilities – N/A**I. Prohibition against assigning registered sex offenders and individuals convicted of sexual offenses, child sexual abuse, and other crimes of violence to MCPS contracts:**

Maryland Law requires that any person who enters into a contract with a county board of education “may not knowingly employ an individual to work at a school” if the individual is a registered sex offender. Under § 11-722 of the Criminal Procedure Article of the Maryland Code, an employer who violates this requirement is guilty of a misdemeanor and, if convicted, may be subject to up to five years imprisonment and/or a \$5000 fine.

Effective July 1, 2015, amendments to § 6-113 of the Education Article of the Maryland Code further require that a contractor or subcontractor for a local school system may not knowingly assign an employee to work on school premises with direct, unsupervised, and uncontrolled access to children, if the employee has been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, a crime involving:

- a) A sexual offense in the third or fourth degree under § 3–307 or § 3–308 of the Criminal Law Article of the Maryland Code or an offense under the laws of another state that would constitute an offense under § 3–307 or § 3–308 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland;
- b) Child sexual abuse under § 3-602 of the Criminal Law Article, or an offense under the laws of another state that would constitute child sexual abuse under § 3-602 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland; or
- c) A crime of violence as defined in § 14–101 of the Criminal Law Article, or an offense under the laws of another state that would be a violation of § 14–101 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in Maryland, including: (1) abduction; (2) arson in the first degree; (3) kidnapping; (4) manslaughter, except involuntary manslaughter; (5) mayhem;

(6) maiming; (7) murder; (8) rape; (9) robbery; (10) carjacking; (11) armed carjacking; (12) sexual offense in the first degree; (13) sexual offense in the second degree; (14) use of a handgun in the commission of a felony or other crime of violence; (15) child abuse in the first degree; (16) sexual abuse of a minor; (17) an attempt to commit any of the crimes described in items (1) through (16) of this list; (18) continuing course of conduct with a child under § 3-315 of the Criminal Law Article; (19) assault in the first degree; (20) assault with intent to murder; (21) assault with intent to rape; (22) assault with intent to rob; (23) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the first degree; and (24) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the second degree.

Each contractor is required to submit, following award of a contract, documentation confirming that its direct employees and those of any subcontractors and/or independent contractors assigned to perform work in a MCPS school facility under the contract meet this obligation. Additionally, the contractor must confirm that it continues to meet this obligation on an annual basis and/or when there are changes in the work-force that the contractor and/or its subcontractors use to perform the work required by the contract.

Violation of this provision is a material breach of contract for which MCPS may take appropriate action up to and including termination of the contract.

II. Required criminal background check process for certain individuals in the contractor's workforce:

Under recent amendments to § 5-561 of the Family Law Article of the Maryland Code, each contractor and subcontractor shall require that any individuals in its work-force must undergo a criminal background check, including fingerprinting, if the individuals will work in a MCPS school facility in circumstances where they have direct, unsupervised, and uncontrolled access to children. The term "work-force" in this and the preceding section refers to all of the contractor's direct employees, subcontractors and their employees, and/or independent contractors and their employees that the contractor uses to perform the work required by the contract.

Fingerprinting for the criminal background check may be performed at any fingerprinting agency approved by the State of Maryland. A list of MCPS approved fingerprinting agencies can be found on the Department of Procurement website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/procurement>.

The contractor must take appropriate steps to promptly follow up on information identified in the criminal background check related to the sexual offenses, child sexual abuse offenses, and crimes of violence enumerated above, as well as any information regarding offenses involving distribution of drugs or other controlled substances, or any other criminal information identified by MCPS as warranting further explanation insofar as it may significantly affect the safety and security of MCPS students. If, after following up, the contractor believes that the individual is qualified and should be assigned to work (or continue to work) in a MCPS school facility, then the contractor will provide a written summary to MCPS justifying its recommendation. MCPS will rely on the contractor's summary to determine whether to accept the contractor's recommendation, and the

contractor will be responsible for any consequences of a material misrepresentation in its written summary.

Once the contract is awarded, the contractor is responsible for implementing the background check process. An individual in the contractor's work-force may not begin work in a MCPS school facility on an assignment where the individual will have direct, unsupervised, and uncontrolled access to children, until: (a) the background check results for that individual have been received by MCPS; (b) the contractor certifies to MCPS that the individual has received training and/or reviewed informational materials, as appropriate, regarding recognizing, reporting, and preventing child abuse and neglect, consistent with the content provided in training for MCPS employees; and (c) the individual obtains a MCPS identification badge. The badge will be issued by the MCPS Department of Systemwide Safety and Emergency Management, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 131, Rockville, MD 20850. Appointments are made by calling 301-279-3066. The contractor will be required to return all badges at the conclusion of the contract.

The criminal background check and badging process will be at the contractor's expense.

Violation of this provision is a material breach of contract for which MCPS may take appropriate action up to and including termination of the contract.

Y. Work-Based Learning for Employer

In an effort to build a robust program to offer students work opportunities through apprenticeships and internships, MCPS partners with employers to find talented youth for high demand careers. MCPS trains and supports youth employees for your organization so you can help our talented youth move into careers that support your business.

Please acknowledge below your interest in partnering with MCPS and the [work-based learning program](#). If you are not interested in participating in this program, it **does not impact the award** of this bid favorably or negatively.

Yes, I am interested in partnering _____

If yes, please complete the information in the following link and someone will contact you with more information:

[MCPS Employer Interest Form](#)

No, I am not interested in partnering _____

