

**Office of Finance
Division of Procurement
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland**

Invitation for Bid #4087.13, Office and School Supplies

GENERAL CONDITIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

A. Intent

The specifications contained herein are intended to cover the furnishing and delivery of office and school supplies. Deliveries are to be made to the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Supply and Property Management, Supply Warehouse, 502 North Stonestreet Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

B. Delivery

Delivery will be required within 14 days after receipt by the successful bidder(s) of a purchase order issued and signed by the director of the Division of Procurement.

Deliveries to MCPS Supply and Property Management shall occur by appointment between the business hours of 7:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding school holidays. All deliveries are by appointment only. Contact the MCPS Warehouse at 240-740-5160 to schedule appointments. All appointments shall be scheduled at least twenty-four hours in advance, but may be made further in advance to assure appointment availability. MCPS reserves the right to reject deliveries made without an 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 mismarked purchase orders will be reshipped at the vendor's expense.**

This bid provides for stocking the MCPS Supply Warehouse which supplies approximately 208 schools and 30 offices. MCPS Supply Warehouse ships products with unit of issue, which may differ, from your supplier's standard package. It is necessary for the products on this bid to be priced and invoiced by the MCPS unit of issue listed in the item specification. Vendors must provide a volume price based on the total yearly quantity.

Purchase orders will be issued based on MCPS unit price. MCPS will issue each order in sufficient quantities to meet vendor's standard packaging. Therefore, vendors should take care to state their quantity packaging.

C. Awards

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 ability to perform

should it be awarded the contract. Awards may be made to one successful vendor submitting the lowest aggregate quotation on items of a similar nature or on an individual item basis. However, the Board 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.

D. Contract Term

The term of contract shall be for one year as stipulated on the Invitation for Bid. However, the contract may begin after approval by the 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 vendor(s) 90 days prior to the expiration of the original contract. The vendor(s) will have 10 days from the date of notification to return the notice acknowledging its intent to accept or reject the extension. Once all responses are evaluated, MCPS staff may make a recommendation to the Board of Education to extend the contract or decide to rebid. If the contract is extended by the Board of Education a contract amendment will be issued.

E. 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 anytime prior to award. Recommendations for awards, however, shall be made based on the original bid submission only.

Subsequent to award, the unit prices quoted herein are subject to price adjustment upward or downward in accordance with increases or decreases announced by the manufacturer after the contract award. The successful bidder must notify the director of the Division of Procurement 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 vendor 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 request. MCPS reserves the right to accept or reject the request as may be determined to be in the best interest of MCPS. Any orders received prior to a request for a price increase shall be honored at the original contract price. If the request for a price increase is approved, a contract amendment will be issued.

F. Brand Names

Unless specified as "only" references 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 such 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.

G. Interpretation

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

H. Samples

Samples are required prior 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 and shall be forwarded to MCPS, Department of Materials Management, 502 N. Stonestreet Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 to the attention of Kevin Soisson.** 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 for that item.

I. 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 its 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.

J. Quotations

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 of styles 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 which do not meet specifications in every respect from being offered as a separate item for consideration for future bids. Such product shall be **offered under separate cover**, identified as a new product and a brief explanation written as a part of the offer detailing the advantages which 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.

The solicitation shall be valid for acceptance during a period of no less than 90 days from date of opening. Once the contract is approved, terms and conditions of the solicitation shall prevail throughout the contract period.

K. Warranty

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 and to the satisfaction of MCPS.

L. Quantities

The item quantities specified herein 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 vendor(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 the purchase order. The usual quantity per order is one fourth of the total quantity stated.

M. Packaging

All items shall be clearly marked with the brand name of the article, quantity enclosed, size and/or color. All bulk material listed in the item specifications and designated by the word "Pallet", shall be delivered on pallets not less than 36 inches wide. The material shall be palletized in accordance with accepted trade practices. Pallets may be of the disposable type.

N. Customer References

Bidders are required to provide three references. The references shall have company name, contact person, address and phone number of three (3) current customers for which a contract for similar size and products have been provided. If the reference information is not accurate and MCPS cannot contact the person(s) named then your bid may not be considered.

<u>Company Name & Address</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>
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1. _____

Email: _____

2. _____

Email: _____

3. _____

Email: _____

O. Award Criteria

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

P. Errata/Addendum

Changes and addenda may occur prior to the solicitation opening date and time. It is the sole responsibility of the vendor to check the “Event Calendar” on the MCPS website <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/procurement> or contact Laly Bowers by email at [Laly A Bowers@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Laly_A_Bowers@mcpsmd.org) and procurement@mcpsmd.org to verify whether addenda/errata have been issued. Failure to provide the signed acknowledgement of the addenda/errata may result in a bid being deemed non-responsive.

R. GIF Electronic Picture File

Upon determination of award, all suppliers submitting a response to this Invitation for Bid will be sent a Pre-Award Notification which will detail all of the awards that will be recommended to the Board of Education. Upon receipt of the Final Award Notification, it is requested that suppliers email a GIF or JPEG electronic picture file, no more than 100 x100 pixels in size to. [TinaMarie M Booth@mcpsmd.org](mailto:TinaMarie_M_Booth@mcpsmd.org) Each file name must include the product model #, IFB #, and the full, legal name of the supplier.

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 awarded 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.

T. eMaryland Marketplace Advantage

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

U. Inquiries

All inquiries concerning this bid must be submitted in writing to Laly Bowers, Buyer II, Montgomery County Public Schools, Division of Procurement, Rockville, Maryland 20850, by email [Laly A Bowers@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Laly_A_Bowers@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 Board of Education will not be responsible for any oral or telephone explanation or interpretation. Vendor contact with any other MCPS employee regarding this solicitation will be considered by MCPS as an attempt to obtain an unfair advantage and result in non-consideration of its bid. The MCPS Procurement website address is <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/procurement/>

I. DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS

When bidding a brand other than the specified brand on tapes, items #14748, 14749, 14750, 14751, 14752, 14753, 14754, 14755, 14756, 14759, and 28854 bidders shall submit with their bid an independent laboratory report showing the comparable test results of the brand offered with the brand specified.

Item #'s: 14676, 14678, 14680, 14681, and 39727 Pencils

Common hexagonal, yellow lacquer, brass ferrule, pink eraser, lead in suitable materials to produce smooth, even and uniform writing throughout. Casing of soft straight grain wood, not easily split or splintered, producing a smooth, even finish. Both halves of the casing uniform in structure securely glued together throughout. Lead to be bonded to wood. Eraser of good quality firmly secured in a suitable metal tip. Overall length 7”, polished finish with degree of hardness stamped thereon. Pencil to be of a quality generally considered to be a medium grade or better. Packed one dozen per box, 12 dozen per carton. AS Dixon. (Pencil must pass scan test for carbon content).

Q. Contractors' Obligation Regarding Criminal Records of Individuals Assigned to Work in MCPS Facilities N/A (Deliveries to the warehouse)

State mandate that All MCPS contracts must include the following provisions:

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 Procurement Unit 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 Safety and Security, 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.