

**Office of Finance  
Division of Procurement  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
45 W. Gude Drive, Suite 3100  
Rockville, Maryland 20850**

**December 19, 2022**

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

**The following are questions and responses regarding  
Request for Proposal No. 4366.3, MCPS GIVE BACKpacks Program**

**Question 1: When was a similar contract last awarded?**

**Answer:** A similar contract was awarded in April 2019.

**Question 2: Who won that contract?**

**Answer:** School Kidz, LLC, won the prior contract.

**Question 3: What was the price of the winning bid?**

**Answer:** This information is proprietary and confidential.

**Question 4: Who was the manufacturer of the winning bid?**

**Answer:** It has not been determined whether this information is proprietary and confidential. However, you can submit a request under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA). Instructions can be found on the MCPS website. Please see the following link:  
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/>

**Question 5: I have a few questions pertaining to section 3.0 Scope of Services:**

**3.1a. Backpacks Dimensions, Specifications & Colors:**

**Elementary School Sizing—Would you consider accepting either a 15” x 12” x 5” [backpack] or a 17” x 12” 6” [backpack]? Would you consider a backpack without mesh (netted) pockets? (Standard size backpacks for elementary school age children is 15”x 12” x 5”)**

**Secondary School Sizing—Would you consider accepting an 18” x 12” x 6” backpack? Does the color breakdown have to be 75% Charcoal/Black, 25% assorted colors? (Standard size backpacks for secondary school age is 17” x 12” x 5”) Can we mix more than 1 style in the assortment?**

**Answer:**

Elementary School Sizing—We would accept 15” x 12” x 5” backpacks for Option 2 and would accept 17” x 12” 6” backpacks for all 3 options. The backpacks need to have pockets and the mesh (netted) pockets are preferred.

Secondary School Sizing—We would accept 18” x 12” x 6” backpacks for both secondary options. We want to ensure that more backpacks are black/charcoal and would prefer to have the breakdown be as close to 75% Charcoal/Black and 25% assorted colors. The styles can be mixed, but we would need to see the samples and approve all of the backpacks that would be distributed to the schools.

**Follow-up Information (Per the pre-proposal conference held on December 19, 2022):**

- Please see below for the number of backpacks that were ordered over the past four years:
  - 2019 – 13,800 backpack kits
  - 2020 – 26,000 virtual kits without backpacks (bundled school supplies that were distributed to students for virtual learning during the pandemic)
  - 2021 – 18,000 backpack kits
  - 2022 – 9,000 backpack kits (due to significant price increase)
- Any substitutions to the approved backpacks/school supply items would need to be communicated in advance of the change, as it will require approval by the Department of Partnerships. If you already know of possible alternatives, please include this information in your response.
- As clarification, when referring to a “computer sleeve,” this means a separate compartment within the backpack, which can be used to store a laptop. This does not mean removable or individual laptop sleeves that can be placed in backpacks.
- Please see the Erratum notice for information on price adjustments. In addition, vendors will have an opportunity to request price increases during the renewal period (prior to the start of a new term).
- The largest orders will be placed in June (prior to the innovative school calendar) and August (prior to the beginning of the school year). However, smaller orders may still be placed outside of these timeframes.

Caleb L. Young, Buyer II  
Division of Procurement

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Please indicate your receipt of this notice by signing below and returning with your proposal or under a separate cover.

Accepted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name & Title)

Name of Company: \_\_\_\_\_