

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

June 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Thomas W. Taylor, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Expenditure Authorization to Enter into Contracts of \$25,000 or More

☐ Information ☒ Action

Superintendent Recommendation:

The superintendent recommends that the Board of Education authorize the execution of contracts of \$25,000 or more, and the expenditures up to the value indicated.

Formal bids and requests for proposals were obtained and evaluated by staff members in the Department of Procurement, Division of Financial Management, in consultation with the users. The tabulations, cost comparisons, and budget account verifications are available in the Department of Procurement files. Summary information about vendors that receive payments of \$25,000 or more under Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §5-112, §5-112(a)(3), and Board of Education Policy DJA, *MCPS Procurement Practices and Bid Awards*, during a fiscal year, July 1 through June 30 of the following calendar year, is available in the Funding Accountability and Transparency [database](#) on the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) website. The information identifying vendors by names and locations is the information submitted on the Internal Revenue Service Form W-9, with local affiliates noted as applicable.

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and contractual services; now therefore it be

Resolved, That having been duly advertised or justified, the following contracts be awarded to the most responsive and responsible bidders or offerors, meeting specifications as follows:

Division of Financial Management

- Contract Name:** Annual Auditing Services—Extension
Responsible Division: Division of Financial Oversight
- 1080.5 **Description:** This is a request to approve the second year of a two-year contract for annual auditing services. Audits shall be performed in accordance with the generally accepted auditing standards promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and AICPA industry audit guide, audits of state and local governmental units, and all federal/state audit regulations that pertain to MCPS.
- Awardee:**
SB & Company, LLC, Owings Mills, Maryland \$108,500
[DBE-Owned]
- RFP Name:** Custodian Bank Services for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Retirement System Trust—Extension
- 1200.1 **Responsible Department:** Department of Investments
- Description:** This is a request to approve an annual extension of the contract. The vendor will serve as the master trustee/custodian provider for MCPS in five different capacities: custody services (stand-alone); benefit payment management (stand-alone); custody services and benefit payment management; custody services and portfolio analytics; and lastly, custody services, benefit payment management, and portfolio analytics.
- Funding Source:** Pension Trust
- Awardee:**
The Northern Trust Company, Chicago, Illinois \$369,577
- Contract Name:** Prioritizing Resources and Initiatives for Strategic Management (PRISM)
- 5038.1 **Responsible Division:** Division of Financial Management
- Description:** This is a request to authorize MCPS to enter into a contract through a program that offers a highly specialized and comprehensive service, designed to support district leaders and stakeholders in conducting a systemwide analysis of initiatives using district-defined criteria, aligning initiatives and the district's strategic plan.
- Awardee:**
District Management Group, LLC, Boston, Massachusetts \$450,000

Division of Equity and Organizational Development

RFP Name: Professional and Supporting Service Training

Responsible Department: Department of Professional Learning

- 4271.1 **Description:** This is a request to approve a new annual contract. The vendor will provide professional development for teachers, instructional coaching, and leadership training. This strengthens teacher effectiveness, builds professional learning communities, and advances equitable, high-expectations teaching practices.

Funding Source: Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Grant, Title II, Part A—Supporting Effective Instruction

Awardee:

Research For Better Teaching, Acton, Massachusetts

\$92,487

Contract Name: Higher Education Partnerships—Towson Tiger Teachers

Responsible Department: Department of Professional Learning

- 5030.1 **Description:** This is a request to approve a new annual contract with Towson University. They will provide MCPS employees an accessible pathway to earn their bachelor's degree with teaching licensure in elementary and special education.

Awardee:

State of Maryland dba Towson University, Towson, Maryland

\$39,330

Contract Name: Restorative Practices—Extension

Responsible Division: Division of Equity and Organizational Development

- 5035.1 **Description:** This is a request to approve an annual extension of the contract. The vendor will partner with MCPS to advance restorative justice through pre-conference interviews, student listening circles, and a restorative justice conference with members of the school community. This service aims to support MCPS' commitment to fostering healing, equity, and stronger relationships within the school community.

Funding Source: MSDE Grant, Title IV, Part A, Stronger Connections

Awardee:

BFDI International Training Institute, Southfield, Michigan

\$60,367

Contract Name: Academic and Educational Goods and Services—Extension

Responsible Department: Department of Professional Learning

220802 **Description:** This is a request to exercise the first of three available annual extensions of the contract bridged through The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS). The vendor developed a suite of products to assist K–12 school districts in the management, assessment, and analysis of professional learning and growth, which offers a customized approach to school districts seeking to optimize the impact of their professional learning efforts. The products help districts make meaning of their processes and data with analytics that connect support efforts to organizational change

Funding Source: MSDE Grant, Title IV Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment,

Awardee:

KickUp, Inc., Claymont, Delaware

\$176,266

Division of Specialized Support Services

Contract Name: Special Education Operations—Extension

Responsible Department: Department of Special Education Prekindergarten and Related Services

4264.1 **Description:** This is a request to extend the annual contract for services provided by the Orientation and Mobility Instructors that aid school systems throughout the state of Maryland, to meet the orientation and mobility needs of students with visual impairments. These are certified professionals trained in systematic instruction of sensory skills, concept development, motor development, and spatial and environmental awareness

Awardee:

Maryland School of the Blind, Baltimore, Maryland

\$120,634

RFP Name: Recovery and Academic Programs (RAP) Services

Responsible Department: Department of Psychological Services

4454.3 **Description:** This is a request to approve a new contract for the delivery of recovery and substance use support services for high school students participating in the Recovery and Academic Program (RAP). RAP services are designed to assist students whose substance use has impacted their academic engagement and school success.

Awardee:

Jewish Social Service Agency dba JSSA, Rockville, Maryland

\$150,000

RFP Name: Assistive Technology Reading and Writing Tool

Responsible Division: Division of Special Education

7232.2 **Description:** This is a request to approve a new contract for the purchase of a software solution to support a diverse population of learners /users, including those with learning disabilities, reading and writing challenges, and Emergent Multilingual Learners.

Awardee:

Everway Holdco, LLC, dba Everway LLC, Huron, Ohio

\$98,120

Division of Teaching and Learning

RFP Name: Coaching for Improvements in Literacy and Math—Extension

Responsible Department: Department of Curriculum Development

2024-39 **Description:** This is a request to approve an annual contract bridged through Washington County Public Schools. The vendor will support MCPS by continuing the implementation of Core Knowledge Language Arts in the district's middle schools. Implementation support includes centralized expectations, systems, and resources, as well as providing professional learning for leaders, content specialists, and English Language Arts/English Language Development teachers.

Awardee:

TNTP, Inc., New York, New York

\$437,596

RFP Name: College Readiness Assessment
Programs—Extension

Responsible Department: Department of College and Career
Readiness

- 4287.1 **Description:** This is a request to approve a new annual contract for College Readiness Programs, including the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), ACT, PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, ACCUPLACER, and the Grade 10 “SAT School Day” event. This contract will be effective through June 30, 2027.

Awardee:

College Board, Princeton, New Jersey

\$681,208

Contract Name: Programs and Services with Strathmore Hall

Responsible Department: Department of Curriculum
Development

- 4379.1 **Description:** This is a request to approve additional funds for the contract with Strathmore Hall Foundations, Inc. This vendor provides access to the performance hall and professional artists to support all projects. Additional concerts were scheduled in Fiscal Year 2026; therefore, additional funding is required. Funds initially were approved at the January 22, 2026, Board of Education business meeting (Resolution No. 20-26) for this vendor in the amount of \$116,500. The additional funds will increase the contract total to \$124,913.

Awardee:

Strathmore Hall Foundations, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland

\$8,413

Contract Name: DASH Grant What Works in Schools

Responsible Department: Department of Curriculum
Development

- 4614.1 **Description:** This is a request to approve additional funds under the contract, which was originally approved at the March 26, 2026, Board of Education business meeting (Resolution No. 92-26) in the amount of \$25,000. The consultant will be responsible for maintaining ongoing, internal project management to ensure adherence to the timeline and schedule of deliverables under the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Cooperative Agreement 0139. The additional funds will increase the contract total to \$50,000.
Funding Source: CDC Division of Adolescent School Health (DASH) Improving Adolescent Health and Well-Being Grant

Awardee:

Alexandra Erinn Zimbelman dba Alexandra Zimbelman LLC,
Portland, Oregon
[DBE-Owned]

\$15,000

Contract Name: Interactive Online Simulations for Math and Science

Responsible Department: Department of Curriculum Development

5034.1 **Description:** This is a request to approve a new contract. The vendor will provide online simulations and case studies for math and science that power inquiry and understanding through hands-on learning and experimentation. The STEM interactive simulations or “Gizmos” use an inquiry-based instructional approach that promotes investigation and discovery.

Awardee:

LAZEL Inc., (formerly ExploreLearning) Dallas, Texas

\$258,188

Contract Name: Foundational Biotech Skills

Responsible Department: Department of Curriculum Development

5036.1 **Description:** This is a request to approve a new annual contract. The vendor will provide MCPS middle school students with hands-on exposure to tools and processes that are commonly found in real biotech laboratories. These labs help understand DNA analysis, genetic diseases, molecular diagnostics, and DNA fingerprinting through hands-on experiments using gel electrophoresis.

Awardee:

Ampliyus LLC dba miniPCR bio, Cambridge, Massachusetts

\$102,768

Contract Name: Certification Training and Test Vouchers

Responsible Department: Department of College and Career Readiness

5040.1 **Description:** This is a request to approve a new contract. The vendor will provide MCPS with access to the CompTIA Learning Platform and certification exam vouchers to support instructional programs in information technology, cybersecurity, networking, and related computer science, as

well as career and technical education pathways. The services provided through this agreement will support high school students enrolled in MCPS' Career and Technical Education programs.

Funding Source: MSDE Grants, Perkins Grant, Title IV Grant, and P-TECH

Awardee:

CompTIA, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

\$79,203

RFP Name: Academic and Educational Goods and Services

Responsible Department: Department of Curriculum Development

240804 **Description:** This is a request to approve the contract bridged through The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS). The vendor will provide Online Platforms for Grades K–5 to serve as the primary curriculum resource for all elementary MCPS schools. The curriculum works in tandem with the MCPS standards and provides teachers with flexible, proven resources to ensure equitable access.

Awardee:

QuaverEd, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee

\$256,500

TOTAL PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS OF \$25,000 OR MORE

\$3,504,157

TWT:IAW:amd

Attachment

Bid Activity-Expenditures
June 25, 2026

Attachment

Bid/RFP No.	Bid/RFP Name	No. of Vendors Mailed	No. DBE Vendors Mailed	Total No. of Bids Received	Total No. of DBE Bids Received	Total No. of Bids Awarded	Total No. of DBE Contracts Awarded
1080.5	Annual Auditing Services—Extension	9	1	3	1	1	1
1200.1	Custodian Bank Services for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Retirement System Trust—Extension	7	0	3	0	1	0
5038.1	Prioritizing Resources and Initiatives for Strategic Management (PRISM)	N/A					
4271.1	Professional and Supporting Service Training	N/A					
5030.1	Higher Education Partnerships—Towson Tiger Teachers	N/A					
5035.1	Restorative Practices—Extension	N/A					
220802	Academic and Educational Goods and Services—Extension	Bridged through Interlocal Purchasing System					
4264.1	Special Education Operations—Extension	N/A					
4454.3	Recovery and Academic Program (RAP) Services	145	18	2	1	1	0
7232.2	Assistive Technology Reading and Writing Tool	20	0	3	0	1	0
2024-39	Coaching for Improvements in Literacy and Math—Extension	Bridged through Washington County Public Schools					
4287.1	College Readiness Assessment Programs—Extension	N/A					
4379.1	Programs and Services with Strathmore Hall	N/A					
4614.1	DASH Grant What Works in Schools	N/A					
5034.1	Interactive Online Simulations for Math and Science	N/A					
5036.1	Foundational Biotech Skills	N/A					

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June 25, 2026

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Bid/RFP No.	Bid/RFP Name	No. of Vendors Mailed	No. DBE Vendors Mailed	Total No. of Bids Received	Total No. of DBE Bids Received	Total No. of Bids Awarded	Total No. of DBE Contracts Awarded
5040.1	Certification Training and Test Vouchers	N/A					
240804	Academic and Educational Goods and Services	Bridge through the Interlocal Purchasing System					