

March 31, 2026

RFP Number: 8120.1
Prebid Conference: April 15, 2026
Due Date: April 24, 2026

To: Prospective Offerors:

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), in collaboration with Montgomery County, Maryland, is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit qualified vendors to provide a comprehensive School Bus Stop-Arm Camera Safety Program. This program aims to enhance student safety by detecting and deterring illegal passing of stopped school buses.

A virtual pre-proposal conference will be held on April 15, 2026 at 11:00a.m. EST via Zoom. The conference will not be recorded. Information to access the conference is contained in the RFP, Section 14.0. Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted by the close of business, 4:00 p.m., on April 13, 2026.

Please respond according to the instructions provided in the attached. Proposals must be received on or before April 24, 2026 at 2:00pm. Proposals received after this date and time will not be considered. Proposals shall be delivered in a sealed envelope with the RFP number, opening date and opening time indicated in the lower left corner of the envelope. Proposals shall be delivered to MCPS Department of Procurement, 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 3100, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

The offeror must submit one (1) original, one (1) redacted copy, one (1) electronic version on flash drive and one (1) separate copy of the proposal. The proposal must be signed by an official having authority to contract with MCPS. The firm and official's name shall be used. This solicitation does not commit MCPS to pay any costs incurred in the submission of proposals or guarantee that an award will be made.

In the event of emergency closing of the MCPS Board of Education offices, this RFP will be accepted at the same time on the next regular working day.

AMD
Enclosure

Sincerely,



Angela McIntosh Davis
Director, Department of Procurement

Office of Financial Management
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Division of Procurement, Suite 3100
45 West Gude Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Request for Proposal #8120.1

SCHOOL BUS STOP-ARM CAMERA SAFETY PROGRAM
Equipment, Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Services

1.0 INTENT

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), in collaboration with Montgomery County, Maryland, is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit qualified vendors to provide a comprehensive School Bus Stop-Arm Camera Safety Program. This program aims to enhance student safety by detecting and deterring illegal passing of stopped school buses.

Maryland law prohibits vehicles from overtaking or passing a stopped school bus operating its alternately flashing red lights (Md. Code Ann., Transp. §21-706). The violation of this law poses significant safety risks to students boarding and exiting school buses. To address this critical safety concern, Maryland law authorizes local jurisdictions to collaborate with boards of education to install school bus monitoring cameras on school buses to record images of vehicles overtaking and passing stopped school buses and to impose civil penalties on vehicle owners for violating the law.

MCPS currently operates a fleet of approximately 1,500 school buses, with potential growth to 1,600 buses. The selected vendor will be required to provide, install, operate, and maintain a state-of-the-art camera system capable of capturing high-quality images and video evidence of stop-arm violations.

The primary objectives of this program are:

- To enhance student safety by deterring illegal passing of stopped school buses through the installation and operation of exterior-mounted stop-arm cameras
- To capture clear, evidentiary-quality images and video of vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses
- To enable efficient identification and processing of violations in coordination with Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)
- To provide comprehensive violation processing services including review, citation issuance, payment processing, and customer service
- To improve public awareness and compliance with school bus safety laws
- To generate accurate data and analytics for program evaluation and continuous improvement
- To provide internal and external surveillance recordings to investigate alleged student misconduct, alleged staff misconduct, injuries, and accident investigations

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is the 15th largest school system in the United States, and the largest in the state of Maryland. During the 2025–2026 school year, MCPS served more than 156,000 students

from 157 countries speaking 162 languages. With a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Operating Budget of approximately \$3.6 billion, MCPS employs more than 25,800 employees. Among the 211 schools that MCPS operates, 45 are National Blue-Ribbon schools. Six MCPS high schools rank in the top 200 of The Washington Post's 2015 High School Challenge, and all 25 MCPS high schools appear on this list, which only includes the top 11 percent of high schools in the country. MCPS has one of the highest graduation rates among the nation's largest school districts, according to an Education Week report. In 2010, MCPS was the recipient of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the highest presidential honor given to American organizations for performance excellence.

3.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES

The selected Contractor shall provide a complete, turnkey School Bus Stop-Arm Camera Safety Program that includes all equipment, software, installation, training, operation, maintenance, and violation processing services. The Contractor shall be responsible for all aspects of the program as detailed below.

3.1 EQUIPMENT AND INTALLATION

The Contractor shall provide and install all necessary equipment on MCPS school buses, including but not limited to:

- Exterior-mounted stop-arm cameras capable of capturing license plates and vehicle information
- Exterior cameras not targeted toward stop-arm enforcement to capture views of each side of the bus, its surroundings and traffic
- No less than four interior cameras recording audio and video of the driver seat area, any loading areas, passenger section
- Non-enforcement cameras must be of sufficient quality, placement and number to provide comprehensive views to serve the needs for training, surveillance and investigations
- On-board digital video recording systems
- GPS tracking and geolocation systems
- Communication hardware for data transmission
- All necessary mounting hardware, cabling, and power supplies
- Any additional hardware and software needed to ensure full system functionality
- All hardware and software for video retrieval

3.1.2 System Operation and Monitoring

The Contractor shall:

- Monitor system functionality daily using automated health check systems
- Ensure continuous operation of all installed equipment
- Collect and securely transmit digital images and video footage to the Contractor's servers
- Review captured violations for quality and evidentiary standards
- Provide a secure web-based portal for authorized MCPS and County personnel to access system data

3.1.3 Violation Processing System

The Contractor shall provide a comprehensive Violation Processing System that includes:

- Initial review and analysis of all captured violations

- Vehicle owner identification through Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) records
- Preparation of violation packages for County review and approval
- Citation printing and mailing within 14 days of the violation date
- Provision of online payment portal for citation recipients
- Processing of all payment methods (online, mail, phone, in-person)
- Comprehensive customer service center including phone and email support
- Management of disputes, appeals, and hearings coordination
- Timely distribution of collected revenues to MCPS and the County

3.1.4 Maintenance and Technical Support

The Contractor shall:

- Provide all necessary maintenance and repairs to installed equipment
- Maintain adequate inventory of spare parts and replacement equipment
- Designate a Maintenance Supervisor and sufficient staff for timely repairs
- Respond promptly to system failures and equipment malfunctions
- Provide equipment upgrades and technology improvements as needed
- Replace stolen, damaged, or inoperable equipment at no cost to MCPS

3.2 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS – SEE APPENDIX B - TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed system must meet or exceed the following technical specifications:

3.2.1 Camera System Requirements

- High-definition video capture capability (minimum 1080p resolution)
- Ability to capture clear license plate images in various lighting and weather conditions
- Wide-angle coverage to capture approaching and passing vehicles
- Automatic activation when stop-arm is deployed
- Timestamping and GPS coordinates embedded in all captures
- Durable, weatherproof construction suitable for all-season operation
- Ability to capture multiple lanes of traffic simultaneously
- Internal Camera to monitor the driver's activities with audio and video
- Internal camera to record audio and video of each passenger loading area
- Internal camera to record audio and video of the front third of the bus passenger cabin
- Internal camera to record audio and video of middle section of the bus passenger cabin
- Internal camera to record audio and video of the rear section of the bus passenger cabin with the downward view of the back rows
- External cameras that record each passenger loading/unloading area
- External cameras each side of the bus, its surroundings and traffic such that evidence for accident investigations would be gathered with minimal blindspots
- External camera with a rear view facing down

3.2.2 Data Storage and Management

- Secure on-board storage with redundancy capabilities
- Automated wireless data transmission via cellular or WiFi networks
- Cloud-based storage with appropriate retention policies

- Encryption of all data in transit and at rest
- Chain of custody documentation for all evidentiary materials

3.2.3 Software Platform Requirements

- Web-based access portal compatible with modern browsers
- Role-based access control with individual user credentials
- Real-time system status monitoring and reporting
- License plate recognition (LPR) capabilities
- Integration capabilities with County systems for citation approval workflow
- Comprehensive reporting and analytics tools
- Audit trail functionality for all user actions
- Mobile-responsive design for field access

3.2.4 Compliance and Security Requirements

- Compliance with all federal, state, and local privacy laws
- Regular security assessments and vulnerability testing
- Disaster recovery and business continuity plans
- Prevention of unauthorized video downloads through tracking mechanisms

3.3 CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Contractor shall assume full responsibility for the following:

3.3.1 Project Management

- Designate a dedicated Program Manager as the primary point of contact
- Develop and maintain project implementation schedule
- Coordinate all activities with MCPS and Montgomery County staff
- Provide regular status updates and progress reports
- Manage all subcontractors and vendors

3.3.2 Installation and Deployment

- Develop phased installation plan with minimal disruption to bus operations
- Provide all labor, materials, and equipment for installation
- Conduct thorough testing of all installed systems before activation
- Complete installation on all buses according to agreed schedule
- Coordinate with MCPS Division of Transportation Services for bus availability

3.3.3 Quality Assurance

- Implement comprehensive quality control procedures
- Review all violation captures for accuracy and evidentiary quality
- Reject false positives and non-violations before submission to County
- Ensure citation packages meet legal and procedural requirements

3.3.4 Customer Service

- Operate a customer service center with adequate staffing during business hours
- Provide multiple contact methods (phone, email, online portal)
- Respond to inquiries within established timeframes
- Handle payment processing and account inquiries
- Manage dispute resolution and hearing coordination
- Maintain professional and courteous communication at all times
- Provide support for other video retrieval activities for security, misbehavior and accident investigations

3.3.5 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

- Ensure all operations comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws
- Remain current with changes in relevant legislation and regulations
- Acknowledge that all citation issuance decisions rest solely with the County
- Provide expert testimony and support for contested citations as needed

3.4. PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor shall meet the following minimum performance standards:

3.4.1 System Uptime and Availability

- Maintain a minimum of 85% system uptime for all operational school buses equipped with cameras on assigned routes each month ("Uptime Average")
- Provide monthly reporting of Uptime Average
- Respond to equipment failures within 24 hours of notification
- Complete repairs or replacement within 5 business days of failure notification

3.4.2 Violation Processing Timeliness

- Submit violation packages to County for review within 3 business days of capture
- Mail citations within 14 days of violation date after County approval
- Ensure no citations are mailed beyond statutorily established spoilage dates
- Process payments and update accounts within 1 business day of receipt

3.4.3 Quality Standards

- Maintain accuracy rate of 95% or higher for license plate identification
- Achieve citation dismissal rate of less than 10% for quality-related issues
- Ensure all submitted violations meet evidentiary standards

3.4.4 Customer Service Standards

- Answer phone calls within 3 minutes during business hours
- Respond to email inquiries within 2 business days
- Maintain customer satisfaction rating of 80% or higher
- Resolve complaints within 10 business days

3.5 DATA MANAGEMENT/PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The Contractor agrees to safeguard all digital images, video, metadata, and other data obtained as part of the School Bus Safety Camera Program ("Data") at all times. The Contractor shall:

3.5.1 Confidentiality Requirement

- Utilize Data only for purposes consistent with the scope of this RFP
- Exercise due care in safeguarding Data against loss, theft, or inadvertent disclosure
- Establish safeguards consistent with applicable federal, state, and local law
- Comply with Board of Education policies and MCPS regulations relating to data security
- Protect student information and other sensitive data in accordance with FERPA and other applicable laws

3.5.2 Data Access and Control

- Implement role-based access controls with individual user credentials
- Ensure user credentials are not shared among users
- Restrict access to video content and incident data based on user roles
- Track and prevent unauthorized video downloads
- Maintain comprehensive audit logs of all system access and user actions

3.5.3 Data Retention and Disposal

- Maintain data retention policies compliant with Maryland law
- Securely dispose of data according to established schedules
- Provide data portability and return of all data upon contract termination
- Certify destruction of all copies after contract conclusion

3.5.4 Cybersecurity Requirements

- Implement industry-standard encryption for data in transit and at rest
- Conduct regular security assessments and penetration testing
- Maintain incident response and breach notification procedures
- Notify MCPS and County within 24 hours of any security incident or data breach
- Provide evidence of cybersecurity insurance coverage

As specified in more detail in the MCPS General Contract Articles and elsewhere in this RFP, the vendor will comply with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances applicable to this project, including but not limited to the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and its implementing regulations (34 C.F.R. part 99), the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act ("COPPA"), 15 U.S.C. § 6501-6505, and its implementing regulations (16 C.F.R. § 312, *et seq.*), the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, ("PPRA") 20 U.S.C. § 1232(h) and its implementing regulations (34 C.F.R. § 98.1 *et seq.*), the Maryland Student Privacy Act of 2015, Md. Ed. Code Ann., §4-131, Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.08, as well as applicable Board of Education policies and MCPS regulations, including but not limited to MCPS Regulation AFA-RA, *Research and Other Data Collection Activities in Montgomery County Public Schools*, MCPS Regulation JOA-RA, *Student Records*, and MCPS Regulation JFF-RA, *Federal Requirements for Use of Protected Student Information*.

3.6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor shall provide comprehensive reporting to MCPS and Montgomery County on a regular basis. All reports shall be provided in electronic format unless otherwise specified.

3.6.1 Monthly Reports

- The following reports shall be provided by the 10th day of each month for the preceding month:
- System Uptime Report showing operational status by bus and route
- Violation Statistics Report including number of violations captured, reviewed, submitted, and approved
- Citation Issuance Report detailing citations issued, mailed, and pending
- Payment Report showing payments received by type and location
- Customer Service Report including call volumes, inquiry types, and response times
- Revenue Collection Report with detailed breakdown and distribution
- Maintenance and Repair Log

3.6.2 Quarterly Reports

- Program Performance Analysis comparing metrics against established goals
- Trend Analysis showing violation patterns by location, time, and route
- Customer Satisfaction Survey Results

3.6.3 Annual Reports

- Comprehensive Annual Program Report including year-to-date statistics and program analysis
- Safety Impact Assessment evaluating program effectiveness
- Technology Assessment and Upgrade Recommendations

3.6.4 Ad Hoc Reporting

- Contractor shall provide additional reports as reasonably requested by MCPS or County
- Real-time access to system data through web portal

3.7 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor shall provide comprehensive training to MCPS and County personnel to ensure effective use of the School Bus Safety Camera System and associated software platforms.

3.7.1 Initial Training

Prior to program launch, the Contractor shall provide training covering:

- System overview and functionality
- Software platform navigation and features
- Violation review and approval procedures
- Data access and reporting tools
- Privacy and security requirements

3.7.2 Ongoing Training

- Provide training for new users within 2 weeks of request
- Conduct refresher training sessions annually or as needed
- Provide training on system updates and new features

3.7.3 Training Delivery Methods

- In-person training sessions at MCPS facilities
- Virtual/webinar training options
- Recorded training modules for self-paced learning
- Written user guides and reference materials
- Ongoing technical support and helpdesk services

3.7.4 Training Documentation

- Provide comprehensive user manuals and training materials
- Maintain training records and attendance logs
- Update documentation to reflect system changes

It is the intention to award to the most favorable respondent(s) based on the evaluation criteria in Section 12.0. However, the Montgomery County Board of Education reserves the right to make awards according to the best interest of MCPS. This request for proposal may result in multiple awards.

In determining the qualifications of an offeror, MCPS will consider the offeror's record and performance of any prior contracts with MCPS, federal departments or agencies, or other public bodies, including but not limited to the offeror's record providing online digital curriculum services to MCPS or other schools or school districts. MCPS expressly reserves the right to reject the proposal of any offeror if the investigation discloses that the offeror, in the opinion of MCPS, has not properly performed such prior contracts or has habitually and without just cause neglected the payment of bills or has otherwise disregarded its obligations to subcontractors or employees.

MCPS may conduct any necessary investigation to determine the ability of the offeror to perform the work, and the offeror shall furnish to MCPS all such information and data requested, such as information about its reputation, past performance, business and financial capability and other factors that demonstrate that the provider is capable of satisfying MCPS' needs and requirements for a specific contract. MCPS reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by the offeror or investigation of such offeror fails to satisfy MCPS that such offeror is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete all requirements contemplated therein. Consideration will be given to any previous performance with MCPS as to the quality and the acceptability of bidder's services.

All offerors submitting a proposal shall include evidence that they maintain a permanent place of business. Copies of any appropriate licenses necessary to perform this work shall be submitted with each proposal. Offerors also shall demonstrate that they have adequate staff to perform the required services. Use of subcontractor(s) and/or third-party providers, if any, must be specifically identified within the proposal. Subcontractor and/or third-party provider roles shall be clearly expressed. MCPS reserves the right to accept or reject use of proposed subcontractor(s) and/or third-party provider(s).

MCPS reserves the right to add or delete Contractors throughout the contract term should MCPS determine, in its sole discretion, that there be a need for additional services not available from the awarded Contractors.

4.0 CONTRACT TERM

The initial term of contract shall be for an initial two (2) year as stipulated on the RFP. 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

three additional terms for one (1) year each. Written notice indicating MCPS' intention to pursue the extension of the contract will be issued to the successful vendor 90 days prior to the expiration of the original contract. The vendor shall have ten (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 MCPS Board of Education to extend the contract or decide to rebid. If the contract is extended by the MCPS Board of Education, a contract amendment will be issued.

5.0 PRICING STRUCTURE

Proposers shall provide detailed pricing information for all services described in this RFP. MCPS is seeking proposals that are cost-effective and provide value to the program.

5.1 Pricing Model Options

Proposers may submit pricing based on one or more of the following models:

- Revenue-sharing model based on percentage of collected citation fines as outlined above of at least 40%
- Per-violation fee model
- Per-bus monthly or annual fee model
- Hybrid model combining elements of the above
- Alternative pricing models (must be fully explained)

5.2 Required Pricing Information

Proposals must include detailed breakdowns of all costs, including:

- Equipment costs (if applicable)
- Installation costs (if applicable)
- Monthly or annual service fees
- Per-violation processing fees
- Maintenance and support costs
- Training costs
- Any additional fees or charges

5.3 Pricing Assumptions

Proposers shall base pricing on the following assumptions:

- Initial fleet size of almost 1,500 buses
- Potential growth to 1,600 buses during contract term
- 5-year initial contract term with renewal options
- Current fine amount of \$_____ per citation (subject to change by law)

5.4 Payment Terms

- Proposers shall specify proposed payment terms and invoicing schedule
- All costs associated with equipment, installation, maintenance, and operations shall be borne by the Contractor unless otherwise specified

- MCPS and County shall receive agreed-upon revenue share or compensation according to the pricing model selected of at least 40%

5.5 Cost Escalation

- Proposers shall specify any proposed cost escalation provisions
- Any escalation must be tied to recognized indices (e.g., CPI)
- Escalation provisions are subject to MCPS approval

6.0 CONTRACT TERMINATION

MCPS reserves the right to cancel the contract in whole or in part at any time in accordance with Article 12 of the MCPS General Contract Articles. MCPS also reserves the right to cancel the contract with a Respondent for failure to comply or failure to fulfill the terms of this contract in accordance with Article 13 of the MCPS General Contract Articles.

7.0 REFERENCES

All offerors shall include a list of a minimum of five references who use the vendors services and can attest to the firm’s quality of work; and, if possible, shall include school districts of comparable size to MCPS that have utilized the respondents’ services. Include names of client, contact person, email address and phone number of all references. Also, as an attachment, offerors shall include al list of all current school district clients.

References may or may not be reviewed or contacted at the discretion of MCPS. Typically, only references of the top ranked short-listed offerors are contacted. MCPS reserves the right to contact references other than, and/or in addition to, those furnished by an offeror.

	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>Company Name & Address</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Number</u>
1. _____		
Email _____		
2. _____		
Email _____		
3. _____		
Email _____		
4. _____		
Email _____		
5. _____		
Email _____		

8.0 FORMAT OF RESPONSE

All proposals must be complete, accurate, and submitted in the format specified below. Proposals that do not conform to these requirements may be deemed non-responsive and rejected.

8.1 Executive Summary

Provide a concise overview (maximum 3 pages) of your proposed solution, key differentiators, and qualifications.

8.2 Company Information

- Legal name and business structure
- Principal business address and local office locations
- Years in business and history
- Number of employees and organizational structure
- Financial statements for the past 3 years or evidence of financial stability
- Any litigation history related to similar contracts

8.3 Experience and Qualifications

- Detailed description of experience with school bus safety camera programs
- List of at least 5 similar projects completed within the last 5 years
- For each project, include: customer name, location, fleet size, contract duration, services provided, and contact information
- Resumes of key personnel who will be assigned to this project
- Relevant certifications, licenses, and accreditations

8.4 Technical Proposal

- Detailed description of proposed camera system and equipment
- Technical specifications and performance capabilities
- Software platform overview and features
- Data security and privacy measures
- Integration capabilities with existing MCPS and County systems
- Screenshots or demonstrations of user interface

8.5 Implementation Plan

- Detailed project schedule and timeline
- Phased deployment approach for 1,500 buses
- Installation methodology and coordination with bus operations
- Training plan and schedule
- Go-live strategy and support during transition
- Risk mitigation strategies

8.6 Operations and Maintenance Plan

- Daily operations procedures
- Maintenance and repair protocols
- Quality assurance procedures
- Customer service approach and resources
- Staffing plan for local support

8.7 Cost Proposal

- Complete pricing as specified in Section 5.0
- Detailed cost breakdown by component
- 5-year total cost projection
- Assumptions underlying pricing

Cost proposal should be submitted separately from technical proposal

8.8 Required Forms and Certifications

- Completed and signed proposal submission form – See Section 22.0 Notice to Bidders
- Complete Appendix B – Technical Requirements Spreadsheet
- Proof of insurance or commitment to obtain required coverage

9.0 MANDATORY SUBMISSIONS

One (1) original and one (1) copy as well as one (1) electronic version on flash drive and one (1) redacted copy of responses must be sent by mail, courier or hand-delivery and shall be bound with tabs identifying each section. A table of contents should be included and all pages numbered as referenced in the Table of Contents. **No faxes or electronic submission of proposals will be accepted.** Proposals are to be received no later than 2:00 p.m. on April 24, 2026. Submit responses of the entire RFP proposal to:

Montgomery County Public Schools
Division of Procurement
45 West Gude Drive, Suite 3100
Rockville, MD 20850

Submissions will become the property of MCPS.

The proposal must be signed by an official having authority to contract with MCPS. The firm and the official's name shall be used in the contract process. MCPS reserves the right to make an award without further discussion of the proposals received. MCPS may also negotiate with the one offeror who submits the best proposal or with two or more offerors who are in the competitive range. Therefore, it is important that the offeror's proposal be submitted initially on the most favorable terms from both the technical and cost standpoints. After the submission and closure of proposals, no information will be released until after the award. It is understood that the offeror's proposal will become a part of the official file on this matter without obligation to MCPS.

The proposal must be complete and comply with all aspects of these specifications. Marketing or promotional verbiage will likely overshadow the offeror's qualifications and expertise. MCPS urges the offeror to be specific and brief in their responses.

Offerors must include any and all statements and representations made within its proposal in the contract for services with MCPS unless otherwise agreed upon by MCPS and offeror during negotiations. This includes, but is not limited to, the vendor's point-by-point response to this RFP. If offeror answers only "Understand and comply" it is assumed that the offeror complies with MCPS' understanding of the requirement.

MCPS shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred by the offeror in the preparation and submission of their proposals and pricing.

Complete Response must include:

- All information as outlined in Section 8.0 above
- Pricing Proposal and Revenue Sharing Model(s)
- References, see 7.0 References, including current school district clients
- Vendor's annual fiscal report in order to demonstrate the vendor's financial stability (If desired, the vendor may also include any other financial documents that Vendor wishes to include regarding Vendor's financial condition).
- Appendix A - A list of any variances from or objections to the terms and conditions of the MCPS General Contracting Articles, as well as a justification for any such variances or objections.
- Appendix B – Completed Technical Requirements Spreadsheet
- Equal Opportunities Certification (Attachment A)
- Certification of Non-segregated Facilities (Attachment B)
- Minority Business Enterprise (Attachment C)
- Non-Debarment Acknowledgement (Attachment D)
- Online Data Resource Form (Attachment E)
- Current Form W-9
- A separate redacted copy of offeror's proposal as specified in Sections 10.0 and 11.0.

10.0 TREATMENT OF TECHNICAL DATA IN PROPOSAL

The proposal submitted in response to this request may contain technical data which the offeror does not want used or disclosed for any purpose other than evaluation of the proposal. The use and disclosure of any such technical data, subject to the provisions of the Maryland Public Information Act, may be so restricted:

Provided, that offeror marks the cover sheet of the proposal with the following legend, specifying the pages of the proposal which are to be restricted in accordance with the conditions of the legend: "Technical data contained in pages ___ of this proposal shall not be used or disclosed, except for evaluation purposes."

Provided, that if a contract is awarded to this offeror as a result of or in connection with the submission of this proposal, MCPS shall have the right to use or disclose these technical data to the extent provided in the contract.

This restriction does not limit the right of MCPS to use or disclose technical data obtained from another source without restriction.

MCPS assumes no liability for disclosure or use of unmarked technical data or products and may use or disclose the data for any purpose and may consider that the proposal was not submitted in confidence and therefore is releasable. Price and cost data concerning salaries, overhead, and general and administrative expenses are considered proprietary information and will not be disclosed, if marked in accordance with the instructions in Section 11.0.

11.0 PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Offerors are notified that MCPS has unlimited data rights regarding proposals submitted in response to this solicitation. Unlimited data rights mean that MCPS has the right to use, disclose, reproduce, prepare derivative

works, distribute copies to the public, or perform publicly and display publicly any information submitted by the offeror in response to this or any solicitation issued by MCPS. However, MCPS will exempt information that is confidential commercial or financial information of an offeror, as defined by the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article, Section 10-617, from disclosure. It is the responsibility of the offeror to clearly identify each part of its proposal that is confidential commercial or financial information by stamping the **bottom right-hand corner** of each pertinent page with one-inch bold face letters stating the words “**confidential**” or “**proprietary**.” The offeror agrees that any portion of the proposal that is not stamped as proprietary or confidential is not proprietary or confidential. As a condition for MCPS keeping the information confidential, the offeror must agree to defend and hold MCPS harmless if any information is inadvertently released. Each offeror must submit a proprietary and confidential redacted copy of its proposal to be used in responding to MPIA requests.

12.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA

MCPS reserves the right to ask clarifying questions about submitted proposals. Offerors also may ask questions that they may have related to this RFP prior to submitting their responses. See Section 13.0, Schedule of Events. Only proposals received by the deadline will be considered. Proposals will be screened down to a number of finalists.

MCPS reserves the right to convene a meeting with the top qualified offerors prior to awarding a contract. The purpose of the meeting will be to afford both parties an opportunity to discuss any aspects of the requirements and services that will be performed and clarify any issues. Issues raised during the meeting, which cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of MCPS, shall be cause to reject the proposal. In addition, vendors shall be prepared to provide a product and services demonstration, providing an overview of the proposed product and services at no cost to MCPS. As appropriate, the vendor shall be responsible for the installation of the proposed products and services and any third-party software at the District-designated demonstration facility before the demonstration, as necessary. If requested by MCPS, the top qualified offeror or offeror shall provide MCPS with an opportunity to access and review the vendor’s system as in operation at that time, via the Internet from a MCPS computer, to ensure conformity to the requirements of this RFP as well as for the quality and ease of the user interface.

All offerors are advised that in the event of receipt of an adequate number of proposals, which, in the opinion of MCPS require no clarification and/or supplementary information, such proposals may be evaluated without further discussions. Therefore, proposals should be submitted initially on the most complete and favorable terms and conditions. Should proposals submitted require additional clarification and/or supplementary information, offerors should be prepared to submit such additional clarification and/or supplementary information, in a timely manner, when requested

Proposals meeting all requisite criteria will be evaluated. Those who do not meet requisite criteria will not be evaluated further. Selection will be made on the basis of the criteria listed below.

1. Completeness of Response	35
2. Related past experience, qualifications and capacity	25
3. Ability to perform (based on the criteria set forth in this RFP, including but not limited to Section 3.0 Scope of Services and technical requirements)	40
4. References	20
5. Pricing Proposal and Revenue Sharing Model	<u>30</u>
TOTAL	150

13.0 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The anticipated schedule of activities related to this RFP is as follows:

RFP issued: March 31, 2026
Questions Due: April 8, 2026 at 4:00pm
Responses Posted: April 13, 2026
Pre-Proposal Conference: April 15, 2026 at 11:00am
Proposals Due: April 24, 2026 at 2:00pm
Anticipated award date: June 2026

All dates are subject to change at the discretion of MCPS.

14.0 PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE – THIS CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE RECORDED

A virtual Pre-Proposal Conference for prospective contractors will be held on **April 15, 2026**, from 11:00AM – 12:00PM, via the Zoom meeting information below. Attendance at this conference is encouraged, but is not mandatory. Questions to this RFP are due by **4:00 PM on April 8, 2026**, so that responses can be prepared prior to the pre-proposal conference. The purpose of the pre-proposal conference will be to allow prospective contractors the opportunity to obtain clarification of the RFP and ask questions directly of MCPS staff to assist them in the preparation of their proposal responses.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/84358704377?pwd=C7ca8Wyp2uPLLeUj19pZvEFogMFwaIr.1>

Meeting ID: 843 5870 4377

Passcode: 753996

15.0 ADDENDA/ERRATA

Changes and addenda to a solicitation may occur prior to the solicitation opening date and time. It is the offeror's responsibility to check the MCPS website under "Vendor Event Calendar" <https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/mcpsbids.aspx> or contact the Division of Procurement at 240-740-7600 to verify whether addenda/errata have been issued.

In the event that MCPS issues addenda/errata, all terms and conditions will remain in effect unless they are specifically and explicitly changed by the addenda/errata. Offerors must acknowledge receipt of such addenda/errata by returning one signed copy of each of the addenda/errata with its proposal. Failure to provide the signed acknowledgement of the addenda/errata may result in a bid being deemed non-responsive.

16.0 eMARYLAND MARKETPLACE ADVANTAGE (EMMA)

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.

17.0 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 require 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 the 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 Awarded offeror(s) and this contract shall be binding only upon the principal's 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 offeror. 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.

18.0 INQUIRIES

Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be submitted in writing to Angela McIntosh Davis via email to Angela_S_McIntosh-Davis@mcpsmd.org. Questions are due by 4:00 p.m. on April 8, 2026. Responses will be posted on eMaryland Marketplace and on the MCPS' Procurement website by April 13, 2026 (OR prior to the pre-proposal conference, if applicable). The Board will not be responsible for any oral or telephone explanation or interpretation by any agent or employee of MCPS. Any binding information given to a contractor in response to a request will be furnished to all contractors as addenda/errata, if such information is deemed necessary for the preparation of proposals, or if the lack of such information would be detrimental to the uninformed contractors. Only such addenda/errata, when issued by MCPS, will be considered binding on MCPS.

Contact by offerors with any other MCPS employee regarding this solicitation until the contract is awarded by MCPS will be considered by MCPS as an attempt to obtain an unfair advantage and result in non-consideration of their RFP response. The MCPS Procurement website address is <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/procurement/vendors/>.

19.0 UNNECESSARILY ELABORATE BROCHURES

Unnecessarily elaborate brochures or other presentations beyond those sufficient to present a complete and effective proposal are not desired and may be construed as an indication of the offeror's lack of cost consciousness. Elaborate art work and expensive visual and other presentation aids are neither necessary nor wanted.

20.0 BID PROTESTS

Any bid protests, including appeals, will be governed by the applicable MCPS Division of Procurement Regulations. The burden of production of all relevant evidence, data and documents and the burden of persuasion to support the protest is on the offeror making the protest.

21.0 CONTRACT

MCPS plans to enter a contractual agreement with Respondent(s) to whom the award is made and intends to make MCPS General Contract Articles, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Appendix A, part of the contractual agreement, except and unless modified by MCPS. In addition, the Contractor will ensure that all staff abide by the provisions of the MCPS General Contract Articles. Proposals must clearly identify any variances from or objections to the specifications in this RFP and the terms and conditions of the MCPS General Contract Articles. Lacking any response to the contrary, MCPS will infer that the Respondent agrees to the specifications of this RFP and each term and condition of the MCPS General Contract Articles. Respondents should note that any variance may provide a basis for MCPS to reject the proposal. **In particular, the provisions set forth in Articles 5, 12-14, 16-18, 21-24, 26, and 28 of the MCPS General Contract Articles are non-negotiable.**

22.0 NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The appropriate items below must be completed as part of the RFP. Failure to comply may disqualify your response. Please type or print legibly in ink. (See Next Page)

I. BIDDER INFORMATION: As appropriate, check and/or complete one of the items below.

1. Legal name (as shown on your income tax return) _____
2. Business Name (if different from above) _____
3. Tax Identification Number _____

A copy of your W-9 must be submitted with this bid response.

II. BIDDER'S CONTACT INFORMATION: This will be filed as your permanent contact information.

1. Company Name _____
2. Address _____
3. Bid Representative's Name _____
4. Phone Number/Extension _____
5. Email Address _____
6. Website _____

III. VENDOR'S CERTIFICATION: Upon notification of award and by signing below the undersigned acknowledges that he/she shall enter into a contract agreement with MCPS, upon successful negotiation.

- A. 1. I/we hereby propose to furnish and deliver supplies and or services, in accordance with specifications and stipulations contained herein, and at the prices quoted. I/we certify that this bid is made without any previous understanding, agreement, or connection with any person, firm, or corporation making a bid for the same supplies, materials, or Lumber and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud.
2. I/we certify that this bid is made without having contacted any employee within The Howard County Public School System unless such contacts were previously authorized by the Purchasing Officer.
3. I/we certify that this bid is genuine and not collusive or sham; that said bidder has not colluded, conspired, connived and agreed, directly or indirectly, with any bidder or person to put in a sham bid or to refrain from bidding and is not in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement of collusion or communication or conference, with any person to fix the bid prices of the affidavit or any other bidder, or to fix any overhead, profit or cost element of said bid price, or that of any bidder, or to secure any advantage against the Board of Education of Montgomery County or any other person interested in the proposed contract; and that all statements in said proposal or bid are true.
4. I affirm that this firm will not knowingly employ an individual to work at a school if the individual is a Registered Sexual Offender, pursuant to section 11-722 (C) of the Criminal Procedure Article of the Annotate Code of Maryland. A firm or person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

B. I hereby certify that I am authorized to sign for the bidder and that all statements, representations, and information provided in this response to the Request for Proposals, including but not limited to the Non-Debarment Acknowledgement, are accurate.

By (Signature) _____

Name and Title _____

Witness Name and Title _____

APPENDIX A
(MCPS General Contract Articles)

ARTICLE 1. DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL INTENT

For the purposes of these MCPS General Contract Articles, “MCPS” refers to the Board of Education of Montgomery County, which operates a system of public schools commonly known as Montgomery County Public Schools, and “Contractor” refers to the entity awarded a Contract pursuant to authorization by MCPS in accordance with applicable laws, Board of Education policies, and MCPS regulations. Together MCPS and the Contractor are collectively referred to as the “Parties” and each individually as a “Party.” The term “Contract” refers to these MCPS General Contract Articles and any other contract documents duly executed by the Parties that expressly incorporate these MCPS General Contract Articles by reference, as well as any request for proposals (RFP) or solicitation by MCPS, the Contractor’s proposal or bid in response, if satisfactory to MCPS in its sole discretion, and any Contract award notification issued by MCPS.

ARTICLE 2. MCPS PROJECT CONTACT

The MCPS Project Contact is responsible for the technical and programmatic aspects of the Contract and is the technical and programmatic liaison with the Contractor. The MCPS Project Contact is responsible for the review and approval of any and all deliverables, products, and/or services, and such other responsibilities as may be specified in the Contract. The MCPS Project Contact is not authorized to make any commitments, otherwise obligate MCPS, or make any changes which affect the Contract price, terms, or conditions. Any Contractor requests for changes to the Contract price, terms, or conditions shall be referred to the Director of the MCPS Department of Procurement or designee. No such changes shall be made without the written authorization of the Procurement Director. The MCPS Project Contact may be changed at any time, provided that notification of the change, including the name and address of the successor MCPS Project Contact, is provided to the Contractor in writing. Any written notice by the Contractor to MCPS required under the Contract shall be provided to the Procurement Director, with a copy to the MCPS Project Contact, using contact information available on the MCPS website.

ARTICLE 3. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

The Parties agree that the Contractor is an independent contractor under the Contract and will in no way be considered to be an agent, partner, or employee of, or joint venture with, MCPS. Neither the Contractor nor its employees, agents, affiliates, or subcontractors will be entitled to any benefits, coverage, or other privileges made available to MCPS employees.

ARTICLE 4. KEY CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL

Any of the Contractor’s key personnel, identified as such in the Contract, are considered to be essential to the work being performed under the Contract. Prior to diverting any such key personnel to other programs, the Contractor shall notify the MCPS Project Contact reasonably well in advance and submit justification (including proposed substitutions) in sufficient detail to permit evaluation of the impact on the Contract. No diversion shall be made by the Contractor without the written consent of the MCPS Project Contact. Failure to obtain the approval of the MCPS Project Contact as required or to propose replacement personnel acceptable to the MCPS Project Contact may be cause for termination pursuant to Article 13. MCPS reserves the right to require that the Contractor replace any key personnel or any individual charged to the Contract at any point during the Contract term if MCPS determines that this action is in its best interests.

ARTICLE 5. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The Contractor shall furnish all personnel, materials, products, tools, services, and facilities necessary to perform the requirements set forth in the Contract. All deliverables, products, and/or services required

by the Contract shall be submitted to the MCPS Project Contact according to the kinds and dates indicated in the Contract. MCPS has relied upon the professional ability and training of the Contractor as a material inducement to enter into the Contract. The Contractor hereby agrees that all of the Contractor's work shall be performed in a professional and workmanlike manner, through only qualified and appropriately trained personnel, and consistent with the highest industry standards in compliance with applicable federal, state, and county laws and regulations—it being understood that acceptance of the Contractor's work by MCPS shall not operate as a waiver or release of the Contractor's obligations.

- B. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that time is of the essence with respect to its obligations under the Contract and that prompt and timely performance of all such obligations, including conformance with all timetables and other requirements of the Contract, is strictly required.
- C. The Contractor shall obtain any licenses or permits necessary for performance of the work required under the Contract. In the event the work to be performed by the Contractor must by law or regulation be provided by individuals who are licensed and/or certified to provide certain Professional Services, the Contractor shall only assign individuals to perform work under the Contract who are licensed and/or certified in accordance with applicable law, and all such individuals shall maintain their license and/or certification in good standing (not under review or subject to suspension) during the entire term of the Contract. "Professional Services" for the purpose of the Contract shall mean any service provided by a licensed, certified, or otherwise documented professional. Upon request by MCPS, the Contractor shall promptly submit documentation to the MCPS Project Contact that the individuals assigned to provide Professional Services under the Contract are properly licensed and/or certified.
- D. Any performance or bid bond obligations of the Contractor will be as described in the RFP or solicitation.
- E. Whenever the Contractor has knowledge that any actual or potential situation (including, but not limited to, labor disputes) delaying or threatening to delay the timely performance of the work under the Contract or a force majeure event as described in Article 7, the Contractor shall immediately give written notice, including all relevant information, to the Procurement Director.
- F. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and county laws and regulations, as well as all applicable safety requirements, Board of Education policies, and MCPS regulations issued by the Superintendent of Schools. Board of Education policies and MCPS regulations are available at this link: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/. This obligation includes but is not limited to Board of Education Policy ACA, *Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency* ("Board Policy ACA"), which prohibits discrimination based on actual or perceived personal characteristics, including race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, immigration status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family/parental status, marital status, age, physical or mental disability, poverty and socioeconomic status, language, or other legally or constitutionally protected attributes or affiliations. Consistent with Board Policy ACA and applicable federal, state, and county laws and regulations, the Contractor will not discriminate against any of its employees or applicants for employment because of the actual or perceived personal characteristics listed above. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without regard to these actual or perceived personal characteristics. In addition, the Contractor agrees to provide such accommodations as are required under federal, state, and county laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- G. The Contractor shall provide a drug-free workplace in accordance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and its implementing regulations, Board of Education Policy IGN, *Preventing Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drug Abuse in Montgomery County Public Schools*, and MCPS Regulation COF-RA, *Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs on Montgomery County Public Schools Property*.
- H. Violation of this Article constitutes a breach of contract for which MCPS may terminate the Contract pursuant to Article 13 and/or pursue any other appropriate remedy.

ARTICLE 6. SUBCONTRACTORS

Work performed under the Contract shall not be subcontracted without advance written approval of the Procurement Director; nor shall any substitution of subcontractors be made without such advanced approval in writing. For the purposes of this Section, “subcontracting” includes the use of third-party platforms software-as-a-service (SaaS) providers, or infrastructure hosts used to deliver the Services. The Contractor shall include provisions in its subcontracts and third-party platform agreements requiring its subcontractors and providers to comply with the Contract, to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless MCPS, and to provide insurance coverage for the benefit of MCPS, in a manner consistent with the Contract. Furthermore, the Contractor shall ensure that all terms and conditions related to data security, privacy, and service levels “pass through” to any third-party platform provider. Any costs associated with third-party platform usage shall be treated as pass-through costs only to the extent explicitly authorized in the Pricing Schedule; otherwise, the Contractor remains solely responsible for such expenses. The Contractor also shall cause its employees, agents, affiliates, third-party providers, and subcontractors to comply with the Contract and adopt such review, audit, and inspection procedures as are necessary to assure such compliance.

ARTICLE 7. FORCE MAJEURE

Neither Party shall be deemed to be in default of its obligations hereunder if and so long as it is prevented from performing such obligations by any act of war, hostile foreign action, nuclear explosion, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, or other catastrophic event. Should there be such an occurrence that impacts the ability of either Party to perform its responsibilities under the Contract, the nonperforming Party shall give immediate written notice to the other Party to explain the cause and probable duration of any such nonperformance. If the Procurement Director determines that a failure to perform was occasioned by any one or more of the said causes, the delivery schedule shall be revised accordingly, subject to the rights of MCPS to invoke Articles 12 and 13.

ARTICLE 8. PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. The Contractor certifies that all information the Contractor has provided or will provide to MCPS is true and correct and can be relied upon by MCPS in awarding, modifying, making payments, or taking any other action with respect to the Contract including resolving disputes. Any false or misleading information is a ground for MCPS to terminate the Contract pursuant to Article 13 and/or pursue any other appropriate remedy. The Contractor certifies that the Contractor’s accounting system conforms to generally accepted accounting principles, is sufficient to comply with the Contract’s obligations, and produces reliable financial information.
- B. The prices, rates and other compensation for work performed is as described in the Contract.
- C. The Contractor’s invoices shall be approved for payment by the MCPS Project Contact only after the MCPS Project Contact is satisfied that the Contractor is performing the work and has prepared the invoice as required by the Contract. Prior to approving any Contractor invoices for payment, MCPS, through any authorized representative, has the right at all reasonable times to inspect, or otherwise evaluate, the work performed or being performed at the premises on which it is being performed. If any inspection or evaluation is made by MCPS on the premises of the Contractor or any of its subcontractors, the Contractor shall provide and shall require its subcontractors to provide all reasonable facilities and assistance for the safety and convenience of MCPS representatives in the performance of their duties. All inspections and evaluations shall be performed so that they will not unduly delay the work.
- D. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of each invoice and accepting the work, MCPS shall, except as provided in the Contract, pay for the work performed when approved by the MCPS Project Contact. A payment schedule will be jointly developed between MCPS and the Contractor. MCPS reserves the right to submit payment using an electronic payment method, such as credit card, Single Use Account, or Automated Clearing House. The Contractor shall not assess MCPS with any additional charge, fee, or price for the use of these electronic payment methods.

- E. Regardless of any other provisions of the Contract, failure of the Contractor to submit required reports when due or failure to perform or deliver acceptable work, deliverables, products, or services will result in MCPS withholding payments under the Contract unless such failure arises pursuant to Article 7 and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor. MCPS shall promptly notify the Contractor of its intention to withhold payment of any invoice submitted.
- F. MCPS is tax exempt as a governmental entity. The Contractor shall be responsible for all federal and/or state tax, and Social Security liability that may result from the performance of and compensation for its work. MCPS assumes no responsibility for the payment of any compensation, wages, benefits, or taxes by, or on behalf of the Contractor, its employees, agents, affiliates, and/or subcontractors by reason of the Contract.
- G. If at any time MCPS determines that a cost for which payment has been made is a disallowed cost, such as overpayment, MCPS shall notify the Contractor in writing of the disallowance or claim for unallowable costs. MCPS shall also state the means of correction, which may be, but shall not be limited to, adjustment of any future claim submitted by the Contractor by the amount of the disallowance, or to require repayment of the disallowed amount by the Contractor.

ARTICLE 9. CHANGES

The Procurement Director may, at any time, make non-material changes that are within the original general scope of the Contract and the RFP or solicitation in any one or more of the following: (i) specifications or statement of work, and (ii) place of performance or delivery. If any such changes cause an increase or decrease in the cost of or the time required for the performance of the Contract, whether changed or not changed by any such order, an equitable adjustment shall be made: (i) in the Contract price or time of performance or both; and/or (ii) in such other provisions of the Contract as may be so affected; and the Contract shall be modified in writing accordingly. Any claim by the Contractor for adjustment under this Article must be asserted within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt by the Contractor of the notification of change, however, if the Procurement Director decides that the facts justify such action, the Procurement Director may receive and act upon any such claim asserted at any time prior to final payment under the Contract. Failure to agree to any adjustment shall be a dispute concerning a question of fact within the meaning of Article 15.

ARTICLE 10. AUDIT AND DOCUMENT RETENTION

During the term and for three (3) years thereafter, the Contractor shall: (i) maintain complete and accurate books and records regarding its business operations relevant to the calculation of amounts payable under the Contract and any other information relevant to the Contractor's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Contract; and (ii) upon MCPS' request, make such books and records, as well as any of its employees, agents, affiliates, or subcontractors who might reasonably have information related to such records, available during normal business hours for inspection and audit by MCPS or its authorized representative, provided that MCPS shall: (a) provide the Contractor with reasonable prior notice of any audit; (b) undertake an audit no more than once per calendar year, except for good cause shown; and (c) conduct or cause to be conducted such audit in a manner designed to minimize disruption of the Contractor's normal business operations.

ARTICLE 11. TERM OF CONTRACT

Unless otherwise specified in the Contract, the term of Contract shall be for one year, provided that the Contract is not terminated pursuant to Article 12, 13, or 14. After the initial term, MCPS, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to extend the Contract if agreed to by both Parties.

ARTICLE 12. TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

The Contract may be terminated in whole or in part by MCPS whenever the Superintendent of Schools, or an authorized designee, determines that such a termination is in MCPS' best interest. Any such termination shall be affected by delivery of a notice of termination to the Contractor, at least ten (10) business days prior to the termination date. The notice of termination shall specify the extent to which performance shall be terminated and the date upon which such termination becomes effective. The Contractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any work completed, as determined by MCPS, but no amount shall be allowed for anticipated profit on unperformed work. In the event of such termination, all finished and unfinished deliverables, documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models, and reports prepared by the Contractor under the Contract shall become the property of MCPS.

ARTICLE 13. TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

A. Termination for Cause by MCPS

1. If, through any cause (other than as set forth in Article 7), the Contractor fails to fulfill in a timely manner its obligations under the Contract, or if the Contractor violates any of the covenants, agreements or stipulations of a Contract (hereinafter a "Default"), MCPS shall have the right to terminate the Contract, in addition to MCPS' remedies in the Contract and all other rights available at law or in equity. Such termination shall be effected by MCPS delivering a written notice of termination to the Contractor, which notice may, in the sole discretion of MCPS, provide for a period of up to thirty (30) days for the Contractor to cure the Default. If MCPS provides for an opportunity to cure the Default and the Default is not remediated within the specified period, as determined by MCPS, MCPS shall issue a final notice of termination specifying the effective date of such termination.
2. A Contractor bankruptcy or bankruptcy event shall be deemed grounds for a termination for cause.
3. MCPS shall have the right to terminate Contract in the event of a Data Security Event.
4. In the event of such termination for cause, all finished and unfinished deliverables, documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models, and reports prepared by the Contractor under the Contract shall become the property of MCPS.
5. A termination for cause is a termination for convenience if the termination for cause is later found to be without justification.
6. The Contractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any work completed prior to termination, as determined by MCPS, but no amount shall be allowed for anticipated profit on unperformed work.
7. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the Contractor shall not be relieved of liability to MCPS for damages sustained by MCPS by virtue of any breach of Contract by the Contractor for the purposes of set off, until the exact amount of said damages is ascertained.

B. Termination for Cause by the Contractor

1. If, through any cause (other than as set forth in Article 7), MCPS is in breach of the Contract and has not cured such breach within thirty (30) days of written notice from the Contractor specifying the same, the Contractor shall have the right to immediately terminate the Contract. Such termination shall be effected by delivering a notice of termination to the Procurement Director specifying the effective date of such termination.

ARTICLE 14. NON-APPROPRIATION

If the term of the Contract, or any Contract extension, extends beyond the end of the MCPS fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) in which the Contract was awarded or extended, and the approved MCPS budget for the subsequent fiscal year does not appropriate sufficient funds that may be utilized for the Contract, the Contract shall no longer be in force and effect upon the expiration of the current fiscal year funding. In this event, upon expiration of the current fiscal year funding, MCPS shall have no liability to pay any funds whatsoever to the Contractor or to furnish any other consideration under the Contract, and the Contractor shall not be obligated to perform any further work under the Contract. If the approved MCPS budget for the subsequent fiscal year reduces funding available for the Contract, MCPS shall have the option, in its sole discretion, to cancel the Contract with no liability occurring to MCPS, or offer a Contract amendment to the Contractor reflecting the reduced amount, which the Contractor may accept in lieu of termination.

ARTICLE 15. DISPUTES

The Parties shall collaborate to resolve any disputes arising under the Contract. In the event that the Parties are not able to resolve a dispute concerning a question of fact arising under the Contract, the dispute shall be submitted in writing to the Procurement Director for a determination. The Contractor may appeal the decision of the Procurement Director in writing to the Superintendent of Schools, whose decision shall be final. This Article does not preclude consideration of questions of law arising under the Contract, provided that nothing in the Contract shall be construed as making final the decision of any MCPS official, representative, or the Board of Education on a question of law. **THE PARTIES SPECIFICALLY AGREE THAT NO DISPUTE OR CAUSE OF ACTION ARISING OUT OF THE CONTRACT SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO ARBITRATION OR MEDIATION, AND THE PARTIES WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL IN ANY COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION OR ANY ACTION, PROCEEDING, OR COUNTERCLAIM BROUGHT BY ONE AGAINST THE OTHER WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER WHATSOEVER ARISING OUT OF OR IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH THE CONTRACT, OR ANY RELATIONSHIP OF MCPS AND THE CONTRACTOR HEREUNDER.**

ARTICLE 16. CONTRACTOR INTEGRITY, ETHICS, AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- A. The Contractor is prohibited from using the services of MCPS employees or officials (including Board of Education members) in performing the Contract. Former employees or officials may be used, provided that a 12-month period has elapsed since their last employment at MCPS. A former MCPS employee or official, may not assist or represent the Contractor for compensation in any case, controversy, dispute, contract, or other specific matter involving MCPS, if that case, controversy, dispute, contract, or other specific matter is one in which the former employee or official significantly participated as an employee or official.
- B. No official or employee of Maryland, Montgomery County, or MCPS shall benefit from or receive any money as a result of the Contract. This prohibition does not apply to contracts with MCPS employees or officials who contracted in their own name.
- C. The Contractor hereby declares and affirms that, to its best knowledge, none of its officers, directors, partners, employees, agents, affiliates, or subcontractors directly involved in obtaining contracts has been convicted of bribery, attempted bribery, or conspiracy to bribe under any federal, state, and county laws and regulations.
- D. The Contractor agrees to review and at all times abide by the Board of Education Policy BBB, *Ethics* ("Board Policy BBB"). In addition, the Contractor shall have an affirmative obligation to disclose in writing to the Procurement Director any actual or potential conflicts of interest as identified in Board Policy BBB, and neither the Contractor nor any of its officers, directors, partners, employees, agents, affiliates, or subcontractors shall take any action that they know or should have reason to know would result in any MCPS official or employee violating Board Policy BBB.
- E. The Contractor warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or

secure the Contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee.

- F. Violation of this Article constitutes a breach of contract for which MCPS may terminate the Contract pursuant to Article 13 and/or pursue any other appropriate remedy.

ARTICLE 17. PUBLICATION AND PUBLICITY

MCPS may, in its sole discretion, make the Contract publicly available on the MCPS website or otherwise. The Contractor shall not, without consultation and consent by MCPS, (i) originate any report, publication, presentation, publicity, news release, or other announcement, written or oral, relating to the Contract or any results achieved pursuant to the Contract (hereinafter “Publication”); or (ii) use any names, trademarks, or logos of MCPS, except as necessary to perform the work of the Contract. To the extent that MCPS agrees to any such Publication regarding the Contract, the Contractor shall abide by the following terms:

- A. The primary purpose shall be to disseminate information about the work rather than to promote the Contractor’s accomplishments or knowledge.
- B. Such Publication shall prominently display or acknowledge MCPS support and include the following disclaimers: (i) the contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of MCPS; and (ii) the mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations does not imply endorsement by MCPS.
- C. The Contractor shall abide by the provisions of Article 18 and any other data-sharing agreement between the Parties.

ARTICLE 18. DATA PRIVACY, AI GOVERNANCE, AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- A. The Contractor shall comply with all federal, state, and county laws and regulations applicable to the Contract regarding data collection, privacy, and security, including but not limited to the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and its implementing regulations (34 C.F.R. part 99), the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), 15 U.S.C. § 6501-6505, and its implementing regulations (16 C.F.R. § 312, et seq.), the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, (PPRA) 20 U.S.C. § 1232(h) and its implementing regulations (34 C.F.R. § 98.1 et seq.), the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), 20 U.S.C. § 9134, 47 U.S.C. § 254, and its implementing regulations (47 C.F.R. § 54), the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act of 2024 (MODPA), Md. Code Ann., Com. Law §§ 14-4601 through 14-4607, the Maryland Student Privacy Act of 2015, Md. Ed. Code Ann., §4-131, Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.08, as well as applicable Board of Education policies and MCPS regulations, including but not limited to MCPS Regulation AFA-RA, *Research and Other Data Collection Activities in Montgomery County Public Schools*, MCPS Regulation JOA-RA, *Student Records*, and MCPS Regulation JFF-RA, *Federal Requirements for Use of Protected Student Information*.
- B. Questionnaires, survey instruments, or any other form of data collection from MCPS students, staff, parents/guardians or others pursuant to the Contract or otherwise must be reviewed and approved by the MCPS Office of Shared Accountability prior to use as required by MCPS Regulation AFA-RA, *Research and Other Data Collection Activities in Montgomery County Public Schools*.
- C. Definitions
 1. "Confidential Information" shall include all information, including but not limited to Personally Identifiable Information (PII), as defined in Article 18.D, that is protected by law or MCPS policy.
 2. “Personal Data”, is a subset of Confidential Information, and includes prompts and outputs, or any information that is linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable MCPS User. This

- terms shall have the meaning set forth in MODPA,
3. “Sensitive Data”, refers to categories of Personal Data that require enhanced protection, including: biometric data, precise geolocation data, and any Personal Data of a user known (or who should be known) to be under the age of 18.
 4. “Artificial Intelligence” means a machine-based system that:
 - (1) can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing real or virtual environments;
 - (2) uses machine and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments and abstracts those perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and
 - (3) uses model inference to formulate options for information or action.
 5. “AI System”, refers to any machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers from the input it receives how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical or virtual environments.
 6. “Student” means any MCPS student under the age of 18.
 7. “Data Security Breach” refers to the loss of control, compromise, unauthorized disclosure, unauthorized acquisition, or any similar occurrence where (1) a person other than an authorized user accesses or potentially accesses personally identifiable information or (2) an authorized user accesses or potentially accesses personally identifiable information for an other than authorized purpose.
 8. “Data Security Incident” refers to an occurrence that (1) actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of information or an information system; or (2) constitutes a violation or imminent threat of violation of law, security policies, security procedures, or acceptable use policies.
 9. “Data Security Event” refers to any observable occurrence that involves computing assets, including physical and virtual platforms, networks, services, and cloud environments..

D. Access to Confidential Information

1. To assist the Contractor in its work under the Contract, MCPS may disclose to the Contractor, either in writing or orally, records or information which MCPS deems to be proprietary and/or confidential (hereinafter, “Confidential Information”). For purposes of the Contract, Confidential Information is any information or data labeled or identified as confidential in the Contract or at the time of disclosure. This definition and the obligations of this Article shall not extend to any information that: (i) the Contractor possesses prior to acquiring it from MCPS; (ii) becomes available to the public or trade through no violation by the Contractor; or (iii) is developed by the Contractor independently of and without reliance on confidential or proprietary information provided by MCPS.
2. Confidential Information also includes any and all “Personally Identifiable Information” regarding MCPS students, parents/guardians, employees, or others in any medium, including but not limited to any user-generated content that MCPS students, parents/guardians, employees, or others (“MCPS Users”) input to access or use the Contractor’s deliverables, products, and/or services (e.g., log-in information or responses to assessment questions), as well as “Metadata.” Metadata includes but is not limited to: information about how long a MCPS User took to perform a task; information about how long a MCPS User’s mouse hovered over an item; keystroke data; location data; or other data about the MCPS User’s use of the Contractor’s deliverables, products, and/or services that has not been stripped of all direct and indirect identifiers. With respect to MCPS students, Personally Identifiable Information, as defined under applicable law, includes:
 - a. A student’s name;
 - b. The name of the student’s parent/guardian or other family members;
 - c. The address of the student or student’s family;

- d. A personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record;
 - e. Other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name;
 - f. Other information (including but not limited to Metadata) that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student or family that would allow a reasonable person in the MCPS community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student or family with reasonable certainty; or
 - g. Information requested by a person, who is not an authorized representative of the educational agency and who MCPS and/or the Contractor reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.
3. Confidential Information shall be maintained in confidence during the Contract and thereafter, except to the extent that it is required to be either disclosed or protected from disclosure by law, regulation or judicial or administrative process. The Contractor shall use the Confidential Information solely for the purposes of the Contract. The Contractor shall protect the Confidential Information from any Data Security Breach (as defined below), loss, theft, or disclosure using a commercially reasonable care commensurate with the sensitivity of the Confidential Information that in no circumstances is less than the degree of care that the Contractor uses to protect its own confidential information. The Contractor agrees to assist MCPS in maintaining the privacy of Confidential Information as may be required by all federal, state, and county laws and regulations applicable to the Contract including but not limited to the requirements listed above.
 4. The Contractor shall not permit unauthorized access to the Confidential Information to any individual or entity at any time or provide Confidential Information to any person, party, or organization ineligible or prohibited from receiving such information pursuant to any federal, state, and county laws and regulations applicable to the Contract including but not limited to the requirements listed above.
 5. In the event that the Contractor is required by law, regulation, or judicial or administrative process to disclose any Confidential Information, the Contractor will promptly notify MCPS in writing, if permitted by law, prior to making any such disclosure in order to facilitate MCPS' seeking of a protective order or other appropriate remedy from the appropriate body. Should the proprietary or confidential status of any such information be disputed, the Parties agree to work in good faith to reach a mutually satisfactory disposition.
 6. To the extent that Confidential Information includes Personally Identifiable Information regarding MCPS Users, MCPS may require additional data sharing protocols, as agreed in writing by the Parties, prior to its disclosure to the Contractor. The Contractor also agrees to comply with the re-disclosure limitations set forth in FERPA, including in 34 C.F.R. § 99.33, and shall not authorize access to Confidential Information to any of its employees, agents, affiliates, and subcontractors, or to any auditor, unless such employee, agent, affiliate, subcontractor, or auditor (i) requires such access in order to allow the Contractor to provide the deliverables, products, and/or services set forth in the Contract or to fulfill the Contractor's obligations under the Contract; and (ii) has signed a non-disclosure agreement no less restrictive than the terms of the Contract that will (a) prohibit the individual or entity from using any Confidential Information for any purpose other than providing the contracted service to, or on behalf of the Contractor; (b) prohibit the individual or entity from disclosing any Confidential Information provided by the Contractor to third parties; (c) require the individual or entity to implement and maintain strict security procedures and practices that, at a minimum, comply with industry standards for data security; and (d) require the individual or entity to promptly notify the Contractor if the individual or entity becomes aware of any unlawful access to any Confidential Information stored on its equipment or facilities resulting in loss, disclosure, or

alteration of Confidential Information. Such non-disclosure agreements shall be made available for inspection, upon demand, to MCPS. The Contractor agrees to remind (in writing) individuals or entities who cease working with the Contractor of their non-disclosure obligations at the time of departure, and to terminate the network access of such individuals or entities at the time of separation.

7. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Contract, MCPS and/or MCPS Users, as appropriate, retain all right, title, and interest in and to the Confidential Information provided by MCPS and/or MCPS Users. Neither the Contractor, nor any successor or entity to which the Contractor's assets are sold, acquires rights in the Confidential Information, other than the rights MCPS grants to the Contractor to perform the work contemplated in the Contract. If the Contractor becomes subject to dissolution or insolvency, MCPS' and MCPS Users' Confidential Information will not be considered an asset or property of the Contractor. MCPS reserves the right to demand the prompt return of any Confidential Information at any time and for any reason whatsoever. The disclosure of Confidential Information to the Contractor shall not be construed as a grant of any right or license with respect to the information other than for the purposes set forth in the Contract.

E. Use of Confidential Information

1. The Contractor shall collect, use, and store only such Confidential Information that is necessary in connection with the Contractor's obligations under the Contract.
2. The Contractor may collect and use aggregated de-identified Confidential Information to provide the deliverables, products, and/or services set forth in the Contract, for the Contractor's lawful quality assurance, and for no other purpose; provided, however, that all direct and indirect personal identifiers are permanently removed and there is no reasonable basis to believe that the remaining information in the records can be used to successfully link the de-identified information to an identifiable individual or to MCPS. Furthermore, the Contractor agrees not to: (i) attempt to re-identify de-identified Confidential Information; and/or (ii) transfer de-identified Confidential Information to any party unless that party agrees not to attempt to re-identify the de-identified Confidential Information and unless MCPS has provided written express consent of the transfer. (iii) use the de-identified Confidential Information to train artificial intelligence systems without the express written consent of MCPS.
3. Contractor is prohibited from re-identifying, or attempting to re-identify, MCPS data. Contractor shall hold any subcontractor to the same standard.
4. Neither the Contractor nor any of its employees, agents, affiliates, and subcontractors shall: (i) engage in targeted advertising to MCPS Users; (ii) engage in targeted advertising when the targeting of the advertising is based on Confidential Information; (iii) use Confidential Information to amass a profile about a MCPS User, except in connection with the Contractor's performance of its obligations under the Contract; (iv) sell Confidential Information; or (v) share with any individual or entity outside MCPS, without prior review and approval from MCPS, any report, data, or research findings that are based on Confidential Information or the use by MCPS or MCPS Users of the Contractor's deliverables, products and/or services and that could be linked to an identifiable MCPS User, stakeholder, school, or the district.
- 5.
6. The Contractor acknowledges that there are no user agreements (whether electronic, click-through, verbal or in writing) in existence or contemplated between the Contractor and any MCPS Users in connection with their access and use of the Contractor's deliverables, products, or services, and this Contract shall supersede any user agreements that may be adopted during the term of the Contract.
7. The Contractor shall cooperate with MCPS in fulfilling its documentation of Data Protection Impact

Assessments, when applicable, and fulfilling obligations related to consumer rights requests, data assessments, and evaluation of data security measures.

F. Security of Confidential Information

1. The Contractor shall implement and maintain a comprehensive data-security program in accordance with commercial best practices for the protection of Confidential Information, whether the Confidential Information is stored electronically and/or in hard copy. Such data-security program shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Security policies for the Contractor's employees, agents, affiliates, and subcontractors related to the storage, access, retention, transportation, and disposition of data containing Confidential Information;
 - b. Reasonable restrictions on access to records containing Confidential Information, including access to any locked storage where such records are kept;
 - c. Secure access controls to Confidential Information, including but not limited to passwords;
 - d. Procedures for data recovery, incident response and processes, and business continuity processes and procedures;
 - e. Encryption of Confidential Information in accordance with industry standard encryption when it is stored or transmitted electronically;
 - f. Protocols for regular backups that include retention of backup copies for such period of time as may be required by MCPS, or by federal, state, and county laws and regulations;
 - g. Audit logs of its system on a secured server with restricted access to prevent tampering or altering of audit data; and
 - h. A process for reviewing policies, procedures, and security measures, as well as training on security policies for employees who have access to Confidential Information, at least annually.
2. The Contractor certifies that it has implemented policies, procedures, and security measures to protect against reasonably foreseeable unauthorized access to, or disclosure of, Confidential Information, and to prevent other reasonably foreseeable events that may result in substantial harm to MCPS. The Contractor certification shall be in the form of a third party assessment of the environment (i.e., SOC2, ISO270001/ISO42001, NIST 800-171 or other 3rd party security assessment tool). In addition, the Contractor shall not maintain, backup or store Confidential Information outside of the United States. To the extent that the Contractor uses cloud computing services, all Confidential Information provided by MCPS or MCPS Users shall be securely stored with a commercially reasonable third-party vendor using physical servers located solely within the United States and subject to network security measures consistent with industry standards. The Contractor will confirm to MCPS that the third-party vendor agrees to the non-disclosure agreement terms described in Article 18.C.6.
3. Access to the Contractor's server(s) hosting Confidential Information shall be limited to the Contractor's operations employees, agents, affiliates, or subcontractors who: (i) have access to Contractor's access keys and are specifically trained to manage and secure data; and/or (ii) are involved in providing the Contractor's deliverables, products and/or services.
4. Any computer, server, or database on which Confidential Information, or any analysis conducted pursuant to the Contract, is maintained shall have anti-virus, configuration control,

monitoring/alerting, automated backups, and regular vulnerability testing. Such computer, server, or databases shall be password protected and securely stored at all times with proper authentication and authorization procedures and with access limited to the Contractor's operations personnel and personnel directly involved in implementing the Contract. The Contractor shall not permit Confidential Information to be maintained or stored on any portable memory device, such as thumb drives or portable hard drives, without the express written consent of MCPS. The Contractor shall not permit Confidential Information to be maintained or stored on mobile computing devices (e.g. laptops or tablets), unless such device is being used in connection with the Contractor's backup and recovery procedures. In the event that such a device is being used in connection with the Contractor's backup and recovery procedures, the Contractor will ensure that such mobile computing devices are encrypted, centrally managed with respect to configuration updates and anti-virus, password protected, and that all such devices will be scanned at the expiration or termination of the Contract to ensure that no Confidential information remains stored on such mobile computing devices.

5. The Contractor will regularly backup or cause to be backed up all Confidential Information under its control and will securely store and retain backups for such period of time as may be required by federal or state law or regulation, or by MCPS. The Contractor will remove Confidential Information from backups in a manner consistent with technology best practices and industry standards for secure data disposal methods. If the Contractor is required to restore any materials from its backups, it will purge all personally identifiable Confidential Information not currently in use in the production systems from the restored backups.

G. Internet Safety

To the extent the Contractor's services provide internet access or content, the Contractor shall implement technical, administrative, and physical safeguards and technology protection measures that assist MCPS in maintaining compliance with the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act (MODPA) and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Pursuant to CIPA, such measures include filtering or blocking access to visual depictions that are obscene, including child pornography, or otherwise harmful to minors, . Pursuant to MODPA, the Contractor shall ensure that such filters do not collect or process more personal data than is strictly necessary to perform the filtering function. The Contractor shall provide MCPS with necessary logs or reports required to monitor and audit compliance with these safety and privacy laws.

- H. MCPS reserves the right in its sole discretion to perform audits of the Contractor at its sole expense to ensure compliance with this Article. The Contractor shall reasonably cooperate in the performance of such audits. The Contractor also will conduct regular internal monitoring and vulnerability assessments of the computers, computing environment, servers, and physical data centers that the Contractor uses to collect, process, maintain, or store MCPS' Confidential Information that includes Personally Identifiable Information regarding MCPS Users, and to hire a third party to conduct no less than annual security audits, which includes penetration testing. The Contractor shall review audit findings and will implement recommended security program changes and enhancements where practical and appropriate. The Contractor will provide MCPS, upon request, the above audits, scans, and tests. The Contractor will take reasonable measures, including maintaining audit trails, to protect Confidential Information against deterioration or degradation of data quality and authenticity.

I. Data Security Event

1. A "Data Security Event" is any event that threatens the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of MCPS's information systems or data. A Data Security Incident may include an instance in which the Contractor has actual knowledge or a reasonable basis of an event, act, omission, or vulnerability on which to suspect or conclude that there has been an unauthorized release or access of Confidential Information, or reasonable likelihood thereof, regardless of whether the Contractor stores and manages data directly or through a contractor such as a third-party cloud computing vendor. A Data

Security Incident may take various forms, including but not limited to: hackers gaining access to data through a malicious attack; lost, stolen, destroyed, misappropriated, or temporarily misplaced data or equipment (e.g., mobile computing devices or portable memory devices); employee negligence (e.g., leaving a password list in a publicly-accessible location, technical staff misconfiguring a security service or device); or policy and/or system failure.

2. The Contractor shall notify the MCPS Department of Cybersecurity and Technology Infrastructure immediately of any Data Security Breach or data loss, and inform MCPS (to the extent known) what data has been compromised, but in no event later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Contractor learns of the Data Security Breach or data loss. The Contractor shall provide a detailed report within forty-eight (48) hours of discovery outlining the categories of data impacted, the number of affected MCPS Users, affected versions of Contractor's product/ service, containment actions, and recommended mitigation. If the Contractor becomes aware of a Data Security Breach or data loss, it shall cooperate with MCPS regarding recovery, remediation, and the necessity to involve law enforcement, if any. The Contractor shall be responsible for performing an analysis to determine the cause of the Data Security Breach or data loss, and for producing a remediation plan in consultation with MCPS. MCPS and the Contractor agree to work together to determine an appropriate notification plan to any MCPS Users of the Contractor's deliverables, products and/or services regarding any such Data Security Breach or data loss. The Contractor shall provide MCPS the results of a third party assessment of the environment after a major security breach which confirms that the cause of the breach has been remedied at no additional cost to MCPS. In addition, to the extent not prohibited, the Contractor agrees to notify MCPS of Data Security Breaches or data losses that affect its customers generally.
 3. In addition to any other remedies available to MCPS, at law or in equity, the Contractor will reimburse MCPS in full for all costs incurred by MCPS in investigating and remediating any Data Security Breach or data loss caused in whole or in part by the Contractor or its employees, agents, affiliates, or subcontractors. The Contractor shall use commercially reasonable efforts to mitigate any negative consequences caused to MCPS, or to a MCPS User, as the result of a Data Security Breach or data loss and to implement procedures to prevent the recurrence of a similar Data Security Breach or data loss. Notwithstanding the above, the Contractor shall be responsible for all costs associated with a breach caused by its negligence, including but not limited to: forensic investigations, legal fees, and required notifications to consumers under Maryland law. Further, the Contractor shall be pay for all costs of notice and credit monitoring in the event the Data Security Breach involves "Sensitive Data" as defined in this Article.
 4. The Contractor shall provide notice to MCPS within twenty-four (24) hours of notice or service on the Contractor, whichever occurs first, of any lawsuits resulting from, or government investigations of, the Contractor's handling of Confidential Information, failure to follow security requirements, and/or failure to safeguard confidential information of any third party.
- J. Except as specifically set forth by MCPS in writing, or as required by federal, state, and county laws and regulations, the Contractor shall within thirty (30) days of receipt of written request by MCPS, or upon the termination or expiration of the Contract, upon cessation or dissolution of the Contractor's business operations, or upon request by MCPS:
1. Securely erase, destroy, permanently delete, and render unreadable all Confidential Information in its paper files, computers, computing environment, systems, equipment, servers, and physical data centers; or, upon MCPS' request to ensure the integrity of MCPS operations, transfer/migrate such Confidential Information to MCPS or its designated third party;
 2. Certify in writing to the MCPS Department of Procurement that the actions set forth in this subsection have been completed on or before agreed-upon deadlines;

3. Ensure that any transfer/migration uses facilities and methods that are compatible with the relevant systems of MCPS or its designated third party; and
4. To the extent technologically possible, ensure that MCPS will have access to the Confidential Information during any transfer/migration.

K. AI Governance and Algorithmic Impact

1. Prohibition on Model Training: The Contractor shall not use MCPS data (including student work, communications, or PII) to train, refine, or improve its AI models or "foundation models" without the express, prior written consent of the MCPS Chief Technology Officer.
2. Transparency & Disclosure: The Contractor shall clearly disclose if and how its AI Systems are used within the platform to make decisions or generate content.
3. Algorithmic Fairness & Bias Testing: If the Contractor employs Automated Decision-Making or AI Systems to assist in determinations with a material impact on students or employees, the Contractor shall perform an annual Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA). The Contractor shall provide the results of each DPIA to MCPS, which must explicitly detail the methodologies used for bias mitigation and the identification of any potential disparate impact on the basis of protected characteristics, within the system's logic or training data.
4. Human-in-the-Loop: For any system functionality that utilizes machine learning or algorithmic processing to impact student assessments or placements, the Contractor must ensure the system architecture permits an affirmative human review, and shall include interface controls that enable MCPS staff to exercise final decision-making authority.

L. Nothing in this Article shall supersede in any manner the Contractor's obligations or the obligations of its employees, agents, affiliates, or subcontractors pursuant to all federal, state, and county laws and regulations applicable to the Contract including but not limited to the requirements listed above, or the provisions of the Contract concerning the Contractor's obligations to MCPS.

M. Violation of this Article constitutes a breach of contract for which MCPS may terminate the Contract pursuant to Article 13 and/or pursue any other appropriate remedy. Notwithstanding anything in the Contract to the contrary, the provisions of this Article shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of the Contract.

ARTICLE 19. DOCUMENTATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- A. The Contractor warrants that (i) with respect to all intellectual property provided under the Contract, including AI-generated output, the Contractor possesses all right, title, and interest therein necessary for the Contractor to grant to MCPS the rights and licenses specified thereunder; and (ii) any deliverables, products, and/or services provided by the Contractor to MCPS through the Contract, as delivered by the Contractor for MCPS' normal use, will not infringe any valid patents, copyrights, or other third-party intellectual property rights, provided however, that this warranty does not extend to any infringement arising out of the use of such deliverables, products, and/or services in combination with other systems, equipment, or platforms not supplied by the Contractor. Notwithstanding the foregoing, collected data, analyses, and any analytical processes, programs, files, reports, and other deliverables developed as a contractual requirement are the sole property of MCPS. MCPS may waive title to any portion or to all data and analyses. MCPS has the sole right to copyright any deliverable or product developed for MCPS purposes under the Contract, which deliverables and work product shall be deemed works made for hire as defined under U.S. Copyright law, and may license its use by others for a fee or without charge.
- B. The Contractor agrees that it shall not assert any ownership rights, property rights, or copyright to MCPS student work product, as defined in Md. Code Ann., Education § 4-130.

ARTICLE 20. MCPS PROPERTY

The use of MCPS property, including but not limited to equipment and technology, must be approved in advance by the Procurement Director. If the Procurement Director has agreed to the Contractor's use of MCPS property, the following provisions shall apply:

- A. The Contractor shall insure all MCPS property in its possession or control and shall be liable to MCPS for the fair market value of any damage or loss to MCPS property, aside from that incurred by normal wear and tear. The Contractor shall maintain the property in operating condition, with the cost being chargeable to the Contract.
- B. All MCPS property shall be returned promptly upon completion of the Contract or otherwise disposed of, as directed in writing by MCPS. All costs of shipment or disposal are a Contract cost.
- C. Unless stated otherwise in writing, MCPS property may be used only for the performance of the Contract.
- D. Title to all MCPS property shall remain in the hands of MCPS at all times. Title to the property acquired by the Contractor for use under the Contract shall vest in MCPS upon delivery to the Contractor. Title to property leased with a purchase option shall pass to MCPS even if the option date is later than the Contract period. Any payments required to acquire title are a Contract cost.

ARTICLE 21. OBLIGATIONS REGARDING CRIMINAL RECORDS OF INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED TO WORK IN MCPS FACILITIES

A. Prohibition against assigning registered sex offenders and individuals convicted of sexual offenses, child sexual abuse, and other crimes of violence to MCPS contracts:

- 1. 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 (5) years imprisonment and/or a \$5,000 fine.
- 2. Maryland Law further requires 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.

3. The Contractor is required to submit, following award of the 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 its workforce that the Contractor and/or its subcontractors use to perform the work required by the Contract.

B. Required criminal background check process for certain individuals in the Contractor's workforce:

1. Under § 5-551 of the Family Law Article of the Maryland Code, each contractor and subcontractor shall require that any individuals in its workforce 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 "workforce" 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.
2. Fingerprinting for the criminal background check may be conducted at the MCPS Background Screening Office, located at 850 Hungerford Dr., Room 137, Rockville, MD 20850, or through another service provider approved by MCPS. Individuals who are fingerprinted by MCPS will need to provide written consent, and MCPS will keep copies of all records related to the criminal background checks it performs. If the contractor chooses to use a different service location, they must complete all required documentation and return all information to the Background Screening Office. The submitted documentation will be reviewed and processed to facilitate the issuance of a contractor's badge in some cases. A link has been provided for you to check the approved locations for your convenience. <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/security/fingerprint/>
3. The Contractor must take appropriate steps to promptly follow up on information identified in the criminal background check related to any 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.
4. Once the Contract is awarded, the Contractor is responsible for implementing the background check process. An individual in the Contractor's workforce 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: (i) the background check results for that individual have been received by MCPS; (ii) the Contractor certifies to MCPS that the individual has completed the online training regarding recognizing, reporting, and preventing child abuse and neglect, available on the MCPS website at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/; and (iii) the individual obtains a MCPS identification badge. The badge will be issued by the MCPS Background Screening Office, located at 850 Hungerford Drive, Suite 137, Rockville, MD 20850. To initiate the fingerprinting and badging process, contractors must submit Form 235-40 to ContractorObligation@mcpsmd.org. Upon receipt of the completed form, MCPS will provide the mandatory training information and links to schedule

required appointments for fingerprinting and badging. Compliance with this process is a condition of performing services on MCPS property. The Contractor will be required to return all badges at the conclusion of the Contract.

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

C. Violation of this Article constitutes a breach of contract for which MCPS may terminate the Contract pursuant to Article 13 and/or pursue any other appropriate remedy.

ARTICLE 22. INDEMNIFICATION AND LIABILITY

- A. The Contractor is responsible for any loss, personal injury, harm, death, cost, claim, damages (including but not limited to incidental and consequential damages), and other expenses (including attorney's fees and litigation expenses) that may be suffered or incurred by reason of, or occasioned wholly or in part by, the Contractor's negligence, its performance or failure to perform any of its obligations under the Contract, or its violation of any applicable legal requirement. For purposes of this Article, the negligence of employees, agents, affiliates, or subcontractors of the Contractor is deemed to be the negligence of the Contractor. In addition, the Contractor must defend, indemnify, and hold MCPS harmless from and against: (i) any claim (including but not limited to an enforcement action by any federal, state, or local agency) arising from or related to any loss, personal injury, death, cost, claim, damages (including but not limited to incidental and consequential damages), and other expenses (including but not limited to attorney's fees and litigation expenses) that may be suffered or incurred by reason of, or occasioned wholly or in part by, the Contractor's negligence, its performance or failure to perform any of its obligations under the Contract, or its violation of any applicable legal requirement; (ii) any claims, costs, and/or losses whatsoever occurring or resulting from: (a) the Contractor's failure to pay any such compensation, wages, benefits, or taxes; and/or (b) the supplying to the Contractor of work, services, materials, or supplies in connection with or in support of the performance of the Contract; and (iii) any claim that the deliverables, products, AI Services, and/or services delivered or otherwise provided to MCPS under the Contract infringe, violate, dilute, or misappropriate any patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, or other intellectual property right; and (iv) any claim, loss, or enforcement action arising from the Contractor's (or its AI System's) use of data or algorithmic processing that results in unlawful discrimination, algorithmic bias, or a violation of the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act (MODPA) or other applicable privacy laws; (v) any unauthorized use of AI services in violation of this Agreement, the Contractor's own documentation, or applicable law; and (vi) any breach of data residency requirements, as the Contractor warrants that all MCPS data, including data processed by third-party subprocessors or AI platforms, shall reside and be processed exclusively within the United States.
- B. In the event of any intellectual property infringement, violation, dilution, or misappropriation claim, or if the Contractor becomes aware of the possibility of such a claim, the Contractor shall, within sixty (60) days: (a) furnish MCPS with non-infringing replacement of its deliverables, products, and/or services which are functionally equivalent in all material respects to MCPS' satisfaction; (b) modify the applicable deliverables, products, and/or services so that they become non-infringing but functionally equivalent in all material respects to MCPS' satisfaction; (c) obtain for MCPS the right to use such deliverables, products, and/or services upon commercially reasonable terms, subject to adjusted payment obligations on the part of MCPS if such terms differ from those set forth in the Contract; or (d) if (a) – (c) are commercially impracticable, terminate the Contract in whole or in part and refund to MCPS the fees received for such deliverables, products, and/or services that are the subject of such a claim.
- C. In any action or proceeding brought against MCPS by reason of the foregoing Articles 22.A. or 22.B., the Contractor must reimburse MCPS the cost of defending such action or proceedings, or upon MCPS' written demand and at the Contractor's sole cost and expense, the Contractor must defend such action and proceeding by counsel approved by MCPS. Contractor shall indemnify MCPS for all costs arising out of or relating to a Data Security Incident, including forensic investigation, costs related to statutorily required response(s) and notification costs, reasonable legal fees, and regulatory fines or penalties against MCPS.

- D. For the purposes of this Article, MCPS includes the Board of Education of Montgomery County, and its officers, officials, agents, and employees. Nothing herein or any other provision of the Contract shall be construed to abrogate, impair, or waive any defense, liability or damages limitation, or governmental immunity of MCPS pursuant to Maryland law, or otherwise. In addition, nothing herein or any other provision of the Contract shall be construed to require MCPS to defend, hold harmless, indemnify, or pay any expenses (including but not limited to attorney's fees and litigation expenses) to the Contractor. The Contractor expressly understands and agrees that any performance bond or insurance protection required by the Contract, or otherwise provided by the Contractor, shall in no way limit its responsibility under the Contract to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless MCPS.
- E. NEITHER PARTY SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ANY SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTRACT, THE CONTRACTOR'S DELIVERABLES, PRODUCTS, SERVICES, AND/OR OTHER ITEMS PROVIDED HEREUNDER; HOWEVER, THE FOREGOING EXCULPATION OF LIABILITY SHALL NOT APPLY TO THE INDEMNIFICATION PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE. NO OTHER DISCLAIMER OR LIMITATION OF LIABILITY SHALL BE APPLICABLE TO THE DELIVERABLES, PRODUCTS, AND/OR SERVICES, GROSS NEGLIGENCE, WILLFUL MISCONDUCT, REMEDIATION COSTS, OR WORK PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTOR UNDER THE CONTRACT.
- F. Notwithstanding anything in the Contract to the contrary, this Article shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of the Contract.

ARTICLE 23. INSURANCE

- A. The Contractor shall be solely responsible for any insurance, including, but not limited to, general comprehensive liability, worker's compensation, professional liability insurance, and business automobile insurance. The Contractor agrees to provide MCPS with certificates of insurance verifying the following minimum coverage:
 - 1. Comprehensive General Liability Insurance: Liability limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence for claims arising out of bodily injuries or death, and property damages, subject to a minimum limit of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) aggregate. Such insurance shall include contractual liability insurance.
 - 2. Comprehensive Business Automobile Liability Insurance: Liability limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence for all claims arising out of bodily injuries or death and property damages. The insurance shall apply to any owned, non-owned, leased, or hired automobiles used in the performance of the Contract.
 - 3. Worker's Compensation Insurance: Statutory coverage as required by federal, state, and county laws and regulations.
 - 4. Professional Liability, Errors, and Omissions Insurance: Liability limit of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in the event the deliverables, products, and/or services delivered pursuant to the Contract, either directly or indirectly, involve or require Professional Services.
 - 5. Cyber/Privacy Liability and Data Breach Insurance: Liability limits of not less than Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) per occurrence. Such insurance shall be maintained for the duration of the Contract and for a period of three (3) years thereafter. This coverage must include, at a minimum:
 - a. Data Breach Response: Costs for forensic investigations, legal fees, and required notifications to affected individuals under Maryland law.

- b. Regulatory Defense and Penalties: Coverage for fines or penalties assessed by federal or state agencies (e.g., Maryland Attorney General) related to data privacy violations.
 - c. AI and Algorithmic Liability: Coverage for claims arising from "errors and omissions" in AI System logic, including algorithmic bias or discriminatory outputs.
 - d. Cyber Extortion: Coverage for ransomware or other extortionate demands.
 - e. Network Security: Coverage for unauthorized access to, or use of, MCPS data residing on the Contractor's or its subprocessors' systems.
- B. The minimum limits of coverage listed above shall not be construed as the maximum as required by the Contract or as a limitation of any potential liability on the part of the Contractor; nor shall failure by MCPS to request evidence of this insurance in any way be construed as a waiver of the Contractor's obligation to provide the insurance coverage specified. The Contractor must keep this insurance in full force and effect during the term of the Contract, including all extensions. If coverage is written on a claims made basis, the policy shall be endorsed to provide at least a three-year extended claims reporting provision.
- C. Insurance is to be placed with insurers licensed/approved to do business in the State of Maryland with a Best's rating of no less than A:VII, or if not rated with Best's, with a minimum surplus the equivalent of Best's surplus size VII, unless otherwise approved by the Procurement Director. The Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary. The Board of Education of Montgomery County and its officers, officials, agents, and employees shall be covered by endorsement, as additional insureds with respect to liability arising out of activities performed or to be performed by or on behalf of the Contractor in connection with the Contract. The Contractor's insurance shall apply separately to each insured against whom a claim is made and/or a lawsuit brought. Any insurance and/or self-insured program maintained by the Board of Education of Montgomery County or its officers, officials, agents, and employees shall not contribute to the Contractor's insurance or benefit the Contractor in any way.
- D. The Contractor shall provide MCPS with certificates of insurance within ten (10) days of execution of the Contract evidencing the coverage required above. The certificates shall confirm that the Board of Education of Montgomery County and its officers, officials, agents, and employees have been made additional insureds under the respective insurance policies. The Contractor must provide to MCPS at least thirty (30) days written notice of a cancellation of, or a material change to, an insurance policy. The Contractor must provide the certificates of insurance before commencing the work covered by the Contract.

ARTICLE 24. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

Unless expressly agreed in writing by the Superintendent of Schools, these MCPS General Contract Articles shall take precedence over, supersede, and void any other provision of the Contract to the extent such other provision is contrary to or inconsistent with the MCPS General Contract Articles. For avoidance of doubt, to the extent that any provision of the Contract provides MCPS with additional or greater rights than those provided in the MCPS General Contract Articles, or any other provision of the Contract imposes requirements on the Contractor in addition to those set out in the MCPS General Contract Articles, such other provision shall be deemed to be supplemental to, and not contrary to or inconsistent with, the MCPS General Contract Articles.

ARTICLE 25. SEVERABILITY

Should any portion of the Contract be found illegal, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect and shall be binding on both Parties.

ARTICLE 26. GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

The Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Maryland, without regard to conflicts of law provisions. Sole and exclusive jurisdiction for any action or proceedings arising out of or related to the Contract shall be in an appropriate state or federal court located in Maryland.

ARTICLE 27. ENTIRE CONTRACT

The Contract is binding between the Parties and constitutes the entire understanding between the Parties regarding the subject matter of the Contract and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous statements, understandings and contracts, whether oral or written, between the Parties with respect to the subject matter of the Contract. Any changes and additions hereto shall not become binding upon any Party unless they are incorporated into a written contract amendment signed by the Parties. No waiver by either Party of any failure to observe or perform any term or condition of the Contract shall operate as a waiver of such term or condition or of any subsequent failure thereof.

ARTICLE 28. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

The Contract and all of its provisions shall apply to and bind the successors and assigns of the Parties. No assignment or transfer of the Contract or any part hereof, rights hereunder, or interest herein by the Contractor shall be valid unless and until it is approved in writing by MCPS and made subject to such reasonable terms and conditions as MCPS may impose. Unless performance is expressly waived in writing by the Procurement Director, an assignment does not release the Contractor from responsibility for performance of the Contract.

ARTICLE 29. GUARANTEE

- A. The Contractor guarantees for one year from acceptance, or for a longer period that is otherwise expressly stated in the RFP or solicitation, all deliverables, products, and/or services, including those used in the course of providing the deliverables, products, and/or services. This includes a guarantee that all such deliverables, products, and/or services carry a guarantee against any and all defects for a minimum period of one year from acceptance, or for a longer period stated in the RFP or solicitation. The Contractor must correct any and all defects in material and/or workmanship that may appear during the guarantee period, or any defects that occur within one (1) year of acceptance even if discovered more than one (1) year after acceptance, by repairing (or replacing with new items or new materials, if necessary) any such defect at no cost to MCPS and to MCPS' satisfaction.
- B. Should a manufacturer's or service provider's warranty or guarantee exceed the requirements stated above, that guarantee or warranty will be the primary one used in the case of defect. Copies of manufacturer's or service provider's warranties must be provided upon request.
- C. All warranties and guarantees must be in effect from the date of acceptance by MCPS of the deliverables, products, and/or services.
- D. Deliverables, products, and/or services provided under the Contract must be of first quality, latest model, and of current manufacture, and must not be of such age or so deteriorated as to impair their usefulness or safety. Items that are used, rebuilt, or demonstrator models are unacceptable, unless specifically requested by MCPS.

ARTICLE 30. NOTICE

Any notice by a Party under the Contract shall be in writing and either personally delivered, sent via email, a nationally recognized overnight delivery service (such as Federal Express), first class postage prepaid mail, or by fax, addressed to the other Party at the address specified in the Contract, or such other address of which either Party may from time to time notify the other. Notices shall be deemed given when received by the receiving

Party. All notices to MCPS shall be sent to the MCPS Project Contact with copy to: Director, Department of Procurement, Department of Procurement, 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 3100, Rockville, MD 20850, 301-217-5292 (fax).

Revised DLS: March 27, 2026

Attachment A

Equal Opportunity Certification

1. Are you participating in any contractual agreement which contains the Equal Employment Opportunity Clause prescribed in Executive Order 11246, as amended?

Yes No

2. Name and address of Federal "Compliance Agency," if known:

("The Rules and Regulations of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, define the term Compliance Agency as the agency designated by the Director, of CCP, to conduct compliance reviews and to undertake such other responsibilities assigned.")

3. Are you required to maintain a written affirmative action plan according to 41 CFR 60-2 and 60-1 (a)(4)?

Yes No

4. Has the "Compliance Agency" required you to correct deficiencies in your affirmative action plan or your employment policies and practices?

Yes No

5. Are you required to submit an annual compliance report as described in 41 CFR 60-1.7 (a)?

Yes No

If the answer to "5" is yes, enclose a copy of your latest compliance report.

Data on Subcontractors. (Use supplementary sheets where required.)

_____ (1)* (2)** (3)***
(Subcontractor's Name)

_____ () Yes () Yes () Yes
(Street)

_____ () No () No () No
(City) (State)

_____ (1)* (2)** (3)***
(Subcontractor's Name)

_____ () Yes () Yes () Yes
(Street)

_____ () No () No () No
(City) (State)

* (1) Previously held contracts subject to EQ 10925, 11114, and 11246, as amended.
 ** (2) Previously filed certificate of nonsegregated facilities.
 *** (3) Previously filed annual (EEO-1, EEO-4, or EEO-6) compliance report.

Attachment B

Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities

By submission of this offer, the Offeror or subcontractor certifies that there is not maintained or provided for employees any segregated facilities and that employees will not be permitted to perform their services at any location, under the Offeror's control, where segregated facilities are maintained. The Offeror, or subcontractor, agrees that a breach of this certification is a violation of the Equal Opportunity clause in this contract. As used in this certification, the term "Segregated Facilities" means any rooms, work areas, restrooms and wash rooms, restaurants and other eating areas, time clocks, locker rooms and storage or dressing areas, parking lots, drinking fountains, recreation or entertainment areas, transportation, and housing facilities provided for employees which are segregated by explicit directive or are in fact segregated on the basis of race, creed, color, or national origin because of habit, local custom, or otherwise. The Offeror further agrees that except where there has been obtained identical certifications from proposed subcontractors prior to the award of subcontracts exceeding \$10,000 which are not exempt from the provisions of the Equal Opportunity clause that there will be forwarded the following notice to such proposed subcontractors except where the proposed subcontractors have submitted certifications for specific time period:

Notice to Prospective Subcontractors of

Requirement for Certifications of

Nonsegregated Facilities

A Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities, as required by the May 9, 1967, order (32 F.R. 7439, May 19, 1967) on Elimination of Segregated Facilities by the Secretary of Labor, must be submitted prior to the award of a subcontract exceeding \$10,000 which is not exempt from the provisions of the Equal Opportunity clause.

The certification may be submitted either for each subcontract or for all subcontracts during a period, i.e., quarterly, semiannually, or annually.

NOTE: Failure of an Offeror to agree to the Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities shall render its offer nonresponsive.

Initial: _____

Date: _____

Attachment C

Minority Business Enterprise

The Offeror () is () is not a minority business enterprise. A minority business enterprise is defined as a "business at least 50 percent of which is owned by minority group members or, in case of publicly owned businesses, at least 51 percent of the stock is owned by minority group members." For the purpose of this definition, minority group members are African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and American Indians.

Check the appropriate box below.

- | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Native American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> None | |

Attachment D

NON-DEBARMENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

_____ I acknowledge that my firm has NO pending litigation and/or debarment from doing business with the State of Maryland or any of its subordinate government units and/or federal government within the past five (5) years.

_____ I acknowledge that my firm has pending litigation or has been debarred from doing business with the State of Maryland or any of its subordinate government units and/or federal government, within the past five (5) years. If so, please provide an attachment describing the pending litigation or debarment.

_____ I acknowledge none of this company's officers, directors, partners, or its employees have been convicted of bribery, attempted bribery, or conspiracy to bribe under the laws of any state or federal government; and that no member of the Board of Education of the Montgomery County Public Schools, Administrative or Supervisory Personnel, or other employees of the Board of Education has any interest in the bidding company except as follows

As the duly authorized representative of the Offeror, I hereby certify that the above information is correct and that I will advise Montgomery County Public Schools should there be a change in status.

By (Signature) _____

Name and Title _____

Witness Name and Title _____

ATTACHMENT E
(List of Data Elements)

Product Name:		
Contractor Name:		
Instructions: List <u>all</u> Confidential Information collected by the Contractor's product below.		
<p>STUDENT INFORMATION:</p> <p>First Name <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Last Name <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Identification Number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Grade Level <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Gender <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Race/Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Username <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Password <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Classroom <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>School Name <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>School Address <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Metadata <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Keystroke Data <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Student inputted data (i.e. answers to quizzes, assignments, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>List data inputted by students:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Other Student Information <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>List other student information collected:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>EMPLOYEE INFORMATION:</p> <p>First Name <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Last Name <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Title <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Email Address <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>School Name <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Username <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Password <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other Employee Information <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>List other employee information collected:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>PARENT INFORMATION:</p> <p>First Name <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Last Name <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Title <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Email Address <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>School Name <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Username <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Password <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other Parent Information <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>List other parent information collected:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		
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OTHER DATA:

List **any and all** other information that will be collected by the Contractor's product that has not otherwise been listed:
