

**Department of Materials Management
Procurement Unit
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland**

**Invitation to Bid #9073.9
Weight Training Supplies and Equipment**

GENERAL CONDITIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

A. Intent

The specifications contained herein are intended to cover the furnishing and delivery of commercial weight training supplies and/or equipment as described. Unit Price shall include the cost for making inside delivery, installation, and ready for use with debris removed from premises and any freight charges, where required. Deliveries are to be made to various locations within Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Montgomery County, Maryland, as noted on the purchase order.

B. Delivery

Delivery will be required within 30 days after receipt by the successful bidder(s) of a purchase order issued and signed by the director of the Department of Materials Management or an order placed by an authorized representative using the MCPS purchasing card. Any exception to this delivery requirement shall be stated in the bid response.

Deliveries to schools will be accepted between the hours of 8:30 a.m., and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday only, except on school holidays. Successful bidders shall schedule their deliveries accordingly. The MCPS Board of Education will not be responsible for freight charges for re-shipping when shipments are refused due to faulty scheduling.

C. Awards

It is the intention to award this contract to the bidder(s) submitting the most favorable unit prices with consideration being given to any previous performance for the MCPS Board of Education as to quality of service and acceptable merchandise, and with regard to the bidder(s) ability to perform should it be awarded the contract. Awards may be made to one successful bidder submitting the lowest aggregate quotation on items of a similar nature or on an individual item basis. However, the Board reserves the right to make awards according to the best interests of MCPS. Awards are contingent upon availability of funds. MCPS reserves the right to add or delete items throughout the course of the contract term. MCPS also reserves the right to add additional vendors should there be a need for items not available from the awarded vendors.

D. Contract Term

The term of contract shall be for one (1) year as stipulated on the Invitation for Bid. However, the contract may not begin until one day after approval by the Board of Education and will conclude as stated under the contract term. MCPS reserves the rights to extend this contract at existing prices, terms and conditions for up to three (3) additional one-year terms. Written notice indicating MCPS' intention to pursue the extension of the contract will be issued to the successful bidder(s) 90 days prior to the expiration of the original contract. The bidder(s) will have ten days from the date of notification to return the notice acknowledging its intent to accept or reject the extension. Once all responses are evaluated, MCPS staff may make a recommendation to the Board of Education to extend the contract or decide to rebid. If the contract is extended by the Board of Education a contract amendment will be issued.

E. Provision For Price Adjustment

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

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

Price increases will not be considered for the first 90 days of the contract. Thereafter the successful bidders must submit a written request for price relief. The request for a price increase shall include documentation from the manufacturer to verify the basis for such request. MCPS reserves the right to accept or reject the request as may be determined to be in the best interest of MCPS. Any orders received prior to a request for a price increase shall be honored at the original contract price. If the request for a price increase is approved, a contract amendment will be issued.

F. Descriptive Literature

When bidding products other than the brand and model specified, bidders are required to furnish with their bid proposal literature properly bound and labeled showing full illustrations and detailed specifications on items bid. The literature and specifications are to be arranged and labeled according to item sequence. The literature shall be clearly marked with the bid number, item number and company name. Bidders shall show the manufacturer's code and catalog number of the item offered. **Failure to submit marked descriptive literature may result in automatic disqualification.**

G. Brand Names

Except where stated "Only" in the item description, reference to brand names, code or model numbers is offered "As" a point of reference in order for bidders to consider style, sizes, weights, and similar characteristics. The use of such brand names should not be interpreted as the exclusive brand desired.

G. Brand Names (Continued)

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

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

Commodity descriptions that state "Only" are brands that have been evaluated and tested for inclusion on this bid and are the only brands acceptable at this time. Other brands will be evaluated and tested if materials are submitted at no cost to MCPS. Forward samples to MCPS: Julie E. Johnson, Procurement Unit, 45 W. Gude Drive, Suite 3100, Rockville, MD 20850. Testing normally requires a minimum of sixty days to complete; therefore, your samples for testing may be approved for a future bid if the evaluation is satisfactory.

H. Interpretation of Specifications

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

I. Deviations

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

J. Quotations

No bidder will be allowed to offer more than one price on each item even though it may feel that it has two or more types of styles that will meet specifications. Bidders must determine for themselves which to offer. If said bidder should submit more than one price on any item, all prices for that item will be rejected. However, this stipulation does not preclude the offering of new products which do not meet specifications in every respect from being offered as a separate item for consideration for future bids. Such product shall be **offered under separate cover**, identified as a new product and a brief explanation written as a part of the offer detailing the advantages that can normally be expected of this product over the product specified.

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

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

J. Quotations (Continued)

Bidders shall submit their response on the spreadsheet. Directions for completing the spreadsheet are provided on Attachment A, the last page of the yellow contract pages. Vendors without access to a C/D or flash drive may contact Julie Johnson, Buyer at 301-279-3306 to request a copy of the spreadsheet be emailed. Upon receipt of the email, the vendor may save the file to a CD for flash drive for their bid submittal. **Emailed spreadsheets shall not be accepted at this time.** Vendors without the capability of providing price, brand, and model information on a CD or flash drive shall enter the information on the Item Specification pages included in the bid package.

K. Quantities

Quantities in this request are based upon prior usage and are subject to change and are dependent upon current requirements of MCPS and on budgetary limitations. However, MCPS shall not be obligated to purchase any specific quantity. Orders will be placed from time to time throughout the contract term for delivery to individual locations.

L. Submission of Bids

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

M. Customer References

Bidders shall provide three references with their bid submission. The references shall have company name, contact person, address, phone number, and email address of three current customers for which a contract for similar size and products have been provided. If the referenced information is not accurate and MCPS cannot contact the person(s) named then your bid may not be considered. MCPS may request additional references. **Note: ALL BIDDERS must provide references - including bidders who currently engaged in business with MCPS.**

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

M. Customer References (continued)

3. _____

Email _____

N. Award Criteria

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

O. Contractors' Obligation Regarding Criminal Records of Individuals Assigned to Work in MCPS Facilities

Beginning July 1, 2015, all MCPS contracts must include the following provisions:

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

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

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

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

O. Contractors' Obligation Regarding Criminal Records of Individuals Assigned to Work in MCPS Facilities (Continued)

kidnapping; (4) manslaughter, except involuntary manslaughter; (5) mayhem; (6) maiming; (7) murder; (8) rape; (9) robbery; (10) carjacking; (11) armed carjacking; (12) sexual offense in the first degree; (13) sexual offense in the second degree; (14) use of a handgun in the commission of a felony or other crime of violence; (15) child abuse in the first degree; (16) sexual abuse of a minor; (17) an attempt to commit any of the crimes described in items (1) through (16) of this list; (18) continuing course of conduct with a child under § 3-315 of the Criminal Law Article; (19) assault in the first degree; (20) assault with intent to murder; (21) assault with intent to rape; (22) assault with intent to rob; (23) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the first degree; and (24) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the second degree.

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

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

Under recent amendments to § 5-551 of the Family Law Article of the Maryland Code, each contractor and subcontractor shall require that any individuals in its work-force must undergo a criminal background check, including fingerprinting, if the individuals will work in a MCPS school facility in circumstances where they have direct, unsupervised, and uncontrolled access to children. The term "work-force" in this and the preceding section refers to all of the contractor's direct employees, subcontractors and their employees, and/or independent contractors and their employees that the contractor uses to perform the work required by the contract.

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

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

O. Contractors' Obligation Regarding Criminal Records of Individuals Assigned to Work in MCPS Facilities (Continued)

Once the contract is awarded, the contractor is responsible for implementing the background check process. An individual in the contractor's work-force may not begin work in a MCPS school facility on an assignment where the individual will have direct, unsupervised, and uncontrolled access to children, until: (a) the background check results for that individual have been received by MCPS; (b) the contractor certifies to MCPS that the individual has received training and/or reviewed informational materials, as appropriate, regarding recognizing, reporting, and preventing child abuse and neglect, consistent with the content provided in training for MCPS employees; and (c) the individual obtains a MCPS identification badge. The badge will be issued by the MCPS Department of Safety and Security, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 131, Rockville, MD 20850. Appointments are made by calling 240-740-3066. The contractor will be required to return all badges at the conclusion of the contract.

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

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

P. eMaryland Marketplace Advantage Registration

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

Q. Multi-Agency Participation

MCPS reserves the right to extend the terms and conditions of this solicitation to any and all other agencies within the state of Maryland as well as any other federal, state, municipal, county, or local governmental agency under the jurisdiction of the United States and its territories. This shall include but not be limited to private schools, parochial schools, non-public schools such as charter schools, special districts, intermediate units, non-profit agencies providing services on behalf of government, and/or state, community and/or private colleges/universities that required these goods, commodities and/or services. Use of this solicitation by other agencies may be dependent on special local/state requirements attached to and made a part of the solicitation at time of contracting. The supplier/contractor agrees to notify the issuing agency of those entities that wish to use any contract resulting from this bid and will also provide usage information, which may be requested. A copy of the contract pricing and the bid requirements incorporated in this contract will be supplied to requesting agencies.

Each participating jurisdiction or agency shall enter into its own contract with the Award Bidder(s) and this contract shall be binding only upon the principals signing such an agreement. Invoices shall be submitted "directly" to the ordering jurisdiction for each unit purchased. Disputes over the execution of any contract shall be the responsibility of the participating jurisdiction or agency that entered into that contract. Disputes must be resolved solely between the participating agency and the Award Bidder.

Q. Multi-Agency Participation (continued)

MCPS assumes no authority, liability, or obligation on behalf of any other public or non-public entity that may use any contract resulting from this bid MCPS pricing is based on the specifications provided in this solicitation. A negative reply will not adversely affect consideration of your bid/proposal.

R. Addenda/Errata

Changes to a solicitation may occur prior to the solicitation opening date and time. It is the sole responsibility of the vendor to check the “Event Calendar” on the MCPS website <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/procurement/vendors.aspx> or contact Julie E. Johnson in the Procurement Unit at 301-279-3306 to verify whether addenda/errata have been issued. Failure to provide the signed acknowledgement of the addenda/errata may result in the bid being deemed non-responsive.

S. Inquiries

Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be submitted in writing, to Julie E. Johnson, Buyer, Montgomery County Public Schools, 45 W Gude Drive, Suite 3100, Rockville, Maryland 20850, fax number 301-279-3173, or email, procurement@mcpsmd.org. Questions must be received no later than four (4) business days prior to bid opening in order for the bidder to receive a reply before submitting their bid. The Board of Education will not be responsible for any oral or telephone explanation or interpretation. Bidder contact with any other MCPS employee regarding this solicitation will be considered by MCPS as an attempt to obtain an unfair advantage and result in non-consideration of its bid. The MCPS Procurement website address is <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/procurement/vendors.aspx>.