

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
CELINA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**FINANCES
6320/page 1 of 5PURCHASES

When the purchase of, and contract for, single items of supplies, materials, or equipment amounts to ~~\$25,000~~\$50,000 or more, and when the Board determines to build, repair, enlarge, improve, or demolish a school building the cost of which will exceed ~~\$25,000~~\$50,000, the Superintendent/Treasurer shall obtain competitive bids.

In accordance with statute, the Board may elect to forego the bidding for contracts in any of the following situations:

- A. the acquisition of educational materials used in teaching
- B. if the Board elects and declares by resolution to participate in purchase contracts, in accordance with R.C. Chapter 125 and the terms and conditions prescribed by the Department of Administrative Services
- C. if the Board determines and declares by resolution adopted by two-thirds (2/3's) of its members that any item is available and can be acquired only from a single source
- D. if the Board declares by resolution adopted by two-thirds (2/3's) of its members that the installation, modification, and/or remodeling subject to contracting is involved in an energy conservation measure undertaken through an installment payment contract under R.C. 3313.372 or pursuant to R.C. 133.06(G)
- E. the acquisition of computer software and/or computer hardware for instructional purposes

The Superintendent shall verify that the specifications for any public improvement project for which bids are solicited do not require any bidder to:

- A. enter into agreements with labor organizations on said public improvement;
or
- B. enter into an agreement that requires its employees to become members of or pay fees or dues to a labor organization as a condition of employment or continued employment.

Bids shall be sealed and shall be opened by the Treasurer in the presence of at least one (1) witness.

Soliciting of Bids

The Board, by resolution, may award a bid to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. For a bidder to be considered responsive, the proposal must respond to all bid specifications in all material respects and contain no irregularities or deviations from the bid specifications that would affect the amount of the bid or otherwise provide a competitive advantage. For a bidder to be deemed responsible, the Board may request evidence from the bidder concerning:

- A. the experience (type of product or service being purchased, etc.) of the bidder;
- B. the financial condition;
- C. the conduct and performance on previous contracts (with the District or other agencies);
- D. the bidder's facilities;
- E. management skills;
- F. the ability to execute the contract properly;
- G. a signed affidavit affirming that neither the bidder nor any subcontractor has entered into an agreement with any labor organization regarding the public improvement project.

Awarding of Bids

The Board shall approve all contracts resulting from competitive bids prior to being awarded. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

In situations in which the Board has resolved to award a bid to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and the low bidder does not meet the considerations specified above, the Board shall so notify the bidder, in writing, by certified mail. The bidder may protest the award of a bid within five (5) days of the notification and the Board shall meet with the protesting bidder and then reaffirm or reverse its decision.

Limitations

All purchases that are within the amount contained in the fund of the appropriation may be made upon authorization of the Purchasing Agent.

The Treasurer is authorized to adjust appropriations within a fund in order to make necessary purchases and shall report such modifications at the following regular Board meeting.

Then and Now Certificate

If the Treasurer can certify that both at the time of the purchase and at the time of certification, sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of the respective fund, properly appropriated and free from previous encumbrance, the expenditure may be authorized. The Board may approve such payment within thirty (30) days from receipt of such certificate.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the Treasurer upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful.

The Superintendent is authorized to make emergency purchases, without prior adjustment, of those goods and/or services needed to keep the schools in operation. Such purchases shall be brought to the Board's attention at the next regular meeting.

"Blanket" Certificates

The Treasurer may issue "blanket" purchase orders (certificates) for a sum not exceeding an amount established by resolution of the Board against any specific line item account over a period of time, not to extend beyond the end of the fiscal year in which it is issued. Only one (1) "blanket" purchase order (certificate) may be outstanding at any one (1) particular time for any one (1) particular line item appropriation.

"Super Blanket" Certificates

The Treasurer may issue "super blanket" purchase orders (certificates) for any amount for expenditures and contracts from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. Such a purchase order (certificate) shall not extend beyond the fiscal year.

Contracts for Development and Improvement of Facilities

All contemplated contracts for professional design services such as from an architect or for construction management shall be in accordance with R.C. 9.33, R.C. 9.333, and R.C. 153.54 et seq.

Lease-Purchase Agreements

Lease-purchase agreements entered into by the Board shall be in accordance with R.C. 3313.375. Such agreements shall be a series of not more than thirty (30) oneyear renewable lease terms, after which time ownership is transferred to the Board if all obligations of the Board under the agreement have been satisfied.

Purchases from the State

In accordance with State law (R.C. 4115.31 et seq.), the Superintendent shall purchase products and services which are available from the Ohio Industries for the Handicapped (OIH) when such products or services are needed by the District. The Superintendent is to maintain the current catalog provided by OIH and inform all District personnel who may be purchasing products or services of the catalog's current listings.

Requirements

Before the Treasurer places a purchase order, s/he shall check as to whether the proposed purchase is subject to bid, whether sufficient funds exist in the budget. All purchase orders shall be numbered consecutively.

In the interests of economy, fairness, and efficiency in its business dealings, the Board requires that:

- A. items commonly used in the various schools or units thereof, be standardized whenever consistency with educational goals can be maintained;
- B. opportunity be provided to as many responsible suppliers as possible to do business with the School District. To this end, the Treasurer shall develop and maintain lists of potential suppliers for various types of supplies, equipment, and services.

Employees may be held personally responsible for anything purchased without a properly-signed purchase order or authorization.

The Board may acquire equipment as defined in law by lease, by installment payments, by entering into lease-purchase agreements, or by lease with an option to purchase, provided the contract sets forth the terms of such a purchase.

Reverse Auctions

It is the policy of the Board to permit the use of a reverse auction to purchase services and supplies whenever it is determined that the reverse auction process will be advantageous to the District (e.g., result in a cost savings to the District). To that end, vendors may submit proposals when competing to sell services and/or supplies in an open environment via the Internet. While the reverse auction process may be used to purchase supplies such as equipment, materials, tangible assets and insurance, the process may not be used to purchase real property or interests in real property. The process may also be used to purchase services such as the furnishing of labor, time, or effort by a person, provided such services do not involve the delivery of a specific end product other than a report, and are not being furnished in connection with an employment agreement or collective bargaining agreement.

The Board will provide notice of the request for proposals and award contracts in accordance with the Superintendent's administrative guidelines. When competitive sealed bidding and/or competitive sealed proposals for the purchase of services or supplies are required by law, purchases made by reverse auction will satisfy such legal requirement.

Procurement – Federal Grants

The Superintendent shall maintain a procurement and contract administration system in accordance with the USDOE requirements (34 CFR 80.36) for the administration and management of Federal grants and Federally-funded programs. The District shall maintain a compliance system that requires contractors to perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders. Except as otherwise noted, procurement transactions shall conform to the provisions of this policy and administrative guidelines (AG 6320).

R.C. 9.25, 9.30, 9.31, 9.311, 9.312, 9.314, 125.04, 153.12, 153.54, 2909.33
R.C. 3313.37, 3313.375, 3313.46, 4115.32 et. seq., 4116.02, 4116.03, 5705.41
R.C. 5705.45

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policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION
CELINA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FINANCES
6325/page 1 of 7

PROCUREMENT – FEDERAL GRANTS/FUNDS

Procurement of all supplies, materials, equipment, and services paid for from Federal funds or District matching funds shall be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, and local statutes and/or regulations, the terms and conditions of the Federal grant, Board of Education policies, and administrative procedures.

The Superintendent shall maintain a procurement and contract administration system in accordance with the USDOE requirements (2 CFR 200.317-.326) for the administration and management of Federal grants and Federally-funded programs. The District shall maintain a contract administration system that requires contractors to perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders. Except as otherwise noted, procurement transactions shall conform to the provisions of the District's documented general purchasing Policy 6320 and AG 6320A.

All District employees, officers, and agents who have purchasing authority shall abide by the standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts as established in Policy 1130, Policy 3113 and Policy 4113 – Conflict of Interest.

The District will avoid acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items. Additionally, consideration shall be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase. And, where appropriate, an analysis shall be made of lease versus purchase alternatives, and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach. These considerations are given as part of the process to determine the allowability of each purchase made with Federal funds.

To foster greater economy and efficiency, the District may enter into State and local intergovernmental agreements where appropriate for procurement or use of common or shared goods and services.

policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION
CELINA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FINANCES
6325/page 2 of 7

Competition

All procurement transactions shall be conducted in a manner that encourages full and open competition and that is in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgement. In order to promote objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, the District shall exclude any contractor that has developed or drafted specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals from competition for such procurements.

Some of the situations considered to be restrictive of competition include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business
- B. unnecessary experience and excessive bonding requirements
- C. noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts
- D. organizational conflicts of interest
- E. specification of only a "brand name" product instead of allowing for an "*or equal*" product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement
- F. any arbitrary action in the procurement process

Further, the District does not use statutorily or administratively imposed State, local, or tribal geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals, unless (1) an applicable Federal statute expressly mandates or encourages a geographic preference; or (2) the District is contracting for architectural and engineering services, in which case geographic location may be a selection criterion provided its application leaves an appropriate number of qualified firms, given the nature and size of the project, to compete for the contract.

policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION
CELINA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FINANCES
6325/page 3 of 7

To the extent that the District uses a pre-qualified list of persons, firms or products to acquire goods and services, the pre-qualified list includes enough qualified sources as to ensure maximum open and free competition. The District allows vendors to apply for consideration to be placed on the list annually.

Solicitation Language

The District shall require that all solicitations incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured. Such description shall not, in competitive procurements, contain features which unduly restrict competition. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the material, product or service to be procured and, when necessary, shall set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it shall conform if it is to satisfy its intended use. Detailed product specifications should be avoided if at all possible.

When it is impractical or uneconomical to make a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements, a "brand name or equivalent" description may be used as a means to define the performance or other salient requirements of procurement. The specific features of the named brand which shall be met by offers shall be clearly stated; and identify all requirements which the offerors shall fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

The Board will not approve any expenditure for an unauthorized purchase or contract.

Procurement Methods

The District shall utilize sealed bids as the method of procurement.

Sealed, competitive bids shall be obtained when the purchase of, and contract for, single items of supplies, materials, or equipment which amounts to ~~\$25,000~~\$50,000 and when the Board determines to build, repair, enlarge, improve, or demolish a school building/facility the cost of which will exceed ~~\$25,000~~\$50,000.

policy

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
CELINA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FINANCES
6325/page 4 of 7**

In order for sealed bidding to be feasible, the following conditions shall be present:

- A. a complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;
- B. two (2) or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and
- C. the procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price.

When sealed bids are used, the following requirements apply:

- A. Bids shall be solicited in accordance with the provisions of State law and Policy 6320. Bids shall be solicited from an adequate number of qualified suppliers, providing sufficient response time prior to the date set for the opening of bids. The invitation to bid shall be publicly advertised.
- B. The invitation for bids will include product/contract specifications and pertinent attachments and shall define the items and/or services required in order for the bidder to properly respond.
- C. All bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids; bids will be opened publicly.
- D. A firm fixed price contract award will be made in writing to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs shall be considered in determining which bid is lowest. Payment discounts may only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken.
- E. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids for sound documented reason.

policy

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
CELINA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FINANCES
6325/page 5 of 7**

Contract/Price Analysis

The District shall perform a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of \$150,000, including contract modifications. A cost analysis generally means evaluating the separate cost elements that make up the total price, while a price analysis means evaluating the total price, without looking at the individual cost elements.

The method and degree of analysis is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation; however, the District shall come to an independent estimate prior to receiving bids or proposals.

When performing a cost analysis, the District shall negotiate profit as a separate element of the price. To establish a fair and reasonable profit, consideration is given to the complexity of the work to be performed, the risk borne by the contractor, the contractor's investment, the amount of subcontracting, the quality of its record of past performance, and industry profit rates in the surrounding geographical area for similar work.

Time and Materials Contracts

The District uses a time and materials type contract only (1) after a determination that no other contract is suitable; and (2) if the contract includes a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Time and materials type contract means a contract whose cost to the District is the sum of the actual costs of materials, and direct labor hours charged at fixed hourly rates that reflect wages, general and administrative expenses, and profit.

Since this formula generates an open-ended contract price, a time-and-materials contract provides no positive profit incentive to the contractor for cost control or labor efficiency. Therefore, the District sets a ceiling price for each contract that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Further, the District shall assert a high degree of oversight in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the contractor is using efficient methods and effective cost controls.

policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION
CELINA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FINANCES
6325/page 6 of 7

Suspension and Debarment

The District will award contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement. All purchasing decisions shall be made in the best interests of the District and shall seek to obtain the maximum value for each dollar expended. When making a purchasing decision, the District shall consider such factors as (1) contractor integrity; (2) compliance with public policy; (3) record of past performance; and (4) financial and technical resources.

The Superintendent shall have the authority to suspend or debar a person/corporation, for cause, from consideration or award of further contracts. The District is subject to and shall abide by the nonprocurement debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Orders 12549 and 12689, 2 CFR Part 180.

Suspension is an action taken by the District that immediately prohibits a person from participating in covered transactions and transactions covered under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR chapter 1) for a temporary period, pending completion of an agency investigation and any judicial or administrative proceedings that may ensue. A person so excluded is suspended. (2 CFR Part 180 Subpart G)

Debarment is an action taken by the Superintendent to exclude a person from participating in covered transactions and transactions covered under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR chapter 1). A person so excluded is debarred. (2 CFR Part 180 Subpart H)

The District shall not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For contracts over \$25,000, the District shall confirm that the vendor is not debarred or suspended by either checking the Federal government's System for Award Management, which maintains a list of such debarred or suspended vendors at www.sam.gov; collecting a certification from the vendor; or adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that vendor. (2 CFR Part 180 Subpart C)

policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION
CELINA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FINANCES
6325/page 7 of 7

Bid Protest

The District maintains the following protest procedures to handle and resolve disputes relating to procurements and, in all instances, discloses information regarding the protest to the awarding agency.

A bidder who wishes to file a bid protest shall file such notice and follow procedures prescribed by the Request For Proposals (RFPs) or the individual bid specifications package, for resolution. Bid protests shall be filed in writing with the Superintendent within seventy-two (72) hours of the opening of the bids in protest.

Within five (5) days of receipt of a protest, the Superintendent shall review the protest as submitted and render a decision regarding the merits of the protest and any impact on the acceptance and rejection of bids submitted. Notice of the filing of a bid protest shall be communicated to the Board and shall be so noted in any subsequent recommendation for the acceptance of bids and awarding of contracts.

Failure to file a notice of intent to protest, or failure to file a formal written protest within the time prescribed, shall constitute a waiver of proceedings.

Maintenance of Procurement Records

The District maintains records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis).

Applicable laws and regulations:
2 C.F.R. 200.317 - .326

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