

	<p align="center">GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS Request for Proposals EC Related Services Occupational, Physical, Speech- Language, Audiology, Orientation & Mobility & Interpreting Services Purchasing Department 501 W. Washington Street Greensboro, NC 27401</p>
Direct all inquiries to:	Request for Proposals: 6634
Letitia Hines	Proposal due date: April 11, 2024, by 5:00PM EST
HinesL@gcsnc.com	Commodity: Occupational, Physical, Speech Language, Audiology, Orientation & Mobility & Sign Language Interpreting Services

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Proposals, subject to the conditions made a part hereof, will be received at this office 501 W. Washington St., Greensboro NC 27401, until **5:00 PM EST** on the day of opening for furnishing and delivering the commodity as described herein. Proposals submitted via facsimile (FAX) machine in response to this Request for Proposal **will not** be accepted.

EXECUTION

In compliance with this Request for Proposals (RFP), and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned Vendor offers and agrees to furnish and deliver any or all items upon which prices are bid, at the prices set opposite each item within the time specified herein. By executing this proposal, the undersigned Vendor certifies that this proposal is submitted competitively and without collusion (G.S. 143-54), that none of its officers, directors, or owners of an unincorporated business entity has been convicted of any violations of Chapter 78A of the General Statutes, the Securities Act of 1933, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (G.S. 143-59.2), and that it is not an ineligible Vendor as set forth in G.S. 143-59.1. False certification is a Class I felony. Furthermore, by executing this proposal, the undersigned certifies to the best of Vendor’s knowledge and belief, that it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal or State department or agency. As required by G.S. 143-48.5, the undersigned Vendor certifies that it, and each of its sub-Contractors for any Contract awarded as a result of this RFP, complies with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the NC General Statutes, including the requirement for each employer with more than 25 employees in North Carolina to verify the work authorization of its employees through the federal E-Verify system.

Failure to execute/sign proposal prior to submittal shall render proposal invalid and it WILL BE REJECTED. Late proposals will not be accepted.

BIDDER:		FEDERAL ID OR SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	
STREET ADDRESS:		P.O. BOX:	ZIP:
CITY & STATE & ZIP:		TELEPHONE NUMBER:	FAX NUMBER:
TYPE OR PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING:		TITLE	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	DATE:	E-MAIL:	

Offer valid for 120 days from date of proposal opening, unless otherwise stated. After this time, any withdrawal of offer shall be made in writing, effective upon receipt by the agency issuing this RFP.

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Guilford County Schools (GCS) provides an appropriate education for all students identified as having special needs pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Proposals are being requested using competitive solicitations for the provision of **Exceptional Children Related Services** in the Guilford County Schools. This includes Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech-Language Services, Audiology, Orientation & Mobility, and Sign Language Interpreting Services.

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

This RFP is comprised of the base proposal document, any attachments, and any addenda released before contract award. All attachments and addenda released for this RFP in advance of any Contract award are incorporated herein by reference. Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP and any addenda issued hereto.

TAXES

Guilford County Schools is **NOT** tax-exempt. Unless otherwise indicated, tax must be computed and added to your proposal. Any itemized shipping charges are also subject to tax. When invoiced, tax should be invoiced as a separate line item.

MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (MWBE)

The Board of Education awards public contracts without regard to race, religion, color, creed, national origin, sex, age or handicapped condition as defined by North Carolina General Statutes, 168A-3. GCS Board of Education promotes full and equal access to business opportunities with Guilford County

Schools. Minority businesses are encouraged to submit proposals for this project. All vendors shall have a fair and reasonable opportunity to participate in GCS business opportunities.

INSURANCE

Certificate of Insurance

Each vendor shall furnish GCS a certificate of insurance showing that the required workmen's compensation and public liability insurance are carried by the Contractor. The certificate of insurance should show that it is issued to or at the request of the Guilford County Board of Education, Greensboro, North Carolina. All insurance carriers shall be licensed to do business in North Carolina or approved to issue insurance coverage by the Commission of Insurance of North Carolina.

The certificate of insurance shall include substantially the following provision: The insurance policies to which this certificate refers shall not be altered or canceled until after ten (10) days' written notice of such cancellation or alteration has been sent by certified mail to the Guilford County Board of Education, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Public Liability Insurance

The vendor shall maintain public liability insurance covering his liability for bodily injury and property damage which may arise from his operations, contractual obligations, products and completed operations, as well as operations performed by independent contractors, in not less than the following amounts:

- 1.A combined single limit (CSL) of \$1,000,000 each occurrence, or
- 2.A \$1,000,000 limit for Bodily Injury Liability, and \$1,000,000 limit for Property Damage Liability.

An occurrence form of policy will be required, and the certificate of insurance submitted by the Contractor must be personally signed by a resident licensed agent of each of the companies listed on that form.

Worker's Compensation Insurance

The Contractor shall maintain during the life of his contract all such workmen's compensation insurance as is or may be required by the laws of North Carolina.

Terms and Conditions

It shall be the vendor's responsibility to read the instructions, terms and conditions, all relevant exhibits and attachments, and any other components made a part of this RFP and comply with all requirements and specifications herein. Vendors also are responsible for obtaining and complying with all Addenda and other changes that may be issued relating to this RFP.

All bidders are hereby notified that they must have the proper license as required under the North Carolina laws. The award of a contract under this solicitation may be paid with federal funding. Funding is contingent upon compliance with all terms and conditions of funding award. All prospective contractors shall comply with all applicable federal laws, regulations, executive orders, FEMA requirements and the terms and conditions of the funding award. In addition, contractors providing submittals shall be responsible for complying with state law and local ordinances.

PROPOSAL QUESTIONS

Upon review of the RFP documents, vendors may have questions to clarify or interpret the RFP to submit the best proposal possible. To accommodate the proposal questions process, vendors shall submit any such questions by **March 20, 2024 at 12:00pm EST**.

Instructions:

Written questions shall be emailed to Letitia Hines at HinesL@gcsnc.com by the date and time specified above. Vendors will enter "RFP #6634– Questions" as the subject for the email. Question submittals will include a reference to the applicable RFP section and be submitted in a format shown below:

Reference	Vendor Question
RFP Section, Page Number	Vendor question...?

Questions received prior to the submission deadline date, GCS's response, and any additional terms deemed necessary by GCS will be posted in the form of an addendum. No information, instruction or advice provided orally or informally by any GCS personnel, whether made in response to a question or otherwise regarding this RFP, shall be considered authoritative or binding. Vendors shall be entitled to rely **only** on written material contained in an addendum to this RFP.

PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL

Sealed proposals, subject to the conditions made a part hereof and the receipt requirements described below, shall be received at the address indicated below, as described herein. **One (1) original, hard copy & an email (digital copy) of the proposal response to be labeled "RFP 6634 Response" as the subject of the email, shall be received in the GCS Purchasing Department by the close date and time. The original hard copy should be addressed in an envelope with the RFP number as shown below in the mailing instructions. It is the responsibility of the supplier to have the proposal in the Guilford County Schools Purchasing office by the specified time and date of opening. Proposals shall be marked on the outside of the sealed envelope with the Vendor's name, proposal number, and date and time of opening.**

Please be advised that if the original, hard copy of the proposal response is not received in the Guilford County Schools Purchasing Department before the due date and time, regardless of receiving the email version, the proposal will not be considered. We are only asking for an email version to have a digital copy for our records.

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

DELIVERED BY US POSTAL SERVICE OR ANY OTHER MEANS:

RFP No. 6634
Letitia Hines
Manager of Purchasing
Guilford County Schools
Purchasing Department
501 W. Washington Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

4.0 AWARD AND PROPOSAL EVALUATION

REVIEW AND AWARD

It is the intent of Guilford County Schools (GCS) to award this Request for Proposals to the responsible bidder(s) who best matches the needs of Guilford County Schools Exceptional Children Services Department. Guilford County Schools reserves the right to reject any or all proposals presented and to waive any informalities and irregularities. Award of this proposal may be in whole or in part as deemed to be in the best interest of GCS. All projects are awarded contingent upon funding. No proposal may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of proposals for a period of 120 days.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals shall include, but are not limited to, all performance requirements/specifications listed below. Any proposed services (which are over and above standards for professional practice and/or the requirements/specifications) listed below shall also be noted. All financial considerations shall be noted. A listing of recent similar work in school districts, including the Guilford County Schools, shall be provided. All qualified proposals will be evaluated, and award will be made based on consideration of the following criteria:

Qualifications Completion of appropriate training programs, licensure(s), and/or certification(s)	35 points
Price (i.e. hourly billing rate)	35 points
Prior Experiences Experience of Company and/or individual provider, with preferred experience in educational setting.	30 points

5.0 Request for Proposal Document

Guilford County Schools (GCS) provides an appropriate education for all students identified as having special needs pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Proposals are being requested using competitive solicitations for the provision of **Exceptional Children Related Services** in the Guilford County Schools. This includes Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech- Language Services, Audiology, Orientation & Mobility, and Sign Language Interpreting Services.

Performance Requirement/Specifications

1. Provide related services based on the individual student's evaluation results and the planned intervention goals in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).
2. Complete state and county required paperwork and procedures, including documentation used to file for Medicaid reimbursement.
3. Complete observations/screenings and evaluations of students with suspected difficulties, and complete written reports as required by the established procedures in the Guilford County Schools.
4. Develop and/or contribute information for use in IEPs and/or IEP goals and current levels of performance of students as needed for the current school year, based on students' identified

needs for services. Develop IEPs of students reflecting the progress made during the year and the goals for the upcoming school year.

5. Conduct parent conferences to explain results of evaluations, to develop IEPs, etc.
6. Provide services required for interventions and/or those listed on the student's 504 plan.
7. Provide consultation and training to other staff members working with students.
8. Attend parent conferences as needed to explain service delivery, results of evaluations, and development of IEPs.
9. Attend other meetings as required by Guilford County Schools.
10. Follow all documentation procedures as outlined by GCS, including completing and maintaining the documentation required for Medicaid billing.
11. Service providers must have a current driver's license and personal transportation.

General Requirements

1. Proposals must address all aspects of the above stated performance requirements.
2. Proposals must include the maximum number of hours of services that could be provided per week.
3. Proposals must include the address, phone number, and email address of the agent/agency.
4. Proposals must include at least two references of persons familiar with the work provided by the vendor.
5. Proposals must clearly state the cost per hour of services delivered. Guilford County Schools does not reimburse for mileage in addition to cost/hourly rate. Proposals must clearly state all other financial considerations that may be incurred in addition to the hourly rate.
6. Proposals must include all relevant licensure status.
7. Proposals must include copies of current required insurance certificates. **Please refer to the following section:**
 "Insurance Requirements for Professional Services for Guilford County Schools," for updated coverage requirements.
8. Proposals must specify any services or supplies to be provided by GCS (e.g., testing materials, equipment).

General Conditions

1. All applicable sections of the Guilford County Board of Education Policies and the General Statutes of North Carolina, as amended, are made part of this contract by this reference. This includes, but is not limited to, purchasing and payment procedures. Copies of the above are available for inspection and review at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, NC 27401.
2. Any exceptions to the performance requirements/specifications and/or conditions shall be noted and explained in a clearly identified section of the proposal.
3. The length of the contract shall be for the current fiscal year to begin July 1, 2024 and end August 30, 2025 with the *possible* option to renew for two (2) additional one-year periods upon mutual agreement from both parties, to begin July 1, 2025. Either party may terminate this agreement for any reason without penalty upon 30-days written notice to the other party.

Evaluation of Proposal

Evaluation shall be based on an assessment of submitted proposals and shall include consideration of the performance requirements/specifications, financial considerations, qualifications, and prior experiences. Follow-up discussion with the service provider best suited to complete the work may be requested.

Questions

Please refer to the [Q&A](#) for questions regarding the provision of therapy services to GCS or the proposal and evaluation process. If you have additional questions, they can be directed to Letitia Hines at HinesL@gcsnc.com.

Questions related to contracts, RFP documentation, or billing should be directed to Lisa Parrish, Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education, parrisl@gcsnc.com.

Proposal Due Date

A signed, copy of the proposal shall be sent to GCS Purchasing Manager, by **EMAIL ONLY** to HinesL@gcsnc.com, **beginning on Monday, March 25, 2024. Due to our ongoing need for providers, there may not be a closing date for proposals. However, if you wish to be considered as a provider for the 2024-2025 school year, your proposal should be submitted no later than Thursday, April 11, 2024, by 5:00pm.**

Proposal Format

1. Initial Proposals

Initial proposals must include, as a minimum, the attached “Proposal Form” page. You may include additional information, as desired. Please also include the following statement: “In addition to the proposal as presented and any exceptions clearly noted, I understand that all requirements, specifications and conditions of the Request for Proposal are made part of any subsequent contract.”

2. Proposal Update

If you are currently providing services to our district, please submit ONLY the “Proposal Form” page, including updated requested attachments. (If there is additional information you would like to submit, you may include it with the form, as well.) Please also include the following statement: “In addition to the proposal as presented and any exceptions clearly noted, I understand that all requirements, specifications and conditions of the Request for Proposal are made part of any subsequent contract.”

Billing Requirements

- Invoices should be submitted electronically to parrisl@gcsnc.com using the GCS template that accompanies the contract packet.
- A cover sheet template must be completed providing school codes and school totals. Sample is included in the contract packet.
- Time in/out must be documented on the quarter-hour for each student served daily.
- Invoices must be received by the 5th day of the month, for previous month’s services, in order to ensure prompt processing of payments.

- Invoices should include all services for the entire month. Do not combine months.
- Agency staff should not submit time worked for days/times outside of the normal school day, weekends, holidays, etc.

Note 2: Consultant will be expected to complete all paperwork related to services provided so that GCS will receive **Medicaid** or other reimbursement eligible source in a timely manner in order for GCS to recover payment for services. Consultant is not authorized to apply for reimbursement on its own behalf.

Termination of Contract

Contracts may be terminated by either party upon 30 days' written notice.

Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace

Please refer to Guilford County Schools Board of Education Policies and Procedures, under the Board of Education link on the GCS website. Under Section G, "Personnel," carefully review GA and GA-P, regarding GCS' commitment to a Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace.

Special Requirements Regarding Criminal Background

Criminal Background Investigations of individuals working on school property or with GCS students at any location.

- A. At a minimum, a vendor shall obtain a complete North Carolina statewide criminal background investigation for all employees who will work on a site, covering a period for the last seven (7) years. In the event that the vendor is from out of state, the criminal background investigation shall be broadened to include their home state, as well as the state of North Carolina as outlined above. The company providing such information must be recognized by local law enforcement agency as qualified to do so. All costs associated with these criminal background checks are the responsibility of the vendor.
- B. Any individual with the following criminal convictions or pending charges will NOT be permitted on any school property.
 - 1. Child Molestation or Abuse or indecent liberties with a child;
 - 2. Rape;
 - 3. Any Sexually Oriented Crime;
 - 4. Drugs: Felony use, possession or distribution;
 - 5. Murder, manslaughter or other death related charge; or
 - 6. Assault with a deadly weapon or assault with intent to kill.
- C. Each person on site must wear a plastic laminated identification badge or item of clothing that identifies the name of the company and the person's name. These badges are to be computer produced at a font large enough to be clearly visible. Guilford County Schools, may, at any time, request verification of criminal background investigation for any employee on school property

**INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS for PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
For GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Consultant/service provider shall procure and maintain for the duration of the contract professional liability insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property, which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by the Consultant, its agents, representatives, or employees, no less than \$1,000.000 per occurrence.

■ **Additional Insured Status**

The Entity, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers are to be covered as additional insureds on the auto policy with respect to liability arising out of automobiles owned, leased, hired or borrowed by or on behalf of the Consultant; and on the CGL policy with respect to liability arising out of work or operations performed by or on behalf of the Consultant including materials, parts, or equipment furnished in connection with such work or operations.

M/WBE OR HUB DESIGNATION: please read and complete as applicable

(Minority/Women Business Enterprise or Historically Underutilized Business)

Per NC General Statute 143-128.4, to qualify as a historically underutilized business, a business must be at least 51 % owned, controlled and managed by one or more citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States who are members of one or more of the following groups:

- (1) Black, (2) Hispanic, (3) Asian American, (4) American Indian, (5) Female, (6) Disabled and (7) Disadvantaged

<u>Female Business Enterprise</u>	<u>Male Business Enterprise</u>	<u>Disabled Business</u>
_____ African American	_____ African American	Enterprise (G.S.168-1 or G.S. 168-A3)
_____ Asian American	_____ Asian American	_____ Disadvantaged (15 U.S.C. §637)
_____ Caucasian	_____ Hispanic/Latino	
_____ Hispanic/Latino	_____ Native American/Indian	_____ Non-Profit Work Center for the for the Blind and Severely Disabled
_____ Native American/Indian		
_____ White		
_____ Initial Proposal Submission		_____ Updated Proposal Submission

PROPOSAL FORM

REQUIRED FOR ALL PROPOSALS

Proposal to Offer Therapy Services (Complete this form for each service area you are offering)

In response to the current Request for Proposal, I am proposing the following:

Occupational Therapy ____ Physical Therapy _____ Audiology _____
Speech/Language Pathology _____ Interpreting Services _____ O&M _____

PROPOSAL FORM

REQUIRED FOR ALL PROPOSALS

Proposal to Offer Therapy Services (Complete this form for each service area you are offering)

In response to the current Request for Proposal, I am proposing the following:

Occupational Therapy _____ Physical Therapy _____ Audiology _____
Speech/Language Pathology ____ Interpreting Services _____ O&M _____

1. I agree to meet all the Performance Requirements/Specifications described in the Request for Proposal.
2. I have the following specialized skill(s): _____.
3. I can provide a maximum of _____ hours of services per week.
4. a. _____
b. _____

Provide names, addresses and phone numbers of persons who are familiar with my professional work and may be contacted for references.

5. List proposed hourly rate for each service:
OT: _____ PT: _____ Audiology: _____ SLP: _____ Interpreting: _____ O&M: _____

6. My Licensure status in North Carolina is _____.
(Please submit a copy of your most current License, and forward new Licenses when received)

7. I expect Guilford County Schools to provide the following equipment and services:
_____.

8. **I have attached copies of my most current Certificates of Insurance and will forward updated certificates when received.**

In addition to the proposal as presented and any exceptions clearly noted, I understand that all requirements, specifications and conditions of the Request for Proposal are made part of any subsequent contract.

Provider/Agency Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Provider Signature: _____

Federal ID or SS Number

Date

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

1. **READ, REVIEW AND COMPLY:** It shall be the bidder's responsibility to read this entire document, review all enclosures and attachments, and comply with all requirements specified herein.
2. **NOTICE TO BIDDERS:** All bids are subject to the provisions of the Instructions to Bidders, special terms and conditions specific to this Invitation for Bids, the specifications, and the North Carolina General Contract Terms and Conditions. *The Guilford County Schools (GCS) objects to and will not evaluate or consider any additional terms and conditions submitted with a bidder response. This applies to any language appearing in or attached to the document as part of the bidder's response. DO NOT ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS. By execution and delivery of this document, the bidder agrees that any additional terms and conditions, whether submitted purposely or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect.*
3. **DEFINITIONS:**
 - **BIDDER:** Company, firm, corporation, partnership, individual, etc., submitting a response to an Invitation for Bids.
 - **TERM CONTRACT:** A contract generally intended to cover all normal requirements for a commodity for a specified period of time based on estimated quantities only.
 - **STATEWIDE TERM CONTRACT:** A term Contract for all agencies, unless exempted by statute, rule, or special term and condition specific to this bid.
 - **AGENCY SPECIFIC TERM CONTRACT:** A Term Contract for a specific agency.
 - **OPEN MARKET CONTRACT:** A contract for the purchase of a commodity not covered by a term contract.
4. **EXECUTION:** Failure to sign under EXECUTION section will render bid invalid.
5. **ORDER OF PRECEDENCE:** In cases of conflict between specific provisions in this bid, the order of precedence shall be (1) special terms and conditions specific to this bid, (2) specifications, (3) North Carolina General Contract Terms and Conditions, and (4) Instructions to Bidders.
6. **TIME FOR CONSIDERATION:** Unless otherwise indicated on the first page of this document, bidder's offer shall be valid for 45 days from the date of bid opening. Preference may be given to bids allowing not less than 45 days for consideration and acceptance.
7. **PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNTS:** Bidders are urged to compute all discounts into the price offered. If a prompt payment discount is offered, it will not be considered in the award of the contract except as a factor to aid in resolving cases of identical prices.
8. **SPECIFICATIONS:** Any deviation from specifications indicated herein must be clearly pointed out; otherwise, it will be considered that items offered are in strict compliance with these specifications, and bidder will be held responsible therefore. Deviations shall be explained in detail. **The bidder shall not construe this paragraph as inviting deviation or implying that any deviation will be acceptable.**
9. **INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE:** Bidder is to furnish all information requested and in the spaces provided in this document. Further, if required elsewhere in this bid, each bidder must submit with their bid sketches, descriptive literature and/or complete specifications covering the products offered. Reference to literature submitted with a previous bid will not satisfy this provision. Bids which do not comply with these requirements will be subject to rejection.
10. **RECYCLING AND SOURCE REDUCTION:** It is the policy of this State to encourage and promote the purchase of products with recycled content to the extent economically practicable, and to purchase items which are reusable, refillable, repairable, more durable, and less toxic to the extent that the purchase or use is practicable and cost-effective. We also encourage and promote using minimal packaging and the use of recycled/recyclable products in the packaging of commodities purchased. However, no sacrifice in quality of packaging will be acceptable. The company remains responsible for providing packaging that will protect the commodity and contain it for its intended use. Companies are strongly urged to bring to the attention of the purchasers in the Division of Purchase and Contract those products or packaging they offer which have recycled content and that are recyclable.
11. **CLARIFICATIONS/INTERPRETATIONS:** Any and all questions regarding this document must be addressed to the purchaser named on the cover sheet of this document. Do not contact the user directly. Any and all revisions to this document shall be made only by written addendum from the Division of Purchase and Contract. The bidder is cautioned that the requirements of this bid can be altered only by written addendum and that verbal communications from whatever source are of no effect.
12. **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION:** GCS reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in bids and, unless otherwise specified by the bidder, to accept any item in the bid. If either a unit price or extended price is obviously in error and the other is obviously correct, the incorrect price will be disregarded.
13. **REFERENCES:** GCS reserves the right to require a list of users of the exact item offered. GCS may contact these users to determine acceptability of the bid. Such information may be considered in the evaluation of the bid.
14. **TAXES:**
 - **FEDERAL:** All agencies participating in this contract are exempt from Federal Taxes, such as excise and transportation. Exemption forms submitted by the contractor will be executed and returned by the using agency.
 - **OTHER:** Prices offered are not to include any personal property taxes, nor any sales or use tax (or fees) unless required by the North Carolina Department of Revenue.
 - Any applicable taxes shall be invoiced as a separate item.
15. **AWARD OF CONTRACT:** As directed by statute, qualified bids will be evaluated and acceptance may be made of the lowest and best bid most advantageous to GCS as determined upon consideration of such factors as: prices offered; the quality of the articles offered; the general reputation and performance capabilities of the bidders; the substantial conformity with the specifications and other conditions set forth in the bid; the suitability of the articles for the intended use; the related services needed; the date or dates of delivery and performance; and such other factors deemed by GCS to be pertinent or peculiar to the purchase in question. Unless otherwise specified by GCS or the bidder, GCS reserves the right to accept any item or group

of items on a multi-item bid.

In addition, on TERM CONTRACTS, GCS reserves the right to make partial, progressive or multiple awards: where it is advantageous to award separately by items; or where more than one supplier is needed to provide the contemplated requirements as to quantity, quality, delivery, service, geographical areas; other factors deemed by GCS to be pertinent or peculiar to the purchase in question.

All contracts are awarded contingent upon the availability of funds.

16. **HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES:** Pursuant to General Statute 143-48 and Executive Order #150, GCS invites and encourages participation in this procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled.
17. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:** As provided by statute and rule, the GCS will consider keeping trade secrets which the bidder does not wish disclosed confidential. Each page shall be identified in boldface at the top and bottom as "CONFIDENTIAL" by the bidder. Cost information shall not be deemed confidential. In spite of what is labeled as a trade secret, the determination whether it is or not will be determined by North Carolina law.
18. **SAMPLES:** Sample of items, when required, must be furnished as stipulated herein, free of expense, and if not destroyed will, upon request be returned at the bidder's expense. Request for the return of samples must be made within 10 days following date of bid opening. Otherwise the samples will become GCS property. Each individual sample must be labeled with the bidder's name, bid number, and item number. A sample on which an award is made, will be retained until the contract is completed, and then returned, if requested, as specified above.
19. **PROTEST PROCEDURES:** When an offeror wants to protest a contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation, that is over \$10,000, they must submit a written request to the GCS Purchasing Officer at the address given in the solicitation document entitled "Mailing Instructions". This request must be received in the Purchasing Department within (5) consecutive business days of the e-mail notification to the offeror of GCS' intent to maintain the original award. The offeror must submit a written protest letter to the GCS Purchasing Officer. This letter must contain specific reasons and any supporting documentation for the protest.
20. **MISCELLANEOUS:** Masculine pronouns shall be read to include feminine pronouns, and the singular of any word or phrase shall be read to include the plural and vice versa.
21. **DEFAULT AND PERFORMANCE BOND:** In case of default by the contractor, Guilford County Schools (GCS) may procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the contractor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby. GCS reserves the right to require performance bond or other acceptable alternative guarantees from successful bidder without expense to GCS.
22. **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND**

- A. Criminal Background Investigations of individuals working on school property (sites occupied with students and sites not occupied with students).

At a minimum, the contractor shall obtain a complete North Carolina statewide criminal background investigation for all employees and subcontractors who will work on this project, covering a period for the last seven (7) years. If the contractor or subcontractor is from out of state, the criminal background investigation shall be broadened to include their home state, as well as the state of North Carolina as outlined above. The company providing such information must be recognized by local law enforcement agency as qualified to do so. All costs associated with these criminal background checks is the responsibility of the contractor.

Each prime contractor will be responsible for all their employees and all of their subcontractors working under them.

On sites that are occupied with students and staff, a daily sign-in sheet will be presented by each prime contractor to the principal and SRO – Student Resource Officer by 9:00 a.m. each morning. If there is no SRO – provide to the Principal. This list will contain the name of each person on site and the company they work for.

Any individual with the following criminal convictions or pending charges will NOT be permitted on any school project or property.

7. Child Molestation or Abuse or indecent liberties with a child;
8. Rape;
9. Any Sexually Oriented Crime;
10. Drugs: Felony use, possession or distribution;
11. Murder, manslaughter or other death related charge; or
12. Assault with a deadly weapon or assault with intent to kill.

Any individual with a prior conviction or pending charges contained in the aforementioned list, shall be banned (not allowed) from any school project or property.

Each person on site must wear a plastic laminated identification badge that identifies the name of the company and the person's name. These badges are to be computer produced at a font large enough to be clearly visible. All costs associated with

these criminal background checks is the responsibility of the contractor. The ID badge template will be made available to the successful prime contractors at the Pre-Construction Meeting.

Guilford County Schools, may, at any time, request verification of criminal background investigation for any employee or subcontractor on school property.

GENERAL CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **DEFAULT AND PERFORMANCE BOND:** In case of default by the contractor, Guilford County Schools (GCS) may procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the contractor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby. GCS reserves the right to require performance bond or other acceptable alternative guarantees from successful bidder without expense to GCS.
2. **GOVERNMENTAL RESTRICTIONS:** In the event any Governmental restrictions are imposed which necessitate alteration of the material, quality, workmanship or performance of the items offered prior to their delivery, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to notify, in writing, the issuing purchasing office at once, indicating the specific regulation which required such alterations. GCS reserves the right to accept any such alterations, including any price adjustments occasioned thereby, or to cancel the contract.
3. **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** Any and all payments to the contractor are dependent upon and subject to the availability of funds to the agency for the purpose set forth in this agreement. No goods or services should be shipped or provided prior to issuance of a Purchase Order to the vendor/contractor by Guilford County Schools.
4. **TAXES:** Any applicable taxes shall be invoiced as a separate item.

G.S. 143-59.1 bars the Secretary of Administration from entering into contracts with vendors if the vendor or its affiliates meet one of the conditions of G. S. 105-164.8(b) and refuse to collect use tax on sales of tangible personal property to purchasers in North Carolina. Conditions under G. S. 105-164.8(b) include: (1) Maintenance of a retail establishment or office, (2) Presence of representatives in the State that solicit sales or transact business on behalf of the vendor and (3) Systematic exploitation of the market by media-assisted, media-facilitated, or media-solicited means. By execution of the bid document the vendor certifies that it and all of its affiliates, (if it has affiliates), collect(s) the appropriate taxes.

5. **SITUS:** The place of this contract, its situs and forum, shall be North Carolina, where all matters, whether sounding in contract or tort, relating to its validity, construction, interpretation and enforcement shall be determined.
6. **GOVERNING LAWS:** This contract is made under and shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina.
7. **INSPECTION AT CONTRACTOR'S SITE:** GCS reserves the right to inspect, at a reasonable time, the equipment/item, plant or other facilities of a prospective contractor prior to contract award, and during the contract term as necessary for GCS determination that such equipment/item, plant or other facilities conform with the specifications/requirements and are adequate and suitable for the proper and effective performance of the contract.
8. **PAYMENT TERMS:** Payment terms are Net 30 days after receipt of correct invoice or acceptance of goods. The using agency is responsible for all payments to the contractor under the contract. Payment by some agencies may be made by procurement card and it shall be accepted by the contractor for payment if the contractor accepts that card (Visa, Mastercard, etc.) from other customers. If payment is made by procurement card, then payment may be processed immediately by the contractor.
9. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** The contractor will take affirmative action in complying with all Federal and State requirements concerning fair employment and employment of people with disabilities and concerning the treatment of all employees without regard to discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or disability.
10. **CONDITION AND PACKAGING:** Unless otherwise provided by special terms and conditions or specifications, it is understood and agreed that any item offered or shipped has not been sold or used for any purpose and shall be in first class condition. All containers/packaging shall be suitable for handling, storage or shipment.
11. **STANDARDS:** All manufactured items and/or fabricated assemblies subject to operation under pressure, operation by connection to an electric source, or operation involving a connection to a manufactured, natural, or LP gas source shall be constructed and approved in a manner acceptable to the appropriate state inspector which customarily requires the label or re-examination listing or identification marking of the appropriate safety standard organization; such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for pressure vessels; the Underwriters Laboratories and /or National Electrical Manufacturers' Association for electrically operated assemblies; or the American Gas Association for gas operated assemblies, where such approvals of listings have been established for the type of device offered and furnished. Further, all items furnished shall meet all requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and state and federal requirements relating to clean air and water pollution.
12. **PATENT:** The contractor shall hold and save GCS, its officers, agents and employees, harmless from liability of any kind, including costs and expenses, on account of any copyrighted material, patented or unpatented invention, articles, device or appliance manufactured or used in the performance of this contract, including use by the government.
13. **ADVERTISING:** Contractor agrees not to use the existence of this contract or the name of the State of North Carolina as part of any commercial advertising.
14. **ACCESS TO PERSONS AND RECORDS:** The State Auditor and the using agency's internal auditors shall have access to persons and records as a result of all contracts or grants entered into by State agencies or political subdivisions in accordance with General Statute 147-64.7 and Session Law 2010-194, Section 21 (i.e., the State Auditors and internal auditors may audit the records of the contractor during the term of the contract to verify accounts and data affecting fees or performance).
15. **ASSIGNMENT:** No assignment of the contractor's obligations nor the contractor's right to receive payment hereunder shall be permitted. However, upon written request approved by the issuing purchasing authority and solely as a convenience to the contractor, may:
 - a. Forward the contractor's payment check directly to any person or entity designated by the contractor, and
 - b. Include any person or entity designated by contractor as a joint payee on the contractor's payment check.In no event shall such approval and action obligate the State to anyone other than the contractor and the contractor shall remain responsible for fulfillment of all contract obligations.
16. **INSURANCE COVERAGE:** - During the term of the contract, the contractor at its sole cost and expense shall provide commercial insurance of such type and with such terms and limits as may be reasonably associated with the contract. As a minimum, the contractor shall provide and maintain the following coverage and limits:
 - a. **Worker's Compensation** - The contractor shall provide and maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance, as required by

the laws of North Carolina, as well as employer's liability coverage with minimum limits of \$150,000.00, covering all of contractor's employees who are engaged in any work under the contract. If any work is sublet, the contractor shall require the subcontractor to provide the same coverage for any of his employees engaged in any work under the contract.

b. **Commercial General Liability** - General Liability Coverage on a Comprehensive Broad Form on an occurrence basis in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00 Combined Single Limit. (Defense cost shall be in excess of the limit of liability.)

c. **Automobile** - Automobile Liability Insurance, to include liability coverage, covering all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles, used in connection with the contract. The minimum combined single limit shall be \$150,000.00 bodily injury and property damage; \$150,000.00 uninsured/under insured motorist; and \$1,000.00 medical payment.

REQUIREMENTS: Providing and maintaining adequate insurance coverage is a material obligation of the contractor and is of the essence of this contract. All such insurance shall meet all laws of the State of North Carolina. Such insurance coverage shall be obtained from companies that are authorized to provide such coverage and that are authorized by the Commissioner of Insurance to do business in North Carolina. The contractor shall at all times comply with the terms of such insurance policies, and all requirements of the insurer under any such insurance policies, except as they may conflict with existing North Carolina laws or this contract. The limits of coverage under each insurance policy maintained by the contractor shall not be interpreted as limiting the contractor's liability and obligations under the contract.

17. **GENERAL INDEMNITY:** The contractor shall hold and save the State, its officers, agents, and employees, harmless from liability of any kind, including all claims and losses, with the exception of consequential damages, accruing or resulting to any other person, firm, or corporation furnishing or supplying work, services, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of this contract, and from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm, or corporation that may be injured or damaged by the contractor in the performance of this contract and that are attributable to the negligence or intentionally tortuous acts of the contractor provided that the contractor is notified in writing within 30 days that the State has knowledge of such claims. The contractor represents and warrants that it shall make no claim of any kind or nature against the State's agents who are involved in the delivery or processing of contractor goods to the State. The representation and warranty in the preceding sentence shall survive the termination or expiration of this contract.
18. **ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT (APPLIES TO ALL CONTRACTS THAT INCLUDE E-PROCUREMENT AND ARE IDENTIFIED AS SUCH IN THE BODY OF THE SOLICITATION DOCUMENT):** Purchasing shall be conducted through the Statewide E-Procurement Service. The State's third-party agent shall serve as the Supplier Manager for this E-Procurement Service.
19. **THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER(S) SHALL PAY A TRANSACTION FEE OF 1.75% (.0175) ON THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT (EXCLUDING SALES TAXES) OF EACH PURCHASE ORDER ISSUED THROUGH THE STATEWIDE E-PROCUREMENT SERVICE** This applies to all purchase orders, regardless of the quantity or dollar amount of the purchase order. This transaction fee shall neither be charged to nor paid by the State, or by any State approved users of the contract. The transaction fee shall not be stated or included as a separate item in the proposed contract or invoice. There are no additional fees or charges to the contractor for the services rendered by the Supplier Manager under this contract. Contractor will receive a credit for transaction fees they paid for the purchase of any item(s) if an item(s) is returned through no fault of the contractor. Transaction fees are non-refundable when an item is rejected and returned, or declined, due to the contractor's failure to perform or comply with specifications or requirements of the contract.

Contractor or its Authorized Reseller, as applicable, will be invoiced monthly for the State's transaction fee by the Supplier Manager. The transaction fee shall be based on purchase orders issued for the prior month. Unless Supplier Manager receives written notice from the Contractor identifying with specificity any errors in an invoice within thirty (30) days of the receipt of invoice, such invoice shall be deemed to be correct and Contractor shall have waived its right to later dispute the accuracy and completeness of the invoice.

Payment of the transaction fee by the Contractor is due to the account designated by the State within thirty (30) days after receipt of the correct invoice for the transaction fee, which includes payment of all portions of an invoice not in dispute. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of invoice, contractor may request in writing an extension of the invoice payment due date for that portion of the transaction fee invoice for which payment of the related goods by the governmental purchasing entity has not been received by the Contractor. If payment of the transaction fee is not received by the State within this payment period, it shall be considered a material breach of contract. The Supplier Manager shall provide, whenever reasonably requested by the contractor in writing (including electronic documents), supporting documentation from the E-Procurement Service that accounts for the amount of the invoice.

The Supplier Manager will capture the order from the State approved user, including the shipping and payment information, and submit the order in accordance with the E-Procurement Service. Subsequently, the Supplier Manager will send those orders to the appropriate contractor on State Contract. The State or State approved user, not the Supplier Manager, shall be responsible for the solicitation, bids received, evaluation of bids received, award of contract, and the payment for goods delivered.

Contractor agrees at all times to maintain the confidentiality of its user name and password for the Statewide E-Procurement Services. If a contractor is a corporation, partnership or other legal entity, then the contractor may authorize its employees to use its password. Contractor shall be responsible for all activity and all charges by such employees. Contractor agrees not to permit a third party to use the Statewide E-Procurement Services through its account. If there is a breach of security through the contractor's account, contractor shall immediately change its password and notify the Supplier Manager of the security breach by e-mail. Contractor shall cooperate with the State and the Supplier Manager to mitigate and correct any security breach.

20. **ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT (APPLIES ONLY TO STATEWIDE TERM CONTRACTS):** Within ten (10) calendar days of notice, the contractor shall provide supplier information, contract pricing and other product-related information requested by the

State or the Supplier Manager. This information shall include such information as contractor name, SKU, brand/manufacturer, product name and a brief description, unit of measure, price, and other similar information or properly requested by the State or the Supplier Manager to facilitate purchasing from the contract. This information shall be posted by the contractor in the format provided by the Supplier Manager, or as otherwise provided in a template or format required by the State. No costs or expenses associated with providing this information shall be charged to the State, its agents (including Supplier Manager) or State approved users of the contract. For the purposes of this contract, the contractor warrants that it is authorized and empowered to and hereby grants the State and the Supplier Manager the right and license to use, reproduce, transmit, distribute and publicly display this information. In addition, for the purposes of this contract, the contractor warrants that it is authorized and empowered to and hereby grants the State and the Supplier Manager the right and license to reproduce and display contractor's trademarks, service marks, logos, trade dress or other branding designation that identifies the goods available under the contract. The Supplier Manager shall create and maintain, with contractor's timely assistance, web-based placement of contract information, where appropriate, that includes the contract items distributed by the contractor within the appropriate contract categories. The State shall provide any price adjustment/product modification information that it has approved during the course of the contract, to the Supplier Manager immediately upon such change.

If the contractor is not the manufacturer, then it shall be the contractor's responsibility to obtain authorization from the manufacturer to comply with the provisions of this contract, including any appropriate intellectual property rights of the manufacturer. If the contractor is the manufacturer, then the manufacturer shall only authorize dealers, outlets, distributors, value added resellers, etc. (together, "Authorized Resellers") within their network that can comply with the provisions of this contract.

CONTRACTOR IS AND SHALL REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING THE TRANSACTION FEE ON BEHALF OF ITS AUTHORIZED RESELLERS IN THE EVENT THAT THE AUTHORIZED RESELLER(S) DEFAULTS.

21. **CANCELLATION (TERM CONTRACTS ONLY):** All contract obligations shall prevail for at least 180 days after the effective date of the contract. After that period, in addition to the provisions of the paragraph entitled Price Adjustments, for the protection of both parties, this contract may be canceled in whole or in part by either party by giving 30 days prior notice in writing to the other party. Such notice of cancellation, as required herein, shall be transmitted via U.S. MAIL, Certified, Return Receipt Requested. The 30 days' notice for cancellation shall begin on the day the return receipt is signed and dated.
22. **QUANTITIES (TERM CONTRACTS ONLY):** The award of a term contract neither implies nor guarantees any minimum or maximum purchases thereunder.
23. **PRICE ADJUSTMENTS (TERM CONTRACTS ONLY):** Any price changes, downward or upward, which might be permitted during the contract period must be general, either by reason of market change or on the part of the contractor to other customers.
 - a. **Notification:** Must be given to GCS, in writing, concerning any proposed price adjustments. Such notification shall be accompanied by copy of manufacturer's official notice or other acceptable evidence that the change is general in nature.
 - b. **Decreases:** GCS shall receive full proportionate benefit immediately at any time during the contract period.
 - c. **Increases:** All prices shall be firm against any increase for 180 days from the effective date of the contract. After this period, a request for increase may be submitted with GCS reserving the right to accept or reject the increase, or cancel the contract. Such action by GCS shall occur not later than 15 days after the receipt by GCS of a properly documented request for price increase. Any increases accepted shall become effective not later than 30 days after the expiration of the original 15 days reserved to evaluate the request for increase.
 - d. **Invoices:** It is understood and agreed that orders will be shipped at the established contract prices in effect on dates orders are placed. Invoicing at variance with this provision will subject the contract to cancellation. Applicable North Carolina sales tax shall be invoiced as a separate item.