

BID INSTRUCTIONS



1. **Bidder Representations:** By signing and submitting a bid, the bidding company's (the Bidder's) Principal represents he/she has read and understands these *Bid Instructions* as well as the work to be performed and the conditions under which the Contractor shall perform the work included in the Contract Documents (*Contract Agreement*, Exhibits A through G, specifications and drawings, forms and any other referenced documents therein) and the bid is made in accordance therewith. The Bidder's principal certifies the bid submitted is based upon the materials, equipment and systems specified in the Contract Documents, as amended by any addendum, and incorporates all costs necessary for the successful completion of the work to be performed in the stipulated time. Bidders are expected to examine the solicitation documents thoroughly and should request an explanation of any ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the solicitation. Failure to do so will be at the Bidder's risk. All ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the solicitation documents shall be interpreted to require the better quality or greater quantity of work and/or materials, unless otherwise directed by addendum. Bidder assumes responsibility for any patent ambiguity in the solicitation documents that Bidder does not bring to the District's attention.

2. **Bidder Licensing:** By submitting a bid, the Bidder's principal certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that the Bidder has met the licensing requirements for the State of South Carolina, is not debarred or suspended by any governmental entity or the State of South Carolina, and is eligible to submit a bid to and perform construction work for Horry County Schools ("the District"). The Bidder further represents all subcontractors stated on the *Official Bid Form* or subsequently enlisted to perform a portion of the work outlined in the Contract Documents also meet all licensing requirements of the State of South Carolina as may be required, and are not debarred or suspended from submitting a bid or performing construction services for any governmental entity or the State of South Carolina. Bidders and their subcontractors are advised the District shall report Contractor Licensing Law violations to the S.C. Contractors' Licensing and Regulations Board.

3. **Solicitation Information from Sources Other than Official Source:** South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO) is the official state government publication for State of South Carolina and Horry County School District solicitations. Any information on District solicitations obtained from any other source is unofficial and any reliance placed on such information is at the Bidder's sole risk. Once the initial notice has been published in SCBO, all additional information relating to the solicitations (addenda, award notices, etc.) will be posted on the District's Procurement website at <http://apps.hcs.k12.sc.us/apps/protrac/> or at <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Bids/View/BidsList?buyerId=2f302e8a-69b0-407b-a21a-3368d004365e>.

4. **Bid Documents:** Any potential Bidder is solely responsible for obtaining a complete set of Bid Documents (*Bid Instructions*, bid addenda and forms) as issued by the District and including the Contract Documents, which are an integral part of the bid process, from the posted source(s) as directed in the *Invitation for Bids*. The availability of these documents does not confer a license or grant permission for any other use of any portion of the Bid Documents or Contract Documents.

5. **Pre-Existing Site Conditions:** Before submitting a bid, the Bidder shall carefully review all documents and examine the worksite in conjunction therewith to ascertain site conditions affecting the performance of the work. If the Bidder receives a contract award but failed to make such examinations, the Bidder shall in no way be relieved of the obligation to comply in every detail with all provisions and requirements of the Contract Documents without additional compensation or time.

6. **Interpretations and Clarifications:** Requests for additional information or questions regarding error, omission or clarification of any portion of the Bid Documents or the Contract Documents or any addendum, shall be submitted in writing to the District Bid Contact Person stated in the *Invitation for Bids* by e-mail or facsimile no later than five (5) days prior to the bid opening date and time unless an earlier date is stated on the *Invitation for Bids* or as may be amended. Any interpretations, corrections, or changes to the Bid Documents or the Contract Documents made in any other manner than by a written addendum shall not be binding, and Bidders shall not rely upon them. Any information given a prospective Bidder concerning a solicitation will be furnished promptly to all other prospective bidders as an addendum to the solicitation, if that information is necessary for submitting offers of if the lack of it would be prejudicial to other prospective bidders. See clause entitled "Bidder Representations." **We will not identify you in our answer to your question.** The District seeks to permit maximum practicable competition. Bidders are urged to advise the Procurement Specialist – as soon as possible – regarding any aspect of this procurement, including any aspect of the solicitation that unnecessarily or inappropriately limits full and open competition.

7. **Pre-Bid Conference:** While the District considers any scheduled pre-bid conference critical to understanding the bidding and project requirements and site conditions; attendance is non-mandatory unless otherwise stated in the *Invitation for Bids*; however,

Bidders are responsible for ensuring they have received the information from the pre-bid conference site review provided in a subsequent addendum. The date, time and location of any pre-bid conference are stated in the *Invitation for Bids*.

8. **Materials Standards and Substitutions:** The materials, products, equipment, and processes described in the Contract Documents establish a standard of required function, dimension, appearance, quality and performance to be met. Bidders shall only bid **NEW** materials, products, equipment and processes unless the Contract Documents clearly state otherwise.

9. **Addenda:** Addenda shall be issued prior to the bid opening date and time for the purposes of modifying or interpreting the Contract Documents through additions, deletions, clarifications or corrections. No addendum shall be issued later than four (4) days prior to the bid opening date except to a) withdraw the *Invitation for Bids*, or b) to postpone the bid opening date and time. When an addendum is issued for the purposes of postponing the bid opening date and time, the addendum shall establish the new bid opening date and time no earlier than five (5) days after the addendum issue date. Addenda shall be posted on the on-line bidding source(s) stated in the *Invitation for Bids*. A Bidder shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda issued by identifying the addendum number and the date of issuance with the Bidder's initials in the spaces provided on the *Official Bid Form* or the bid shall be found non-responsive in accordance with the District's Procurement Code. If this solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions which are not modified remain unchanged.

10. **Authorization of Bidder:** The legal name of the Bidder and the signature of the Bidder's Principal shall be affixed on the *Official Bid Form* and other documents requiring signature as part of the bid submission along with required notarizations. A bid submitted by an agent shall have a current written power of attorney attached certifying the agent's authority to bind the Bidder. Unsigned bidding forms shall render the bid non-responsive in accordance with the District's Procurement Code.

11. **Official Bid Form:** Bids shall be presented on the District's *Official Bid Form* or an identical copy. Bids submitted in response to this solicitation shall be in the English language and in US Dollars, unless otherwise permitted by the solicitation. To ensure a bid is considered responsive, a) all blanks or information requested shall be completed, b) any blanks not applicable to the bid or the Bidder shall have inserted in the blank the words "N/A" (not applicable) or "none" or other such designation, c) all issued addenda shall be acknowledged, and d) all insertions, alterations and/or erasures shall be initiated by an official representative of the Bidder. The base bid and any other pricing required shall be expressed only in numbers written legibly in ink. Non-legible numbers shall be subject to District interpretation, and the determination is final. Any modification to the requirements of the Contract Documents or any other Bidder conditions may render the bid non-responsive in accordance with the District's Procurement Code.

12. **Bid Alternates:** Bid alternates listed on the *Official Bid Form* constitute required pricing for additions, reductions, or modifications to the work specified in the base bid. Bidders shall bid all requested alternates listed and indicate whether the pricing is in addition to or a deduction from the base bid pricing or whether there is no change if the bid alternate is accepted by the District. If a Bidder fails to bid any alternate, the bid shall be found non-responsive. Bidders shall include in each bid alternate price all costs necessary to provide a complete, operable, functional, and fully integrated portion of work with the work in the base bid including any bonding, overhead and profit. Pricing shall not be conditioned upon the acceptance of any other bid alternate unless specifically stated by the District. The District reserves the right to reject any or all bid alternates or accept bid alternates in any order or combination.

13. **Unit / Incremental Pricing:** A Bidder shall stipulate all unit/incremental pricing requested on the *Official Bid Form* for potential additional work in unforeseen circumstances. Unit/incremental pricing shall be the installed price including all costs to the District such as, by way of illustration and not limitation, materials, labor, equipment, fees, taxes, or other such direct costs. Bonding, overhead and profit costs shall not be included in the pricing as these costs will be added when a *Change Order* is processed. The District shall have the right to require the Bidder to amend the unit/incremental pricing prior to contract award if, in the estimation of the District, the pricing provided appears inflated in relation to pricing of other bids submitted.

14. **Allowances:** Allowances specified by the District in the Contract Documents for a specified product purchase or work to be completed shall be included in the base bid or applicable alternate bid when computing the pricing. An allowance is a reimbursement, dollar for dollar, for actual costs incurred for the product purchase or performance of the work specified. Application of bonding, overhead and profit shall also be included in the pricing when incorporating the allowance.

15. Subcontractor Disclosure: The Bidder shall name on the *Official Bid Form* those subcontractors required by the District to be named. Any subcontractor who will perform a portion of the work equal to or greater than three percent (3%) of the Contractor's bid shall be disclosed to the District prior to the execution of a contract. When the Bidder intends to perform any trade listed with the Bidder's own forces, the Bidder shall be named in the place of any subcontractor required to be listed. Failure to complete the list or listing a subcontractor that is not properly licensed (if required by LLC) shall render the bid non-responsive and is not subject to cure by substitution. Listing more than one (1) subcontractor or the Bidder and a subcontractor shall only be done when the work will be shared by both. **All** subcontractors, whether or not listed on the *Official Bid Form*, must meet the licensing and experience requirements stated in these *Bid Instructions* as applicable.

16. Subcontractor Conflicts of Interest: A Bidder shall not list as a subcontractor any representative, agent, or employee of the District or the Architect/Engineer without written approval of the District, in advance. No representative, agent or employee of the District or the Architect/Engineer shall have more than a five percent (5%) interest in the Bidder's or any subcontractor's business used in the performance of the work without approval of the District. No representative, agent or employee of the District or the Architect/Engineer having official responsibility in the procurement process shall receive any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services, offer of employment or anything else of greater than a nominal value (in excess of \$25.00). The Bidder, nor any subcontractor proposed in the *Official Bid Form*, shall have provided any consultant services related to the designs of the work to be performed or product specifications which would render that entity ineligible to bid in accordance with the District's Procurement Code.

17. Subcontractor Substitution: The District shall have the right to reject any subcontractor that ordinarily appears to meet the requirements but, unknown to the Bidder, is not acceptable to the District at the time of bid submission. Substitution of an unacceptable subcontractor shall be in accordance with the District's Procurement Code. If, at the bid opening, the Contractor lists a subcontractor who, at the time the bid was submitted, was not sufficiently licensed under State law to perform the work for which it was listed as the subcontractor, the bid shall be considered non-responsive unless allowed by the District under Paragraph 30.

18. Use of Minority and Economically Disadvantaged Subcontractors: The District encourages the Bidder's use of minority-owned and women-owned businesses as subcontractors provided they meet all the requirements of the *Bid Instructions*, as applicable.

19. Bid Security: Each bid shall be accompanied by bid security pledging the Bidder shall enter into a contract with the District on the terms stated in the Contract Documents and has the ability to furnish bonds covering the faithful performance of the contract and payment of all obligations arising thereto. Bid security shall be in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid price including all allowances and bid alternates and shall be made payable to the District. Each Bidder shall maintain such bid security in full force and effect until such time as a) the Contract Agreement has been executed and a *Performance Bond* and *Payment Bond* have been furnished to the District, b) the specified acceptance period has elapsed and the Bidder has refused the District's request to extend the acceptance period at the same bid price, or c) the District has rejected all bids. A Bidder who submits a bid security not meeting the requirements herein or in the District's Procurement Code shall be considered non-responsive except as may otherwise be provided for in the District's Procurement Code.

20. Bid Bond Requirements: Any bid bond submitted with a bid of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or more shall be issued by a surety company licensed to conduct business in the State of South Carolina with an "A" minimum rating of performance as stated in the most current publication of "Best Key Rating Guide, Property Liability" and show a financial strength rating of at least five (5) times the total bid price including all allowances and alternates. For projects less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), the issuing surety company shall have a "B+" minimum rating of performance and a financial strength of at least four (4) times the total bid price. The attorney-in-fact that executes the bid bond on behalf of the surety shall affix to the bid bond a current certified power of attorney.

21. Bid Security Forfeiture: Refusal or failure of the Bidder to a) enter into a contract; b) furnish a *Performance Bond* and *Payment Bond* as required; c) correct any bid deficiency; or d) provide any additional information when requested for determination of responsibility shall cause forfeiture of the amount of the bid security to the District.

22. Bid Submission: Bids delivered orally or via telephone, telegraph, e-mail, facsimile, or other such methods are not sealed bids and are unacceptable. Bids submitted in any other way than as required in these *Bid Instructions* shall be considered non-responsive in accordance with the District's Procurement Code.

23. Receipt of Bids: Bids shall be received at the location stated in the *Invitation for Bids* no later than the date and time published in the *Invitation for Bids*, as they may be amended by any addendum. Timely submission of a fully completed bid is solely the responsibility of the Bidder. It is the Bidder's responsibility to synchronize submission time with the District's official bid clock at the bid opening location to avoid late submissions.

24. Sealed Bid Packaging: If hard bids are being accepted via hand-delivery or through the mail, the documents required for bid submission shall be enclosed in a sealed, opaque envelope before delivery, mailing, or insertion into any express carrier envelope or packaging. The exterior of the sealed, opaque envelope shall be clearly marked with a) the project name and project/bid number, b) the Bidder's name and address, c) the Bidder's Contractor license number, and d) the words "SEALED BID" in bold print. The Bidder shall assume full responsibility for the correct packaging and identification of the sealed bid to prevent exposure of bid pricing prior to the official bid opening date and time. Any premature opening of a bid shall be handled in accordance with the District's Procurement Code.

25. Vendor Registration Mandatory: The District has implemented an online, electronic bidding system to receive bids and proposals from prospective offerors. In order to submit offers in response to posted solicitations, prospective offerors must be registered through this electronic system. Registration can be completed through the following link: <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Vendor/Register/Index/horry-county-schools-sc-vendor-registration>. Once registered, suppliers must keep their information current.

26. On-Line Bidding Instructions: (a) Mandatory Registration: You must register before you can submit an offer online. See clause entitled "Vendor Registration Mandatory". To register or submit and offer, please visit the following site: <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Vendor/Register/Index/horry-county-schools-sc-vendor-registration>. (b) Once registered and signed into the system, choose the solicitation you wish to respond to. The system will provide the necessary steps to obtain the required information from the Bidder. (c) To confirm your offer has been submitted, you should receive an email notification from cservice@vendorregistry.com with the subject line "Vendor Bid File Submittal". Only offers with an email status of "Vendor Bid File Submittal" have been received by the District.

If you experience any issues, contact Vendor Registry Support Team by email at cservice@vendorregistry.com or toll free at 844-802-9202. **Please note:** Do NOT wait until the last minute to enter your submission. Registration for new contractors can take up to three (3) days.

27. Electronic Files – Required Media and Format: Documents and/or electronic files submitted shall contain the solicitation number and the offeror's name and be compatible with Microsoft Office (version 2003 or later) or Adobe Acrobat or equivalent Portable Document Format (.pdf) viewer. The Procurement Officer must be able to view, search, and print electronic documents without a password. If required by the solicitation, your business and technical proposals must be within separate files.

28. Bid Acceptance Period: Any bid submitted shall be binding on the Bidder and irrevocable by the Bidder for forty-five (45) days following the bid opening date and time. No required Bid Documents, including any bid security, shall be modified, withdrawn or cancelled by the Bidder during this acceptance period. In order to withdraw a bid after the minimum time period specified, the Bidder must notify the Procurement Officer in writing.

29. Withdrawal or Modification of a Bid: Withdrawal or modification of a bid prior to or after the bid opening date and time shall only be done in accordance with the District's Procurement Code. Negligence or error on the part of any Bidder in preparing a bid confers no right of withdrawal or modification after the bid opening date and time. No Bidder who, at the District's discretion, is permitted to withdraw a bid shall in any way benefit from the contract later awarded.

30. Bidder Responsiveness: For a bid to be considered by the District, the Bidder shall first be determined by the District to be responsive to the bid requirements. Any bid which fails to conform in all material respects to the essential requirements of the *Bid Instructions* and the required forms shall be considered non-responsive and rejected as provided for in the District's Procurement Code. A bid may be rejected if the Procurement Officer determines in writing that it is unreasonable as to price. The District may also reject a bid as unresponsive if the prices bid are materially unbalanced between line items or subline items. A bid is materially unbalanced when it is based on prices significantly less than cost for some work and prices which are significantly overstated in relation to cost for other work, and if there is a reasonable doubt that the bid will result in the lowest overall cost to the District even though it may be the low evaluated bid, or if it is so unbalanced as to be tantamount to allowing an advance payment. A bid is also non-responsive if, at the bid opening, the Contractor lists a subcontractor who, at the time the bid was submitted, was not sufficiently and appropriately licensed under State law to perform the work, and such non-responsiveness is not subject to cure by substitution. Any bid which the District is prohibited by law from considering shall be rejected as non-responsive unless allowed by the District under Paragraph 33.

31. Bidder Responsibility: For a *Contract Agreement* to be executed, the Bidder shall also be determined by the District to be responsible. The District may make any and all reasonable investigations deemed necessary and proper to determine the ability of the Bidder to perform the work timely and to the satisfaction of the District. A determination of responsibility focuses on whether the Bidder has the necessary facilities, resources, qualifications, and ability to provide the work specified in the Contract Documents in a

satisfactory and timely manner. For a Bidder to be deemed responsible, it must have the capability in all respects to fully perform the contract requirements, and have the integrity and reliability to assure timely good faith performance, which may be substantiated by past performance. Factors used to assess responsibility may include, by way of illustration and not limitation, a) availability of appropriate finances, material, equipment, facilities, expertise, and personnel resources, or the ability to obtain them, necessary to meet all contractual requirements; b) a satisfactory record of performance and integrity with the District and other governmental entities; c) no outstanding debts owed nor any judgments in the past five (5) years or currently pending with the District or any other entity; d) the capability of legally contracting with the District or the State of South Carolina; e) Bidder and subcontractors being properly qualified and eligible to contract for the work as stated in the next paragraph; f) supplying all necessary, required and requested information within forty-eight (48) hours of the request by the District; and g) submit to a very detailed bid evaluation process administered by the District which includes all subcontractors.

32. Minimum Contractor Qualifications Required: The District reserves the right to reject any Bidder as non-responsible if the evidence submitted by the Bidder or any investigation of the Bidder fails to satisfy the District of the responsibility factors in the previous paragraph and, by way of illustration and not limitation, the following:

A. The Bidder's experience, skill, and ability, to perform the work required as well as the experience, skill, and ability of key personnel. At least one principal of the business shall have a minimum of ten (10) years of documented commercial construction experience or an equivalent of five (5) years of documented school construction experience. The Contractor's project manager and worksite superintendents as well as all subcontractors shall each have a minimum of five (5) years of documented commercial construction experience or as required in the *Contract Agreement*.

The Project Manager (and Project Superintendents) are to be 100% assignable to this Horry County Schools project. The proposed Manager and Superintendent must have worked a minimum of two (2) years for the General Contractor naming them in their bid. Both must have experience working on construction projects in close proximity to and/or within occupied and operating facilities.

The District understands the importance of good planning and management. As such, the qualifications for both the Project Manager and the Superintendent will be a significant portion of the Contractor evaluation in determining "responsibility" as it relates to the selection process of the selected General Contractor. Therefore it is the District's anticipation that the Project Manager will be familiar enough with the project and project demands that he/she can organize and oversee the responses during the District's evaluation process for the General Contractor as specified in paragraph 30 of the *Bid Instructions*.

The District requirements for staffing the project listed in the *Contract Agreement* are to be considered the minimum amount of key supervisory staff assigned to the project. The Contractor, with his in-depth knowledge of building facilities projects must allocate the necessary personnel to deliver the project in a timely, safe, and quality manner.

B. The Bidder and subcontractors having and maintaining a valid Contractor's license with the South Carolina Contractors' Licensing and Regulations Board at an appropriate level for the project being bid or the portion of work to be performed, as may be required. Contractors and subcontractors shall have been licensed by the South Carolina Contractors' Licensing Board (or contractors' licensing agency of another state, in equivalent categories) for a minimum of five (5) consecutive years immediately prior to the bid submission in the construction field or discipline the Contractor or subcontractor will be performing.

C. The Bidders' ability to meet the required insurance and bonding requirements. The Contractor shall have a minimum aggregate available bonding capacity of at least twice the value of the project being bid and shall provide proof of such available bonding capacity as part of the bid submission. The insurance coverage shall be specific to the project as stated in the *Contract Agreement* with the District and Architect/Engineer listed as additionally insured. The Contractor must also have an experience modifier rate (EMR) not greater than 1.00 unless allowed by the District under Paragraph 33.

D. The demonstrated ability of the Bidder and the listed subcontractors to perform construction work promptly within the time specified, without delay or potential default.

E. The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the Bidder and the listed subcontractors and their key employees, owners, directors, officers or others associated with them.

F. The quality of the Bidder's and listed subcontractors' past and present performance on other contracts entered into and the Bidder's experience with projects similar to the one identified in the Contract Documents.

G. Any current contract between the District and the Bidder or any listed subcontractor in compliance with all terms and conditions of the contract.

H. The Bidder or any listed subcontractor not currently debarred from doing business with the State of South Carolina, the District or any other governmental entity.

I. Any amounts due and payable to the District by the Bidder or any listed subcontractor paid in full prior to the bid submission.

33. Right of Waiver: The District reserves the right to waive any requirements of the previous paragraph(s) or any informalities or irregularities in any bid received and award a contract which, in the District's judgment, is in the best interests of the District and in accordance with the District's Procurement Code.

34. Notice of Intent to Award: It is the intent of the District to award a contract to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder provided the funds are appropriated by the Horry County Board of Education, and the bid does not exceed the funds available. The District expects to post a *Notice of Intent to Award* for this project electronically within thirty (30) calendar days of the bid opening date and time on the District's website pages at <http://apps.hcs.k12.sc.us/apps/protrac/> and <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Bids/View/ExpiredBidsList?buyerId=2f302e8a-69b0-407b-a21a-3368d004365e> and any other bid posting locations stated in the *Invitation for Bids*. A *Notice of Intent to Award* with bid tabulation shall also be faxed or e-mailed to all Bidders at the time of posting.

35. Contract Award: A *Contract Agreement* shall not be executed between the Contractor and the District until one (1) business day after the completion of the protest period. The *Notice of Intent to Award* is not an authorization for commencement of work but only serves as a public notice of the District's intention to award a contract. A *Notice of Intent to Award* may be rescinded if a) funds for the project become unavailable or the project pricing exceeds the available funding as determined by the Horry County Board of Education; b) further information is brought to the District's attention leading to a determination of Bidder non-responsibility; or c) a protest decision requires rescinding of the *Notice of Intent to Award* or rebidding. The successful Bidder providing services without a fully executed *Contract Agreement* does so at its own risk and expense, and the District shall not be liable for payment of any work performed or the cost of any materials unless the fully executed *Contract Agreement* has been issued to the Bidder.

36. Vendor Registration: Bidders who have not provided products/services to Horry County Schools in the past or have not updated your company's profile with the District via a completed vendor application and W-9 within the past three (3) years, please complete the vendor application along with the W-9 and submit with your offer. The forms are online at: <https://www.horrycountyschools.net/cms/lib/SC02209139/Centricity/Domain/3189/vendor%20app%202019.pdf>.

37. Governing Law: The bidding process and any subsequent contract executed shall be governed by the District's Procurement Code and the laws of the State of South Carolina. A copy of the Procurement Code is available on the District's website at https://www.horrycountyschools.net/cms/lib/SC02209139/Centricity/Domain/3189/Procurement_Code.pdf. All Bidders are encouraged to read the Procurement Code as it relates to the construction bidding and contracting processes prior to submitting a bid.

38. Ethics Certificate: By submitting a bid, the Bidder certifies that the Bidder has and will comply with, and has not, and will not, induce a person to violate Title 8, Chapter 13 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended (ethics act). The following statutes require special attention: Section 8-13-700, regarding use of official position for official gain; Section 8-13-705, regarding gifts to influence action of public official; Section 8-13-720, regarding offering money for advice or assistance of public official; Sections 8-13-755 and 8-13-760, regarding restrictions on employment by former public official; Section 8-13-790, regarding recovery of kickbacks; Section 8-13-1150, regarding statements to be filed by consultants; and Section 8-13-1342, regarding restrictions on contributions by contractor to candidate who participated in awarding of contract. The District may rescind any contract and recover all amounts expended as a result of any action taken in violation of this provision. If contractor participates, directly or indirectly, in the evaluation or award of public contracts, including without limitation, change orders or task orders regarding a public contract, contractor shall, if required by law to file such a statement, provide the statement required by Section 8-13-1150 to the procurement officer at the same time the law requires the statement to be filed.

39. Prohibited Communications and Donations (modified): Violation of these restrictions may result in disqualification of your offer, suspension or debarment, and may constitute a violation of law. (a) During the period between publication of the solicitation and final award, potential and actual Offerors (including any subcontractors or sub-consultants) must not communicate, directly or indirectly, with the District or its employees, agents, or officials (including members of the School Board and/or the District Selection Committee) regarding any aspect of this procurement activity, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Procurement Specialist. All communications must be solely with the Procurement Specialist. (b) You are advised to familiarize yourself with Regulation 19-445.2165, which restricts donations to a governmental entity with whom you have or seek to have a contract. You represent that your offer discloses any gifts made, directly or through an intermediary, by you or your named subcontractors to

or for the benefit of the District during the period beginning eighteen months prior to the Opening Date.

40. **Non-Collusion Clause:** By submitting a signed bid, the Bidder certifies the prices submitted in response to the solicitation have been arrived at independently and without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other Bidder or competitor relating to those prices, the intention to submit a bid, or the methods or factors used to calculate the bid prices. The Bidder further certifies the Bidder is not party to any collusive action or any action which may be in violation of any federal or state antitrust act, nor has the Bidder offered or received any kickbacks or inducements from any other Bidder, supplier, manufacturer, or subcontractor in connection with the bid to be offered to the District. Any and all bids shall be rejected if there is any reason for believing collusion exists among the Bidders which may be a violation of Federal or State antitrust acts. The District may or may not, at its discretion, accept future bids for similar work from Bidders suspected of collusion.

41. **Bidding Expenses:** All costs associated with a) ordering documents, b) attendance at any pre-bid conference(s) or other bid meetings, c) worksite observations, d) preparation and presentation of a bid, e) supplying any documentation required by the District for purposes of determining Bidder responsibility or in relation to any protest or appeal, or f) any other costs incurred prior to execution of a *Contract Agreement* is solely the responsibility of the Bidder.

42. **Protest Procedure:** Any Bidder who feels he/she has been aggrieved in connection with this solicitation, an addendum to the solicitation, or the subsequent award of a contract has a right to protest and to present an appeal in accordance with the District's Procurement Code. Any formal protest shall be submitted to the District's Procurement Officer, in writing, within the required number of days from the date of the solicitation, an addendum or the award, whichever is at issue. The aggrieved individual may contact the District Procurement Officer for details or may view the District's Procurement Code at https://www.horrycountyschools.net/cms/lib/SC02209139/Centricity/Domain/3189/Procurement_Code.pdf. Nothing in these *Bid Instructions* shall preclude the District from requiring a bond in conjunction with any protest or appeal or other activity connected hereto.

End of *Bid Instructions*