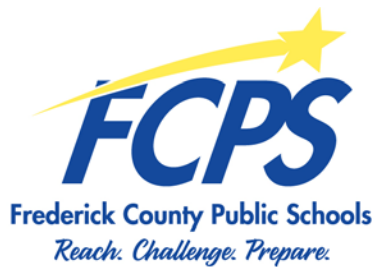


Purchasing Office
191 South East St
Frederick, Maryland 21701
301-644-5209 phone
301-644-5213 fax



Stephen P. Starmer, C.P.M., CSBA,
Purchasing Manager
Kim Miskell, Asst. Purchasing Manager
Billie Laughland, Buyer Specialist
Bill Meekins CPPB, CPCP, Buyer Specialist

BID NUMBER/BID NAME: 17MISC3, 403(b)/457(b) Programs and Services for Employees of Frederick County Public Schools

BID ISSUE DATE: November 7, 2016

BID CONTRACT MANAGER: Kim Miskell, Assistant Purchasing Manager, kimberly.miskell@fcps.org

BID CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR: Penny Opalka, Senior Manager, Human Resources, penny.opalka@fcps.org

QUESTIONS: Questions due no later than 4:00 P.M., local time, on November 17, 2016
Submit questions in writing to the Contract Manager listed above with a copy to the Contract Administrator.

PRE-BID DATE: 11:00 A.M. , local time, on November 21, 2016

PRE-BID LOCATION: Conference call – Number to be provided to all existing contacts.

All questions submitted will be answered on this call and then in writing as an addendum on November 22, 2016.

OBTAINING BID DOCUMENTS: To view and/or download this solicitation package please visit our webpage at: www.fcps.org/bidlist. If you have problems downloading this bid or applicable addenda, contact: Kim Miskell @ kimberly.miskell@fcps.org

BONDS REQUIRED: [NO]

MBE REQUIREMENTS: [NO]

BID DUE: 11:00 A.M., local time, on December 6, 2016
Faxed or emailed bids are not acceptable.

SEALED BID DELIVERED TO: Frederick County Public Schools
Attn: Purchasing Department
191 South East Street
Frederick, MD 21701
(Parking is available at Deck #5 on All Saints Street)

Bid proposal must be properly marked with vendor's business name, address, Bid Name and Number on the envelope or package.

TENTATIVE AWARD DATE: BOE Work Session, scheduled on: January 11, 2017

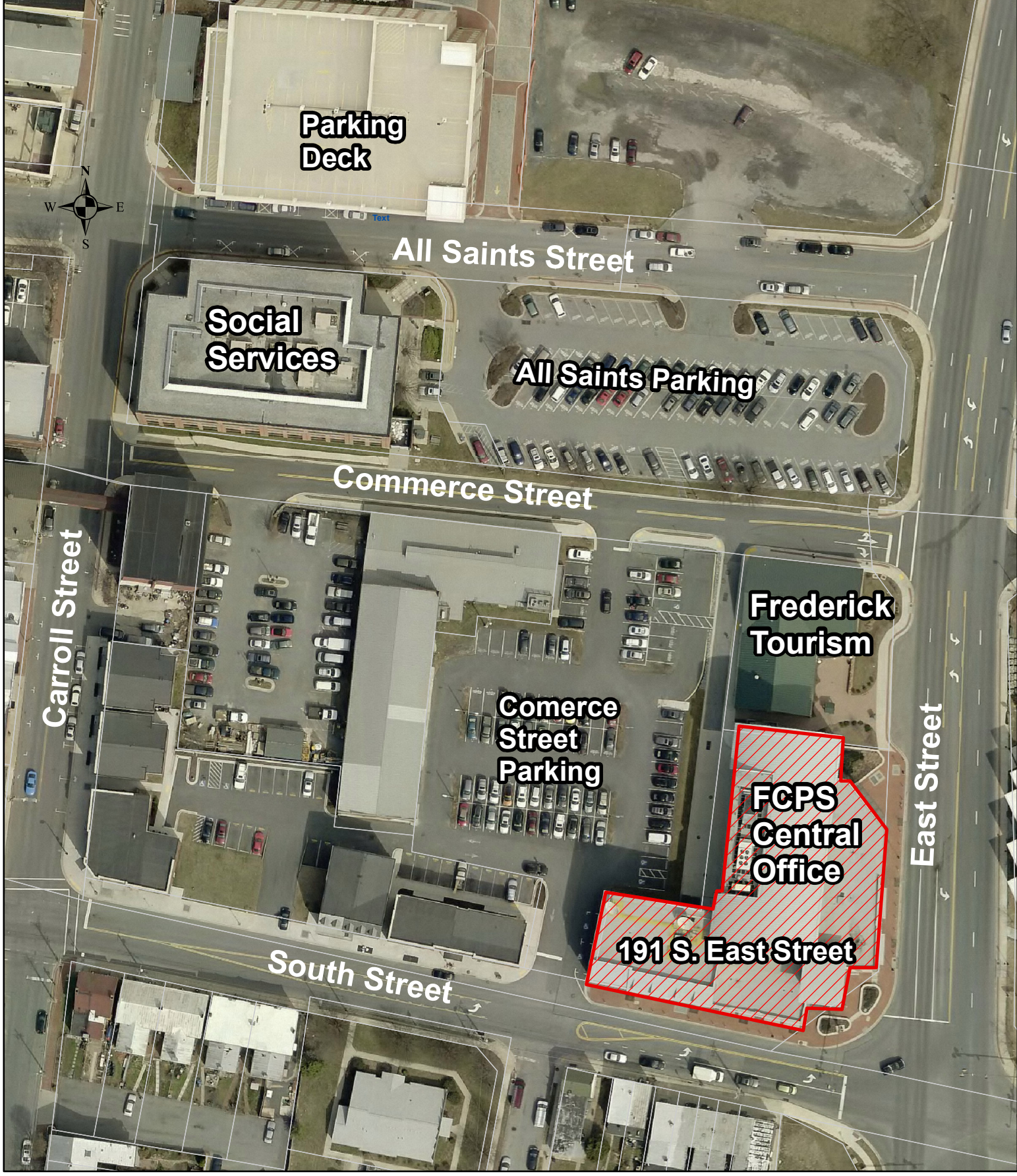
ELIGIBILITY TO BID: All Frederick County Public School vendors and or contractors interested in bidding on FCPS projects must register at www.emarylandmarketplace.com. FCPS will no longer accept bidder's applications.

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Frederick County Public Schools
191 S. East Street



Frederick County Public Schools, MD, School Year 2016-17 Calendar

August 2016

08 Mon New Teachers Report—New-Hire Symposium
16 Tue Teachers Report to Work: Training and Preparation
22 Mon First Day of School for Students

September 2016

05 Mon Schools Closed. Labor Day
22 Thu 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Mid-Term Work Session
23 Fri Schools Closed. Fair Day

October 2016

03 Mon Schools Closed. Rosh Hashanah
12 Wed Schools Closed. Yom Kippur
21 Fri Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Professional Development Day
28 Fri End of Term 1
31 Mon Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Work Day

November 2016

01 Tue Term 2 Begins
08 Tue Schools Closed: Election Day
09 Wed Elementary Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences: Elem Schools Open 4 Hours Late; Middle and High Schools Are Full Day
10 Thu Elem & Middle School Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences: Those Schools Open 4 Hours Late; High School Is Full Day
11 Fri Elem & Middle School Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences: Those Schools Dismiss 3.5 Hours Early; High School Is Full Day
23 Wed Schools Closed: Thanksgiving Break
24-25 Thu-Fri Schools Closed: Thanksgiving and American Indian Heritage Day

December 2016

09 Fri 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Mid-Term Work Session
23-30 Fri-Fri Schools Closed: Winter Break

January 2017

02 Mon Schools Closed: Winter Break
03 Schools Re-Open
16 Mon Schools Closed: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
20 Fri End of First Semester and Term 2
23 Mon Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Work Day
24 Tue Second Semester and Term 3 Begin

February 2017

20* Mon Schools Closed: Presidents' Day
21 Tue Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Professional Development Day
27 Mon 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Mid-Term Work Session

March 2017

13 Mon 2-Hour Late Start for Students: Teacher Work Session
30 Thu End of Term 3
31 Fri Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Work day

April 2017

03 Mon Term 4 Begins
14 Fri Schools Closed: Good Friday
17 Mon Schools Closed: Easter Monday
18-21* Tue-Fri Schools Closed: Spring Break

May 2017

12 Fri 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Mid-Term Work Session
26 Fri 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session
29 Mon Schools Closed: Memorial Day

June 2017

16* Fri 2-Hour Early Dismissal/Last Day of School for Students: Teacher Work Session
19* Mon Last Day of School for Teachers

*Includes 6 days for snow or other emergency closings. If no snow days are used, the last day for students is June 8. If some but not all days are needed, the school year will be shortened by the number of unused days to provide 180 days for students. If more days are needed, we will make them up in this order: February 20, April 18, 19, 20, 21 and/or at the end of the school year; dates are subject to BOE revision.

DIRECTORY OF SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY

1. **Ballenger Creek*** **240-236-2500**
Ms. Kristen Canning, Principal
5250 Kingsbrook Drive
Frederick, MD 21703
Fax 240-236-2501
2. **Brunswick **** **240-236-2900**
Mr. Justin McConnaughey, Principal
400 Central Avenue
Brunswick, MD 21716
Fax 240-236-2901
3. **Carroll Manor **** **240-236-3800**
Ms. Kimberly Huffer, Principal
5624 Adamstown Road
Adamstown, MD 21710
Fax 240-236-3801
4. **Centerville** **240-566-0100**
Ms. Tracy Hilliard, Principal
3601 Carriage Hill Drive
Frederick, MD 21704
Fax 240-566-0101
5. **Deer Crossing ♦** **240-236-5900**
Ms. Heather Michael, Principal
10601 Finn Drive
New Market, MD 21774
Fax 240-236-5901
6. **Emmitsburg *** **240-236-1750**
Ms. Mary Ann Wiles, Principal
300 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Fax 240-236-1751
7. **Glade **** **240-236-2100**
Mr. Lorcán ÓhEithir, Principal
9525 Glade Road
Walkersville, MD 21793
Fax 240-236-2101
8. **Green Valley** **240-236-3400**
Ms. Leigh Warren, Principal
11501 Fingerboard Road
Monrovia, MD 21770
Fax 240-236-3401
9. **Hillcrest *** **240-236-3200**
Ms. Kimberly Seiss, Co-Principal
Mr. Karl Williams, Co-Principal
1285 Hillcrest Drive
Frederick, MD 21703
Fax 240-236-3201
10. **Kempton** **240-236-3500**
Ms. Sharon West, Principal
3456 Kempton Church Road
Monrovia, MD 21770
Fax 240-236-3501
11. **Lewistown** **240-236-3750**
Ms. Shirley Olsen, Principal
11119 Hessong Bridge Road
Thurmont, MD 21788
Fax 240-236-3751
12. **Liberty** **240-236-1800**
Mr. Todd Shaffer, Principal
11820 Liberty Road
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-236-1801
13. **Lincoln **** **240-236-2650**
Ms. Kathryn Golightly, Principal
200 Madison Street
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-236-2651
14. **Middletown** **240-236-1100**
Grades 3-5
Mr. Randy Perrell, Principal
201 East Green Street
Middletown, MD 21769
Fax 240-236-1150
15. **Middletown Primary **** **240-566-0200**
Grades Pre-K–2
Ms. Karen Hopson, Principal
403 Franklin Street
Middletown, MD 21769
Fax 240-566-0201
16. **Monocacy *** **240-236-1400**
Mr. Troy Barnes, Principal
7421 Hayward Road
Frederick, MD 21702
Fax 240-236-1401
17. **Myersville** **240-236-1900**
Ms. Kathy Swire, Principal
429 Main Street
Myersville, MD 21773
Fax 240-236-1901
18. **New Market *** **240-236-1300**
Mr. Jason Bowser, Principal
93 West Main Street
New Market, MD 21774
Fax 240-236-1301

19. **New Midway-Woodsboro**
Mr. Giuseppe Di Monte, Principal
A) New Midway **240-236-1500**
Grades 3-5
12226 Woodsboro Pike
Keymar, MD 21757
Fax 240-236-1501
B) Woodsboro * **240-236-3700**
Grades Pre-K–2
101 Liberty Road
Woodsboro, MD 21798
Fax 240-236-3701
20. **North Frederick *** **240-236-2000**
Ms. DeVeda Coley, Principal
1010 Fairview Avenue
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-236-2001
21. **Oakdale **** **240-236-3300**
Ms. Kimberly Clifford, Principal
5830 Oakdale School Road
Ijamsville, MD 21754
Fax 240-236-3301
22. **Orchard Grove **** **240-236-2400**
Ms. Debra Myers, Principal
5898 Hannover Drive
Frederick, MD 21703
Fax 240-236-2401
23. **Parkway** **240-236-2600**
Ms. Stephanie Brown, Principal
300 Carroll Parkway
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-236-2601
24. **Sabillasville** **240-236-6000**
Ms. Kate Krietz, Principal
16210-B Sabillasville Road
Sabillasville, MD 21780
Fax 240-236-6001
25. **Spring Ridge **** **240-236-1600**
Ms. Patricia Hosfelt, Principal
9051 Ridgefield Drive
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-236-1601
26. **Thurmont (Gr. 3-5)** **240-236-0900**
Ms. Christina McKeever, Principal
805 East Main Street
Thurmont, MD 21788
Fax 240-236-0901
27. **Thurmont Primary **** **240-236-2800**
Grades Pre-K–2
Ms. Karen Locke, Principal
7989 Rocky Ridge Road
Thurmont, MD 21788
Fax 240-236-2801

28. **Tuscarora** **240-566-0000**
Dr. Kimberly Mazaleski, Principal
6321 Lambert Drive
Frederick, MD 21703
Fax 240-566-0001
29. **Twin Ridge **** **240-236-2300**
Ms. Susan Gullo, Principal
1106 Leafy Hollow Circle
Mt. Airy, MD 21771
Fax 240-236-2301
30. **Urbana ♦** **240-236-2200**
Mr. Allie Watkins, Principal
3554 Urbana Pike
Frederick, MD 21704
Fax 240-236-2201
31. **Valley *** **240-236-3000**
Ms. Elizabeth Little, Principal
3519 Jefferson Pike
Jefferson, MD 21755
Fax 240-236-3001
32. **Walkersville** **240-236-1000**
Ms. Tess Blumenthal, Principal
83 West Frederick Street
Walkersville, MD 21793
Fax 240-236-1050
33. **Waverley **** **240-236-3900**
Ms. Jan Hollenbeck, Principal
201 Waverley Drive
Frederick, MD 21702
Fax 240-236-3901
34. **Whittier **** **240-236-3100**
Ms. Amy Schwiegerath, Principal
2400 Whittier Drive
Frederick, MD 21702
Fax 240-236-3101
35. **Wolfsville *** **240-236-2250**
Ms. Susan Kreiger, Principal
12520 Wolfsville Road
Myersville, MD 21773
Fax 240-236-2251
36. **Yellow Springs** **240-236-1700**
Ms. Jana Strohmeier, Principal
8717 Yellow Springs Road
Frederick, MD 21702
Fax 240-236-1701

MIDDLE

37. **Ballenger Creek** **240-236-5700**
Ms. Jeneen Stewart, Principal
5525 Ballenger Creek Pike
Frederick, MD 21703
Fax 240-236-5701
38. **Brunswick** **240-236-5400**
Mr. Jay Schill, Principal
301 Cummings Drive
Brunswick, MD 21716
Fax 240-236-5401
50. **Brunswick** **240-236-8600**
Mr. Michael Dillman, Principal
101 Cummings Drive
Brunswick, MD 21716
Fax 240-236-8601
51. **Catoctin** **240-236-8100**
Mr. Bernard Quesada, Principal
14745 Sabillasville Road
Thurmont, MD 21788
Fax 240-236-8101
52. **Frederick** **240-236-7000**
Mr. David Franceschina, Acting Principal
Ms. Kathy Campagnoli, Special Assignment**
650 Carroll Parkway
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-236-7015
53. **Governor Thomas Johnson** **240-236-8200**
Dr. Dan Lippy, Principal
1501 North Market Street
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-236-8201
54. **Linganore** **240-566-9700**
Ms. Nancy Doll, Principal
12013 Old Annapolis Road
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-566-9701
55. **Middletown** **240-236-7400**
Ms. Lee Jeffrey, Principal
200 Schoolhouse Drive
Middletown, MD 21769
Fax 240-236-7450
56. **Oakdale** **240-566-9400**
Ms. Donna Clabaugh, Principal
5850 Eaglehead Drive
Ijamsville, MD 21754
Fax 240-566-9401
57. **Tuscarora** **240-236-6400**
Mr. Andrew Kibler, Principal
5312 Ballenger Creek Pike
Frederick, MD 21703
Fax 240-236-6401
58. **Urbana** **240-236-7600**
Mr. David Kehne, Principal
3471 Campus Drive
Ijamsville, MD 21754
Fax 240-236-7601
59. **Walkersville** **240-236-7200**
Ms. Tracey Franklin, Principal
81 West Frederick Street
Walkersville, MD 21793
Fax 240-236-7250



KEY

- * Pre-kindergarten program available
- ◆ Special education pre-kindergarten available

Middle (continued)

- 39. **Crestwood** **240-566-9000**
Ms. Jennifer Bingman, Principal
7100 Foxcroft Drive
Frederick, MD 21703
Fax 240-566-9001
- 40. **Governor Thomas Johnson** **240-236-4900**
Mr. Neal Case, Principal
1799 Schifferstadt Boulevard
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-236-4901
- 41. **Middletown** **240-236-4200**
Mr. Everett Warren, Principal
100 Martha Mason Street
Middletown, MD 21769
Fax 240-236-4250
- 42. **Monocacy** **240-236-4700**
Dr. Stephanie Ware, Principal
8009 Opossumtown Pike
Frederick, MD 21702
Fax 240-236-4701
- 43. **New Market** **240-236-4600**
Ms. T.C. Suter, Principal
125 West Main Street
New Market, MD 21774
Fax 240-236-4650
- 44. **Oakdale** **240-236-5500**
Ms. Mita Badshah, Principal
5810 Oakdale School Road
Ijamsville, MD 21754
Fax 240-236-5501
- 45. **Thurmont** **240-236-5100**
Ms. Jennifer Powell, Principal
408 East Main Street
Thurmont, MD 21788
Fax 240-236-5101
- 46. **Urbana** **240-566-9200**
Mr. Peter Daddone, Principal
3511 Pontius Court
Ijamsville, MD 21754
Fax 240-566-9201
- 47. **Walkersville** **240-236-4400**
Ms. Stacey Hiltner, Principal
55 West Frederick Street
Walkersville, MD 21793
Fax 240-236-4401
- 48. **West Frederick** **240-236-4000**
Mr. Frank Vetter, Principal
515 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-236-4050
- 49. **Windsor Knolls** **240-236-5000**
Mr. Brian Vasquenza, Principal
11150 Windsor Road
Ijamsville, MD 21754
Fax 240-236-5001

OTHER

- 60. **Career and Technology Center** **240-236-8500**
Mr. Michael Concepcion, Principal
7922 Opossumtown Pike
Frederick, MD 21702
Fax 240-236-8501
- 61. **Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School *** **301-663-7970**
Ms. Marilyn Horan, Principal
7215 Corporate Court
Frederick, MD 21703
Fax 301-663-6107
- 62. **Frederick Classical Charter School** **240-236-1200**
Ms. Erica Cummins, Principal
8445 Spires Way, Suite CC
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-236-1201
- 63. **Frederick County Virtual School (includes Flexible Evening High School)** **240-236-8450**
Dr. Stacey Adamiak, Principal
c/o GTJMS
1799 Schifferstadt Boulevard
Room 116
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 240-236-8451
- 64. **Heather Ridge** **240-236-8000**
Ms. Denise Flora, Principal
1445 Taney Avenue
Frederick, MD 21702
Fax 240-236-8001
- 65. **Monocacy Valley Montessori Public Charter School *** **301-668-5013**
Ms. Nancy Radkiewicz, Principal
217 Dill Avenue
Frederick, MD 21701
Fax 301-668-5015
- 66. **Rock Creek** **240-236-8700**
Ms. Mary Malone, Principal
191 Waverley Drive
Frederick, MD 21702
Fax 240-236-8701

** Frederick High's new construction, fall 2017 move to the new building and the LYNX School program; see www.fcps.org/lynx

For other useful numbers, see next page

**FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (FCPS)
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
SECTION I**

1. BIDDER REGISTRATION

- a. All Frederick County Public School (FCPS) vendors and or contractors interested in bidding on FCPS projects must register at www.emarylandmarketplace.com. FCPS will no longer accept bidder's applications.

2. PRE-BID MEETING CONFERENCE CALL

- a. A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at the date and time indicated on the cover page of this solicitation package.
- b. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Meeting is not mandatory; however, all vendors are strongly encouraged to participate.
- c. The agenda for this Pre-Bid Meeting will include the following: introduction of staff; description of scope of work; timeline/scheduling; budget priorities/concerns; and procurement responsibilities.
- d. Questions shall be submitted, via email, to the person(s) indicated on the cover page of this solicitation package. Due to possible changes and/or additions to the specifications, bids should not be submitted prior to the Pre-Bid meeting.
- e. If FCPS offices are closed, or operating on a modified schedule, due to inclement weather on the day a Pre-Bid is scheduled, the Pre-Bid is cancelled and will not be rescheduled unless an addendum is issued. Bidders are advised that they are to email questions to the identified Contract Manager by the date and time required within this solicitation. For the fastest, most reliable information, regarding closures and/or delays check the following:
- www.fcps.org
 - Social Media: FCPS on Twitter and FCPS on Facebook
 - Email/Text Messages: Sign up for FindOutFirst email and emergency-only text messages
 - FCPS TV: Comcast Channel 18 (Frederick area)
 - Local radio and TV stations

3. RECEIPT OF BIDS

- a. Bids received prior to the time of opening will be time stamped and securely kept unopened. No bid received thereafter will be considered. FCPS will not be responsible for the premature opening of bids received that are not properly addressed or identified. Any bid may be withdrawn before the scheduled time for opening bids.
- b. All inner and outer envelopes and packaging, used by Fed Ex, UPS and etc., are to be labeled with the following:
- Bidder Name
 - Bid Number and Name

- Due Date and Time
- c. Bids received after the designated date and/or time will not be accepted, regardless of when they were mailed or given to a delivery carrier.
- d. Bids not received by the date, time, and location designated on the solicitation cover sheet, due to improper labeling, may be considered non-responsive.
- e. In the event of inclement weather on the date when bids are scheduled to be opened and the FCPS offices are closed, or operating under a modified schedule, bids will be opened on the next business day at the same time as previously scheduled. Bids will be accepted until the scheduled time of opening on the next business day. (Often when schools are closed due to inclement weather, administrative offices remain open. When in doubt, call the Purchasing Department.)

4. OPENING OF BIDS

- a. Sealed bids will be opened at the location, date, and time indicated on the solicitation cover sheet.
- b. All bids received must include original signatures; no photo copies will be accepted. Unless specifically authorized, facsimile or emailed bids will not be considered. Modifications by facsimile, or email, of bids already submitted will be considered if received prior to the time set for opening. No bids will be accepted via telephone.

5. ADDENDA

- a. All changes to the bid solicitation will be made through appropriate addenda issued from the Purchasing Department.
- b. Addenda will be available on the FCPS Purchasing Department webpage. All vendors who are known by the Purchasing Department to have downloaded the bid documents will receive an email notification.
- c. Addenda will be issued a minimum of five days prior to the bid opening date, unless the addenda issued extends the due date.
- d. Each bidder shall ascertain, prior to submitting a bid that they have received all Addenda issued and the bidder shall acknowledge receipt on the Signature Acknowledgement Form. Failure of any bidder to acknowledge the receipt of addenda will not relieve that bidder from any obligations under this solicitation as amended by addenda. All addenda so issued will become a part of the award and contract documents.

6. PREPARATION OF BID

- a. Should any bidder be in doubt as to the meaning of the specifications, or should they find any discrepancy or omission, they shall notify the Contract Manager listed on the solicitation cover sheet. If required, bidders will be notified of clarifications and/or additional information by means of addenda.
- b. Bidder must submit one original proposal, with original signatures, unless otherwise specified. Bids must be prepared on the proposal form(s) provided. One electronic copy of the bid must be submitted on a USB drive or DVD/CD.

- c. Each bid will be sealed, show the full business address and contact information of the bidder and be signed by the person(s) legally authorized to sign contracts. All correspondence concerning the bid and contract, including notice of award, copy of contract, and purchase order, will be emailed, or mailed, to the address shown on the bid in the absence of written instructions from the bidder to the contrary.
- d. The following items must be included in submission:
 - i. Proposal pages completely and accurately filled out.
 - ii. Signature Acknowledgement Form completed and signed.
 - iii. Statutory Affidavit and Non-Collusion Certification form completed and signed.
 - iv. Certificate of Compliance form completed and signed.
 - v. Pages must be sequentially numbered throughout the proposal for ease of reference
- e. Bidders shall be required under Article 56, Section 270(4), Annotated Code of Maryland, to provide proof of Certificate of Registry and must be licensed to do business in the State of Maryland and must provide a tax certification number. Visit the following website to ensure compliance: <https://certificate.dat.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx> .
- f. Bids by partnerships must be signed with the partnership name, followed by the signature and designation of the person having authority to sign. When requested, satisfactory evidence of authority of the person signing will be furnished. Anyone signing the bid as an agent shall file satisfactory evidence of their authority to do so, if requested.
- g. Bids by corporations must be signed with the name of the corporation, followed by the signature and designation of the person having authority to sign. When requested, satisfactory evidence of authority of the person signing will be furnished. Anyone signing the bid as an agent shall file satisfactory evidence of their authority to do so, if requested.
- h. Failure to sign the bid document will result in rejection of the bid as non-responsive.
- i. FCPS will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a bidder in preparing and submitting a proposal in response to this solicitation.

7. STANDARD OF QUALITY, "OR EQUAL CLAUSES," AND SUBSTITUTIONS

- a. Any make/model specified in the solicitation is used only to establish a quality level, unless specifically noted in Section II. Any material or article that will perform adequately the duties imposed by the general design will be considered equal and satisfactory. FCPS retains the right to determine if items are equivalent and will be accepted.
- b. It will be the responsibility of the bidder to submit a clear and concise proposal wherein each substitution and deviation is identified and described, in writing, at the time of solicitation submission.
- c. In the absence of any statement to the contrary by the bidder, the submission will be interpreted as being the exact brand and/or qualities, etc., enumerated in the detailed specifications, whenever the specifications indicate a product of a particular manufacturer, model or brand.
- d. Bidders must submit detailed literature if bidding an item other than the specified item. Detailed

literature is defined as product features or specifications relating to construction and/or performance.

- e. The detailed literature is to be arranged and labeled according to item number.
- f. It is the bidders' responsibility to submit required literature, or links to webpages, with the bid submission. Failure to submit such data as required and/or at the time designated by the Purchasing Department shall be cause for rejection of that item.
- g. No substitutions or deviations will be permitted following the award of the contract unless "cause and effect" is presented in writing and approved by the Contract Manager. A statement of any credit or extra cost involved will be included with the request.
- h. FCPS shall not be responsible to provide personnel, testing facilities, or other resources necessary to search out substitutions and deviations in bid proposals which are unclear through the nebulous terms such as "comparable", or blanket statements of deviation such as "our standard design, construction, hardware, finishes, etc."
- i. The bidder will, upon request and with no cost to the FCPS, furnish documents, independent laboratory tests reports, and/or similar materials of proof to substantiate that the substitutions and deviations of the items they propose to furnish do not prevent these items from being truly and factually equal to, or exceeding, that which is specified.
- j. The cost of testing a representative sample of an order or shipment for acceptance and compliance with specifications shall be borne by FCPS. If the order or shipment is rejected for failure to meet the requirements of the specifications or purchase description, the cost of testing will be charged to the awarded vendor.

8. SAMPLES

- a. Samples may be requested for testing and evaluation purposes. Failure to submit samples as required at the time designated may be cause for rejection of that item.
- b. All samples must be delivered with all charges prepaid to the designated point of delivery. Samples must be marked as "SAMPLE" and include the name of the bidder, bid name and number, and return instructions, if applicable.
- c. The right is reserved to retain any sample submitted with bids for the purposes of examination and testing. FCPS reserves the right to use all samples in any manner which may best serve the final determination of the successful bidder, even if said examination and testing results in damage to or destruction of the sample.
- d. FCPS retains the right to determine the method of testing to be utilized.
- e. Samples that are not retained by FCPS must be removed within two weeks upon notification. Return shipping must be prepaid by the vendor. Samples not removed within this two-week period shall be retained, or disposed of, at the discretion FCPS, and without compensation to the bidder.

9. BID PRICING

- a. Prices quoted shall not exceed the prices established under any governmental price control regulations.

- b. All prices shall be firm for a period of 90 days from the date of bid opening unless otherwise stated in Section II. FCPS retains the right, with mutual consent of the bidder(s), to utilize the bid pricing and approved price changes for future purchases for as long as the bidder(s) mutually agrees to extend the prices.
- c. FCPS will not accept any proposal with escalator clauses, minimum order requirements or irregular features unless specifically authorized in Section II.
- d. If the contract includes equipment, all prices must be FOB-Destination (inside delivery), unless specifically authorized in Section II.
- e. Charges for express delivery will only be allowed if authorized by FCPS in writing.
- f. The bidder(s) are encouraged to bid only one product per line item that most nearly meets the specifications. If the bidder believes that there is more than one product available, a limit of two offers will be considered for each line item.
- g. If two or more particular brands, models, or makes are listed in the specifications (under Base and Alternate Bids) and the bidder has not indicated in the bid which of the two or more brands, models, etc., is being bid, it shall be understood that FCPS may require the bidder to furnish whichever is preferred by FCPS.
- h. All unit prices on items bid shall be completed on the provided proposal sheet(s). A "NO BID" or "N/A" notation should be completed for each item not being bid. Blank spaces in the proposal sheet will be considered as not being bid.
- i. In case of an error in the extension of prices in the bid, the unit price shall govern.
- j. Unit Prices must be rounded off to no more than two decimal places unless so specified in Section II.
- k. FCPS reserves the right to consider discounts in evaluating a bid with line item pricing requirements. The bidder should calculate all discounts, other than prompt payment, as part of their unit pricing.

10. TAXES

No charge will be allowed for federal excise, state, and/or municipal sales and use taxes, from which the Board of Education of Frederick County is exempt. Pricing will be net and will not include the amount of any such tax. Bidders will be required to pay the tax on all purchases and can recover it only as a part of their bid price. Exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.

11. GUARANTEES AND WARRANTIES

- a. The awarded vendor(s) will guarantee the material and workmanship on all services, equipment, materials, supplies, and labor, furnished by them, for a minimum period of one year from the date of acceptance, unless a longer period of time is specified in Section II.
- b. If, within the guarantee period, any defects or signs of deterioration are noted, the awarded vendor(s), at their expense, shall correct the condition or they shall replace the part or entire unit of work/equipment to the complete satisfaction of FCPS. These repairs, replacements, or adjustments shall be made only at such times as will be designated by FCPS to minimize the disruption to building/school operations.

- c. Should the awarded vendor(s) fail to comply with the terms of this guarantee, FCPS may have such work performed as it deems necessary to fulfill the guarantee, charging the cost to the awarded vendor(s).

12. BID OPENING

- a. Bids shall be opened in public at the time and place designated in the bid solicitation.
- b. Complete evaluation of the proposals will not take place at the bid opening and no indication of award will be made. A final recommendation(s) shall be prepared for review and approval by the Board of Education of Frederick County.
- c. The recommended award will be posted to the FCPS BoardDocs website a minimum of five days prior to the Board of Education meeting in which it will be presented.
- d. Final award recommendation, and the bid tabulation, will be posted on the FCPS webpage, www.fcps.org/bidlist, after the Board of Education of Frederick County approval.

13. ERRORS IN BID SUBMISSIONS

- a. Bidders, or their authorized representatives, are expected to fully inform themselves as to the conditions and requirements of the specifications before submitting bids. Failure to do so will be at the bidder's own risk.
- b. If the bidder has made an error, the bidder may request, in writing, to have their bid withdrawn. Approval of a bidder's request is not automatic and may be given only by the Purchasing Manager. Requests for withdrawal are usually denied, unless the bidder proves to the satisfaction of the Purchasing Manager that the mistake was either a scrivener's error or another type of clearly unintentional error so departing from customary and reasonable business practices as to be obvious and to legitimately and substantially impair the vendor's business.
- c. Neither law nor regulations make allowance for errors either of omission or commission on the part of the bidders. In case of error in multiplication of unit price when arriving at total price per line item, the unit price shall govern. If there is a discrepancy between the price written in numbers and the price written in words, the words will govern.

14. AWARDS OR REJECTION OF BIDS

- a. The basis of award shall be the lowest responsible bidder submitting a responsive bid that conforms to the specifications established in the solicitation with consideration given to the quantities involved, time required for delivery, purpose for which required, competency and responsibility of bidder, the ability of the bidder to perform satisfactory service, and the plan for utilization of minority contractors, if applicable.
- b. FCPS reserves the right to determine completeness and/or timeliness of bids, to reject any or all bids in whole or in part, to make partial awards, to waive any informality in any quotation, to increase or decrease quantities if quantities are listed in the bid, to reject any bid that shows any omissions, alterations of form, additions not called for, conditions, or alternate proposals, and to make any such award as is deemed to be in its best interest.
- c. Bidders may be required, before the awarding of a contract, to show to the complete satisfaction of

FCPS, that they have the necessary facilities, ability and financial resources to execute the contract in a satisfactory manner, and within the time specified. Bidders may be required to demonstrate they have the necessary experience, history and references to assure FCPS of their qualifications.

- d. The Board of Education of Frederick County reserves the right to award the bid within 90 days from the date of the bid opening unless a different time period is stated in the bid document.
- e. Unless stated otherwise in Section II, the contract may be awarded by line item, group, or in the aggregate, whichever is in the best interest of FCPS.
- f. In the event of a tie, where all other factors, such as past performance, are considered comparable, the award shall be made to the Frederick County based bidder; the closest Maryland out-of-county based bidder; and the closest out-of-state based bidder, in that order of preference.
- g. FCPS does not have local, state or federal preference requirements except when mandated by a targeted funding source.
- h. If, after competitive sealed bids have been opened, the Purchasing Manager determines that only one responsible bidder has submitted a responsive bid, the procurement contract may be negotiated with that one bidder as sole source procurement.
- i. A recommendation for the award of a contract will be presented to the Board of Education of Frederick County for approval. Upon approval of the award of contract, the bidder(s) shall be notified of their award(s). If applicable, an FCPS contract document shall also be issued.
- j. The Board of Education of Frederick County reserves the right to reject the bid of a bidder who has, in the opinion of FCPS, failed to properly perform under previous contracts, or, who investigation shows, is not in a position to perform the contract.
- k. The Board of Education of Frederick County retains the right to reject any and all bids, if it is deemed in the best interest of FCPS to do so.
- l. If, during the life of the contract, a product or service does not meet the solicitation terms and conditions, FCPS retains the right to cancel the awarded item(s) and award to a new bidder, as long as that bidder mutually agrees to the award.

15. CONTRACT FORMATION

- a. Notification of the contract award will be made by letter after approval by the Board of Education of Frederick County.
- b. The primary form of contract is the purchase order(s), and any agreed upon schedules, addenda, shop drawings, and documents associated with the bid solicitation/submission/award.
- c. A secondary form of contract, if required, may be noted in Section II of this bid solicitation.
- d. No amendment, modification or change to the contract shall be effective unless such change is in writing and mutually agreed upon by authorized representatives of FCPS and the awarded vendor(s). Changes may not significantly alter the original scope of the agreement.

16. PROTESTS

- a. The Purchasing Manager or designee (when the Purchasing Manager administers the bid being protested) shall attempt to resolve, informally, all protests of bid award recommendations. Bidders are encouraged to present their concerns promptly to the Contract Manager for consideration.
 - i. The bidder must submit their concern, in writing, addressed to the Purchasing Manager. It should include the following:
 - Name, address, contact information of the protestor;
 - Statement of reasons for the protest;
 - Supporting documentation to substantiate the claim;
 - The remedy sought.
 - ii. The protest must be received by the Purchasing Manager at least two calendar days prior to the date of the Board of Education meeting at which the recommendation will be presented. It is the vendor's responsibility to ascertain the date and time of award.
 - iii. A bidder who does not file a timely protest before the contract is awarded by the Board of Education of Frederick County is deemed to have waived any objection.
- b. The Purchasing Manager shall inform the Chief Financial Officer and/or general counsel upon receipt of the protest, and shall confer with them prior to the issuance of a decision regarding disputes of contracts or awards valued at \$25,000 or above.
- c. The Purchasing Manager shall issue a decision in writing.
- d. Should the protestor disapprove of the Purchasing Manager's decision, they have the right to address the Board of Education of Frederick County during the public comment section of the same Board meeting where the award recommendation is scheduled for award.
- e. The Board of Education of Frederick County's decision is deemed the final action at the local level.
- f. A bidder may appeal a decision of the Board directly to the Maryland State Board of Education in accordance with Board Policy 105.11 and Maryland law.

17. CONTRACT ASSIGNMENT

- a. The awarded vendor(s) will not assign or transfer any portion of their interest or obligation under this Agreement to any third party, without the prior written consent of the Contract Manager. Nothing herein shall be construed to create any personal or individual liability upon any employee, officer, elected official of the Board of Education of Frederick County, nor shall this Agreement be construed to create any rights hereunder in any person or entity other than the parties to this Agreement.
- b. The awarded vendor(s) will, when required, submit to the Contract Manager, in writing, the name of each subcontractor they intend to employ, the portion of the material to be furnished, their place of business, and any such information as may be required in order to know whether such subcontractor is reputable and reliable and able to furnish satisfactorily the material as called for in the specifications.
- c. FCPS reserves the right to approve or disapprove all subcontractors to be employed on a project. FCPS further reserves the right to approve or disapprove a change of subcontractor once an initial

subcontractor has been approved. Any increased cost associated with the change of a subcontractor shall be the full obligation and responsibility of the awarded vendor(s).

- d. The awarded vendor(s) will not legally, or equitably, assign any of the funds payable under the contract, or its claim thereto, unless by, and with, the consent of the Contract Manager.
- e. The awarded vendor(s) will have the same provisions inserted in all subcontracts relative to the terms of the general conditions and other contract documents. Nothing contained in this contract shall create any contractual relations between any subcontractor and FCPS.

18. MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT

- a. Contracts that require funding appropriation for more than one fiscal year automatically terminate if money sufficient for the continued performance is not appropriated for any fiscal year. The date of termination is the last day of the fiscal year for which money was last appropriated, or the date provided in the termination clause of the procurement contract, whichever is earlier.
- b. If the multi-year contract is terminated due to lack of funding, FCPS shall reimburse the vendor for the reasonable value of any nonrecurring costs that were incurred as a result of the multi-year contract, but not amortized in the price of the supplies or services delivered under the multi-year contract. The reasonable value will be negotiated, and mutually agreed upon, by FCPS and the vendor.
- c. The cost of termination may be paid from any appropriation available for that purpose.

19. HOLD HARMLESS

It is understood that the awarded vendor(s) shall defend and hold harmless the Board of Education of Frederick County, and its representatives, from all suits, actions, or claims of any kind brought about as a result of any injuries or damages sustained by person(s) or property during the performance of this contract.

20. CONTRACT DISPUTES

- a. Any dispute arising under this contract shall be decided by the Contract Administrator, the Contract Manager and the Purchasing Manager, who will communicate their decision to writing and furnish a copy to the vendor. This decision shall be final and conclusive unless, within 30 days, the vendor furnishes a written appeal addressed to the Board of Education of Frederick County. The local Board of Education has the right to hear appeals as provided by Maryland law.
- b. The Board of Education of Frederick County, or its duly authorized representative, will review the appeal for the determination of such appeal and their finding shall be final and conclusive. In connection with any appeal preceding under this clause, the vendor will be afforded an opportunity to be heard and to offer evidence in support of his appeal. Pending final decision of a dispute, the vendor shall proceed diligently with the performance of the contract and in strict accordance with the FCPS staff's decision. Exceptions are decisions determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have been fraudulent, capricious, arbitrary, or so grossly erroneous as to imply bad faith, or not supported by evidence.
- c. This clause does not preclude consideration of laws questioned in connection with the decision provided for above.

21. TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT

- a. When an awarded vendor has not performed or has unsatisfactorily performed the contract, payment shall be withheld at the discretion of FCPS. FCPS may, by written notice of default to the vendor, terminate the whole or any part of the contract in any of the following circumstances:
 - i. If the vendor fails to perform the services or provide the products within the time and manner specific herein or any extension thereof, or:
 - ii. If the vendor fails to perform any of the provisions of this contract, or fails to make progress as to endanger performance of this contract, in accordance with its terms and in either of these two circumstances does not cure such failure within a period of ten calendar days (or longer as authorized by the Purchasing Manager) after receipt of written notice from the Purchasing Manager of such failure, or:
 - iii. If the vendor willfully attempts to perform the services other than specified as to coverage, limits, protections, and quality or otherwise, without specified authorization in the form of contract amendment, or:
 - iv. If a determination is made by FCPS that the obtaining of the contract was influenced by an employee FCPS having received a gratuity, or a promise therefore, in any way or form.
- b. In the event FCPS terminates the contract in whole or in part, FCPS may procure such products and services, in a manner the Purchasing Manager deems appropriate, and the vendor shall be liable to FCPS for any additional cost(s) incurred.
- c. If, after notice of termination of this contract under provisions of this clause, it is determined for any reason that the vendor was not in default under the provisions of this clause, or that the default was excusable under the provisions of this clause, the rights and obligations of the parties shall be the same as if the notice of termination had been issued pursuant to a termination for convenience.

22. TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

The contract may be terminated by FCPS in accordance with this clause in whole, or in part, whenever FCPS determines that such a termination is in the best interest of FCPS. Written notice shall be given a minimum of 30 days in advance. FCPS will pay for all services, in accordance with contract pricing, up to the date of the termination. However, the awarded vendor(s) shall not be reimbursed for any anticipatory profits that have not been earned up to the date of termination. Under this contract, the awarded vendor does not have a right to unilateral termination for convenience.

23. GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE

The solicitation shall be construed in accordance with, and interpreted under, the laws of the State of Maryland. Any lawsuits shall be filed in the appropriate State Court located in Frederick County, Maryland.

24. MULTI-AGENCY PARTICIPATION

- a. FCPS reserves the right to extend the terms and conditions of this solicitation to any and all other agencies within the state of Maryland, as well as, any other federal, state, municipal, county, or local governmental agency under the jurisdiction of the United States and its territories. This is

conditioned upon mutual agreement of all parties pursuant to special requirements, which may be appended thereto. The awarded vendor(s) agrees to notify the issuing body of those entities that wish to use any contract resulting from this bid and will also provide usage information, which may be requested.

- b. By agreeing to extend the contract to other agencies, the vendor(s) reaffirms and warrants his original commitment to FCPS so that afterwards all items and services shall continue to conform to the requirements and conditions of the original agreement for its duration. Agencies who utilize the contract agree to notify FCPS Purchasing Department of any significant experiences, problems or issues which may, or may have the potential to, affect our administration of this contract.
- c. FCPS assumes no obligation on behalf of any other agency and shall be held harmless if either party is damaged due to the agency or vendor's failure to become informed of, or comply with, any provision or pricing under this agreement. All purchase orders and billing will be transacted between the vendor and the public agency.
- d. Each participating jurisdiction or agency shall enter into its own contract with the awarded vendor(s) and this contract shall be binding only upon the principals signing such an agreement. Invoices shall be submitted in duplicate "directly" to the ordering jurisdiction for each unit purchased. Disputes over the execution of any contract shall be the responsibility of the participating jurisdiction or agency that entered into that contract. Disputes must be resolved solely between the participating agency and the awarded vendor(s). The Lead Agency does not assume any responsibility other than to obtain pricing for the specifications provided.

25. PACKAGING AND DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS

- a. All materials must be securely packed in accordance with accepted trade practices.
- b. A packing list will be included in each shipment. This list shall contain the following information: Purchase Order Number, Vendor Name, Item Description, Item Number, Quantity and Delivery Location. Failure to comply with this condition may be considered sufficient reason to refuse to accept the goods.
- c. All materials, supplies and equipment for FCPS shall be delivered F.O.B Destination. Unless otherwise noted in Section II, all items shall be delivered inside the office, school, or warehouse.
- d. Special delivery and handling instructions will be defined in Section II of each bid.
- e. All school deliveries shall be made during the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. local time and only on regular school days, see School Calendar Closings enclosed, except where modified in Section II.
- f. All warehouse deliveries shall be made during the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. on all regular scheduled school days, see School Calendar Closings enclosed, except where modified in Section II.
- g. Bulk materials, delivered to the Warehouse, are to be delivered on skids, or pallets, to the Warehouse receiving platform.
- h. No help for unloading will be provided. Suppliers shall notify their delivery personnel accordingly.
- i. The awarded vendor(s) shall be held responsible for and shall be required to make good at their expense, any and all damage done or caused by their employees in the execution of the contract as determined by FCPS.

- j. The vendor will be required to furnish proof of signed delivery in every instance. Delivery receipts indicating only the number and weight of cartons received will not constitute "proof" of delivery in the event of a dispute. FCPS will not accept responsibility for deliveries that have not been signed for by an FCPS employee.

26. BILLING AND PAYMENT

- a. Invoices shall be submitted to: accounts.payable@FCPS.org or in duplicate to:

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Accounts Payable Department
191 South East Street
Frederick, MD 21701

- b. Invoices and packing slips must contain the following information:
 - i. Bid Number
 - ii. Purchase Order Number
 - iii. Item Number (if applicable)
 - iv. Quantity (if applicable)
 - v. Brief Description of Item or Work Performed
 - vi. Unit Price Bid/Partial Payment Amount
 - vii. Extended Total for Each Item
 - viii. Grand Total
 - ix. Public School Construction Number (PSC) (if applicable)
- c. Payments will be made by FCPS check, single use credit account or credit card. Credit card statements with level three data are preferred. Bidders are prohibited from charging additional costs or fees from their bid price to process such orders.

27. COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFICATIONS

- a. The awarded vendor(s) will abide by, and comply with, the true intent of the specifications and not take advantage of any unintentional error or omission, but will fully complete every part as to the true intent and meaning of the specifications and drawings.
- b. Whenever mention is made of any article, material, or workmanship to be in accordance with laws, ordinances, building codes, underwriter's code, A.S.M.E. regulations, or similar expressions, the requirements of these laws, ordinances, etc., shall be construed as to the minimum requirements of these specifications.
- c. Where the requirements of the specifications call for a higher grade and are not in conflict with the laws, ordinances, etc., the specifications shall govern.
- d. In the case of any apparent conflict between the specifications and such laws, ordinances, etc., the awarded vendor(s) will contact the Contract Administrator and the Contract Manager for a decision before proceeding with any work.

28. LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

- a. A date for delivery and/or installation/assembly shall be stated in the specifications. Requests for

extension of completion time due to strikes, lack of materials, or any other causes over which the awarded vendor(s) has no control must be submitted, in writing, with supporting documentation, to the Contract Manager. Requests must occur immediately upon occurrence of conditions for a time extension to be granted. Extensions are not guaranteed.

- b. If the awarded vendor(s) fails to provide the services, equipment, or other items required within the prescribed time limits, the Contract Manager may elect to obtain services, equipment, or other items necessary from an alternate source.
- c. The awarded vendor(s) will pay any additional cost(s) incurred by FCPS for obtaining replacement services, equipment, and other necessary items.
- d. FCPS shall have the unilateral right of alternate source selection to perform the work when the awarded vendor(s) does not perform the required work.
- e. In addition to, or in lieu of, paying for any incurred replacement costs(s), the awarded vendor(s) may pay liquidated damages, in the amount of \$150 per day, for any delay or failure in performance, as well as any related damages sustained by FCPS.
- f. The assessment of liquidated damages by FCPS against the awarded vendor(s) does not supersede or affect the right of FCPS to impose other remedies that may be available.

29. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- a. When applicable, all machinery/equipment must meet OSHA-MOSHA requirements as to the safety of the operation of the equipment. All required safety devices shall be included in the price(s) bid.
- b. When applicable, kitchen equipment and supplies must meet Maryland State Health Department, National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) and Frederick County Health Department requirements.
- c. All construction activities must be conducted in strict compliance with OSHA/MOSHA requirements.
- d. Equipment offered which fails to comply with any applicable section of the National Electrical Code, or is not U.L. Listed (where U.L. Listings have been established for that type of device) shall be rejected.
- e. The awarded vendor(s) shall submit Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all items awarded to that vendor provided under the terms of this proposal, if applicable.
- f. The awarded vendor(s) and subcontractor(s) are required to comply with all provisions of the Access to Information about Hazardous and Toxic Substances Act, a part of the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Law.
- g. The awarded vendor(s) is responsible to report to FCPS any asbestos material or suspected material found or uncovered that is not part of the scope of the project. In addition, they may not introduce new asbestos or asbestos bearing materials into the site.
- h. It is the responsibility of the awarded vendor(s) to comply with all Municipal, State, and Federal EPA regulations and laws when handling or disposing of asbestos materials.
- i. If the awarded vendor(s) intentionally endangers or jeopardizes the health of any building/school

occupant(s) through mishandling of hazardous material, the vendor(s) will be held liable for such action.

30. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- a. The vendor will comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances and regulations pertaining to work under their charge. If the vendor performs any work which it knows or should know to be contrary to such laws, ordinance, and regulations and without such notices to FCPS they shall bear all costs arising therefrom.
- b. All vendors and subcontractors must abide by the Board of Education of Frederick County policies and FCPS regulations while working on school property.
- c. The vendor certifies that their firm adheres to or follows non-discriminatory practices with respect to the employment and promotion of personnel without regard to color, creed, race, sex, or national origin.

31. PATENTS

The vendor will defend all suits or claims for infringement of any patent rights and will save the Board of Education of Frederick County harmless from loss.

32. TECHNOLOGY-BASED INSTRUCTIONAL PRODUCTS

All FCPS technology based instructional products (instructional software, online resources, and computer based equipment) must be consistent with the federal Rehabilitation Act, Maryland Subpart B Technical Standards, Section 508, for accessibility by students with disabilities unless doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the instructional activity or result in undue financial and administrative burdens. Requests for bids, proposals, procurement contracts, and grants will follow established procedures for evaluating compliance to accessibility standards in all purchase decisions.

33. EMPLOYMENT OF CHILD SEX OFFENDERS AND PERSONS WITH UNCONTROLLED ACCESS TO STUDENTS

- a. Be advised that individuals who are registered sex offenders are not eligible to work on any FCPS' project. The awarded vendor(s) must initially check the Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services' Maryland Sex Offender Registry and search for the name of any employee to be assigned to work on this project. This applies to subcontractors and material/equipment suppliers as well. For projects lasting more than a few months, the vendor will periodically re-check the names of workers against the registry to ensure ongoing compliance. In the event that a registered sex offender is discovered to be working on a FCPS project, whether through employment by the vendor, subcontractor or equipment or material supplier, FCPS will notify the site superintendent to immediately remove the individual from the premises and permanently terminate his work assignment. FCPS may terminate this contract at no additional costs, as a result if the vendor is unable to demonstrate they have exercised care and diligence in the past in checking the Maryland registry.
- b. Contracted service providers who have regular, direct and unsupervised access to children cannot begin service without undergoing the same process as new employees per FCPS Regulation 300-33. If required, an awarded vendor(s) is responsible for payment of the full cost of the criminal background check. Additional information regarding this requirement will be found in Section II.

- c. The awarded vendor(s), or subcontractor(s), may not knowingly assign an employee to work on FCPS school premises with direct, unsupervised, and uncontrolled access to children, if the employee has been convicted of a crime identified as a crime of violence.
- d. The awarded vendor(s) will not assign employees who has been convicted of an offense under § 3-307 or § 3-308 of the Criminal Law Article or an offense under the laws of another state that would constitute a violation of § 3-307 or § 3-308 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in the state.
- e. An awarded vendor will not assign employee who has been convicted of a crime of violence as defined in § 14-101 of the Criminal Law Article, or an offense under the laws of another state that would be a violation of § 14-101 of the Criminal Law Article if committed in this state.

34. DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO-FREE WORKPLACE

- a. All awarded vendors and subcontractors must abide by Board Policy 112 while working on any FCPS property at all times.
- b. The Board of Education of Frederick County endorses the provisions of Public Law 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D (Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988) and Public Law 101-226 (The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989) and regulations promulgated there under and establishes a drug-free and alcohol-free workplace and school system.
- c. Maryland State Law (COMAR 13A.02.04) provides that each local school system is required to maintain a tobacco-free school environment.

35. WEAPON POSSESSION ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

- a. The criminal code of Maryland makes it illegal to possess a weapon on school property.
- b. No person shall carry or possess any rifle, gun, knife, or deadly weapon of any kind on FCPS property.
- c. Any awarded vendor(s) whose employees violate this clause may be subject to the termination of the contact for cause.

36. FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATOR REQUIREMENT

- a. An awarded vendor(s) that assigns employees to an FCPS project that do not speak English must have an on-site, full time interpreter.
- b. Failure of an awarded vendor(s) to have an on-site, full time interpreter that is fluent in speaking and understanding an employee's native language for those employees that do not speak English is reason for immediate termination of the contract for cause.

37. ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT LABOR

The use of illegal immigrant labor to fulfill contracts solicited by FCPS is in violation of the law and is strictly prohibited. Awarded vendor(s) and subcontractors must verify employment eligibility of workers in order to assure that they are not violating federal/state/local laws regarding illegal immigration. A compliance audit may be conducted.

38. STUDENT/STAFF CONFIDENTIALITY

Under no circumstances may any vendor/contractor/provider/consultant release, disclose, sell or otherwise use names, addresses, or any other information related to students, or staff, of FCPS and may only use this information for purposes required under any contract/agreement or memorandum of understanding.

39. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT NOTICE

- a. Bidders should identify those portions of their solicitation, which they deem to be confidential, or to contain proprietary commercial information or trade secrets. Bidders should provide justification why such material, upon request, should not be disclosed by FCPS under the Public Information Act, Title 4, General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- b. Unless portions of a solicitation are identified as confidential, all records are considered public. A person or governmental unit that wishes to inspect a public record, or receive copies of a public record, shall submit a written or electronic request and direct it to the Office of Legal Services per FCPS Regulation 200-42.

40. FORCE MAJEURE

Force Majeure is defined as an occurrence beyond the control of the affected party and not avoidable by reason of diligence. It includes the acts of nature, war, riots, strikes, fire, floods, epidemics, terrorism, or other similar occurrences. If either party is delayed by Force Majeure, said party shall provide written notification to the other within 48 hours. Delays shall cease as soon as practicable and written notification of same provided. The time of contract completion may be extended by contract modification, for a period of time equal to that delay caused under this condition. FCPS may also consider requests for price increase for raw materials that are directly attributable to the cause of delay. FCPS reserves the right to cancel the contract and/or purchase materials, equipment or services from the best available source during the time of Force Majeure, and the vendor shall have no recourse against FCPS. Further, except for payment of sums due, neither party shall be liable to the other or deemed in default under this contract, if and to the extent that such party's performance of this contract is prevented by reason of Force Majeure as defined herein.

41. ETHICS POLICY

- a. The Board of Education of Frederick County has an Ethics Policy, which covers conflict of interest, financial disclosure and lobbying. All bidders are expected to comply with any and all Ethics Policies that may apply to them individually or as a business entity.
- b. All bidders should carefully review Board Policy 109, Ethics, which prohibits FCPS employees from benefiting from business with the school system.

42. NON-COLLUSION

- a. Bidder represents and certifies that prices for these services have been arrived at independently without consultation, communication, or agreement for the purpose of restricting competition or any matter related to such prices with any competitor or other bidder. Prices quoted in this bid have not been knowingly disclosed directly or indirectly to any competitor or other vendor prior to the opening of this bid.

- b. Bidder represents and certifies that it has not employed or retained any other company or person (other than a full-time bona fide employee working exclusively for the bidder) with the primary intent to solicit or secure the contract.

43. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The bidder will advise FCPS in writing as soon as possible, but not later than the date of award of the contract, of any known relationships with a third party, or FCPS employee or representative, which would present a significant advantage to one bidder over another bidder or present a conflict of interest with the rendering of products and services under this agreement.

44. EMARYLANDMARKETPLACE REGISTRATION

Contractors are required to register with www.eMarylandMarketplace.org within five days following notice of award. Maryland law requires local and state agencies to post award notices on eMaryland Marketplace. This cannot be done without the contractor's self-registration in the system. Registration is free. Failure to comply with this requirement may be considered grounds for default. It is recommended that any interested bidder register with eMaryland Marketplace regardless of the award outcome for this procurement as it is a valuable resource for bid notification for municipalities through Maryland.

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (FCPS)
SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS
SECTION II

1. INTRODUCTION

Frederick County Public School, MD (FCPS) provides certain benefits to its employees and endeavors to provide the highest quality insurance and investment products for the employees through the voluntary benefits program. This RFP is specific to the voluntary 403(b) and 457(b) program. In 2008, the Insurance Council of FCPS (IC), consisting of representatives of district administration as well as union representatives, issued a Request for Proposal for companies to submit proposed investment products and services in a multiple vendor model. At that time, the council determined that those that submitted qualifying proposals would be allowed to solicit new accounts. The number of providers ultimately approved was 11. Since that time, one provider has been reinstated and two were eliminated for their inability to provide local service representatives.

New Goals

Over the last number of years, regulatory authorities have placed increasing pressure on entities subject to ERISA guidelines under the Department of Labor to evaluate their offerings as to fees and service for the benefit of the employees. Though FCPS is not subject to ERISA as a governmental employer, the IC is concerned about the financial future of employees preparing for retirement. It is, therefore, the IC's goal to decrease the number of investment providers while maintaining adequate choice of investments and services provided by the multiple providers. There will also be a significant effort put forth by the IC, administration and unions to promote the remaining companies and overall financial wellness to the employees in order to significantly increase participation in this vital benefit. It is anticipated that the final number of service based offerings will be between four (4) and six (6) with one or more no-load offerings selected. The IC also recognizes that those who have chosen to save already and are happy with their accounts should be able to continue to contribute to that account, even if their investment provider is not selected for the final menu of offerings.

New Program

The IC has directed that the current product and service offerings provide an adequate selection of products and services available in the market today and thus will only be soliciting proposals from the existing lineup. It is anticipated that companies with existing account bases will be able to improve their pricing models for new accounts and be able to dedicate more service representatives due to a smaller number of other offerings.

Through our existing contract with TSA Consulting Group, Inc. (TSACG), our compliance administrator, we will be utilizing their service to assist in our evaluation of this RFP. TSACG will also work with the selected providers to determine the best way to increase participation through the enrollment process and coordinate a structured service model with the selected providers offering a variety of products and service that FCPS employees have come to expect. TSACG will continue to provide compliance and reporting services on the existing accounts and will provide online Salary Reduction Agreement processing for new or changes to SRAs for both authorized and legacy provider accounts.

2. CONTRACT PERIOD

The initial term of the contract will be effective from date of award through December 31, 2019, with two additional two-year renewal terms, at the discretion of the Board of Education. Upon submission of bid, the vendor consents to the possibility of contract renewal as a condition of award.

3. PRICING

- a. All prices shall remain firm through the initial contract period.
- b. FCPS expects all vendors to provide year over year cost reductions recommendations.
- c. Price decreases are acceptable at any time, need not be verifiable, and are required should the contractor/producer/processor/manufacture experience a decrease in costs associated with the execution of the contract.
- d. Price adjustments from the contractor/producer/processor/manufacture for any/all items may be considered at renewal. The request is subject to approval by the Contracting Officer. The request must be submitted in writing at least 60 days prior to the renewal term and shall be accompanied by supporting documentation.
- e. Should the awarded vendor, at any time during the life of the contract, sell materials of similar quality to another customer, or advertise special discounts or sales, at a price below those quoted within the contract, the lowest discounted prices shall be offered to FCPS.

4. CONTRACTOR'S AND SUBCONTRACTOR'S INSURANCE

FCPS requires insurance certificates evidencing the compliance of insurance requirements at least ten calendar days after receipt of the Notice of Award. The vendor will not commence work until a notice to proceed letter, or purchase order, is issued, nor will the vendor allow any subcontractor to commence work on their subcontract until the insurance required of the subcontractor has been obtained and approved.

a. Worker's Compensation

The vendor will procure and maintain, during the life of the contract, Worker's Compensation Insurance, as required by applicable State laws. In the case of sublet work, the vendor will require the subcontractor similarly to provide Worker's Compensation Insurance for all of the latter's employees to be engaged in such work unless such employees are covered by the protection afforded by the vendor's Worker's Compensation Insurance.

b. Employers' Liability Insurance

The vendor will procure and maintain, during the life of the contract, Employers' Liability Insurance in the following amounts:

E.L. Each Accident	\$100,000.00
E.L. Disease - Each Employee	\$100,000.00
E.L. Disease - Policy Limit	\$500,000.00 each employee

The vendor will require any subcontractor to procure and maintain Employer's Liability Insurance during the life of the contract. It will be the responsibility of the vendor to ensure that all subcontractors comply with this provision, and the vendor will indemnify, and hold harmless, the Board of Education of Frederick County for the failure of the vendor, or any subcontractor, to comply with these provisions.

c. Commercial General Liability Insurance

The vendor will procure and maintain, during the life of the contract, Commercial General Liability Insurance including premises and operations, completed operations and products, on a per occurrence basis, with at least the following limits:

General Aggregate	\$2,000,000 per project
Products-Completed Operations Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Personal & Advertising Injury	\$1,000,000 each occurrence
Each Occurrence	\$1,000,000
Fire Damage	\$50,000
Medical Expense	\$5,000 any one person

The "X, C, U" Coverage for explosion, collapse, and underground property damage shall not be excluded from the policy.

Completed operations liability coverage shall be in force for one year after completion of work.

d. Scope of Insurance and Special Hazards

The insurance required in C. and E. will provide adequate protection for the vendor and subcontractors, respectively, against damage claims which may arise from operations under the contract, whether such operations be by the insured or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by them and, also against any of the special hazards which may be encountered in the performance of this contract as enumerated in C. above. Insurance coverage required under C. above shall specifically include property damage caused by conditions otherwise subject to exclusions "X, C, U" (Explosion, Collapse or Underground Damage) as defined by the National Bureau of Casualty Underwriters. Exceptions: contracts that do not require excavation or underground work are not required to have the above "X, C, U" coverage.

e. Comprehensive Automobile Liability

The vendor shall maintain Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance including all automotive equipment owned, non-owned and hired, operated, rented, or leased. Minimum limits of Automobile Liability Insurance shall be:

Bodily Injury	\$1,000,000 per person/\$1,000,000 accident
Property Damage	\$1,000,000 each occurrence, or
Combined Single Limit Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability	\$1,000,000

f. Subcontractor's Insurance

The vendor will either:

- i. Require each of their subcontractors to procure and maintain, during the life of the subcontracts, Liability Insurance of the type and in the same amounts as specified above; or
- ii. Insure the activities of the subcontractors in their own policies. It will be the responsibility of the vendor to insure that all subcontractors comply with this provision, and the vendor will indemnify and hold harmless the Board of Education of Frederick County for the failure of the vendor, or any subcontractor, to comply with these provisions.

g. Builder's Insurance

FCPS shall provide and maintain Builder's Risk Protection.

h. Proof of Carriage of Insurance

The vendor will furnish FCPS with certificates showing the type, amount, class of operations covered, effective dates and dates of expiration of policies. Such certificates also shall contain substantially the following statement: "The insurance covered by this certificate will not be cancelled or materially altered, except after thirty days written notice has been received by FCPS."

i. Additional Insured

The Owner, Board of Education of Frederick County, the Frederick County Government, and other entities stipulated by the Owner, shall be named as additional insured on all vendor's policies, other than Worker's Compensation Insurance policy. The vendor's insurance will be primary and non-contributory to any insurance carried by the Board of Education of Frederick County or other entity. Waiver of subrogation applies to above policies in favor of the certificate holder. Insurance providers must have an AM Best Company rating of at least A-/VIII.

5. PREPARATION OF PROPOSAL

a. Due to possible changes and/or additions to the solicitation package, FCPS requests that bidders delay submission of their bid package until after the date of the pre-bid meeting or the date that questions are due to allow time for the possible issuance of an addendum. All changes will be processed through appropriate addenda.

b. The Technical and Cost proposals will be submitted in separate envelopes.

c. Technical Proposal:

i. Submit one original hard bound copy of the Technical Proposal, along with an electronic copy on either a CD or USB Flash Drive), in a sealed envelope, properly labeled on the outside with the bidder's name and "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL".

ii. The Technical Proposal will include the following forms completed:

- Signature Page
- Statutory Affidavit and Non-Collusion Certification
- Certification of Compliance
- Supporting documents
- Pages should be sequentially numbered throughout the proposal for ease of reference.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND AWARD

a. A committee of FCPS staff will independently review and evaluate each technical proposal.

b. The process for determining which vendor(s) to approve may take the form of either a questionnaire, interview, and/or site visit, and includes appraisals of various aspects of the vendor's business including capacity, financials, quality assurance, organizational structure and processes and performance.

c. 100 points will be assigned for the technical proposal and will be assigned as follows:

- Company Information – 15%
- Administration and Enrollment Services – 20%
- Product Information – 35%

- Service – 30%
- d. Points will be deducted for incomplete or missing responses, or responses that do not follow the required format. Extraneous marketing materials or irrelevant information is not to be submitted.
 - e. Final ranking will be made on the basis of the criteria and rubric listed above.
 - f. An interview may be required to obtain more information prior to recommendation for award, and additional points may be assigned.

7. VENDOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- a. The Contract Manager and Administrator shall confer periodically to discuss the status of the contract. Issues of noncompliance may arise throughout the contract term and shall be brought to the attention of the Contract Manager as they occur.
- b. The Contract Manager or Administrator may request multiple metrics, from the vendor, to evaluate contract performance. Metrics may include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Delivery
 - ii. Response time
 - iii. Backorders
 - iv. Quality of deliverables
 - v. Invoicing
 - vi. Sales data (Contract data, non-contract data)
 - vii. Financial
- c. Where technical, construction or performance specifications have been identified in the bidding document, the contract administrator shall utilize these specifications as the basis of determining contract compliance.
- d. If noncompliance occurs, it shall be documented in a timely manner, including actions taken and final resolution. Copies of the correspondence will be maintained in the Purchasing Department bid documents.
- e. Issues of noncompliance will be handled on a case by case basis. This may include, but is not limited to, written correspondence, face-to-face meetings, and/or an agreed upon performance management plan. FCPS retains the right to terminate the contract, in whole or in part, if the noncompliance issue is not resolved to the satisfaction of FCPS.

TECHNICAL/PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1 Purpose:** Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS), Maryland, hereafter referred to as FCPS, is seeking proposals from qualified Proposers interested in providing annuity, mutual fund and custodial account investment products and services. It is the intent of this RFP that FCPS would solicit both LOAD (Service Based) and No-Load investment providers and choose.
- 1.2 The award** will be to the most qualified Proposer(s) as determined by an evaluation committee. The final award will be based on Board of Education approval.
- 1.3 District Profile:** The FCPS is the 8th largest school district in Maryland, serving over 40,000 students and is in Maryland's geographically largest county. Future growth trends are being analyzed.
- 1.4 Background:** The FCPS employs approximately 5,000 employees eligible to participate in its 403(b)/403(b)(7) Tax Sheltered Account program. FCPS currently allows all employees to participate in 403(b)/403(b)(7) accounts through voluntary elective deferrals. As of September 30, 2016, approximately 2,100 employees were actively participating in these account types. At present there are ten 403(b)/403(b)(7) providers authorized to enroll and service employee accounts. This provider base has achieved a participation rate of approximately 42% in the program.

The majority of employees of Frederick County Public Schools are covered by the State Retirement and Pension System of Maryland (SRPS), a contributory retirement plan. There are no employer contributions made to employee 403(b)/403(b)(7) accounts or any other voluntary retirement plan at this time.

2. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- 2.1 Contract Term/Option to Renew:** The initial term of the contract shall be for a Three (3) year period following Board of Education approval.
 - 2.1.1** The initial term of the contract shall be date of award through December 31, 2019 and the anticipated award date is January 11, 2017.
 - 2.1.2** This contract may be renewed for two (2) additional two (2) year periods provided all terms and conditions remain unchanged and in full force and effect. The option to renew, if exercised, will be executed in the form of a renewal letter, to be issued not sooner than one-hundred twenty days (120) prior to expiration of this contract, nor later than the final day of the contract period. This option to renew requires the mutual agreement of both parties. Refusal by either party to exercise this option to renew will require this contract to expire on the original or mutually agreed date.
 - 2.1.3** It is understood and agreed that this contract may be renewed under the same terms, conditions, and specifications governing the original contract, and any request for a change in the contract conditions shall be interpreted as a request not to renew the contract at the end of the current contract period.
- 2.2 Contract Termination:** The FCPS shall have the right at any and all times to terminate this agreement, with or without cause, upon written notice of such termination provided not less than ninety (90) days prior to the date that such termination is to be effective, or with such lesser notice as the FCPS may deem appropriate under the circumstances. Such right to terminate this contract without cause is hereby reserved by and to FCPS. In the event FCPS shall elect to terminate this contract without cause, FCPS shall compensate the Proposer for all work and services provided or supplied prior to the date of termination. In the event that an advance notice of termination is given, the Awardee(s) agree to abide and perform all covenants and provisions of this contract until the date of the termination specified in the written notice of termination. The Awardee(s) shall have no further rights, and FCPS shall have no

further obligation to the Awardee(s), subsequent to the date of termination of this contract as specified in the written notice.

2.3 Minimum Qualifications/Experience: The Awardee(s) shall maintain a current business license. The Awardee(s) shall keep current all licenses and permits, whether Municipal, County, State, or Federal, required for the performance of its obligations and functions, hereunder, and shall pay promptly when due all such fees. Awardee(s) shall provide documentation of applicable license, certification, and/or commercial experience involving the services described herein. The FCPS reserves the right to request documentation at any time during the contract period.

2.3.1 Proposer(s) shall include a copy of all applicable licensing with their proposal.

2.3.2 Inspection of Proposer's Facilities: FCPS reserves the right to inspect the Proposer's facilities and vehicles prior to awarding this contract.

2.3.3 Selected Awardee(s) will meet the following requirements for participation in FCPS's 403(b)/403(b)(7)/457(b) programs.

2.3.4 Rating and/or Years in Business:

2.3.4.1 Insurance Companies – Company must be rated by A.M. BEST in one of the four (4) top categories (A++, A+, Superior or A, A- Excellent) or in one of the four (4) top categories by one of the following agencies (Duff & Phelps, Standard & Poors, Moody's).

2.3.4.2 Investment Management Company – Five (5) years of experience or greater with proven financial stability.

2.3.4.3 Brokerage Firm – Five (5) years of experience or greater with proven financial stability and the ability to show evidence of maintaining more than one thousand (1000) employee client accounts.

2.3.5 Experience – The Providers must be a current 403(b)/403(b)(7), provider with FCPS.

2.3.6 Licensing – Each company must be properly licensed to do business in the State of Maryland for all product types represented.

2.3.7 Local investment representatives of Providers soliciting business in FCPS must have the licenses and credentials required for selling both insurance annuity and custodial account securities products and services, as well as proof of Error and Omissions (E & O) coverage of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence for each representative. This coverage must remain current for all representatives who solicit or assist District employees. Proof of E & O coverage must be submitted in January of each year.

2.4 References: Please provide five (5) references, preferably governmental K-12 employers. Include the name of the customer, address, contact name, telephone numbers (including facsimile number), and e-mail address. Please include only references within the previous thirty-six (36) months. FCPS may contact these references during the evaluation process. FCPS may utilize other references information on a Proposer's capability to determine performance history. Negative references, in the FCPS sole discretion, may be cause for disqualification of Proposer.

2.5 FCPS Facility Security: All personnel must coordinate with the facility's front office or security personnel. Awardee's employees must be properly identified and must sign in and sign out when working or making deliveries during operational hours. All personnel must remain in the assigned work area.

2.5.1 It shall be the sole responsibility of the Awardee(s) performing services for this contract to safeguard their own materials, tools, and equipment. The FCPS shall not assume any responsibility for vandalism and/or theft of materials, tools, and/or equipment.

- 2.6 Awardee(s) Personnel:** Awardee’s staff members are to present a professional appearance. Personnel shall be neat, clean, well groomed, properly uniformed, and conduct themselves in a respectable and courteous manner while performing duties and while at any FCPS facility.
- 2.6.1** Qualifications of new people working under this contract will be submitted to FCPS, in writing, for approval prior to them conducting any service under this contract. Submit a list of all employees who will be working under the current contract, any intention for additional personnel, and back-up personnel for each function. (Please see Attachment A for detailed guidelines)
- 2.7 Communications:** Awardee(s) must provide a means to receive direct communications from the FCPS. A copy of all written communication concerning contract discrepancies, issues, or concerns from FCPS and the Awardee(s) shall be forwarded to the Purchasing Manager upon issuance.
- 2.8 Contract Administration:** FCPS will periodically inspect work to assure that the requirements of this contract are being met. Should it be found that the requirements specified herein are not being satisfactorily maintained, the Awardee(s) shall be contacted and any discrepancies, inconsistencies, or items not meeting the specifications contained herein, are to be corrected immediately at no additional cost to the FCPS. A second discrepancy notice shall serve as notification that any future discrepancies, inconsistencies, or items not meeting specifications contained herein, will result in termination of the Awardee’s right to proceed further with this work. Not Applicable
- 2.8.1** Failure of the Awardee(s) to comply with any of the provisions of this contract shall be considered a material breach of contract and shall be cause for immediate termination of the contract, at the discretion of the Frederick County Public Schools.
- 2.8.2** FCPS reserves the right to terminate this contract, in whole or in part, should the need for the services cease to exist.
- 2.8.3** Awardee(s) shall be subject to periodic performance evaluations by FCPS personnel. Continued unsatisfactory ratings shall be cause to find the Awardee(s) in default of the contract.
- 2.8.4** Award upon Cancellation: Upon cancellation of any ensuing agreement, FCPS reserves the right to award the contract to the responsible Proposer(s) offering the next highest rated proposal to FCPS for the unexpired term of the canceled contract, or for a full year period, whichever is deemed to be in FCPS’s best interest.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES

- 3.1** Frederick County Public Schools (“FCPS”) is evaluating providers for Investments, Education and Administrative services with regard to its Internal Revenue Code “IRC” Sections 403(b)/403(b)(7) Tax Sheltered Accounts (“403(b)/403(b)(7)”) and the 457(b) Deferred Compensation program. The organizations, hereinafter referred to as the providers, that best meet the requirements found in this document will be selected as authorized providers. The Evaluation Committee will submit a recommendation to the Board of Education based upon the evaluation and scoring of all responses. The final selection will be based upon Board of Education approval.

For the purposes of this RFP, a Provider is defined as an Insurance Company, Bank or Credit Union, Mutual Fund Company or Broker/Dealer that is licensed to market annuities and custodial accounts for the purpose of funding a 403(b)/403(b)(7) arrangement. In the event that similar or identical responses are received from competing Providers, FCPS reserves the right to accept those respondents it deems best satisfy its requirements.

Additionally, FCPS requires support from Providers relative to IRS compliance responsibilities and to help with administering the program and providing educational materials to eligible employees. Therefore, we are seeking respondents to provide the following:

- 3.1.1** It is anticipated that authorized providers shall be limited to a number deemed by FCPS sufficient to provide an adequate array of eligible investment products for the benefit of all employees.
- 3.1.2** In addition to the load or service-fee based Providers selected, it is anticipated that additional no-load based products that are not actively marketed to district employees will be selected to provide investment choices for those school system employees that desire lower fees with no active investment advisory services.
- 3.1.3** The selected load or service-fee based Providers will be required to individually and jointly provide educational seminars to the staff of FCPS. These presentations may be held throughout FCPS and pertain to investment planning, the State Retirement and Pension System of Maryland (SRPS), and additional related topics.
- 3.1.4** All Providers will provide support in the area of record keeping, and tax reporting services. Record keeping services will include, but not be limited to, processing and tracking earnings and principal for contributions, all distributions including normal withdrawals as well as loans, hardship withdrawals, transfers, exchanges, Qualified Domestic Relations Orders, rollovers, required minimum distributions and refunds of excess or mistaken contributions. Tax reporting encompasses income tax withholding and preparation of the 1099 or other IRS forms required. Additionally, all account information will be shared on a minimum of a monthly basis under the SPARK Institute's best practices for data sharing with our third party administrator.
- 3.1.5** The Providers and its representatives must present all sales, marketing and product related materials that will be distributed to FCPS employees. This includes all materials that will be distributed inside or outside FCPS locations. This material must be sent to the Senior Benefits Manager for review and approval in advance of distribution.
- 3.1.6** The approved load or service-fee based Providers must maintain a minimum of 50 active participant contracts per calendar year in order to retain the payroll slot. If this minimum number is not met, the company's status is subject to change. No-load based Providers may not be required to maintain a minimum number of participants due to the lack of on-site marketing, subject to bargaining unit agreements.
- 3.1.7** FCPS will reduce the participant's salary for the requested amounts and remit these amounts to the company(ies) of choice for each employee electing to participate in the program. FCPS will monitor the 403(b) 402(g) limits and the 457(b) annual limits.
- 3.1.8** All employees who perform regular service to FCPS are eligible for tax sheltered payroll reductions.
- 3.1.9** The company and its agents or representatives will utilize any standardized enrollment forms adopted by Frederick County Public Schools provided that said forms meet minimum standards set by the Internal Revenue Service or other appropriate Federal or State agency.
- 3.1.10** The load or service-fee based Provider(s) and employees/representatives must agree to comply with the Investment provider Service Agreement established by FCPS and to agree to the terms therein. No-load based Providers must submit their standard employer agreements for review and acceptance by FCPS. **(Label Exhibit F)**.
- 3.1.11** All Providers must agree to accept ACH transfer of funds along with FTP or encrypted e-mail transfer of corresponding data for payroll remittances in a standardized format. If the provider cannot commit to this procedure, they must provide an explanation. This response will be evaluated by the committee to determine its validity. FCPS currently utilizes the EPARS system from TSA Consulting Group, Inc.

3.2 Product Selection

- 3.2.1 Each company shall offer a range of investment options suitable to 403(b)/403(b)(7) and 457(b) retirement savings accounts.
- 3.2.2 FCPS will not permit the sale of two-tiered annuities.
- 3.2.3 FCPS does not permit life insurance contracts to be used as investment products in the 403(b)/403(b)(7) or 457(b) program.
- 3.2.4 The Providers' representatives may not use the approved payroll slot to funnel premiums or contributions to products or services other than those expressly approved for use to fund an IRC section 403(b)/403(b)(7) or 457(b) arrangement with Providers authorized by the School District of Frederick County.

3.3 Service

- 3.3.1 The load or service-fee based Providers must identify and maintain a Representative of Record (may be a home office contact) responsible for all additional representatives engaged in enrollment or service related activities for the employees of FCPS. The Representative of Record will be responsible for communicating information to all authorized representatives under the Provider payroll slot. FCPS expects that any breach of school system rules, County, State or Federal laws on part of a Providers representative will be resolved in a timely manner. Upon receipt of a formal complaint from FCPS, a written response to such complaint will be filed within 30 days of receipt with FCPS.
- 3.3.2 **Load or service-fee** based Providers must maintain a customer service office location in the Greater Frederick County area that includes adjacent counties. **No-load** based Providers must maintain a toll-free number for customer service during normal business hours in the Eastern Time Zone.
- 3.3.3 FCPS will monitor contributions and limits for the participants annually. If FCPS determines that a provider or its representatives have repeated instances of excess deferrals, the company and/or representative risk removal from the authorized Provider list for solicitation of new accounts.
- 3.3.4 The Provider or its representatives must not represent or imply that they are endorsed by, or work for, FCPS, the Superintendent or the County, or imply that they are endorsed by the Division of Retirement or Department of Insurance of the State of Maryland, in either written or oral communications.
- 3.3.5 The Provider and its representatives must understand that the principal/worksite supervisor of each facility will determine when, where and how access to employees during business hours will be given.
- 3.3.6 The load or service-fee based Providers or its representatives must give group presentations at central locations, to be determined by FCPS, on a frequency mandated by FCPS. These presentations must serve to only provide education to school system employees on investment and retirement planning, rather than as a sales forum.

3.4 The Proposer(s) shall complete the following information:

- 3.4.1 Company Information (Section 4)
- 3.4.2 Product Information (Section 5)
- 3.4.3 Administration and Enrollment Services (Section 6)

4. COMPANY INFORMATION – Load and No-Load Providers

- 4.1** With regard to the products and services that your company is proposing, please indicate any exceptions to the specific services, terms or conditions outlined in the RFP
- 4.2** State the name of your company and home office address. Also, include the name, address, phone number and company title of the following in Section D – Provider Compliance Questionnaire:
- Home Office Marketing Officer for Maryland
 - Home Office Administration Officer for 403(b)/403(b)(7) Accounts
 - Local Assigned “Agent of Record” (Load Based only)
 - Up to ten (10) additional local representatives. Please include NASD CRD and MD insurance license numbers (Load Based only)
- 4.3** Is your company a subsidiary or affiliate of another company? “Affiliated” means owned by another company, owned by a common controlling shareholder or interest, or inter-tied by contracts as to be under the dominion or influence of another company. If yes, identify such by name and explain the relationship(s) between said companies.
- 4.4** How long has your company (not parent company) been licensed to do business?
- 4.5** Please indicate whether the services and products offered are provided under a joint venture arrangement? Please describe the arrangement, its terms and conditions and whether your company and the other companies have been involved in similar joint ventures in the past.
- 4.6** Please provide the number of assets as of December 31, 2015 that your company administers in the following types of retirement plans: (not parent company):
- 403(b)/403(b)(7)
 - 457(b)
 - All defined contribution plans combined
 - Identify the three largest 403(b) plans administered, as measured by the number of assets administered by your company.
 - Identify the three largest 403(b) plans administered, as measured by the number of assets administered by your company.
- 4.7** Does your company provide a bond or guarantee to protect the program, FCPS and participants from any loss resulting from fraud or dishonesty by your employees or representatives?
- 4.8** How many years has you company offered 403(b)/403(b)(7) and 457(b) products in Maryland? In the U.S.?
- 4.9** How many K-12 School District program sponsors participate in your 403(b)/403(b)(7) and 457(b) products in Maryland? In the U.S.? How many participants does this represent?
- 4.10** Provide the name, address, and telephone number of the officers of at least three (3) K-12 School District 403(b)/403(b)(7) or 457(b) Program clients we may contact as references, preferably in Maryland.
- 4.11** Include any other information or financial material that you feel is pertinent to your company. Label as Attachment “A.” Please keep the volume of material to a minimum. Only relevant information is requested.
- 4.12** Is your company currently, or has it been in the past two (2) years, under investigation by any regulatory, licensing or another governmental agency? If the answer is yes, please disclose the result or outcome of that investigation.
- 4.13** Please detail any financial support (scholarships, sponsorships, campaign contributions, et.) your firm has provided to FCPS.

5. PRODUCT INFORMATON

NOTE: All products for which information is being provided must be currently approved for sale in the State of Maryland.

5.1 It is anticipated that the selection of providers will offer an adequate array of investment products and services to enable the employees to participate in the investment alternatives and services that most closely align with their financial goals. Please see the questions below to respond to this section in a way that will most effectively illustrate your offerings.

5.1.1 Description of Product – Please provide all product information applicable for each investment product to be offered. Provide product description and fee structure to include all fees with surrender charge and transfer fee schedules. Please use a spreadsheet format to provide data on each investment product.

5.1.2 Description of Product Use – Please provide a commentary on each product and what need it would fulfill for a particular participant. Example might include how a particular product would be more advantageous to longer time horizons versus shorter time horizons. Does the product fit better with a specific investment or savings strategy?

5.1.3 Description of representative services – Please provide a description of the types of services offered by financial advisors and licenses held.

6. ADMINISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT SERVICES

6.1 Does your company maintain an office in the Frederick County area (includes adjacent counties) with personnel for the purpose of providing local servicing to District employees? If yes, provide the address and phone number.

6.2 Will your company agree that all names and information concerning participants or eligible employees will be used only for FCPS's 403(b)/403(b)(7) or 457(b) program purposes? The use of names for soliciting for other than program purposes will not be allowed.

6.3 Will your administrative systems accept ACH transfer of remittance funds and electronic data?

6.4 Please describe your current process for resolving the following potential remittance errors:

6.4.1 Employer remits a contribution on behalf of an employee pursuant to a recent and valid salary reduction agreement for which your company has not yet established an account?

6.4.2 Employer remits a contribution in error exceeding the amount authorized by the salary reduction agreement. Employer notifies your company of the error (mistake in fact).

6.4.3 Employer remits a contribution on behalf of an employee pursuant to a valid salary reduction agreement. The employee has transferred their account to another 403(b)/403(b)(7) provider or has closed their account.

6.4.4 Employer remits a contribution to your company in error. The employee's account exists with a different Provider. The Employer notifies your company of the error.

6.4.5 In the event that a contribution was found to be made in error by FCPS, not an excess contribution, and the error that occurred has been discovered after the end of the calendar year, please provide your company's best solution for FCPS.

6.4.6 In the event that one of the above situations could be resolved by submitting a negative remittance for an employee on a subsequent billing, can your company accept this method of error resolution?

6.5 Describe the administrative safeguards you have established, whether procedural or by program to ensure timeliness, accuracy, and confidentiality of records.

6.6 Describe the content of the on-going education and enrollment meetings that your company would conduct. This description should be complete and include all topics covered. Describe how these services would differ from other providers.

- 6.7** Identify and describe your web site. Identify any attributes of the site that may be customized for FCPS.
- 6.8** Describe in detail, the training, background specialized knowledge and skills your home office company representatives or local representatives must possess or attain. What services will these people provide, other than the enrollment of participants? How Many local representative will your company commit to the service of FCPS employees? Please provide information on all proposed representative for the authorized representative list or to remove any representative from the list at a future date.
- 6.9** How are local representatives compensated? Commission Salary Combination
- 6.10** How will employee inquiries and complaints, if any, be handled? How will FCPS complaints be handled?
- 6.11** Is a toll-free number available for participants to conduct financial transactions and account inquiries? If yes, what are the hours of operation?
- 6.12** Is Internet access available for participants to conduct financial transactions and account inquiries? If yes, provide the address of a demonstration website.
- 6.13** Record Keeping System
- 6.13.1** Please describe your company's record keeping system. How long has your record keeping system been in existence? If your company subcontracts record keeping services, please identify the proposed subcontract party and respond to the following questions with input from and on behalf of the subcontract party.
- 6.13.2** Will the record keeping system utilize daily valuation?
- 6.13.3** Can the record keeping system handle 403(b), 403(b) ROTH plans on the same platform? If different plan types are maintained on different platforms, indicate if you plan to combine onto one platform and the date. If you have no plans to combine, explain the effect on participant accounts, such as statement form or timing, access issues, other (please describe). Provide samples of plan reporting (combined).
- 6.13.4** Can the record keeping system track two or more money sources (i.e. employer and employee funds)?
- 6.13.5** Does an independent accounting company on a regular basis audit your record keeping system controls and administrative procedures? Confirm the frequency you have a SSAE 16 audit conducted. Are you prepared to submit your most recent SSAE 16 audit if requested? (Please do not submit unless requested.)

SIGNATURE ACKNOWLEDGING PROPOSAL

Note: When submitting your bid/proposal, please use this page as a cover sheet for your cost proposal.

In compliance with your invitation for bidders, the undersigned proposes to furnish and deliver all labor and materials in accordance with the accompanying specifications and "Instructions and General Conditions" for the price as listed on the enclosed Proposal Sheet(s).

I/We certify that this bid/proposal is made without previous understanding, agreement, or connection with any person, firm, or corporation submitting a bid/proposal for the same goods/services and is, in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud; that none of this company's officers, directors, partners or its employees have been convicted of bribery, attempted bribery, or conspiracy to bribe under the laws of any state or federal government; and that no member of the Board of Education of Frederick County, Administrative or Supervisory Personnel or other employees of the Frederick County Public Schools, has any interest in the bidding company except as follows:

COMPANY: _____

dba: _____

REGISTERED MARYLAND CONTRACTOR NUMBER: _____

FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

The undersigned has familiarized themselves with the conditions affecting the work, the specifications, and is legally authorized to make this proposal on behalf of the Contractor listed above.

NAME (please print): _____

SIGNATURE OF ABOVE: _____

TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE # _____ FAX # _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (for correspondence): _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (for receiving Purchase Orders): _____

(DO NOT COMPLETE THIS AREA IF YOUR COMPANY IS UNABLE TO RECEIVE PURCHASE ORDERS ELECTRONICALLY)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ADDENDA (if applicable)

The above-signed company/firm acknowledges the receipt of the following addenda for the above-referenced solicitation.

Date Received by Proposer/Bidder:

Addendum #1	_____	Addendum #2	_____
Addendum #3	_____	Addendum #4	_____
Addendum #5	_____	Addendum #6	_____
Addendum #7	_____	Addendum #8	_____

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATUTORY AFFIDAVIT AND NON-COLLUSION CERTIFICATION

Special Instructions: An authorized representative of the bidder needs to complete the following affidavit and insert an answer to paragraphs 1 and 3.

BIDDERS: The submission of the following Affidavit at the time of the bid opening is:

requested to be completed but not required to be notarized.

required to be completed and notarized.

I, _____, being duly sworn, depose and state:

1. I am the _____ (officer) and duly authorized representative of the firm of the organization named _____ whose address is _____ (Name of Corporation) _____ and that I

possess the authority to make this affidavit and certification on behalf of myself and the firm for which I am acting.

2. Except as described in paragraph 3 below, neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, the above firm, nor any of its officers, directors, or partners, or any of its employees who are directly involved in obtaining or performing contracts with any public bodies has:

- a. been convicted of bribery, attempted bribery, or conspiracy to bribe, under the laws of any state or of the federal government;
- b. been convicted under the laws of the state, another state, or the United States of: a criminal offense incident to obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public or private contract; or fraud, embezzlement, theft, forgery, falsification or destruction of records, or receiving stolen property;
- c. been convicted of criminal violation of an antitrust statute of the State of Maryland, another state, or the United States;
- d. been convicted of a violation of the Racketeer influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, or the Mail Fraud Act, for acts in connection with the submission of bids or proposals for a public or private contract;
- e. been convicted of any felony offenses connected with obtaining, holding, or maintaining a minority business enterprise certification, as prohibited by Section 14-308 of the State Finance & Procurement Article;
- f. been convicted of conspiracy to commit any act or omission that would constitute grounds for conviction under any of the laws or statutes described in Paragraph (a) through (e) above; or
- g. been found civilly liable under an antitrust statute of this State, another state, or the United States for acts or omissions in connection with the submission of bids or proposals for a public or private contract.

3. The only conviction, plea, or admission by any officer, director, partner, or employee of this firm to involvement in any of the conduct described in Paragraph 2 above is as follows:

If none, write "None" below. If involvement, list the date, count, or charge, official or administrative body,

the individuals involved, their position with the firm, and the sentence or disposition of the charge.

(you may attach an explanation if necessary)

- 4. I affirm that this firm will not knowingly enter into a contract with a public body under which a person or business debarred or suspended under Maryland State Finance and Procurement Title 16, subtitle 3, Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, will provide, directly or indirectly, supplies, services, architectural services, construction-related services, leases of real property, or construction.
- 5. I affirm that this proposal or bid to the Board of Education of Frederick County is genuine and not collusive or a sham; that said bidder has not colluded, conspired, connived and agreed, directly or indirectly, with any bidder or person to put in a sham bid or to refrain from bidding and is not in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement of collusion or communication or conference, with any person to fix the bid prices of the affidavit or any other bidder, or to fix any overhead, profit or cost element of said bid price, or that if any bidder, or to secure an advantage against the Board of Education of Frederick County or any other person interested in the proposed contract; and that all statements in the proposal or bid are true. I acknowledge that, if the representations set forth in this affidavit are not true and correct, the Board of Education of Frederick County may terminate any contract awarded and take any other appropriate action.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM under the penalties of perjury that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct, that I am executing this Affidavit in compliance with Section 16-311 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and in compliance with requirements of the Board of Education of Frederick County, and that I am executing and submitting this Proposal on behalf of and as authorized by the bidder named below.

(Legal Name of Company)

(dba)

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

(Telephone)

(Fax)

(Print Name)

(Title)

(Date)

(Signature)

(Title)

(Date)

We are/I am licensed to do business in the State of Maryland as a:

() Corporation

() Partnership

() Individual

() Other

If required to be notarized:

(Witness)

(Title)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me on this _____ day of _____, 20____.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: _____

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

1. All Contractors, subcontractors or vendors must abide by FCPS Board policies and regulations while working on FCPS property.
2. Maryland Law requires that any person who enters into a contract with a county board of education may not knowingly employ an individual to work at a schools (or FCPS facility) if the individual is a registered sex offender. Please reference §11-113 of the Criminal Procedure Article of Maryland Code for penalty.
3. Be advised that individuals who are registered sex offenders are not eligible to work on any FCPS project. The Contractor must initially check the Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services' MARYLAND SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY and search for the name of any employee to be assigned to work on this project. This applies to subcontractors and material/equipment suppliers as well.
4. In the event that a registered sex offender is discovered to be working on a FCPS project, whether through employment by the prime Contractor, subcontractor or vendor, the site superintendent will immediately remove the individual from the premises and permanently terminate his work assignment. FCPS may terminate this contract as a result if the Contractor is unable to demonstrate he has exercised care and diligence in the past in checking the Maryland registry.
5. Effective July 1, 2015, amendments to §6-113 of the Education Article of the Maryland Code further require that a contractor or subcontractor or vendor for a local school system may not knowingly assign an employee to work on school premises with direct, unsupervised, and uncontrolled access to children, if the employee has been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, a crime involving:
 - a. A sexual offense in the third or fourth degree under §3-307 or §3-308 of the Criminal Law Article of the Maryland Code.
 - b. Child sexual abuse under §3-602 of the Criminal Law Article of the Maryland Code or any other State;
or
 - c. A crime of violence as defined in §14-101 of the Criminal Law Article of the Maryland Code or any other State
6. Under recent amendments to §5-561 of the Family Law Article of the Maryland Code, each contractor, subcontractor or vendor shall certify by signing this affidavit that any individuals in its work-force including sub-contractors, have undergone a criminal background check, including fingerprinting, if the individuals will work in a FCPS school facility in circumstances where they have direct, unsupervised, and uncontrolled access to children.

By my signature below, I affirm under penalties of perjury that the contents of this Certification of Compliance are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print name and title of signatory _____

Print name of company _____