

100 MED HIGH DR., MERCEDES, TX 78570 P: 956.565.2454

STISD.NET

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ITEM: PUBLIC AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS SERVICES

BID NUMBER: RFP 24-001

EFFECTIVE DATES: 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

South Texas Independent School District is requesting Proposals from vendors to provide Public Affairs & Government Services for the South Texas Independent School District (STISD), for an initial one-year term, and upon mutual agreement, the contract may be renewed for one-year terms, thereafter.

Sealed bids will be received no later than 2:00 PM, Tuesday, February 7, 2023. Bids must be plainly marked on the outside of envelope SEALED PROPOSALS:RFP 24-001 PUBLIC AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS SERVICES, Business Office, STISD, 100 Med High Drive, Mercedes, Texas, 78570 or delivered to the STISD Business Office, at the same address. Bids must be made on the enclosed bid document. Faxed, emailed or phone bids will not be accepted.

The STISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to award contracts for individual items as they may appear advantageous to the District, and waive any or all formalities.

All contracts will be made through STISD purchase orders. Proposals received without proper signature will not be accepted.

Your proposal <u>MUST</u> be signed by an individual authorized to contractually bind the firm or individual submitting the proposal. Failure to sign the proposal will cause it to be rejected as NON-RESPONSIVE. Person signing the Proposal should show title or authority to bind his/her firm in a contract.

RESPONDENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO CAREFULLY READ THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL

Your proposal will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Marla R. Knaub

Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

 ${\bf MARCO\ ANTONIO\ LARA,\ JR.,\ ED.D.}$

Superintendent

EFRAIN GARZA Deputy Superintendent

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND EMAILED UPON RECEIVING THE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Please fill in the requested information below as acknowledgement that you have received the Request for Proposal noted above. If your firm is interested in participating, it is highly recommended that this sheet be completed and returned or e-mailed to:

Marla.knaub@stisd.net

SOUTH TEXAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUSINESS OFFICE

100 MED HIGH DRIVE, MERCEDES, TX 78570 PHONE (956) 565-2454

By doing this, we will be able to provide notification of any addenda to the R.F.P.

Name o	of Firm:	
Addres	s:	
City/Sta	ate/Zip:	
Phone:	()Fax: ()	
E-Mail:		
Name:	(Print)	
Title: _		
Signatı	ure:Date:	-
	_Yes, our company does have an interest in responding.	
	No. our company does not have an interest in responding.	

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

A. INFORMATION

- 1. South Texas ISD is seeking proposals from experienced individuals, joint ventures, government relations, and/or public affairs firms to provide local, state, and federal legislative services to include, but not limited to government relations, lobbying, strategic messaging, policy development, representation information, professional consulting services, performing research, establishing legislative contacts, developing and pursuing specific legislation and providing associated staff services, strategy implementation, regulatory and communication services.
- 2. South Texas ISD reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of the proposals, waive minor technicalities, and award the proposal to best serve the interest of the District. The District also reserves the right to waive or dispense with any of the formalities contained herein.
- 3. Proposals are to be submitted on the basis of the specifications contained herein. Alternate proposals will also be considered, provided the alternatives are clearly explained. All deviations from the specifications must be clearly identified and explained.
- 4. The information contained in these specifications is to be basis for proposal responses. After receipt of proposal, additional information needed may be requested via e-mail at: marla.knaub@stisd.net.
- 5. The information contained herein is believed to be accurate and up-to-date, but is not intended to be an express or implied warranty.
- 6. No telephone, email, or fax proposals will be accepted. Proposals may only be accepted if delivered by U.S. Postal Services, Federal Express, UPS, other courier services or personally delivered by proposer. The District will not be responsible for missing, lost, or late mail. Any proposals received after the time set for opening will be returned to the proposer unopened.

SCOPE OF WORK

South Texas ISD seeks to retain the public affairs and governmental relations services to address matters with legislative and executive branches of local, state, and federal government. The District seeks professional consulting services before the Texas State Legislature, individual State Legislators, the Texas State Governor, and other local, state and federal agencies. Services will include (but are not limited to) the following:

Strategy

- Assist the district in the development and implementation of its legislative agenda, key proposals and policy positions in partnership with the state board and local affiliate network.
- Propose an annual strategic advocacy and political engagement plan designed to achieve legislative goals and support the district objectives.
- Develop a plan for off session activities and coordinate with district administration staff.

Tracking and Reporting

- Identify, track and report on local, state, federal legislation and legislative proposals that may have an impact on the district;
- Report activities at a minimum through the following:
 - Telephone or weekly updates on pending issues as they arise
 - A brief weekly written status report during the Legislative Session for the state office and all local affiliates
 - o A brief monthly written status report not to exceed three (3) pages in length
 - A final written report and in-person presentation at the end of Legislative Session for staff and Board of Directors
 - Maintain a roster of delegates and contacts that the firm is contacting on the district's behalf
- Track priorities and meetings of aligned partner organizations;
- Organize state lobby registration, compliance and reporting

Advocacy

- Support the organization with a strong presence in the Capitol as the "eyes and ears" of South Texas ISD, and serving as day-to-day contact for legislators and other lobbyists on behalf of South Texas ISD:
- Work to achieve the District's goals on legislation, issues or rules by lobbying members of the Texas Legislature, legislative staff;
- Track and attend committee and rulemaking hearings, coordinate and assist in the preparation of testimony, submissions, and inperson testimony;
- Attend and participate in interim hearings and meetings regarding issues important the District:

Lobbying

- Assist in influence governmental decisions by petitioning government officials and legislators. Initiated by constituents, other legislators, or various groups. Lobbying firms, which are similar to public relations firms, represent clients to politicians and governmental legislators.
- Testify and lobby before State legislative and appropriations committees as necessary on behalf of the stakeholders, during the annual legislative session, extended, or special session(s) and at legislative committee meetings

Government Relations

- Assist in the development of relationships with key legislators, regulatory agencies, state agencies, local governments and community organizations, consistent with the annual strategic advocacy and political engagement plan;
- Develop strong connections with other agencies and state membership organizations to support mutual goals as identified.

Communication

 Engaged with public relations, media communications, issue management, corporate and social responsibility, information dissemination and strategic communications advice; to include public policy, build and maintain a strong reputation and find common ground with stakeholders.

Proposals

To be eligible to respond to this RFP, the proposer(s) must demonstrate that they, and the Principals assigned to the project, have successfully performed the services in the Scope of Work section of this RFP. At a minimum, proposal submittals should include:

1. A list of at least three (3) public sector clients for whom you have performed these services within the past five (5) years and list the successes achieved with them. Include agency name, contact name, address, email address, and telephone.

Provide a list of individual(s) who will be working on this project and indicate the function that each will perform. Include a biography for each designated individual. List all circumstances in which the district would be working with someone not designated.

Please Note: Upon award and during the contract period, if the firm chooses to assign different personnel to the project, the firm must submit their names and qualifications, including information listed below to the district for approval before the personnel begins work.

Length of employment with firm;

- Specialization;
- Scholastic honors and professional affiliations;
- Knowledge of, and expertise with Federal, Texas State and Local issues; and
- Years and statement of other types of clientele;
- Describe how you would structure the working relationship with the district.
- Describe systems/mechanisms that would be established to ensure

- timeliness of response to district staff.
- Define the standard time frames for response by staff to direction and or inquiry from Superintendent or administrative staff.
- Describe systems/mechanisms that would be established for monthly reporting of status of projects and requests.
- Describe the preferred method for transmittal of requests and other material from the district.
- Describe in detail the efforts you will undertake to achieve client satisfaction and to satisfy the requirements of the Scope of Services section.
- 2. Five (5) year experience of Public Affairs and Government Relations consultant.
- 3. A history of your organization, a list of key accomplishments, and any other information which will be helpful in our evaluation. Include the number of years you have provided state and/or federal lobbying services.
- 4. Identify the principal(s), team members and their individual roles in any lobbying services performed, including how many years each member has been consulting at the local, state and/or federal level. Please include how many years each member has been a lobbyist at the state or federal levels, and how many years each member lobbied for each client.
- 5. Firms shall fully disclose and identify any subcontractors or partners and their representative roles in providing service.
- 6. Address any performance related litigation that your firm may be, or has been, involved in over the last five (5) years.
- 7. Identify if your firm has had any contracts terminated due to non-performance over the last five (5) years.
- 8. Provide disclosure of any potential or existing conflict of interest(s).
- 9. A proposed fee structure for Public Affairs and Government Relations and other services

B. LEGAL

1. All parties submitting proposals are expected to comply with federal, state and local insurance laws and regulations relative to the preparation and submissions of insurance proposals. Specifically, the services to be provided are expected to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), insurance laws and insurance regulations. All proposals that are submitted will be presumed to be in compliance with all applicable laws.

C. COMMUNICATION

 Proposals are to be sealed in an envelope clearly labeled "RFP 24-001 – Public Affairs & Government Relations Services". Proposer is required to provide one (1) original and (2) copy of proposal (clearly marked), and (1) digital copy on a USB drive sealed and submitted to:

Ms. Marla R. Knaub
Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
South Texas Independent School District
100 Med High Drive
Mercedes, TX 78570

2. Requests for information, must be in writing and must be e-mailed to:

Marla.knaub@stisd.net

Marla Knaub
Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
South Texas Independent School District
100 Med High Drive
Mercedes, TX 78570

TEL: 956-565-2454

D. COMMUNICATION WITH DISTRICT MEMBERS

 Company submitting proposals shall not discuss this RFP with employees of STISD or members of the Board of Trustees. If discussion is necessary, your company will be notified in writing. Failure to abide by this requirement may result in automatic disqualification.

DI. TIME FRAME

- 1. The Request for Proposal package will be available for download from our website at https://www.stisd.net/community/public
- Vendors WILL NOT be notified of additional information/addenda postings. It is the vendor's responsibility to view the web page regularly, or prior to submitting a proposal response, to ensure that no addenda or additional information have been issued for the solicitation.
- 3. Proposals one (1) original and one (2) copy and (1) digital copy on a USD drive must be delivered to South Texas ISD, Business Office, 100 Med High Drive, Mercedes, TX 78570, no later than 2:00 PM, Tuesday, February 7, 2023 in a sealed envelope, clearly marked:

RFP 24-001 - Public Affairs & Government Relations Services

- 4. The proposals will be opened but not read publicly at 2:00 PM, Tuesday, February 7, 2023. The proposals shall be opened in a manner to avoid disclosure of contents to competing vendors and the contents shall be kept secret during the process of proposal negotiations.
- 5. The parties submitting the selected proposals will be notified on or about February 28, 2023 of the District's decision.
- 6. The contract effective date is February 28, 2023 to February 28, 2024.

F. PROPOSALS

- Proposals must be clearly explained and identified. All costs, including optional programs, must be clearly stated and summarized. Exceptions to or deviations from the specifications <u>must</u> be explicitly identified.
- 2. Each party submitting a proposal is asked to screen their designated proposals for correctness and compliance with the specifications.
- 3. The contents of the proposals shall be kept confidential during the process of negotiations.
 - After the insurance agreement is awarded, all proposals will be available for public inspection.

G. DISQUALIFICATION AND REJECTION OF PROPOSALS

1. Failure to comply with the requirements or the procedures set forth herein, or to satisfy the insurance and servicing criteria as set forth in the specifications, may result in disqualification. It is not intended that exceptions to the specifications will, in and of themselves, result in disqualification.

H. SELECTION OF VENDOR

1. South Texas ISD reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals, in whole or in part; to waive any informality in any proposal, and to accept the proposal which, in its discretion, is in the best interest of the District. A District insurance consultant may review Proposals for completeness and for compliance with bid specifications. Proposals analyzed to determine overall responsiveness and qualifications under the RFP and servicing criteria contained in the specifications and in accordance with Texas Education Code 44.031.

The contract will be awarded to the responsible vendor who submits a superior but economical proposal based on the relative importance of the following selection criteria:

Selection Criteria	Maximum Points		
References	<u>10</u>		
Proposed Services	<u>35</u>		
Experience and Qualifications	<u>35</u>		
Rate and Expenses	<u>20</u>		
Total	100		

ORAL INTERVIEWS

Following the initial review and screening of all proposals, one or more firms may be invited to participate in an oral interview or presentation of their proposals. These interviews or presentations provide an opportunity for district to ask additional questions and the respondent to clarify the proposal to ensure material understanding.

However, district reserves the right to recommend award of a Contract without conducting interviews.

Thereafter, staff will make its recommendation regarding an award of Contract to the Board of Directors who will make the final decision.

The agreement to be executed with any successful Proposer shall be In accordance with "Section III – OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF SERVICES" and be acceptable to the district.

This document outlines the prerequisites, selection process and documentation necessary to submit a proposal for the requested services. Please carefully read the entire package before submitting your proposal.

Contract will be negotiated with the respondent whose proposal is determined to be most advantageous to the district. The district reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any formality in proposals received, to accept or reject any or all of the items in the proposal, and award the contract in whole or in part, if it is deemed in the best interest of the district. Proposals should be submitted initially on the most favorable terms, from both price and technical standpoints. The district further reserves the right to award contract without discussion after proposals are received or to request written BEST AND FINAL OFFERS from respondents judged to be responsive to the minimum technical requirements.

The South Texas ISD Board of Directors will make the final decision of agreement award.

I. TERMS OF AGREEMENTS

South Texas ISD desires to receive proposals for an initial one-year term, and upon mutual agreement, the contract may be renewed for one-year terms, thereafter.

For the term February 28, 2023 to February 28, 2024

- South Texas ISD reserves the right to terminate the agreement at the expiration of the budget period, during the term of the agreement or at the end of the anniversary date on a thirty (30) day notice. The agreement will be for current revenues only in accordance with Local Government Code Section 271.903 to terminate the agreement.
- 2. The agreement is to contain a cancellation provision that provides for thirty (30) days' notice of cancellation (except for non-payment) and thirty (30) days' notice for non-renewal or material change.

J. INSURANCE POLICIES

Include in this section a copy of the following insurance policies: Professional Liability, General Liability, Workmen's Compensation, and Automobile Insurance Policies.

K. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

All proposal forms must be signed by persons who have legal authority to bind the insurer and administrator to the services that are proposed.

L. FEES AND RATE SCHEDULE

Please provide a cost breakdown of services to be provided as per scope of work but not limited to:

South Texas ISD is seeking a qualified firm to provide Public Affairs and Government Relations professional consulting services for representing the South Texas ISD in legislative matters at the Local, State, and Federal level.

The legislative services shall include, but not be limited to: scheduled, extended, or special legislative sessions and meetings; local, state and federal administrative and agency hearings, meetings, or rule making proceedings; all in accordance with the terms, conditions, and scope of work identified in this Request for Proposal (RFP).

<u>Note</u>: Provide a detailed fee schedule. Express your administrative fee in a lump sum not-to-exceed maximum amount and separate price for travel and related expenses (if applicable) with these services as required under of the scope of work but not limited to, service requirements.

Total Lump Sum for Legislative Consulting Services	\$
Total Lum Sum in words	
Total Travel and Related Expenses (if applicable)	\$
Total Travel and Related Expenses in words	
Hourly Fee Basis	\$

Proposed cost breakdown and hourly rates should include all associated costs and profit (all inclusive)

Please include a completion time line for the entire project and a breakdown of time line for each categorized service under this proposed contract. Consultants may submit proposals based on a lump sum basis payable monthly over the course of the year or on an hourly fee basis. All proposals must include a maximum not-to-exceed amount. Expenses not specifically listed will not be considered.

The price will remain firm/fixed for the initial contract period and may be adjusted in accordance with the terms and conditions that will be establish once a contract is executed.

I have attached and initialed a copy of the District scope of service for the item(s) proposed on this form.

Date		
NAME OF RESPONDENT:		
	(Please print or type)	
SIGNED BY:		
	(Sign name in writing)	(Title)

J. PAST PROJECTS WITH CORRESPONDING REFERENCES

Respondent Name:

Respondents shall use this exhibit (or reasonable facsimile) to provide a minimum of three

d "i d re	3) references for jobs completed within the last three (3) years. The references shall illustrate ecent experience successfully completing work of a similar nature and scope as the work escribed in this RFP. Attention: Do NOT use STISD staff or past work performed for STISD as a reference" in Exhibit E. This form may be modified as needed to comply with the requirement to ocument company information. Failure to return this exhibit (or a reasonable facsimile) may result in the proposal being considered non- responsive. STISD reserves the right to check references prior to award. Any negative responses received may be grounds for disqualification of the proposal.
	REFERENCE 1: Company Name:
	Company Address:
	Contact Name/Title/Phone:
	Email:
	Service Period:
	Brief Description of Project:
	REFERENCE 2: Company Name:
	Company Address:
	Contact Name/Title/Phone:
	Email:
	Service Period:
	Brief Description of Project:

REFERENCE 3: Company Name:
Company Address:
Contact Name/Title/Phone:
Email:
Service Period:
Brief Description of Project:

SOUTH TEXAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NON-COLLUSIVE BIDDING CERTIFICATE BID ACCEPTANCE FORM

By submission of this bid or proposal, the Bidder certifies that:

- 1. The undersigned affirms that they are duly authorized to execute this contract;
- 2. This bid or proposal has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other Bidder or with any Competitor;
- 3. This bid or proposal has not been knowingly disclosed and will not be knowingly disclosed, prior to the opening of bids, or proposals for this project, to any other Bidder, Competitor or potential competitor:
- 4. No attempt has been or will be made to induce any other person, partnership or corporation to submit or not to submit a bid or proposal;
- 5. The person signing this bid or proposal certifies that he has fully informed himself regarding the accuracy of the statements contained in this certification, and under the penalties being applicable to the Bidder as well as to the person signing in its behalf.

Signature below certifies accuracy of answers to all sections on this page.

FIRM NAME
DOING BUSINESS AS (dba)
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE
TELEPHONE NUMBER
FAX NUMBER
EMAIL ADDRESS
SIGNATURE FO COMPANY OFFICIAL AUTHORIZING THIS PROPOSAL
COMPANY OFFICIAL (PRINT NAME)
OFFICIAL TITLE/POSITION



Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Give Form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.

	1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.					
	2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above					
Print or type. Specific Instructions on page 3.	3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Che following seven boxes. Individual/sole proprietor or C Corporation S Corporation Partnership single-member LLC	4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3): Exempt payee code (if any)				
ty Stio	Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partner					
Print or type c Instruction	Note: Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member ov LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the canother LLC that is not disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a sing is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its own.	Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any)				
cifi	Other (see instructions)	J.	(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)			
Spe	5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions.	Requester's name a	and address (optional)			
See						
S	6 City, state, and ZIP code					
	7 List account number(s) here (optional)					
Par	Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)					
	your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to ave		curity number			
backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see <i>How to get a</i>] - [] - []			
TIN, la	ater.	or				
	If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see What Name a	and Employer	er identification number			
Numb	per To Give the Requester for guidelines on whose number to enter.		-			
Par	t II Certification					
Unde	r penalties of perjury, I certify that:					
2. I ar Ser	e number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a n not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) rvice (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest of longer subject to backup withholding; and	I have not been n	otified by the Internal Revenue			
3. I ar	m a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and					
4. The	e FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reportin	g is correct.				
		., .				

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid,

	acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.					
Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person ▶	Date ▶				

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

• Form 1099-INT (interest earned or paid)

- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
- Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
- Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
- Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
- Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
- Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
- Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
- Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.

If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See What is backup withholding, later.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

FORM CIQ

For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.	OFFICE USE ONLY
This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).	Date Received
By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.	
A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.	
Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.	
Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law recompleted questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th busines you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)	s day after the date on which
Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.	
Name of Officer	
Name of Officer	
Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government offi officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship wit Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attac CIQ as necessary. A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or liother than investment income, from the vendor? Yes No B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable local governmental entity? Yes No Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 m	h the local government officer. h additional pages to this Form kely to receive taxable income, tincome, from or at the direction income is not received from the
other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an o ownership interest of one percent or more.	
Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a)(a)(b) (B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a)(b) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B) (B	
7	
Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity	Date

Conflict of Interest Questionnaire - EXAMPLE PAGE

All individuals or companies being paid by STISD are REQUIRED to complete this form

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

FORM CIQ

For vendor doing business with local governmental entity	
This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.	OFFICE USE ONLY
This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).	Date Received
By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.	
A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.	
Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.	
Individual or company name goes here	
Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law of completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th bus you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurrelated.	ou have an outside personal
Y Name of local dovernment officer about whom the information is being disclosed	rks at STISD, list their name
her	e. If there is no pre-existing
Name of Officer rela	ationship, write N/A here.
officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attack CIQ as necessary. If you have a personal results business arrangement we STISD, please describe and answer questions A. A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or life other than investment income, from the vendor? Yes No B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income governmental entity? Yes No Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 members are altered.	elationship or vith anyone at it in this section, and B. kely to receive taxable income, income, from or at the direction ncome is not received from the
other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an o ownership interest of one percent or more. Complete this section if applicable.	fficer or director, or holds an
Check if applicable	
Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a)(a)(b) (c) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d	
Signature & date required from ALL VENDORS	
Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity	rate

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

A complete copy of Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code may be found at http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/LG/htm/LG.176.htm. For easy reference, below are some of the sections cited on this form.

<u>Local Government Code § 176.001(1-a)</u>: "Business relationship" means a connection between two or more parties based on commercial activity of one of the parties. The term does not include a connection based on:

- (A) a transaction that is subject to rate or fee regulation by a federal, state, or local governmental entity or an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity;
- (B) a transaction conducted at a price and subject to terms available to the public; or
- (C) a purchase or lease of goods or services from a person that is chartered by a state or federal agency and that is subject to regular examination by, and reporting to, that agency.

Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A) and (B):

- (a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:
 - (2) the vendor:
 - (A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that
 - (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or
 - (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;
 - (B) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that:
 - (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or
 - (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.

Local Government Code § 176.006(a) and (a-1)

- (a) A vendor shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and:
 - (1) has an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A);
 - (2) has given a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, one or more gifts with the aggregate value specified by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding any gift described by Section 176.003(a-1); or
 - (3) has a family relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity.
- (a-1) The completed conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the later of:
 - (1) the date that the vendor:
 - (A) begins discussions or negotiations to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or
 - (B) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential contract with the local governmental entity; or
 - (2) the date the vendor becomes aware:
 - (A) of an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer, or a family member of the officer, described by Subsection (a);
 - (B) that the vendor has given one or more gifts described by Subsection (a); or
 - (C) of a family relationship with a local government officer.

EXAMPLE OF FORM 1295- REFER TO INSTRUCTIONS

CERTIFICATE OF INTE	RESTED PARTIES		F	ORM 1295
Complete Nos. 1 - 4 and 6 if the Complete Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6	ere are interested parties. if there are no interested parties.		OFFICE	USEONLY
Name of business entity filing form, a entity's place of business.	Name of business entity filing form, and the city, state and country of the business entity's place of business.			
2 Name of governmental entity or state which the form is being filed.	e agency that is a party to the contract f	or		
3 Provide the identification number use and provide a description of the serv	ed by the governmental entity or state a ices, goods, or other property to be pro			-
4	City, State, Country	Natur	e of Interest (c	heck applicable)
Name of Interested Party	(place of business)	Cor	ntrolling	Itermediary
			E.	•
		AY		
	T WWW.ETHICS.			
	ETHIO			
	WW.F			
	~ MA			
	> 1			
5 Check only if the NO Interest	ed Party.]	1	
6 UNSWORN DECLARATION	, and my date	of birth is _		
My address is		,		,·
(street) I declare under penalty of perjury that the fore	(city) egoing is true and correct.	(stat	e) (zip code)	(country)
Executed in County, S	State of , on the day o	f	, 20	
	··	(mo	nth) (yea	
	Signature of authorized	agent of co		ss entity
ADD	ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECE	SSARY	,	

SOUTH TEXAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES – FORM 1295

Definitions and Instructions for Completing Form 1295

South Texas ISD is required to comply with House Bill 1295, which amended the Texas Government Code by adding Section 2252.908, Disclosure of Interested Parties. Section 2252.908 prohibits South Texas ISD from entering into a contract resulting from this RFP with a business entity unless the business entity submits a Disclosure of Interested Parties – Form1295 to South Texas ISD at the time the business entity submits the signed contract. The Texas Ethics Commission has adopted rules requiring the business entity to file Form 1295 electronically with the Texas Ethics Commission.

As a "business entity," all vendors must electronically complete, print, sign, notarize and submit Form 1295 with their proposals or contracts even if no interested parties exist.

Proposers must file Certificate of Interested Parties – Form 1295 with the Texas Ethics Commission using the following online application: https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf info form1295.htm

- Proposers must use the filing application on the Texas Ethics Commission's website (see link above) to enter the required information on Form 1295.
- Proposers must print a copy of the completed form, which will include a certification of filing containing a unique certification number.
- The Form 1295 must be printed and then signed by an authorized agent of the business entity
- The completed Form 1295 with the certification of filing must be filed with South Texas ISD by including a copy of the completed form with the proposal response.
- South Texas ISD must acknowledge the receipt of the filed Form 1295 by notifying the Texas Ethics Commission of the receipt of the filed Form 1295 no later than the 30th day after the date the contract binds all parties to the contract.
- After South Texas ISD acknowledges the Form 1295, the Texas Ethics Commission will post the completed Form 1295 to its
 website within seven (7) business days after receiving notice from South Texas ISD.

Instructions to Vendors:

- 1. Read these instructions.
- 2. Go to the Ethics Commission Website https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm
- 3. Register and complete Form 1295 online -include the proposal number and the contract/RFP name,
- 4. Print a copy of the submitted Form 1295
- 5. Include a copy of the completed, signed Form 1295 with the proposal response

Definitions:

- Contract means a contract between South Texas ISD and/or its cooperative members and a business entity at the time it is voted
 on by the South Texas ISD Board of Directors or at the time it binds South Texas ISD, whichever is earlier, and includes an
 amended, extended, or renewed contract.
- Business Entity includes an entity through which business is conducted with South Texas ISD and/or its cooperative members, regardless of whether the entity is a for-profit or nonprofit entity. The term does not include a governmental entity or State agency.
- Controlling Interest means:
 - 1) an ownership interest or participating interest in a business entity by virtue of units, percentage, shares, stock, or otherwise that exceeds ten percent (10%);
 - 2) membership on the board of directors or other governing body of a business entity of which the board or other governing body is composed of not more than ten (10) members; or
 - 3) service as an officer of a business entity that has four (4) or fewer officers, or service as one of the four (4) officers most highly compensated by a business entity that has more than four (4) officers. This section does not apply to an officer of a publicly held business entity or its wholly owned subsidiaries.
- · Interested Party: a person who:
 - has controlling interest in a business entity with whom South Texas ISD and/or its cooperative members contracts; or
 - actively participates in facilitating the contract or negotiating the terms of the contract, including a broker, intermediary, adviser, or attorney for the business entity.
- Intermediary: a person who actively participates in the facilitation of the contract or negotiation

the contract, including a broker, advisor, attorney, or representative of or agent for the business entity who:

- 1) receives compensation from the business entity for the person's participation;
- communicates directly with the governmental entity or state agency on behalf of the business entity regarding the contract; and
- 3) is not an employee of the business entity.
- Signed includes any symbol executed or adopted by a person with present intention to authenticate a writing, including an electronic signature.
- Value of a contract is based on the amount of consideration received or to be received by the business entity from the South Texas ISD and/or its cooperative members under the contract.

Resources:

Form 1295 Frequently Asked Questions:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/FAQ Form1295.html

Instructional Video - First Time Business User:

• https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/videos/Form1295/FirstLogin-Business/Form1295Login-Business.html

Instructional Video – How to Create a Certificate:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/videos/Form1295/CreateCertificate/CreateCertificate.html



1. Felony Conviction Notification

Name of Felon(s): ______ Details of Conviction(s):

Texas Education Agency Code, Section 44.034, Notification of Criminal History, Subsection (a), states "a person or business entity that enters into a contract with a school district must give advance notice to the district if the person or an owner or operator of the business entity has been convicted of a felony. The notice must include a general description of the conduct resulting in the conviction of a felony." Subsection (b) states "a school district may terminate a contract with a person or business entity if the district determines that the person or business entity failed to give notice as required by Subsection (a) or misrepresented the conduct resulting in the conviction. The district must compensate the person or business entity for services performed before the termination of the contract." This notice is not required of a publicly-held corporation, but the company representative must check off a selection below (A, B, or C).

Initial where applicable.

A. My company is a publicly-held corporation; therefore, this reporting requirement is not applicable

B. My company is not owned nor operated by anyone who has been convicted of a felony:

C. My company is owned and operated by the following individual(s) who has/have been convicted of a felony:

2. Criminal History Record Information Review of Certain Contract Employees

By signing below, the Bidder agrees to comply with Section 22.0834. Criminal History Record Information Review of Certain Contract Employees, Texas Education Code if awarded a contract through this solicitation. The undersigned Bidder, if awarded a contract, shall obtain criminal history record information through the criminal history clearinghouse as provided by Section 411.0845, Government Code relating to an employee or applicant who has or will have continuing duties related to the contracted services; and the employee or applicant has or will have direct contact with students. The Bidder agrees to certify of the receipt of criminal history record information before or immediately after employing or securing the services of the employee or applicant that has or will have continuing duties related to the contracted services if the employee or applicant has or will have direct contact with students. The Bidder further agrees that if awarded a contract, shall assume all expenses associated with the criminal background check and shall immediately remove any employee or agent who was convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, as defined by Texas law, from District property or the location where students are present.

None of my employees and any of my subcontractors has or will have continuing duties related to the contracted services; and has or
will have direct contact with students. I further certify that my company has taken precautions or imposed conditions to ensure that
my employees and any subcontractor will not have continuing duties related to the contracted services; and will not have direct
contact with students throughout the term of the Contract.

OR

Some or all of my employees and/or my subcontractors will have continuing duties related to the contracted services; and will have direct contact with students. I further certify that:

3. Debarment and Suspension

By signing below Contractor certifies that neither it nor its principals are currently listed on the government-wide exclusions in SAM as debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies or declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549. Contractor further agrees to immediately notify the District if he/she is later listed on the government-wide exclusions in SAM, or is debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies or declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549.

4. Confidential/Copyrighted Information

By signing below, the Contractor agrees, if a bid is, or parts of bid is confidential, the Contractor has specified by stamping in bold letters the term "CONFIDENTIAL" on all or the confidential part of the bid. The bid may be considered public information even though all or parts are marked confidential. Furthermore, Contractor agrees a copyrighted bid is unacceptable and will be disqualified as unresponsive.



5. Declaration of Business Location- TEC 44.031(b)(8)					
By signing below, Bidder certifies the Bidder's or the Bidder's ultimate parent company or majority owner:					
A. Has its principal place of business in the State of Texas; OR					
B. Employs at least 500 persons in the State of Texas; OR					
C. Principal place of business is not in the State of Texas:					
(City, State)					
6. Owner(s) Name of Business					
By signing below, Bidder certifies the owner(s) name of the business submitting bid is/are: (Please print name(s) below. If not applicable, please indicate N/A)					
7. Delinquent Taxpayers					
In accordance with law, the District shall not enter a contract or other transaction with a person indebted to the District, nor shall the District					
award a contract to or enter into a transaction with an apparent low bidder or successful proposer indebted to the District.					
I am not a delinquent taxpayer to South Texas ISD					
I am a delinquent taxpayer to South Texas ISD (Your bid may be disqualified if your debt is not cleared prior to award.)					
_					
8. Texas Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB)- TEC 44.031(b)(6) or Small and Minority Firms, Women's Business Enterprises and					
Labor Surplus Area Firm Contractor certifies the Bidder's company is HUB certified with the State of Texas.					
I am an active certified HUB vendor. HUB expiration date:					
Small and Minority Firms, Women's Business Enterprises and Labor Surplus Area Firms					
I am neither.					
9. Buy American Provisions					
By signing below, Contractor certifies that Contractor is in compliance with all applicable provisions of the Buy America Act. Purchases made in					
accordance with the Buy America Act must still follow the applicable procurement rules calling for free and open competition.					
10. Prohibition on Contracts with Companies Boycotting Israel- HB89					
By signing below, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 2270, {Vendor} represents and warrants to the District that {Vendor} does not					
boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of This Agreement.					

11. Non Collusion Statement

By signing below, {Proposer} certifies and represents to South Texas ISD that {Proposer} has not offered, conferred, or agreed to confer any pecuniary benefit, as defined by Section 1.07(a)(6) of the Texas Penal Code, or any other thing of value, as consideration for the receipt of information or any special treatment or advantage relating to this proposal; the {Proposer} also certifies and represents that



Proposer} has not offered, conferred or agreed to confer any pecuniary benefit or other things of value as consideration for the recipient's decision, opinion, recommendation, vote or other exercise of discretion concerning this proposal; the {Proposer} certifies and represents that Proposer has neither coerced nor attempted to influence the exercise of discretion by any officer, trustee, agent or employee of the South Texas School District concerning this proposal on the basis of any consideration not authorized by law; the Proposer also certifies and represents that Proposer has not received any information not available to other proposers so as to give the undersigned an advantage with respect to this proposal; the {Proposer} further certifies and represents that {Proposer} has not violated any state, federal or local law, regulation or ordinance relating to bribery, improper influence, collusion or the like and that Proposer will not in the future, offer, confer, or agree to confer any pecuniary benefit or other thing of value of any officer, trustee, agent or employee of the South Texas Independent School District in return for the person having exercised the person's official discretion, power or duty with respect to this proposal; the Proposer certifies and represents that it has not now and will not in the future offer, confer, or agree to confer a pecuniary benefit or other thing of value to any office, trustee, agent or employee of the South Texas Independent School District in connection with information regarding this proposal, the submission of this proposal, the award of this proposal or the performance, delivery or sale pursuant to this proposal; the {Proposer} certifies that the Proposer has not prepared this proposal and will not prepare any future proposals arising from this Request for Proposal (RFP) in collusion with any other respondent, and that the content of any future proposals arising out of this RFP will not be communicated by the undersigned nor by any employee or agent to any other person engaged in this type of business prior to the District's selection of a contractor for this RFP.

12. Prohibition on Contracts with Companies Engaged with Iran, Sudan or Foreign Terrorist Organization- SB252

By signing below, {Vendor} hereby certifies that it is not a company identified on the Texas Comptroller's list of companies known to have contracts with, or provide supplies or services to, the government of Iran, the government of Sudan, or a foreign organization designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S. Secretary of State.

13. Applicable to Grants, Subgrants, Cooperative Contracts, and Contracts Exceeding \$100,000 in Federal Funds

Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction and is imposed by section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure. The undersigned certifies, to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, that:

- 1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with the awarding of a Federal contract, the making of a Federal grant, the making of a Federal loan, the entering into a cooperative Contract, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative Contract.
- 2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal grant or cooperative Contract, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "disclosure Form to Report Lobbying", in accordance with its instructions.
- **3.** The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all covered sub-awards exceeding \$100,000 in Federal funds at all appropriate tiers and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

14. Equal Employment Opportunity

In fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement, Proposer shall comply with E.O. 11246, "Equal Employment Opportunity," as amended by E.O. 11375, "Amending Executive Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity," and as supplemented by regulations at 41 CFR part 60, "Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor."



To the extent that the Agreement requires the performance of experimental, developmental or research work, Proposer agrees that the District shall have rights in any resulting invention in accordance with 37 CFR part 401, "Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements," and any implementing regulations issued by the District from which received financial assistance to carry out the work contemplated by the Agreement.

16. Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), as amended

In the event that the fees payable to Proposer under the Agreement exceed \$100,000, Proposer agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.). Violations shall be reported to the Awarding Agency and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

17. Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C.§ 1352)

In the event that the fees payable to Proposer under the Agreement exceed \$100,000, Proposer shall file the certification required under 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier shall certify to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier shall also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures shall be forwarded from tier to tier up to the Proposer.

18. Access to Records

Proposer agrees that the Inspector General of the District or any of their duly authorized representatives shall have access to any books, documents, papers and records of the Proposer that are directly pertinent to Proposer's discharge of its obligations under the Agreement for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts and transcriptions.

19. Applicability to Selected Vendors

Proposer agrees that all contracts it awards pursuant to the Agreement shall be bound by the foregoing terms and conditions.

I, the undersigned agent for the firm named below, certify that the information stated above has been reviewed by me and the information furnished is true to the best of my knowledge.

Vendor Name:		
Address, City, State, Zip Code:		
Phone Number:		
Printed Name of Authorized Representative:		
Title of Authorized Representative:		
Email Address:		
Signature of Authorized Representative:		
Date:		



Phone: 956.565.2454 Web: www.stisd.net

100 Med High Drive, Mercedes, TX 78570

ACH Vendor Direct Deposit Form

Section 1: Payee Information (all information is REQUIRED) Payee Name			TIN/EIN or SS#	
Tuyee I varie		TH VEH VOI BB		
Payment Address	City	State	Zip Code	
Accounting/ACH Contact Name		 	I	
Email Address for Remittance Advice *Requ	uired*	Phone Number		
Section 2: Financial Institution Info	ormation (all informati	on is REQUIRED)		
Financial Institution Name				
Financial Institution Address	City	State	Zip Code	
i manetai mstitution Address	City	State	Zip Code	
Routing Transit Number**	Customer Acco	ount Number Tyr	t Number Type of Account	
			Checking Savings	
** Please provide the 9 digit bank routing	ng number from a check. T	he routing number from	a deposit slip is invalid.	
Submit a copy of	f voided check or bank ve	rification with this form	<u>n.</u>	
Section 3: Authorization for Direct	Deposit Setup (REQUI	IRED)		
I (we) hereby authorize South Texas Ind and if necessary, to initiate automatic delidentified below, and the financial institute payment of goods and/or services.	bit entries for adjustments f	for any credit entries in e	error to my (our) account	
This authorization is to remain in full for	roo and affact until South T	avas Indopondent Schoo	1 District has received	
written notification of its termination in streams and the stream of its termination in streams and the stream it.		-		
Authorized Signature	Printed Name	Dar	te	