Form #251 February 2023

School Nutrition Programs Commercial Vendor Invitation for Bids (IFB)

School Food Authority:
Agreement Number:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Contact Person:
Phone:
Email:

Commercial Vendor IFB Advertisement

The advertisement must be published ONCE in the newspaper at least 10 calendar days before the IFB due date

- **Public/Charter School Food Authorities (SFA)** must advertise the Commercial Vended Meal IFB in a regional news source/official newspaper of record as designated by the board of education.
- Non-Public SFAs must advertise the Commercial Vended Meal IFB in a regional newspaper.

Using the below template to compile the required information. Re-type and send the language of the advertisement in its entirety to the newspaper:

The ______(SFA Name) is currently requesting bids for the ______ school year for the delivery and receipt of vended meals for the school food service programs.

The Commercial Vendor will provide meals/documents according to USDA meal patterns, regulations, and guidelines as well as the New Jersey Department of Agriculture policies and guidelines.

Specifications can be obtained from, and bids submitted to:

Name of SFA: _____

Name of SFA Contact Person:	

Email Address:

School Address

Street Address: _____

City:	State:	Zip	:

All bids must be submitted no later than

Date: _____

Time: _____

All bids must be delivered in a sealed envelope and be clearly marked "Commercial Vended Meals Bid".

The _____(SFA Name) reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids or accept the bid that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be the most advantageous to the SFA.

Purpose and Term

The purpose of this Invitation for Bids (IFB) is for the School Food Authority (the "SFA") to obtain vended meals. Vendor will provide the meals/meal components only, generally bulk, pre-packaged or pre-plated. This IFB is used for the Vendor that prepares, cooks, and packages unitized or bulk-form meals, with or without milk, off-site at their own facilities. Vendor must provide address to SFA of any location where meal preparation takes place. Vendor will not provide employees to serve or prepare meals onsite or to manage any aspect of the food service. (NOTE: If Vendor's employees are responsible for the management of the program and/or for the final preparation of meals and/or for the serving of bulk, pre-packaged or pre-plated meals, Vendor is acting in the capacity of a food service management company and this IFB is not valid).

The SFA seeks to purchase from Vendor, and Vendor will provide to the SFA, the lunches, breakfasts, and afterschool snacks as indicated below (collectively referred to in this IFB as the "vended meals"), as part of the respective United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") School Nutrition Programs, and in accordance with this IFB and applicable Federal and State regulations.

The SFA seeks to procure complete meals ONLY, either with or without milk. No other options or substitutions are permitted. DOD Produce cannot supplant the fruit or vegetable component of the reimbursable SBP and NSLP meals.

Vendor will provide the vended meals to the SFA school sites listed in this IFB.

The awarded contract will be for a term of _____1 year _____2 years _____3 years

The awarded contract will be effective for the period commencing on ______ and ending June 30, ______ unless terminated earlier as provided herein.

If the original length of the awarded contract is less than three (3) years, the contract may be renewed for one two-year or two one-year extensions subject to the terms of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42. At no point in time may this contract be renewed or extended beyond a term of five (5) consecutive years. This contract and all contract renewals will be subject to the availability and annual appropriation of sufficient funds required to meet the extended obligation. If funds are not available, the SFA shall have the right to terminate the contract or renewal, as provided herein.

The awarded contract may be renewed by mutual agreement of the SFA and Vendor subject to the following limitations:

- a. Each renewal shall be awarded by a resolution from the SFA upon a finding that the services are being performed by Vendor in an effective and efficient manner;
- b. The contract shall not be renewed or extended if it will cause the term of agreement to run for more than a total of five (5) consecutive years;
- c. Any price change included as part of a renewal shall be based upon the price of the original contract as cumulatively adjusted pursuant to any previous adjustment or renewal and shall not exceed the change in the Index Rate (as defined in the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2) for the twelve (12) months preceding the most recent quarterly calculation available at the time the contract is renewed; and
- d. The terms and conditions of the contract shall remain substantially the same (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42)

Meal Requirements

SFA requires the following meal types:

Lunches meeting National School Lunch Program requirements set forth in 7 CFR Section 210.10.

Breakfasts meeting School Breakfast Program requirements set forth in 7 CFR Section 220.8.

Afterschool snacks meeting Afterschool Care Snacks requirements set forth in 7 CFR Section 210.10.

All vended meals will conform to the current applicable meal pattern requirements set forth by federal regulations.

Milk

SFA requires the following:

All vended meals supplied by Vendor will **include milk**.

OR

Vendor will supply all vended meals without milk. The SFA will purchase milk separately.

For all purchases of fresh milk for the SFA vended meals, Vendor or SFA shall purchase an amount of fresh milk from New Jersey producers at least equal to the amount of fresh milk proposed to be furnished to the SFA, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-6 and N.J.A.C. 2:55-1.1 *et seq.*

The following are the minimum food specifications all FSMCs must adhere to and provide. The SFA may customize these food specifications using the IFB Modification Request

PRODUCT	LEVEL OF INSPECTION/QUALITY
Meat/Seafood	All meats, meat products, poultry, poultry products, and fish must be government inspected.
Beef, Lamb, and Veal	USDA Grade Choice or better
Pork	U.S. No. 1 or U.S. No. 2
Poultry	USDA Grade A
Seafood	Top grade, frozen fish must be a nationally distributed brand, packed
	under continuous inspection of USDA
Dairy Products	All dairy products must be USDA inspected.
Fresh Eggs	USDA Grade A or equivalent, 100% candled
Frozen Eggs	USDA inspected
Milk	Pasteurized Grade A
Fruits and Vegetables	
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	Selected according to written specifications for freshness, quality, and color – U.S Grade A Fancy
Canned Fruits & Vegetables	U.S Grade A Choice or Fancy (fruit to be packed in light syrup or natural juices)
Frozen Fruits & Vegetables	U.S Grade A Choice or better
Staple Groceries	To be a quality commensurate with previously listed standards.
Baked Products	
Bread, rolls, cookies, pies, cakes and pudding either prepared or baked on premises or purchased	Must have a quality level commensurate with meeting USDA breakfast and lunch requirements as applicable

Menus

Vendor will J	provide meals o	on the following d	ays of the week:	
Monday	Tuesday] Wednesday 🗌	Thursday 🗌 Friday 🗌 Saturday 🗌 Sund	ay
Breakfast:	Hot	Cold	Hot and Cold	
Lunch:	Hot	Cold	Hot and Cold	

Vendor will initially supply vended meals in accordance with the cycle menu included in the bid that Vendor submits to the SFA in response to this IFB.

Form #251 February 2023

SFA requires that subsequent menus will be:

Provided by Vendor and

prepared on a weekly bi-weekly monthly basis

at least 🗌 5 Days 🗌 10 Days 🗌 30 Days in advance of their effective dates.

OR

Provided by the SFA and

prepared on a weekly bi-weekly monthly basis

at least \Box 5 Days \Box 10 Days \Box 30 Days in advance of their effective dates.

Menu Substitutions

For all meals provided: In the event of a one-day school closing due to inclement weather or an emergency, Vendor may choose to provide that day's scheduled meal on the next day. Additionally, Vendor may choose to provide a substitution to a meal component as long as Vendor first notifies the SFA of the substitution. All substitutions shall meet all meal pattern requirements.

Delivery

SFA requires the following:

Vendor will deliver vended meals in separate, suitable transport containers for each meal type to each SFA vended site indicated on List of SFA Schools Receiving Vended Meals.

OR

Vendor will package vended meals in separate, suitable transport containers for each meal type <u>to be picked</u> <u>up</u> <u>by the SFA</u>.

OR

Vendor will deliver bulk quantities of frozen meals/meal components.

If Vendor is delivering meals, Vendor will be responsible for the condition and care of vended meals, including maintaining the proper temperature of meal components, until the SFA accepts delivery. Vendor will prepare a daily delivery receipt for each SFA vended site. An authorized SFA representative will count and verify all vended meals upon receipt at each SFA vended site and note any discrepancies on the daily delivery receipt.

OR

If the SFA is picking up meals, Vendor will be responsible for the condition and care of vended meals, including maintaining the proper temperature of meal components, until picked up by the SFA. Vendor will prepare a daily delivery receipt and an authorized SFA representative will count and verify all vended meals at pick up and note any discrepancies on the daily delivery receipt.

- The SFA school calendar will be provided to Vendor prior to the start of the school year/contract.
- Ordering and delivery schedules will be developed to the mutual agreement of both the SFA and Vendor. Contact persons, ordering procedures, ordering times and dates will be established.
- Meal order adjustments and cancellations (snow days, delayed openings) will be coordinated between the SFA and Vendor within mutually agreed upon timeframes.

Packaging

SFA requires the vendor to provide the following:

Vendor will provide all vended meals as pre-plated individual, unitized meals packaged in containers suitable for transport and adhering to Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) requirements.

AND/OR

Vendor will provide vended meals in bulk quantities, delivered in containers suitable for transport and adhering to HACCP requirements and accompanied by written instructions listing the planned portion size to be served of each food component in order to meet the applicable meal pattern requirements.

All vended meals supplied by Vendor will include the following*:

Eating utensils

Condiments

□ None

Paper goods

Serving utensils

Steam Table Pans

Disposable Meal Trays

Other (specify):

Equipment (specify):

Type of Equipment	Number of Units

*The cost of all items checked above must be incorporated in the per meal amount. Any rental or lease agreements for equipment cannot be charged as a separate cost.

Meals and Serving Days

MENU PATTERN AND GRADE GROUP	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF MEALS PER DAY	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SERVING DAYS	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF MEALS PER YEAR
BREAKFAST:			
Grades Pre-K-5			
Grades Pre-K-8			
Grades 6-8			
Grades 9-12			
Totals:			
LUNCH:			
Grades Pre-K-5			
Grades Pre-K-8			
Grades 6-8			
Grades 9-12			
Totals:			

The following number of meals and serving days are anticipated:

AFTER SCHOOL SNACK:			
---------------------	--	--	--

Vendor will submit a written invoice to the SFA at the beginning of each calendar month listing the numbers and types of vended meals provided on each day of the preceding month, the monthly total for each type of vended meal provided, and their respective unit prices. The SFA will make payment to Vendor within \square 30 Days \square 45 Days \square 60 Days.

The SFA will not pay for vended meals that are spoiled or unwholesome at the time of delivery or that otherwise fail to meet the terms of this contract.

Recordkeeping and Availability of Records

SFA requires the following:

A. Production Records:

Vendor will provide daily production records. Vendor will complete all applicable sections. The SFA will be responsible for completing sections pertaining to HACCP and meal service on site.

February 2023

The SFA will complete daily production records. Vendor must provide all of the information required for the SFA to complete the records.

- B. Vendor will keep and maintain all HACCP food safety records, including HACCP process, and time and temperature monitoring.
- C. Vendor will provide records relating to vended meals as needed, including but not limited to, the following: recipes, nutrition fact labels, manufacturer product formulation statements and/or child nutrition (CN) labels for all menu items served as a part of the reimbursable vended meals.
- D. Vendor agrees to grant the SFA, the New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Inspectors General, the Comptroller General of the United States and its State counterparts, or any of their duly authorized representatives, access to any books, documents, papers and other records of the Vendor which are directly pertinent to this contract, for the purpose of making audit, examination, excerpts and transcripts; and shall provide timely and reasonable access to Vendor personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents. Vendor shall retain all records required or necessary under this contract for a period of three years from the date of final payment hereunder; except that in the event of litigation, claims, or audit findings, the records must be retained until all litigation, claims and audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. Vendor will adhere to all additional exceptions, if applicable, as required by State and Federal law. Vendor shall maintain all documentation related to products, transactions or services under this contract for a period of five years from the date of final payment. Such records shall be made available to the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller upon request.

Health and Sanitation

Vendor will maintain applicable state and local health certifications for all facilities in which meals are prepared for the SFA and will provide the SFA with a copy of current Health and Sanitation Certificate (within the last twelve (12) months) and Food Safety Inspection Reports for all production facilities. All food will be properly stored, prepared, packaged and transported free of contamination and at appropriate temperatures.

Vendor will provide the SFA with a copy of its current License to Operate a Wholesale Food-Cosmetic Establishment in New Jersey. (N.J.S.A. 24:15-14)

Vendor will follow applicable HACCP procedures in the preparation and delivery of vended meals for the SFA.

Additional Vendor Responsibilities

Vendor agrees to comply with the following regulatory requirements, if applicable:

- A. The Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, P.L. 87-581, as supplemented by U.S. Department of Labor regulations, 29 CFR Part 5 [contracts in excess of \$100,000 which involve employment of mechanics or laborers].
- B. The Clean Air Act (42 USC section 7401 *et seq.*), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 USC section 1351 et seq.), Executive Order 11738, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations (40 CFR Part 15) [contracts in excess of \$100,000].
- C. Mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency which are contained in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201).
- D. All applicable certification requirements under 31 USC section 1352, and the Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment 45 CFR section 2543.87 [contracts in excess of \$100,000], guaranteeing that it has not used federal funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, in connection with obtaining the contract, grant or any other award.
- E. Affirmative steps to assure that small and minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible as a source of suppliers in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.
- F. All applicable Equal Employment Opportunity regulations and orders under 41 CFR Part 60, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor, and Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375.

- G. Vendor has provided the NJDA a copy of a valid New Jersey Business Registration Certificate from the Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services [DORES] or Certificate of Business Formation (for vendors contracting with Non-Public SFAs only).
- H. Vendor has provided the NJDA a copy of the current Sanitation Certificate for each location where meals are prepared
- I. Vendor has provided the NJDA a copy of the current Wholesale Food-Cosmetic License
- J. Vendor has registered with the NJDA and is included on the New Jersey School Nutrition Programs Commercial Vendor List

Nonperformance or Noncompliance

In the event of Vendor's nonperformance under this contract and/or its violation or breach of the contract terms, including liability for payment of fiscal action resulting from federal and/or state reviews or audits, the SFA shall have the right to pursue all administrative, contractual, and legal remedies against Vendor and shall have the right to seek all sanctions and penalties as may be appropriate. Any Vendor liability, where found, will extend beyond the term of the contract.

Termination

The SFA or Vendor may cancel this contract for cause by giving sixty (60) days' written notification to the other party, including instances when Vendor is taken over by another entity or Vendor is sold to another entity.

The SFA or Vendor may terminate this contract at any time if it is prevented from fulfilling the terms of the contract due to war, strike, fire, flood, act of God, or any act not within its control and which, by the exercise of due diligence, it was unable to prevent. In such event, the SFA or Vendor, as the case may be, shall give written notice to the other party setting forth the reason for and the effective date of termination. Neither party shall be liable for any loss or penalty upon such termination, except that the SFA shall pay Vendor for vended meals delivered in accordance with this contract prior to the termination date.

Assignment

Neither this contract nor any of the rights, interests or obligations under the contract shall be assigned or transferred, in whole or in part, by operation of law or otherwise by either party without the prior written consent of the other party. An assignment or transfer made without prior written consent shall be void.

Political Contribution Disclosure [all contracts in the amount of \$17,500 or greater]

Included in the bid/bid submitted to the SFA for award of this contract, Vendor signed and submitted a Political Contribution Disclosure Form in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26. During the term of this contract, Vendor and any person or business entity having an interest in Vendor, shall not make any contribution reportable under N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 *et seq.* to any member of the board of education of the SFA.

Debarment / Suspension Certificate

Included in the bid/proposal submitted to the SFA for award of this contract, Vendor signed and submitted a Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion. Vendor shall provide immediate written notice to the SFA if it learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous due to changed circumstances.

Certificate of Independent Price Determination

Prior to entering into this contract, the SFA and Vendor executed a Certificate of Independent Price Determination, certifying that the prices in the offer have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication or agreement

February 2023 for the purpose of restricting competition. The Certificate of Independent Price Determination shall be kept on file with the signed contract at the SFA.

Form #251

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Included in the bid/proposal submitted to the SFA for award of this contract, Vendor signed and submitted a Certification Regarding Lobbying and, if applicable, a Standard Form LLL – Disclosure of Lobbying Activities. During the term of this contract, Vendor shall file with the SFA a Standard Form LLL – Disclosure of Lobbying Activities at the end of each calendar quarter in which any event occurs that requires disclosure or that materially affects the accuracy of the information contained in any disclosure form previously submitted by Vendor.

Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran

Prior to entering into this contract, Vendor signed and submitted a Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran, pursuant to P.L. 2012, c. 25 (N.J.S.A. 52-32-55, *et. seq.*),to certify that neither Vendor, nor any of its parents, subsidiaries and/or affiliates is on the list developed by the New Jersey Department of Treasury's List of Persons or Entities Engaging in Prohibited Investment Activities in Iran.

Buy American

- A. Vendor shall purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products which are an agricultural commodity produced in the United States (U.S.) or a food product processed in the U.S. substantially using agricultural commodities produced in the U.S.
- B. The SFA reserves the right to review Vendor purchase records to ensure compliance with the Buy American provision.
- C. Vendor shall be required to use alternative domestic foods first before requesting SFA approval to purchase non-domestic foods.
- D. All exceptions to the Buy American requirement must be pre-approved by the SFA and should be used as a last resort. Exceptions must be requested by the Vendor for approval by the SFA prior to a purchase when:
 - a. The food or food product is not produced or manufactured in the U.S. in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality; or
 - b. Competitive bids reveal the cost of a U.S. food or food product is significantly higher than the non-domestic product.
- E. Requests for exceptions shall include:
 - a. Alternative food and food product substitutes that are domestic and meet the required specifications, including:
 - i. The price of the domestic food product alternative substitute(s); and
 - ii. The availability of the domestic food product alternative substitute(s) in relation to the quantity ordered; and
 - b. The reason for the exception (limited supply, lack of availability or price) including:
 - i. The price of the domestic food product; and
 - ii. The price of the non-domestic food product that meets the required specifications of the domestic food product.

Governing Law

The contract shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New Jersey.

Entire Understanding

The Agreement will constitute the entire understanding among the Parties and will supersede all prior or contemporaneous understandings, whether oral or written. In the event that any provision contained in the contract should conflict with any attachment, the provisions of the contract shall control.

LIST OF SFA SCHOOLS RECEIVING VENDED MEALS

	SCHOOL NAME & ADDRESS	SCHOOL TYPE	MEAL PATTERN GRADE GROUP	VENDED MEALS PROVIDED
SCHOOL NAME SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS SCHOOL CITY SCHOOL ZIP		 Elementary Middle High School Ungraded 	 Grades K-5 Grades K-8 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12 	 Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack
SCHOOL NAME SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS SCHOOL CITY SCHOOL ZIP		 Elementary Middle High School Ungraded 	 Grades K-5 Grades K-8 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12 	 Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack
SCHOOL NAME SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS SCHOOL CITY SCHOOL ZIP		 Elementary Middle High School Ungraded 	 Grades K-5 Grades K-8 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12 	 Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack
SCHOOL NAME SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS SCHOOL CITY SCHOOL ZIP		 Elementary Middle High School Ungraded 	 Grades K-5 Grades K-8 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12 	 Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack
SCHOOL NAME SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS SCHOOL CITY SCHOOL ZIP		 Elementary Middle High School Ungraded 	 Grades K-5 Grades K-8 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12 	 Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack
SCHOOL NAME SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS SCHOOL CITY SCHOOL ZIP		 Elementary Middle High School Ungraded 	 Grades K-5 Grades K-8 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12 	 Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack
SCHOOL NAME SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS SCHOOL CITY SCHOOL ZIP		 Elementary Middle High School Ungraded 	 Grades K-5 Grades K-8 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12 	 Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack
SCHOOL NAME SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS SCHOOL CITY SCHOOL ZIP		 Elementary Middle High School Ungraded 	 Grades K-5 Grades K-8 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12 	 Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack

The SFA will give Vendor advance written notice of any change to the sites or other information listed above.

IFB MODIFICATION REQUEST

Any changes to this IFB document in the form of additional requirements or specifications must be detailed here. Clearly identify the page, section name, and letter/number of the area of this IFB you want to change. Include any additional or more detailed documentation.

Page	Section Name	Letter/Number	

Page	Section Name		Letter/Number	
------	--------------	--	---------------	--

Page	Section Name	Letter/Number

Bid Pricing Sheet

Vendor must complete and return with bid.

Vendor Name: _____

Vendor Authorized Signature: _____

Meal Type	Grade Level	Price per Meal
Breakfast	Pre-K-5	
Breakfast	Pre-K-8	
Breakfast	6-8	
Breakfast	9-12	

Meal Type	Grade Level	Price per Meal
Lunch	Pre-K-5	
Lunch	Pre-K-8	
Lunch	6-8	
Lunch	9-12	

Meal Type	Grade Level	Price per Meal
After School Snack	Pre-K-12	

SFA Additional Documents

Attach the following:

- Federal Forms (Required)
- Food specifications (Optional)
- School Calendar (Optional)
- Meal Patterns (Optional)