

**SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
(RFQ)**

RFQ 25-03

Mental Health Counseling Services (10 months)

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Counseling Services (12 months)

Youth Development Specialist (10 months)

**Raelene Sipple
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

**Submission Date:
Wednesday, May 7, 2025
11: 00 a.m.**

**SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY 08807**

Legal Advertisement

Request for Qualifications

The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education hereby advertises for competitive proposals for

RFQ -25-03

LINKAGES SCHOOL BASED COMMUNITY CONTRACTS

Somerset County Vocational Board of Education
Mental Health Counseling Services, Substance Abuse/Mental Health
Counseling Services, Youth Development Specialist

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

All necessary RFQ specifications and qualifications forms may be secured upon written request to:

Raelene Sipple

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Somerset County Vocational Board of Education
14 Vogt Drive, PO Box 6350
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807
Email: RSIPPLE@SCVTS.NET

RFQs must be submitted in a sealed envelope and delivered to the Office of the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary of Somerset County Vocational Board of Education, **on or before** the date and time indicated below. The envelope is to bear the following information:

Title: **LINKAGES SCHOOL BASED COMMUNITY CONTRACTS**
RFQ No.: **RFQ 25-03**
Name and Address Respondent:
RFQ Due Date: **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**
RFQ Deadline Time: **11:00 a.m.**

All respondents are required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any proposals, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2(s), (t), (x), (y), N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4(a-c), and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22, and to waive minor informalities or non-material exceptions, that may be in the best interest of the Board.

Raelene Sipple
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

ETHICS IN PURCHASING

Statement to Vendors

SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY

Recommendation of Purchases

It is the desire of the Board of Education to have all Board employees and officials practice exemplary ethical behavior in the procurement of goods, materials, supplies, and services.

School district officials and employees who recommend purchases shall not extend any favoritism to any vendor. Each recommended purchase should be based upon the quality of the items, service, price, delivery, and other applicable factors in full compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

Solicitation/Receipt of Gifts – Prohibited

School district officials and employees are prohibited from soliciting and receiving funds, gifts, materials, goods, services, favors, and any other items of value from vendors doing business with the Board of Education or anyone proposing to do business with the Board.

VENDOR RESPONSIBILITY

Offer of Gifts, Gratuities -- Prohibited

Any vendor doing business or proposing to do business with the Board of Education, shall neither pay, offer to pay, either directly or indirectly, any fee, commission, or compensation, nor offer any gift, gratuity, or other things of value of any kind to any official or employee of the Board of Education or any member of the official's or employee's immediate family.

Vendor Influence -- Prohibited

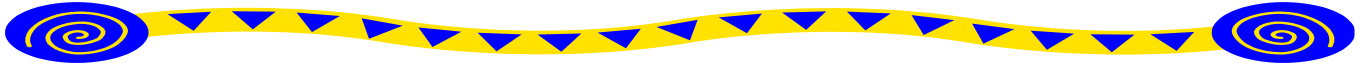
No vendor shall cause to influence or attempt to cause to influence, any official or employee of the Board of Education, in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment of said official or employee.

VENDOR CERTIFICATION

Vendors or potential vendors will be asked to certify that no official or employee of the Board of Education or immediate family members are directly or indirectly interested in this request or have any interest in any portions of profits thereof. The vendor participating in this request must be an independent vendor and not an official or employee of the Board of Education.

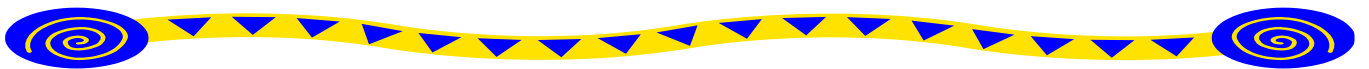
Raelene Sipple

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**GENERAL
SPECIFICATIONS**



Raelene Sipple
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

RFQ -25-03

Linkages School Based Community Contracts

Somerset County Vocational Board of Education
Mental Health Counseling Services, Substance Abuse/Mental Health
Counseling Services, Youth Development Specialist

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Instructions for Respondents

QUALIFICATIONS ARE

TO BE SUBMITTED TO:

Raelene Sipple

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Somerset County Vocational Board of Education
14 Vogt Drive, PO Box 6350
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

BY: 11:00 a.m. PREVAILING TIME

ON: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope and may be submitted by mail, delivery service, or in person.

Proposals must be placed in a *sealed* envelope/package and clearly marked with the **Title of qualifications** on the front of the envelope/package. Proposals ***must be*** submitted in ***duplicate*** on the submittal forms as provided, and in the manner designated. The Board requires one original and one duplicate copy of the qualifications package.

Envelope Label Information

All respondents are to clearly label the cover of the sealed envelope as follows:

Title:

Linkages School Based Community Contracts
Somerset County Vocational Board of Education
Mental Health Counseling Services, Substance Abuse/Mental Health
Counseling Services, Youth Development Specialist

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

RFQ Number

RFQ 25-03

Name and Address Respondent

RFQ Due Date:

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

RFQ Deadline Time:

11:00 a.m.

Failure to properly label the qualifications envelope may lead to the rejection of the proposal!

The Board of Education does not accept electronic (e-mail) submissions of proposals at this time.

1. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION—EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

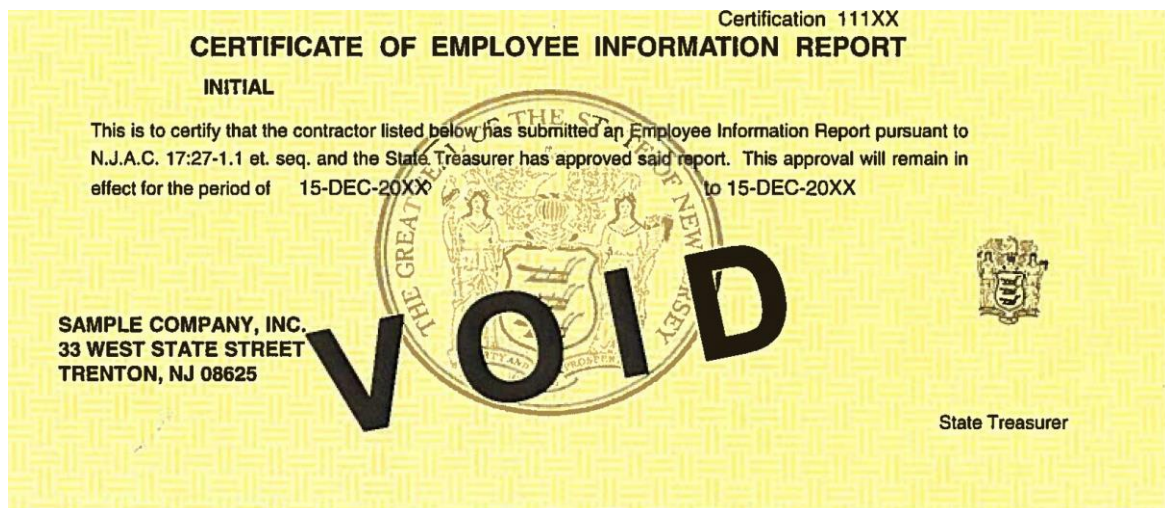
Each company shall submit to the Board of Education, after notification of award, but prior to execution of a goods and services contract, one of the following three (3) documents:

- Appropriate evidence that the contractor is operating under an existing federally approved or sanctioned affirmative action program;
- A certificate of Employee Information Report approval issued in accordance with N.J.A.C.17:27-4; or
- The successful bidder (respondent) shall complete an Employee Information Report, Form AA-302, and submit it to the Division of Purchase and Property Contract Compliance and Audit Unit with a check or money order for \$150.00 made payable to the Treasurer, State of NJ and forward a copy of the form and check/money order to the board of education. Upon submission and review by the Division, the Report shall constitute evidence of compliance with the regulations.

Please note: A completed and signed Affirmative Action Questionnaire is requested with the submission of the proposal. However, the Board will accept in lieu of the Questionnaire, Affirmative Action Evidence in the form of a current Certificate of Employee Information Report submitted with the proposal.

If awarded a contract your company/firm will be required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq., and the terms and conditions of the Mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity Language—Exhibit A.

Sample Certificate of Employee Information Report



All respondents are requested to submit with their response, a copy of their firm's Certificate of Employee Information Report. Failure to submit the Certificate or other required documents prior to the award of the contract will result in the rejection of the qualifications.

2. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The contractor must comply with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), P.L 101-336, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. S121 01 et seq.

3. AMERICAN GOODS (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-20)

The District intends to purchase, wherever available, and practical, goods and materials manufactured in the United States

4. ANTI-BULLYING BILL OF RIGHTS—REPORTING OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING CONTRACTED SERVICE PROVIDER

When applicable, the contracted service provider shall comply with all applicable provisions of the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act—N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.1 et seq., all applicable code and regulations, and the Anti-Bullying Policy of the Board of Education. The district shall provide to the contracted service provider a copy of the board's Anti-Bullying Policy. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7 (c), a contracted service provider, who has witnessed, or has reliable information that a student has been subject to harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall immediately report the incident to any school administrator or safe schools resource officer, or the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

5. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS—N.J.S.A. 10:2-1

N.J.S.A. 10:2-1. Anti-discrimination provisions. Every contract for or on behalf of the State or any county or municipality or other political subdivision of the State, or any agency of or authority created by any of the foregoing, for the construction, alteration or repair of any public building or public work or the acquisition of materials, equipment, supplies or services shall contain provisions by which the contractor agrees:

a. In the hiring of persons for the performance of work under this contract or any subcontract hereunder, or for the procurement, manufacture, assembling or furnishing of any such materials, equipment, supplies or services to be acquired under this contract, no contractor, nor any person acting on behalf of such contractor or subcontractor, shall, by reason of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation or sex, discriminate against any person who is qualified and available to perform the work to which the employment relates;

b. No contractor, subcontractor, nor any person on his behalf shall, in any manner, discriminate against or intimidate any employee engaged in the performance of work under this contract or any subcontract hereunder, or engaged in the procurement, manufacture, assembling or furnishing of any such materials, equipment, supplies or services to be acquired under such contract, on account of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation or sex;

c. There may be deducted from the amount payable to the contractor by the contracting public agency, under this contract, a penalty of \$50.00 for each person for each calendar day during which such person is discriminated against or intimidated in violation of the provisions of the contract; and

d. This contract may be canceled or terminated by the contracting public agency, and all money due or to become due hereunder may be forfeited, for any violation of this section of the contract occurring after notice to the contractor from the contracting public agency of any prior violation of this section of the contract.

No provision in this section shall be construed to prevent a board of education from designating that a contract, subcontract, or other means of procurement of goods, services, equipment, or construction shall be awarded to a small business enterprise, minority business enterprise, or a women's business enterprise pursuant to P.L.[1985, c.490](#) (C.18A:18A-51 et seq.).

6. AWARD OF CONTRACT; RESOLUTION; NUMBER OF DAYS

Any contract awarded under this process shall be made by resolution of the Board of Education. The award must be made within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the proposals, however subject to extension pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-36 (a).

7. BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (N.J.S.A. 52:32-44)

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, the Board of Education is prohibited from entering into a contract with an entity unless the bidder/proposer/contractor and each subcontractor that is required by law to be named in a proposal/contract have a valid Business Registration Certificate on file with the Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services within the Department of the Treasury.

Request of the Board of Education

All bidders or companies providing responses for requested proposals are requested to submit with their response package a copy of their "New Jersey Business Registration Certificate" as issued by the Department of Treasury of the State of New Jersey.

The Board reminds all respondents that failure to submit the New Jersey Business Registration Certificate prior to the award of the contract will result in the rejection of the proposal.

Subcontractors

Prior to contract award or authorization, the contractor shall provide the Contracting Agency with its proof of business registration and that of any named subcontractor(s).

Subcontractors named in a bid or other qualifications shall provide proof of business registration to the bidder, who in turn, shall provide it to the Contracting Agency prior to the time a contract, purchase order, or other contracting document is awarded or authorized.

During the course of contract performance:

1. The contractor shall not enter into a contract with a subcontractor unless the subcontractor first provides the contractor with valid proof of business registration.
2. The contractor shall maintain and submit to the Contracting Agency a list of subcontractors and their addresses that may be updated from time to time.
3. The contractor and any subcontractor providing goods or performing services under the contract, and each of their affiliates, shall collect and remit to the Director of the Division of Taxation in the Department of the Treasury, the use tax due pursuant to the Sales and Use Tax Act, (N.J.S.A. 54:32B-1 et seq.) on all sales of tangible personal property delivered into the State.

Before final payment is made under the contract, the contractor shall submit to the board, a complete and accurate list of all subcontractors used and their addresses.

N.J.S.A. 54:49-4.1: Violations of Registration Requirements; Penalties.

A business organization that fails to provide a copy of a business registration as required pursuant to section 1 of P.L. [2001, c.134](#) (C.52:32-44 et al.) or subsection e. or f. of section 92 of P.L. [1977, c.110](#) (C.5:12-92), or that provides false information of business registration under the requirements of either of those sections, shall be liable for a penalty of \$25 for each day of violation, not to exceed \$50,000 for

each business registration copy not properly provided under a contract with a contracting agency or under a casino service industry enterprise contract.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
FOR STATE AGENCY AND CASINO SERVICE CONTRACTORS

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
DIVISION OF REVENUE
PO BOX 252
TRENTON, N.J. 08646-0252

TAXPAYER NAME:
TAX REGISTRATION TEST ACCOUNT

TRADE NAME:
CLIENT REGISTRATION

TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION#:
970-097-382/500

SEQUENCE NUMBER:
0107530

ADDRESS:
847 ROEBLING AVE
TRENTON NJ 08611

ISSUANCE DATE:
07/14/04

EFFECTIVE DATE:
01/01/01

FORM-BRC(08-01)

This Certificate is NOT assignable or transferable. It must be conspicuously displayed at above address.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

Taxpayer Name: TAX REG TEST ACCOUNT

Trade Name:

Address: 847 ROEBLING AVE
TRENTON, NJ 08611

Certificate Number: 1093907

Date of Issuance: October 14, 2004

For Office Use Only:
20041014112823533

Sample Business Registration Certificates

8. CERTIFICATE (CONSENT) OF SURETY ☐ REQUIRED ☒ NOT REQUIRED

When required, each respondent shall submit with its qualifications a certificate from a surety company stating that the surety company will provide the contractor with a performance bond in an amount equal to the amount of the contract (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-25). Such a surety company must be licensed and qualified to do business in the State of New Jersey. The certificate (consent) of Surety, together with a power of attorney, must be submitted with the proposal.

Failure to complete, submit or sign the Certificate (consent) of Surety, when requested, shall be cause for disqualification and rejection of the proposal.

9. CONTRACTOR/VENDOR REQUIREMENTS—ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

Contractors/vendors doing business with the board of education are reminded of the following legal requirements pertaining to the Office of the New Jersey State Comptroller:

- Access to Relevant Documents and Information—N.J.S.A. 52:15C-14 (d)**

Private vendors or other persons contracting with or receiving funds from a unit in the Executive branch of State government, including an entity exercising executive branch authority, independent State authority, public institution of higher education, or unit of local government or board of education shall upon request by the State Comptroller provide the State Comptroller with prompt access to all relevant

documents and information as a condition of the contract and receipt of public monies. The State Comptroller shall not disclose any document or information to which access is provided that is confidential or proprietary.

If the State Comptroller finds that any person receiving funds from a unit in the Executive branch of State government, including an entity exercising executive branch authority, independent State authority, public institution of higher education, or unit of local government or board of education refuses to provide information upon the request of the State Comptroller, or otherwise impedes or fails to cooperate with any audit or performance review, the State Comptroller may recommend to the contracting unit that the person be subject to termination of their contract, or temporarily or permanently debarred from contracting with the contracting unit.

- **Maintenance of Contract Records—N.J.A.C. 17:44-2.2**

Relevant records of private vendors or other persons entering into contracts with covered entities are subject to audit or review by OSC pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:15C-14(d).

The contractor/vendor to whom a contract has been awarded 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.

- **Board of Education Requirement**

In addition to, and independent of, the requirements of N.J.S.A. 52:15C-14 (d) and N.J.A.C. 17:44-2.2, the Contractor shall also maintain and make any or all books and records related to products transactions or services rendered under this contract, available to the Board of Education upon request.

10. CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS/DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

When required, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1, providers for the services of this contract shall submit to the school district prior to commencement of the contract, evidence or proof that each employee assigned to provide services and that comes in **regular contact with students**, has had a criminal history background check, and furthermore, that said background check indicates that no criminal history record information exists on file for that worker. Failure to provide proof of criminal history background check for any employee whose position involves regular **contact with students**, prior to commencement of contact, may be cause for breach of contract.

If it is discovered during the course of the contract that an employee has a disqualifying criminal history or the employee has not had a criminal history background check, that employee is to be removed from the as a service provider immediately.

All contracted service providers shall comply with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq., as it pertains to disclosure of information from previous employers, and NJDOE Broadcast September 9, 2019, when applicable.

11. DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, OR DISQUALIFICATION N.J.S.A. 52:32-44.1 (a), N.J.A.C. 17:19-1.1 et seq.

The Board of Education will not enter into a contract for work with any person, company or firm that is on the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Prevailing Wage Debarment List, or the State of New Jersey Consolidated Debarment Report (www.state.nj.us/treasury/debarred). Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44.1 (a), any person that is debarred at the federal level from contracting with a federal government agency shall be debarred from contracting for any public work in this State.

All respondents are required to certify on the Contractor/Vendor Questionnaire and Certification form, indicating whether the entity listed on the qualifications form or any person employed by this entity, nor the person's affiliates are not debarred from contracting with a federal government agency, nor debarred from contracting with the State of New Jersey. The Board of Education will verify the certification by consulting

- New Jersey Department of Treasury – Consolidated Debarment Report
- NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development– Prevailing Wage Debarment List
- Federal Debarred Vendor List—System for Award Management (SAM.gov/exclusions)

12. DOCUMENTS, MISSING/ILLEGIBLE

The respondent shall familiarize himself with all forms* provided by the Board that are to be returned with the proposal. If there are any forms either missing or illegible, it is the responsibility of the respondent to contact the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary for duplicate copies of the forms. This must be done before the qualifications opening date and time. The Board accepts no responsibility for duplicate forms that were not received by the respondent in time for the respondent to submit his proposal.

13. DOCUMENT SIGNATURES – ORIGINAL; BLUE INK

All documents returned to the Board shall be signed with an original signature in ink (blue). Failure to sign and return all required documents with the qualifications package may be cause for disqualification and for the qualifications to be rejected pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2(y) (non-responsive). Facsimile, rubber-stamped, electronic or digital signatures are not acceptable.

*Forms provided by the Board of Education must be returned with the proposal.

- Acknowledgment of Addenda
- Affirmative Action Questionnaire or Certificate of Employee Information Report
- Assurance of Compliance;
- Chapter 271 – Political Contribution Disclosure Form
- Vendor Questionnaire and Certification
- Non-Collusion Affidavit
- Qualifications Form
- Statement of Ownership Disclosure

14. EXAMINATION OF SPECIFICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The respondent, by submitting a proposal, acknowledges that he has carefully examined the proposal specifications, documents, addenda (if any), and the site; and that from his investigation, he has satisfied himself as to the nature and location of the work, the general and local conditions and all matters which may in any way affect the work or its performance, and that as a result of such examination, he fully understands the intent and purpose thereof, his obligations thereunder, and that he will not make any claim for, or have any right to damages, because of the lack of any information.

Each respondent submitting qualifications for a service contract shall include in his qualifications price all labor, materials, equipment, services, and other requirements necessary, or incidental to, the completion of the work, and other pertinent work as hereinafter described, in accordance with the qualifications specifications and documents.

15. FALSE MATERIAL REPRESENTATION – N.J.S.A. 2C:21-34-97(b)/TRUTH IN CONTRACTING

A person commits a crime if the person knowingly makes a material representation that is false in connection with the negotiation, award or performance of a government contract. If the contract amount is for \$25,000.00 or above, the offender is guilty of a crime of the second degree. If the contract amount exceeds \$2,500.00 but is less than \$25,000.00, the offender is guilty of a crime of the third degree. If the contract amount is \$2,500.00 or less, the offender is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

Respondent should be aware of the following statutes that represent “Truth in Contracting” laws:

- N.J.S.A. 2C:21-34, et seq. governs false claims and representations by bidders. It is a serious crime for the bidder to knowingly submit a false claim and/or knowingly make a material misrepresentation.
- N.J.S.A. 2C:27-10 provides that a person commits a crime if said person offers a benefit to a public servant for an official act performed or to be performed by a public servant, which is a violation of official duty.
- N.J.S.A. 2C:27-11 provides that a bidder commits a crime if said person, directly or indirectly, confers or agrees to confer any benefit not allowed by law to a public servant.
- Respondents should consult the statutes or legal counsel for further information.

16. FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND BONDING REQUIREMENTS

Please note The name, address, and phone number of the Bond Underwriter as well as the Bond Number shall be included with all bonds submitted to the Board of Education.

Financial Guarantee ☐ REQUIRED ☒ NOT REQUIRED

Each proposal, when required, shall be accompanied by a bid bond, cashier’s check or certified check for ten percent (10%) of the amount of the total contract, but not in excess of \$20,000 (twenty-thousand dollars). This guarantee shall be made payable to the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education. Such deposit shall be forfeited upon refusal of a respondent to execute a contract; otherwise, checks shall be returned when the contract is executed. The financial guarantee check for unsuccessful respondents will be returned as soon after the qualifications opening as possible but in no event later than (10) days after the qualifications opening.

Uncertified business checks, personal checks or money orders are not acceptable.

All bid bonds submitted must be signed and witnessed with original signatures. The Board will not accept facsimile or rubber stamp signatures on the bid bond. Failure to sign the bid bond by either the Surety or Principal shall be deemed cause for disqualification of the proposal. The Attorney-in-Fact who executes the bond on behalf of the surety shall affix to the bond a certified and current copy of the Power of Attorney.

The Board of Education will only accept bid bonds from companies that are licensed and qualified to do business in the State of New Jersey. Such a list may be available upon request to the State of New Jersey, Department of Banking and Insurance, CN 325, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

Failure to submit or failure to sign the financial guarantee, when required, shall be cause for disqualification and rejection of the proposal.

17. FORCE MAJEURE

Neither party shall be liable in damages for any failure, hindrance or delay in the performance of any obligation under this Agreement if such delay, hindrance or failure to perform is caused by conditions beyond the control of either party, including, but not limited to, Acts of God, flood, fire, war or the public enemy, explosion, government regulations whether or not valid (including the denial or cancellation of any export or other necessary license), court order, state funding, or other unavoidable causes beyond the reasonable control of the party whose performance is affected which cannot be overcome by due diligence.

Vendors, and/or contractors who have a contract with the Board of Education to provide goods or services cannot unilaterally claim an increase in the cost of the contract because of Force Majeure.

18. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- **Authorization to Proceed -- Successful Vendor/Contractor**

No service shall be rendered by the successful contractor unless the vendor/contractor receives an approved purchase order authorizing the vendor/contractor to render the service.

- **Award of Contract**

It is the intention of the Board of Education to award the contract to the respondent(s) whose response is the most advantageous to the board, price and other factors considered, and who will provide the highest quality service at fair and competitive prices. The Board reserves the right to award contracts to multiple contractors when it is in the best interests of the Board.

- **Return of Contract Documents—when required**

Upon notification of the award of the contract by the Board of Education, the contractor may be required to sign and execute a formal contract with the Board.

- **Purchase Order—considered to be a contract. N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 (n)**

If a formal contract is not required by the Board of Education, an approved and signed Board of Education Purchase Order will constitute a contractual agreement.

When a formal contract is required, the contractor shall sign and execute said contracts and return the contracts with other required documents to the Office of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. Failure to execute the contract and return said contract and related documents within the prescribed time may be cause for a delay in payment for services rendered or products received or the annulment of the award by the Board of Education with any financial security becoming the property of the Board of Education. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept the qualifications of the next lowest responsible respondent.

- **Renewal of Contract; Availability and Appropriation of Funds—When Applicable**

The Board of Education may, at its discretion, request that a contract for certain services be renewed in full accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, may negotiate terms for a renewal of the contract qualifications and present such negotiated qualifications to the Board of Education. All multi-year contracts and contract renewals are subject to the availability and appropriation annually of sufficient funds as may be needed to meet the extended obligation.

The Board of Education is the final authority in awarding renewals of contracts. Contracts for professional services may be awarded only for twelve (12) months and cannot be renewed.

- **Term of Contract**

The successful respondent, to whom the contract is awarded, will be required to do and perform the work/services and to provide and furnish the materials in connection therewith in accordance with the plans and specifications on or before the date listed in the Technical Specifications.

- **Purchase Order Required; Notice to Proceed**

No contractor or vendor shall commence any project or deliver any goods until he is in receipt of an approved purchase order authorizing work to begin or goods to be delivered.

19. INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION_ ☒ REQUIRED ☐ NOT REQUIRED

When required by the Board of Education, the vendor/contractor to whom the contract is awarded for any service, work, or supplying of goods, shall secure, pay the premiums for and keep in force until the contract expires, insurance of the types and amounts listed below:

- Commercial General Liability with a \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000 General Aggregate per each occurrence for Bodily Injury, Personal and Advertising Injury, Property Damage and Products Liability.
- Automobile Liability with a \$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit of Liability for Bodily Injury and Property Damage per accident.
- Cyber Security and Privacy Liability with a \$1,000,000 per occurrence or claim.

Other Insurance Coverage

\$ 100,000 Pollution Cleanup

\$ 50,000 Fire Damage

\$ 5,000 Medical Expense

\$4,000,000 Excess Umbrella Liability

\$1,000,000 Sexual Harassment, Abuse or Molestation

Insurance Certificate – When Required

When required, the vendor/contractor must present to the Board of Education an insurance certificate in the above types and amounts before any work or service begins.

Automobile liability insurance shall be included to cover any vehicle used by the insured.

The certificate holder shall be as follows:

Somerset County Vocational Board of Education
c/o School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
14 Vogt Drive, PO Box 6350
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

Additional Insured Claim -- The vendor/contractor shall include the following clause on the insurance certificate.

“Somerset County Vocational Board of Education is named as an additional insured”

WORKERS COMPENSATION Evidence of adequate Workers Compensation Insurance as required by the laws of the State of New Jersey and the United States, must be available to the Board of Education. The minimum limits are the following, unless a greater amount is required by law:

Bodily Injury by Accident	\$1,000,000. Each Accident
Bodily Injury by Disease	\$1,000,000. Policy Limit
Bodily Injury by Disease	\$1,000,000. Each Employee

Indemnification

The vendor/contractor shall assume all risk of and responsibility for, and agrees to indemnify, defend, and save harmless the Board of Education and its agents, employees, and Board members, from and against any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, recoveries, judgments and costs and expenses (including, but not limited to, attorney's fees) in connection therewith on account of the loss of life or property or injury or damage to any person, body or property of any person or persons whatsoever, which shall arise from or result directly or indirectly from the work and/or materials supplied under this contract and the performance by contractor of services under the contract or by a party for whom the contractor is liable.

This indemnification obligation is not limited by but is in addition to, the insurance obligations contained in this agreement.

The vendor/contractor is to assume all liability of every sort incident to the work, including property damage caused by him or his workers or by any subcontractor employed by him or any of the subcontractor's workers.

20. INSURANCE; PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY – ☒ Required ☐ Not Required

Including the Commercial Liability, Automobile Liability, Sexual Harassment, Abuse or Molestation coverage, the successful respondent to whom the contract is awarded shall secure, pay the premiums for and keep in force until the contract expires, insurance of the types and amounts listed below:

Professional Liability Insurance Certificate with the following limits:

\$1,000,000 Errors & Omissions Insurance or Professional Liability
\$3,000,000 Aggregate

Other insurance coverage required when providing medical services:

Medical Malpractice--\$1,000,000

The successful respondent shall provide to the board of education an insurance certificate with the name as to the certificate holder shall be as follows:

Somerset County Vocational Board of Education
c/o The Business Office
14 Vogt Drive, PO Box 6350
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

21. INTERPRETATIONS AND ADDENDA

Respondents are expected to examine the RFQ with care and observe all their requirements. A Pre-Submission Qualifications Conference may be held at a time, date and location identified in the Public Notice for this RFQ. This Conference will afford the respondents the opportunity to make comments and

submit questions regarding this RFQ. **Attendance at the Pre-Qualifications Conference is strongly recommended.** Recipients of the RFQ package will have the option of submitting comments and questions at the Pre-Qualifications Conference. All questions about the meaning or intent of this RFQ, all interpretations and clarifications considered necessary by the District's representative in response to such comments and questions will be issued by Addenda mailed or delivered to all parties recorded by the District as having received the RFQ package. Only comments and questions responded to by formal written Addenda will be binding. Oral interpretations, statements or clarifications will be without legal effect.

No interpretation of the meaning of the specifications will be made to any respondent orally. Every request for such interpretations should be made in writing to the School Business Administrator and must be received at least ten (10) days, not including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, prior to the date fixed for the opening of proposals to be given consideration. Any and all interpretations and any supplemental instructions will be distributed in the form of a written addendum to the specifications. The addenda will be provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21(c) to the respondents by certified mail or certified fax no later than seven (7) days Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted, prior to the date for acceptance of proposals. All addenda so issued shall become part of the contract document.

22. IRAN DISCLOSURE OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES FORM N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-49.4

The Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-49.4, shall implement and comply with Public Law 2012, c.25, Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran—N.J.S.A. 52:32-55 et seq.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-57, et seq. (P.L. 2012, c.25 and P.L. 2021, c.4) any person or entity that submits a bid or qualifications or otherwise proposes to enter into or renew a contract must certify that neither the person nor entity, nor any of its parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates, is identified on the New Jersey Department of the Treasury's Chapter 25 List as a person or entity engaged in investment activities in Iran. Vendors/Bidders must review this list prior to completing the below certification. If the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property finds a person or entity to be in violation of the law, s/he shall take action as may be appropriate and provided by law, rule or contract, including but not limited to, imposing sanctions, seeking compliance, recovering damages, declaring the party in default and seeking debarment or suspension of the party.

In addition, bidders must provide a detailed, accurate, and precise description of the activities of the bidding person/entity, or one of its parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates, engaging in the investment activities in Iran outlined above by completing the boxes on the lower portion of the enclosed form.

The Board has provided within the specifications, a Disclosure of Investments Activities certification form for all persons or entities, that plan to submit a bid, respond to a proposal, or renew a contract with the board, to complete, sign and submit with the proposal.

The Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran Form is to be completed, certified and submitted prior to the award of the contract.

23. LIABILITY – COPYRIGHT

The contractor (vendor) shall hold and save the Board of Education, its officials and employees, harmless from liability of any nature or kind for or on account of the use of any copyrighted or un-copyrighted composition, secret process, patented or unpatented invention, article or appliance furnished or used in the performance of his contract.

24. NON COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT

A notarized Non-Collusion Affidavit shall be submitted with the proposal. The bidder/respondent has to certify that he has not directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion, discussed any or all parts of this qualifications with any potential bidders, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free, competitive bidding in connection with the proposal, and that all statements contained in said qualifications and this affidavit are true and correct, and made with full knowledge that the Board of Education relies upon the truth of the statements contained in said qualifications and in the statements contained in this affidavit in awarding the contract for the said bid.

The respondent has to further warrant that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure such contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except bona fide employees of bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the respondent.

The Board of Education has provided a Non-Collusion Affidavit form here within the specifications package. All respondents are to complete, sign, have the signature notarized and submit the form with the qualifications response.

Failure to submit the Non-Collusion Affidavit with the qualifications may be cause for the disqualification of the proposal.

25. PAYMENTS

Every effort will be made to pay vendors and contractors within thirty (30) to sixty (60) days provided the Board of Education receives the appropriate documentation including but not limited to:

- Signed voucher by vendor;
- Packing Slips; and
- Invoices.

Payment will be rendered upon completion of services or delivery of full order of goods/materials/supplies. Pursuant to the New Jersey Prompt Payment Law-- N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10.1, unless otherwise provided for in the contract, the required payment date shall be ninety (90) calendar days from the date specified in the contract or if no required payment is specified in the contract, then the required payment date shall be 90 calendar days from the receipt of a properly executed invoice, or 90 calendar days from the receipt of goods or services, whichever is later. Interest shall not be paid unless goods and/or services have been rendered. All payments are subject to approval by the Board of Education at a public meeting. Payment may be delayed from time to time depending on the Board of Education meeting schedule.

26. PERFORMANCE BOND

☐ REQUIRED ☒ NOT REQUIRED

When required, the successful vendor shall furnish a Performance, Payment and Completion Bond in a sum of at least one hundred percent (100%) of the total amount payable by the terms of this Contract. Such bond shall be in the form required by Statute.

Such bond shall further carry a stipulation that no advance, premature, excessive or delayed payments by the Owner shall in any way affect the obligation of the Surety on its bond.

Such bond shall further stipulate that no payments made to the Contractor, nor partial or entire use of occupancy of the work by the Owner shall be an acceptance of any work or materials not in accordance with this Contract and the Surety shall be equally bound to the same extent as the Contractor.

It is expressly stipulated that the Surety for the Contractor on the project shall be obligated to make periodic inquiries of the Owner at reasonable times, to determine whether its Principal has performed or was performing the Contract in accordance with all of its terms and conditions, particularly in relation to the progress payments scheduled under said Contract with the Owner.

In the event the Contractor defaults or fails to perform or finish the work prescribed under the Contract for any reason whatsoever, it shall become the unqualified obligation of the Surety for the defaulting contractor to complete the Contract in accordance with its terms following receipt of notice from the owner of such default.

The successful respondent shall execute a formal contract with the Board in the form required and in such number of counterparts as the Board may request. Such Performance, Payment and Completion Bond shall be furnished and such Contracts shall be executed and delivered by the successful respondent within ten (10) days after the receipt by the successful respondent of notice accepting his qualifications by the Board.

The Board of Education will only accept performance bonds from surety companies that are licensed and qualified to do business in the State of New Jersey.

27. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT – PAY TO PLAY

- Annual Disclosure

A business entity as defined by law is advised of its responsibility to file an annual disclosure statement on political contributions with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 (P.L. 2005 Chapter 271 section 3) if the business entity receives contracts in excess of \$50,000 from public entities in a calendar year. It is the business entity's responsibility to determine if filing is necessary. Additional information on this requirement is available from the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission at 1-888-313-3532 or www.elec.nj.us.

- Chapter 271 Political Contribution Disclosure Form

Business entities (excluding those that are not non-profit organizations) receiving contracts in excess of \$17,500 from a board of education, are subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26. The law and rule provide that 10 days prior to the award of such a contract, the contractor shall disclose contributions to:

- any State, county, or municipal committee of a political party
- any legislative leadership committee*
- any continuing political committee (a.k.a., political action committee)
- any candidate committee of a candidate for, or holder of, an elective office:
 - of the public entity awarding the contract
 - of that county in which that public entity is located
 - of another public entity within that county
 - or of a legislative district in which that public entity is located or, when the public entity is a county, of any legislative district which includes all or part of the county.

The disclosure must list reportable contributions to any of the committees that exceed \$300 per election cycle that were made during the 12 months prior to award of the contract. See N.J.S.A. 19:44A-8 and 19:44A-16 for more details on reportable contributions.

The Board of Education has provided a Chapter 271 Political Contribution Disclosure Form within the specifications package for use by the business entity. The Board has also provided a list of agencies to assist the contractor. The enclosed list of agencies is provided to assist the contractor in identifying those public agencies whose elected officials and/or candidate campaign committees are affected by the disclosure requirement. It is the contractor's responsibility to identify the specific committees to which contributions may have been made and need to be disclosed. The disclosed information may exceed the minimum requirement.

The enclosed Chapter 271 Political Contribution Disclosure form, a content-consistent facsimile, or an electronic data file containing the required details (along with a signed cover sheet) may be used as the contractor's submission and may be disclosed to the public under the Open Public Records Act.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26 (a), all business entities shall submit a completed and signed Chapter 271 Political Contribution Disclosure Form with their proposal.

28. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS/AWARD OF CONTRACTS

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3 (a) (1-4) please note the following:

- **Award of Contract -- Reportable Contributions -- N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3 (a) (1)**

"No board of education will vote upon or award any contract in the amount of \$17,500 or greater to any business entity which has made a contribution reportable by the recipient under P.L.1973, c83 (codified at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) to a member of the board of education during the preceding one-year period.

- **Contributions During Term of Contract – Prohibited -- N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3 (a) (2-3)**

"Contributions reportable by the recipient under P.L. 1973, c83 (codified at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) to any member of the school board from any business entity doing business with the school district are prohibited during the term of the contract."

"When a business entity referred in 4.1(e) is a natural person, contribution by that person's spouse or child that resides therewith, shall be deemed to be a contribution by the business entity. When a business entity is other than a natural person, a contribution by any person or other business entity having an interest therein shall be deemed to be a contribution by the business entity."

- **Chapter 271 Political Contribution Disclosure Form – Required -- N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3 (a) (4)**

All business entities shall submit with their qualifications package a completed and signed Chapter 271 Political Contribution Disclosure Form. The Chapter 271 form will be reviewed by the Board to determine whether the business entity is in compliance with the aforementioned N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3 (a) (2) Award of Contract.

The Chapter 271 Political Contribution Disclosure Form shall be submitted with the response to the proposal. Failure to provide the completed and signed form may be cause for disqualification of the proposal.

29. PRE-EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS--CONTRACTED SERVICE PROVIDERS

When applicable, all contracted service providers, whose employees have regular contact with students, shall comply with the Pre-Employment Requirements in accordance with New Jersey P.L. 2018 c.5, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq. Contracted service providers are to review the following New Jersey Department of Education—Pre-Employment Resource P.L. 2018 c.5 link below for guidance and compliance procedures.

<https://www.nj.gov/education/crimhist/preemployment/>

30. PRESENTATION AND INTERVIEWS—Negotiations Not Permitted

The Board of Education may at its option, require providers of its choice to attend interviews and make presentations to district officials. This process may only take place after proposals have been opened and reviewed and prior to the completion of the evaluation. Under no circumstances shall the provisions of the qualifications be subject to negotiation.

31. PRE-SUBMISSION OF QUALIFICATIONS MEETING

☐ SCHEDULED ☒ NOT SCHEDULED

If the Board of Education decides to schedule a pre-submission of qualifications meeting the Board will hold a pre-submission of qualifications meeting on

Date

Time

Location

The purpose of this meeting is to review all legal and technical requirements of the proposal. Respondents are encouraged to attend this meeting. Addenda to the qualifications may be issued as a result of the meeting.

32. RESPONDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR QUALIFICATION SUBMITTAL

It is the responsibility of the respondent to ensure that their qualifications are presented to the Office of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and officially received before the advertised date and time of the proposal. It is understood and agreed upon that any person in the Board of Education will be absolved from responsibility for the premature opening of any qualifications not properly labeled and sealed.

33. RIGHT TO KNOW LAW

All potentially hazardous materials or substances must be properly labeled in full accordance with the New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Law - N.J.S.A. 34:5A-1 et seq. All contractors or vendors who need additional information about the New Jersey Right to Know Law are to contact the:

New Jersey Department of Health
Workplace, Health and Safety
Right to Know Unit CN 368
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0368

34. STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

No business organization, regardless of the form of ownership, shall be awarded any contract for the performance of any work or the furnishing of any goods and services, unless, prior to the receipt of the bid or accompanying the bid of said business organization, bidders shall submit a statement setting forth the names and addresses of all persons and entities that own ten percent or more of its stock or interest

of any type at all levels of ownership. The included Statement of Ownership Form shall be completed and attached to the bid proposal. This requirement applies to all forms of business organizations, including, but not limited to, corporations and partnerships, publicly-owned corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability corporations, limited liability partnerships, sole proprietorship, and Subchapter S corporations. Failure to submit a disclosure document shall result in rejection of the bid as it cannot be remedied after bids have been opened.

Not-for-profit entities should fill in their name, check the not-for-profit box, and certify the form. No other information is required.

35. SUBCONTRACTING; ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT

Contractors, service providers, and all vendors with whom the Board of Education has an executed contract may not subcontract any part of any work done or assign any part of a contract for goods or services for the Board without first receiving written permission from the School Business Administrator.

Contractors, service providers, and vendors using subcontractors assume all responsibility for work performed by subcontractors. The Board Business Office may require the following documents to be secured from all approved subcontractors:

- Insurance Certificate as outlined in the qualifications specifications;
- Affirmative Action Evidence as outlined in the qualifications specifications;
- New Jersey Business Registration Certificate; and
- Other documents may be required by the Board of Education.

In cases of subcontracting, the Board of Education shall only pay the prime contractor. It is the sole responsibility of the prime contractor to ensure that all subcontractors are paid. The Board of Education shall not be responsible for payments to subcontractors and shall be held harmless against any or all claims generated against prime contractors for non-payment to subcontractors.

Transportation carriers hired by the vendor to deliver goods and materials are not considered to be subcontractors.

36. TAXES

As a New Jersey governmental entity, the Board of Education is exempt from the requirements under New Jersey state sales and use tax (N.J.S.A. 54:32B-1 et. seq.), and does not pay any sales or use taxes. Respondents should note that they are expected to comply with the provisions of the said statute and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto to qualify them for examinations and reference to any and all labor, services, materials and supplies furnished to the Board of Education. Contractors may not use the Board's tax-exempt status to purchase supplies, materials, services or equipment.

A contractor may qualify for a New Jersey Sales Tax Exemption on the purchase of materials, supplies and services when these purchases are used exclusively to fulfill the terms and conditions of the contract with the Board of Education. All contractors are referred to the New Jersey Division of Taxation—Tax Bulletin S&U-3 for guidance. Again, contractors are not permitted to use the Board's tax identification number to purchase supplies, materials, services or equipment.

37. TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

If the Board determines that the contractor has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the qualifications upon which the issuance of the contract is based or that the contractor has failed to perform

said service, duties and or responsibilities in a timely, proper, professional and/or efficient manner, then the Board shall have the authority to terminate the contract upon written notice setting forth the reason for termination and effective date of termination.

Termination by the Board of the contract does not absolve the contractor from potential liability for damages caused by the District by the contractor's breach of this agreement. The Board may withhold payment due to the contractor and apply the same towards damages once established. The Board will act diligently in accordance with governing statutes to mitigate damages. Damages may include the additional cost of procuring said services or goods from other sources.

The contractor further agrees to indemnify and hold the District harmless from any liability to subcontractors or suppliers concerning work performed or goods provided arising out of the lawful termination of this agreement.

38. WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS

- **Before The Qualifications Opening**

The School Business Administrator may consider a written request from a respondent to withdraw a qualification if the written request is received by the School Business Administrator before the advertised time of the qualifications opening. Any respondent who has been granted permission by the School Business Administrator to have their qualifications withdrawn cannot re-submit a qualification for the same advertised qualifications project. That respondent shall also be disqualified from future proposals on the same project if the project is re-advertised.

- **After The Qualifications Opening**

The Board of Education may consider a written request from a respondent to withdraw a qualification if the written request is received by the School Business Administrator within five (5) business days after the qualifications opening. A request to withdraw a qualification after the specified number of days will not be honored.

The contractor/vendor who wishes to withdraw a qualification must provide a certification supported by written factual evidence that an error or omission was made by the contractor and that the error or omission was a substantial computational error or unintentional omission or both.

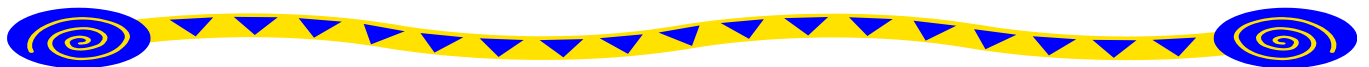
The request to withdraw a qualification after the qualifications opening may be reviewed by the School Business Administrator, the Director of Facilities, other interested administrators' and the Architect of Record for the project (if necessary) and/or the Board Attorney and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Education. If the Board of Education grants permission to have the qualifications withdrawn the contractor/vendor shall be disqualified from quoting on the same project if the project is re-advertised. If the contractor/vendor fails to meet the burden of proof to have the qualifications withdrawn, the request to withdraw the qualifications will be denied, and if the contractor/vendor fails to execute the contract the bid guarantee will be forfeited and become the property of the Board of Education.

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS RFQ

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS



Raelene Sipple
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

PURPOSE OF REQUEST

The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education is requesting qualifications from qualified individuals and agencies/firms to provide:

1. Mental Health Counseling Services of a specialized nature to the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education.
2. Substance Abuse/Mental Health Counseling Services of a specialized nature to the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education.
3. Youth Development Specialist of a specialized nature to the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education.

Qualifications will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set forth in this RFQ. One or more individuals/firms may be selected to provide services.

PERIOD OF QUALIFICATION

- Mental Health Counseling Services (10 months) – September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026
- Substance Abuse/Mental Health Counseling Services (12 months) - July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026
- Youth Development Specialist (10 months) – September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

CONTRACT FORM

The successful proposer shall be required to execute the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education form contract, which includes the indemnification, insurance, termination and licensing provisions. A complete copy of a draft Somerset County Vocational Board of Education form contract is available upon request.

It is also agreed and understood that the acceptance of the final payment by Contractor shall be considered a release in full of all claims against the Somerset County Vocational & Technical Board of Education arising out of, or by reason of, the work done and materials furnished under this Contract.

DETAILED REQUIREMENTS OF THE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR:

1. MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES (10 months)
 2. SUBSTANCE ABUSE/MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES (12 months)
 3. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST (10 months)
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1. SCHOOL DISTRICT FACTS AND FIGURES – The Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools is a lawfully constituted, board of education. The authority and responsibilities of the district is vested in an appointed five-member Board of Education. The Superintendent of Schools is the district's chief executive officer and carries out the policies adopted by the Board of Education. The Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School has a student population of approximately 700 students.
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The Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools is the lead agency of the Linkages School-Based Youth Services Program (Linkages). Linkages is under contract with the State Department of Children and Families to provide an array of services that include, but are not limited to mental health counseling services, substance abuse/mental health counseling services, recreation and outreach services-- year round, on-site, free of charge to any student wishing services attending the high school. This includes students who attend the Summer Twilight Program. Services are only provided with the consent of the student and their parent/legal guardian.

2. NATURE/SCOPE OF SERVICES – The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education is requesting proposals from qualified individuals and agencies/firms to provide services in the following areas:

- A. Mental health counseling services for the Board – such services may include but are not limited to providing crisis intervention and/or supportive counseling to individual students for behavioral, emotional and interpersonal issues; providing psycho-education to classes and student groups on mental health issues and other pertinent topics to include but not be limited to parent management and conflict resolution; identifying students who require outside mental health or substance abuse treatment and making related referrals to appropriate treatment facilities; collaborating with teachers, guidance staff, administration and school-based staff to help ensure consistent and comprehensive services for the students; working with collateral contacts for students who are in treatment with area mental health providers; maintaining timely clinical progress notes and other documentation, as required; upholding Professional Code of Ethics and state and federal confidentiality laws.

The counselor may be called upon to attend meetings to include but not be limited to staff meetings and case management/supervision meetings.

The counselor may also be called upon to provide other types of counseling services of a specialized nature.

- B. Substance abuse and mental health counseling services for the Board – such services may include but are not limited to providing crisis intervention and/or supportive counseling to individual students for behavioral, emotional and interpersonal issues; providing psycho-education to classes and student groups on substance abuse/mental health issues and other pertinent topics to include but not be limited to parent management and conflict resolution; identifying students who require outside mental health or substance abuse treatment and making related referrals to appropriate treatment facilities; collaborating with teachers, guidance staff, administration and school-based staff to help ensure consistent and comprehensive services for the students; working with collateral contacts for students who are in treatment with area mental health and substance abuse providers; maintaining timely clinical progress notes and other documentation, as required; upholding Professional Code of Ethics and state and federal confidentiality laws.

The counselor may be called upon to attend meetings to include but not be limited to staff meetings and case management/supervision meetings.

The counselor may also be called upon to provide other types of counseling services of a specialized nature.

- C. Youth Development Specialist – such services may include but are not limited to supervising the school based Drop-In Center during all lunch periods; planning, implementing and supervising an array of recreational activities throughout the year such as tournaments, recreational trips and community service projects; providing students with informal counseling, support, related case management, employment/job readiness and referral to appropriate resources; collaborating with teachers, guidance staff, administration, and school-based staff to help ensure consistent and comprehensive services for the students; developing and implementing mechanisms to solicit student input and to engage them with all school-based services and staff as appropriate; purchasing supplies for Drop-In Center and other recreational activities; maintaining records as required by contract and funding sources.

The Youth Development Specialist may be called upon to attend meetings to include but not be limited to staff meetings and case management/supervision meetings.

The Youth Development Specialist may also be called upon to provide other types of informal counseling/support services and outreach of a specialized nature.

The YDS may be called upon to attend meetings to include but not be limited to staff meetings and case management/supervision meetings.

The YDS may also be called upon to provide other types of counseling services of a specialized nature.

3. STANDARD REQUIREMENTS OF TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS- Proposers should submit a technical qualification which contains the following:

- A. The name of the proposer, the principal place of business and, if different, the place where the services will be provided;

Mental Health Counseling proposer must have a minimum of ten (10) years' experience in the past twelve (12) years providing mental health counseling services on-site to high school-aged students in their respective high school.

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Counseling proposer must have a minimum of seven (7) years' experience in the past ten (10) years providing substance abuse and mental health counseling services on-site to high school-aged students in their respective high school.

Youth Development Specialist proposer must have a minimum of four (4) years' experience in the past four (4) years providing recreation, outreach services and embraced counseling on-site to high school-aged students in their respective high school.

- B. The education, qualifications, experience, and training of ALL persons who would be assigned to provide services along with their names and titles;

- C. A listing of all other engagements where services of the types being proposed were provided in the past. Provide contact information for the high schools where similar services were provided. The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education may obtain references from any of the parties listed;

A description of all similar services rendered by the proposer, with emphasis on a description of those services of interest to a Board of Education client.

- D. Please provide a description of any particular area(s) of expertise you or your agency/firm may possess that have not been included in the response provided above;
 - E. A statement that neither the agency/firm nor any individual(s) assigned to this engagement are suspended, or are otherwise prohibited from professional practice by any federal, state, or local agency;
 - F. Acknowledgement of Addenda (copy of form attached)
 - G. Affirmative Action Questionnaire (copy of form attached)
 - H. Assurance of Compliance (copy of form attached)
 - I. Chapter 271 Political Contribution Disclosure Form (copy of form attached)
 - J. Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran (copy of form attached)
 - K. Certification of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Russia or Belarus (copy of form attached)
 - L. Non-Collusion Affidavit properly notarized (copy of form attached)
 - M. Statement of Ownership Disclosure (copy of form attached)
 - N. Contractor/Vendor Questionnaire Certification (copy of form attached)
 - O. Exhibit A – Mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity Language
 - P. Business Registration Certificate
 - Q. A statement that the proposer will comply with the General Terms and Conditions required by the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education and enter into the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education's standard Professional Services Contract;
 - R. A copy of the proposer's Business Registration Statement; and
 - S. Copy of IRS 501(C)3 Non-Profit status letter
 - T. Board Membership List including address and occupation, noting officers.
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4. SPECIALIZED REQUIREMENTS OF TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS– In addition to the services set forth in 1 supra:

Mental Health Counseling proposer must demonstrate a history of having provided on-going, on-site, full-time mental health counseling services to high school students on the campus of their respective high school. The counselor must also have appropriate licensure to provide these services and their own appropriate clinical supervision as needed.

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Counseling proposer must demonstrate a history of having provided on-going, on-site, full-time substance abuse and mental health counseling services to high school students on the campus of their respective high school. The counselor must also have appropriate licensure to provide these services and their own appropriate clinical supervision as needed.

Youth Development Specialist proposer must demonstrate a history of having provided on-going, on-site, recreation and outreach services to high school students on the campus of their respective high school. The Youth Development Specialist must also have a bachelor's degree in a social service related field or an associate degree with at least 3 year's full time experience as a youth service worker.

5. FEE QUALIFICATIONS– The Board will establish the hourly rate for such services, within the amount of the contract.

1 position – 10 month 35 hours/week Mental Health Counselor

1 position – 10 month 35 hours/week Youth Development Specialist

1 position – 12 month 35 hours/week Substance Abuse /Mental Health Counselor

6. QUALIFICATIONS/EVALUATION - The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education will select the most advantageous proposals based on all of the evaluation factors set forth at the end of this RFQ. The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education will consider the qualifications which are in the best interests of the district and compile a listing of qualified professionals to provide such services.

Each qualification must satisfy the objectives and requirements detailed in this RFQ. The successful proposer shall be determined by an evaluation of the total content of the qualifications submitted. The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education reserves the right to:

- A. Not select any of the proposals;
- B. Select only portions of a particular proposer's qualifications for further consideration; (However, proposers may specify portions of the qualifications that they consider "bundled".)
- C. Award a contract for the requested services at any time within 60 days of the selection of the most advantageous proposal; every qualification should be valid through this time period.

The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education shall not be obligated to explain the results of the evaluation process to any proposer.

7. QUALIFICATIONS/LIMITATIONS - This RFQ is not intended to be an offer, order or contract and should not be regarded as such, nor shall any obligation or liability be imposed on the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education by issuance of this RFQ. The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education has sole discretion to refuse any qualifications submitted.
8. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
 - A. The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, if necessary, or to waive any informalities in the proposals, and, unless otherwise specified by the proposer, to accept any item, items or services in the proposals should it be deemed in the best interest of the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education to do so.
 - B. In case of failure by the successful proposer, the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education may procure the articles or services from other sources, deduct the cost of the replacement from money due to the proposer under the contract and hold the proposer responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby.
 - C. The proposer shall maintain sufficient insurance to protect against all claims under Workmen's Compensation, General, Professional and Automobile Liability.
 - D. Each qualification must be signed by the person authorized to do so.
 - E. Proposals may be hand delivered or mailed consistent with the provisions of the legal notice to proposers. In the case of mailed proposals, the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education assumes no responsibility for proposals received after the designated date and time and will return late proposals unopened. Proposals will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.
 - F. In accordance with Affirmative Action Law, P.L. 1975, c.127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) with implementation of July 10, 1978, successful proposers must agree to submit individual employer certifications and number or complete Affirmative Action employee information report (form AA-302). Also, during the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows: (a) the contractor or subcontractor where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status or affectional or sexual orientation. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex or handicap. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and section for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notice to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this non-discrimination clause: (b) the contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex or

handicap; (c) the contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will send to each labor Somerset or representative or workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer advising the labor union or worker's representative of the contractor's commitments under this act and shall post copies of the notice; (d) the contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the treasurer pursuant to the P.L. 1975, c.127, as amended and supplemented from time to time.

- G. By submission of the proposal, the proposer certifies that the service to be furnished will not infringe upon any valid patent, trademark or copyright and the successful proposer shall, at its expense, defend any and all actions or suits charging such infringement, and will save the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education harmless in any case of any such infringement.
- H. No proposer shall influence, or attempt to influence, or cause to be influenced, any board of education member or employee to use his/her official capacity in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment of said officer or employee.
- I. No proposer shall cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence, any board of education member or employee to use his/her official capacity to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for the proposer or any other person.
- J. Should any difference arise between the contracting parties as to the meaning or intent of these instructions or specifications, the Somerset County Vocational Board Attorney's decision shall be final and conclusive.
- K. The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education shall not be responsible for any expenditure of monies or other expenses incurred by the proposer in making its proposal.
- L. The checklist, affidavits, notices and the like presented at the end of this Request for Qualifications are a part of this Request for Qualifications and shall be completed and submitted as part of this proposal.
- M. The proposer will provide replacements for contract workers during the contract period regardless of reason that a vacancy ensues.

END OF GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

**BASIS OF AWARD
FOR A
PARTICULAR CONTRACT**

EVALUATION FACTORS

- A. Relevance and Extent of Qualifications, Experience, Reputation and Training of Personnel to be assigned

 - B. Knowledge of subject matter to be addressed under this engagement

 - C. Relevance and Extent of Similar Engagements performed

 - D. Technical qualifications contain all required information

 - E. Reasonableness of Cost Proposal
-

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST

THIS CHECKLIST MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED WITH YOUR PROPOSAL.

Please initial below, indicating that your qualification includes the itemized document.

A QUALIFICATION SUBMITTED WITHOUT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS IS CAUSE FOR REFUSAL.

INITIAL BELOW

An original and one (1) signed copy of your complete proposal _____

Authorized signatures on all forms _____

- Acknowledgement of Addenda _____
- Affirmative Action Questionnaire _____
- Assurance of Compliance _____
- Chapter 271 Political Contribution Disclosure Form _____
- Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran _____
- Certification of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Russia or Belarus _____
- Non-Collusion Affidavit properly notarized _____
- Statement of Ownership Disclosure _____
- Contractor/Vendor Questionnaire Certification _____
- Exhibit A – Mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity Language _____
- Business Registration Certificate _____

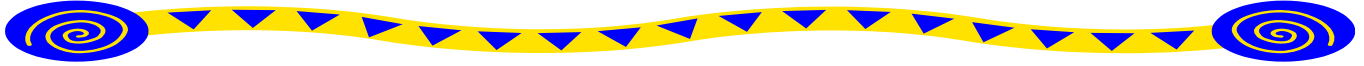
Note: N.J.S.A 52:32-44 provides that the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education shall not enter into a contract for goods or services unless the other party to the contract provides a copy of its business registration certificate and the business registration certificate of any subcontractors at the time that it submits its proposal. The contracting party must also collect the state use tax where applicable.

THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGES THE ABOVE LISTED REQUIREMENTS.

Name of Proposer:

Person, Firm, Corporation or Agency

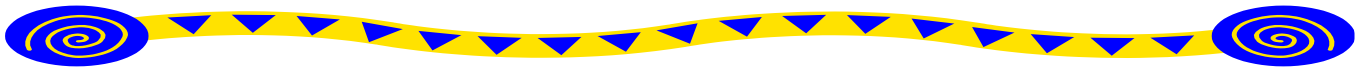
(Name)



Request for Qualifications RFQ

QUALIFICATIONS DOCUMENTS REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

All documents in this section shall be completed, signed and submitted with the qualifications package. Failure to submit the qualifications documents and other documents so specified may be cause to reject the qualifications for being non-responsive (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2(y)).



Raelene Sipple
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

To be completed, signed and returned with the proposal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADDENDA

RFQ 25-03

Qualifications Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

The Respondent acknowledges receipt of the hereinafter enumerated Addenda which has been issued during the period of bidding and agrees that said Addenda shall become a part of this contract. The respondent shall list below the numbers and issuing dates of the Addenda.

ADDENDA NO.

ISSUING DATES

☐ **NO ADDENDA RECEIVED**

Name of Company _____

Address _____ P.O. Box _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Name of Authorized Representative _____

Signature _____ Title _____

To be completed, signed and returned with the proposal

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION QUESTIONNAIRE

RFQ 25-03

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

This form is to be completed and returned with the proposal. However, the Board will accept in lieu of this Questionnaire, an Affirmative Action Evidence Certificate of Employee Information Report.

1. Our company has a Federal Affirmative Action Plan approval. ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please attach a copy of the plan to this questionnaire.
2. Our company has an N.J. State Certificate of Employee Information Report ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please attach a copy of the certificate to this questionnaire.
3. If you answered "NO" to both questions No. 1 and 2, you must apply for an Affirmative Action Employee Information Report – Form AA302.

Please visit the New Jersey Department of Treasury website for the Division of Public Contracts Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance:

[NJ Department of the Treasury Contract Compliance \(state.nj.us\)](http://state.nj.us)

Click on "AA 302 Employee Information Report"

Complete and submit the form with the appropriate payment to:

Department of Treasury
Division of Purchase and Property
Contract Compliance and Audit Unit

The complete mailing address may be found on the Instructions page of Form AA-302.

All fees for this application are to be paid directly to the State of New Jersey. A copy of the Employee Information Report and a copy of the check shall be submitted to the Board of Education prior to the execution or award of the contract.

I certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Name: _____

Signature _____

Title _____ Date _____

Name of Company _____

City, State, Zip _____

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE

Contact with Students

There may be times during the performance of this contract, when a contracted service provider may come in contact with students of the school district. The district fully understands its obligation to provide all students and staff members, with a safe educational environment. To this end, the district is requiring all respondents to sign a statement of Assurance of Compliance, acknowledging the respondent's understanding of the below-listed requirements and further acknowledging the respondent's assurance of compliance with those listed requirements.

Anti-Bullying Reporting--Requirement

When applicable, the contracted service provider shall comply with all applicable provisions of the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act—N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.1 et seq., all applicable code and regulations, and the Anti-Bullying Policy of the Board of Education. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7 (c), a contracted service provider, who has witnessed, or has reliable information that a student has been subject to harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall immediately report the incident to any school administrator or safe schools resource officer, or the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Criminal History Background Checks—N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1--Requirement

When applicable, the contracted service provider shall provide to the school district prior to commencement of the contract, evidence or proof that each employee assigned to provide services and whose position involves **regular contact** with students, has had a criminal history background check, and furthermore, that said background check indicates that no criminal history record information exists on file for that worker. Failure to provide proof of criminal history background check for any employee coming in regular contact with students, prior to commencement of contact, may be cause for breach of contract. Reference NJDOE Broadcast 9/9/19

Pre-Employment Requirements

When applicable, all contracted service providers, whose employees have **regular contact with students**, shall comply with the Pre-Employment Requirements in accordance with New Jersey P.L. 2018 c.5, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq. Contracted service providers are to review the following New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Student Protection—Pre-Employment Resource P.L. 2018 c.5 link below for guidance and compliance procedures.

<https://www.nj.gov/education/crimhist/preemployment/>

Name of Company _____

Name of Authorized Representative _____

Signature _____ Date _____

To be completed, signed and returned with the proposal

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chapter 271
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM
(Contracts that Exceed \$17,500.00)
N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26

The undersigned, being authorized and knowledgeable of the circumstances, does hereby certify that _____ (Business Entity) has made the following **reportable** political contributions to any elected official, political candidate or any political committee as defined in N.J.S.A. 19:44-20.26 during the twelve (12) months preceding this award of contract:

Reportable Contributions

<u>Date of Contribution</u>	<u>Amount of Contribution</u>	<u>Name of Recipient Elected Official/Committee/Candidate</u>	<u>Name of Contributor</u>

☐ **No Reportable Contributions** (Please check (✓) if applicable.)

I certify that _____ (Business Entity) made no reportable contributions to any elected official, political candidate or any political committee as defined in N.J.S.A. 19:44-20.26.

Certification

I certify, that the information provided above is in full compliance with Public Law 2005—Chapter 271.

Name of Authorized Agent _____

Signature _____ Title _____

Business Entity _____

C. 271 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM

Contractor Instructions

Business entities (contractors) receiving contracts from a public agency that are NOT awarded pursuant to a “fair and open” process (defined at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7) are subject to the provisions of P.L. 2005, c. 271, s.2 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26). This law provides that 10 days prior to the award of such a contract, the contractor shall disclose contributions to:

- any State, county, or municipal committee of a political party
- any legislative leadership committee*
- any continuing political committee (a.k.a., political action committee)
- any candidate committee of a candidate for, or holder of, an elective office:
 - of the public entity awarding the contract
 - of that county in which that public entity is located
 - of another public entity within that county
 - or of a legislative district in which that public entity is located or, when the public entity is a county, of any legislative district which includes all or part of the county

The disclosure must list reportable contributions to any of the committees that exceed \$300 per election cycle that were made during the 12 months prior to award of the contract. See N.J.S.A. 19:44A-8 and 19:44A-16 for more details on reportable contributions.

N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26 itemizes the parties from whom contributions must be disclosed when a business entity is not a natural person. This includes the following:

- individuals with an “interest” ownership or control of more than 10% of the profits or assets of a business entity or 10% of the stock in the case of a business entity that is a corporation for profit
- all principals, partners, officers, or directors of the business entity or their spouses
- any subsidiaries directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity
- IRS Code Section 527 New Jersey based organizations, directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity and filing as continuing political committees, (PACs).

When the business entity is a natural person, “a contribution by that person’s spouse or child, residing therewith, shall be deemed to be a contribution by the business entity.” [N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26(b)] The contributor must be listed on the disclosure.

Any business entity that fails to comply with the disclosure provisions shall be subject to a fine imposed by ELEC in an amount to be determined by the Commission which may be based upon the amount that the business entity failed to report.

The enclosed list of agencies is provided to assist the contractor in identifying those public agencies whose elected official and/or candidate campaign committees are affected by the disclosure requirement. It is the contractor’s responsibility to identify the specific committees to which contributions may have been made and need to be disclosed. The disclosed information may exceed the minimum requirement.

The enclosed form, a content-consistent facsimile, or an electronic data file containing the required details (along with a signed cover sheet) may be used as the contractor’s submission and is disclosable to the public under the Open Public Records Act.

The contractor must also complete the attached Stockholder Disclosure Certification. This will assist the agency in meeting its obligations under the law. **NOTE: This section does not apply to Board of Education contracts.**

¹ N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3(s): “The term “legislative leadership committee” means a committee established, authorized to be established, or designated by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly or the Minority Leader of the General Assembly pursuant to section 16 of P.L.1993, c.65 (C.19:44A-10.1) for the purpose of receiving contributions and making expenditures.”

**List of Agencies with Elected Officials Required for Political Contribution
Disclosure
N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26**

County Name: Somerset

State: Governor, and Legislative Leadership Committees

Legislative District #: 16, 17, 21, & 22

State Senator and two members of the General Assembly per district.

County:

Commissioners

County Clerk

Sheriff

Surrogate

Municipalities (Mayor and members of governing body, regardless of title):

Bedminster Township
Bernards Township
Bernardsville Borough
Bound Brook Borough
Branchburg Township
Bridgewater Township
Far Hills Borough

Franklin Township
Green Brook Township
Hillsborough Township
Manville Borough
Millstone Borough
Montgomery Township
North Plainfield Borough

Peapack-Gladstone Borough
Raritan Borough
Rocky Hill Borough
Somerville Borough
South Bound Brook Borough
Warren Township
Watchung Borough

Boards of Education (Members of the Board):

Bedminster Township
Bernards Township
Bound Brook Borough
Branchburg Township
Bridgewater-Raritan Regional
Franklin Township
Green Brook Township

Hillsborough Township
Manville Borough
Millstone
Montgomery Township
North Plainfield Borough
Rocky Hill
Somerset Hills Regional

Somerville Borough
South Bound Brook
Warren Township
Watchung Borough
Watchung Hills Regional

Fire Districts (Board of Fire Commissioners):

Bridgewater Township Fire District No. 1
Bridgewater Township Fire District No. 2
Bridgewater Township Fire District No. 3
Bridgewater Township Fire District No. 4
Franklin Township Fire District No. 1
Franklin Township Fire District No. 2

Franklin Township Fire District No. 3
Franklin Township Fire District No. 4
Hillsborough Township Fire District No. 1
Montgomery Township Fire District No. 1
Montgomery Township Fire District No. 2

To be completed, signed and returned with the proposal

**SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISCLOSURE OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN FORM
(Page 1)**

BID SOLICITATION/PROPOSAL TITLE _____
VENDOR/BIDDER PROPOSER NAME _____

PART 1 COMPLETE BY CHECKING EITHER BOX.

Pursuant to Public Law 2012, c. 25, any person or entity that is a successful bidder or proposer, or otherwise proposes to enter into or renew a contract, must complete the certification below to attest, under penalty of perjury, that neither the person or entity, nor any parent entity, subsidiary, or affiliate is identified on the State Department of Treasury's Chapter 25 list as a person or entity engaging in investment activities in Iran. The list is found on the Treasury's website at www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/pdf/Chapter25List.pdf.

The Chapter 25 list must be reviewed prior to completing the below certification. If a vendor or contractor is found to be in violation of law, action may be taken as appropriate and as may provided by law, rule, or contract, including but not limited to imposing sanctions, seeking compliance, recovering damages, declaring the party in default and seeking debarment or suspension of the party.

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX

- ☐ I certify, pursuant to Public Law 2012, c. 25, that neither the person or entity listed above, nor any parent entity, subsidiary, or affiliate thereof is listed on the N.J. Department of the Treasury's list of entities determined to be engaged in prohibited activities in Iran pursuant to P.L. 2012, c. 25 ("Chapter 25 List"). I further certify that I am the person listed above, or I am an officer or representative of the entity listed above and am authorized to make this certification on its behalf. I will skip Part 2 and sign and complete the Certification below.

Or

- ☐ I am unable to certify as above because the person or entity and/or a parent entity, subsidiary, or affiliate thereof is listed on the N.J. Department of the Treasury's Chapter 25 list. I will provide a detailed, accurate, and precise description of the activities in Part 2 below sign and complete the Certification below.

PART 2 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please Provide Further Information Related to Investment Activities in Iran.

You must provide a detailed, accurate, and precise description of the activities of the person or entity, or a parent entity, subsidiary, or affiliate thereof engaging in investment activities in Iran below and, if more space is needed, on additional sheets provided by you.

**SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISCLOSURE OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN FORM
(Page 2)**

PART 3: CERTIFICATION OF TRUE AND COMPLETE INFORMATION

I, being duly sworn upon my oath, hereby represent and state that the foregoing information and any attachments there to the best of my knowledge are true and complete. I attest that I am authorized to execute this certification on behalf of the above-referenced person or entity.

I acknowledge that the **Somerset County Vocational Board of Education** is relying on the information contained herein and thereby acknowledge that I am under a continuing obligation from the date of this certification through the completion of any contracts with the **Somerset County Vocational Board of Education** to notify the **Somerset County Vocational Board of Education** in writing of any changes to the answers of information contained herein.

I acknowledge that I am aware that it is a criminal offense to make a false statement or misrepresentation in this certification, and if I do so, I recognize that I am subject to criminal prosecution under the law and that it will also constitute a material breach of my agreement(s) with the **Somerset County Vocational Board of Education** and that the **Somerset County Vocational Board of Education** at its option may declare any contract(s) resulting from this certification void and unenforceable.

The Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran Form must be completed, certified, and submitted prior to the contract award. The Somerset County Vocational Board of Education requests that this form be submitted with the RFQ package.

Name of Vendor, Bidder, or Proposer _____
Print Full Name

Authorized Agent _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

To be completed, signed and returned with the proposal
SOMERSET COUNTY VOCTIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
CERTIFICATION OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES IN RUSSIA
OR BELARUS

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-49.5

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1, et seq. ([L. 2022, c. 3](#)) any person or entity (hereinafter "Vendor") that seeks to enter into or renew a contract with a State agency for the provision of goods or services, or the purchase of bonds or other obligations, must complete the certification below indicating whether or not the Vendor is identified on the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list, available here: <https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov/>. If the Department of the Treasury finds that a Vendor has made a certification in violation of the law, it shall take any action as may be appropriate and provided by law, rule, or contract, including but not limited to, imposing sanctions, seeking compliance, recovering damages, declaring the party in default and seeking debarment or suspension of the party.

I, the undersigned, certify that I have read the definition of "Vendor" below, and have reviewed the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list, and having done so certify:

(Check the Appropriate Box)

- ☐ A. That the Vendor is not identified on the [OFAC Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list on account of activity related to Russia and/or Belarus](#).
- OR**
- ☐ B. That I am unable to certify as to "A" above, because the Vendor is identified on the [OFAC Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list on account of activity related to Russia and/or Belarus](#).
- OR**
- ☐ C. That I am unable to certify as to "A" above, because the Vendor is identified on the [OFAC Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list](#). However, the Vendor is engaged in activity related to Russia and/or Belarus consistent with federal law, regulation, license or exemption. A detailed description of how the Vendor's activity related to Russia and/or Belarus is consistent with federal law is set forth below.

(Attach Additional Sheets If Necessary.)

Signature of Vendor's Authorized Representative

Date

Print Name and Title of Vendor's Authorized Representative

Vendor's FEIN

Vendor's Name

Vendor's Phone Number

Vendor's Address (Street)

Vendor's Fax Number

Vendor's Address (City/State/Zip Code)

Vendor's Email Address

Vendor means: (1) A natural person, corporation, company, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, business association, sole proprietorship, joint venture, partnership, society, trust, or any other nongovernmental entity, organization, or group; (2) Any governmental entity or instrumentality of a government, including a multilateral development institution, as defined in Section 1701(c)(3) of the International Financial Institutions Act, 22 U.S.C. 262r(c)(3); or (3) Any parent, successor, subunit, direct or indirect subsidiary, or any entity under common ownership or control with, any entity described in paragraph (1) or (2). NJ Rev. 1.22.2024. The Board of Education requests that this form be submitted with the RFP package.

To be completed, signed and returned with the proposal

NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT

RFQ No.25-03

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

I, _____ of the City of _____
in the County of _____ and the State of _____
of full age, being duly sworn according to law on my oath depose and say that:

I am _____ of the _____
Position in Company Name of Company

and the respondent making the qualifications for the above names contract, and that I executed the said qualifications with full authority so to do; that I have not, directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion, discussed any or all parts of this qualifications with any potential bidders, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free, competitive bidding in connection with the proposal, and that all statements contained in said qualifications and this affidavit are true and correct, and made with full knowledge that the Board of Education relies upon the truth of the statements contained in said qualifications and in the statements contained in this affidavit in awarding the contract for the said proposal.

I further warrant that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure such contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except bona fide employees of bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by

(Print Name of Contractor/Vendor)

Subscribed and sworn to: _____
(SIGNATURE OF CONTRACTOR/VENDOR)

before me this _____ day of _____, _____.
Month Year

NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE

Print Name of Notary Public

My commission expires _____, _____.
Month Day Year

SEAL

STAMP

The Board of Education requests that this form be submitted with the package.

To be completed, signed and returned with the proposal

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE

N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2 (P.L. 1977, c.33, as amended by P.L. 2016, c.43)

This statement shall be completed, certified to, and included with all bid and qualifications submissions. Failure to submit the required information is cause for automatic rejection of the bid or proposal.

Name of Organization: _____

Organization Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Part I Check the box that represents the type of business organization:

☐ Sole Proprietorship (skip Parts II and III, execute certification in Part IV)

☐ Non-Profit Corporation (skip Parts II and III, execute certification in Part IV)

☐ For-Profit Corporation (any type) ☐ Limited Liability Company (LLC)

☐ Partnership ☐ Limited Partnership ☐ Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)

☐ Other (be specific): _____

Part II Check the appropriate box

☐ The list below contains the names and addresses of all stockholders in the corporation who own 10 percent or more of its stock, of any class, or of all individual partners in the partnership who own a 10 percent or greater interest therein, or of all members in the limited liability company who own a 10 percent or greater interest therein, as the case may be. **(COMPLETE THE LIST BELOW IN THIS SECTION)**

OR

☐ No one stockholder in the corporation owns 10 percent or more of its stock, of any class, or no individual partner in the partnership owns a 10 percent or greater interest therein, or no member in the limited liability company owns a 10 percent or greater interest therein, as the case may be. **(SKIP TO PART IV)**

Name of Individual or Business Entity	Address

Part III DISCLOSURE OF 10% OR GREATER OWNERSHIP IN THE STOCKHOLDERS, PARTNERS OR LLC MEMBERS LISTED IN PART II

If a bidder has a direct or indirect parent entity which is publicly traded, and any person holds a 10 percent or greater beneficial interest in the publicly traded parent entity as of the last annual federal Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) or foreign equivalent filing, ownership disclosure can be met by providing links to the website(s) containing the last annual filing(s) with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission (or foreign equivalent) that contain the name and address of each person holding a 10% or greater beneficial interest in the publicly traded parent entity, along with the relevant page numbers of the filing(s) that contain the information on each such person. **Attach additional sheets if more space is needed.**

Website (URL) containing the last annual SEC (or foreign equivalent) filing	Page #'s

Please list the names and addresses of each stockholder, partner or member owning a 10 percent or greater interest in any corresponding corporation, partnership and/or limited liability company (LLC) listed in Part II **other than for any publicly traded parent entities referenced above.** The disclosure shall be continued until names and addresses of every non-corporate stockholder, and individual partner, and member exceeding the 10 percent ownership criteria established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2 has been listed. **Attach additional sheets if more space is needed.**

Stockholder/Partner/Member and Corresponding Entity Listed in Part II	Address

Part IV Certification

I, being duly sworn upon my oath, hereby represent that the foregoing information and any attachments thereto to the best of my knowledge are true and complete. I acknowledge: that I am authorized to execute this certification on behalf of the bidder/proposer; that the **Somerset County Vocational Board of Education** is relying on the information contained herein and that I am under a continuing obligation from the date of this certification through the completion of any contracts with the **Board of Education** to notify the **Board of Education** in writing of any changes to the information contained herein; that I am aware that it is a criminal offense to make a false statement or misrepresentation in this certification, and if I do so, I am subject to criminal prosecution under the law and that it will constitute a material breach of my agreement(s) with the, permitting the **Board of Education** to declare any contract(s) resulting from this certification void and unenforceable.

Full Name (Print):		Title:	
Signature:		Date:	

This statement shall be completed, certified to, and included with all bid and qualifications submissions. Failure to submit the required information is cause for automatic rejection of the bid or proposal.

To be completed, signed and returned with the proposal

CONTRACTOR/VENDOR QUESTIONNAIRE CERTIFICATION

Name of Company _____
Address _____ PO Box _____
City, State, Zip _____
Business Phone Number (____) _____ Emergency Phone Number (____) _____
FAX No. (____) _____ E-Mail _____
FEIN No. _____
Unique Entity Identifier (If Applicable) _____ CAGE Code (if applicable) _____

References – Work previously done for School Systems in New Jersey

	<u>Name of District</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Contact Person/Title</u>	<u>Phone</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Vendor Certifications

Direct/Indirect Interests

I declare and certify that no member of the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education, nor any officer or employee or person whose salary is payable in whole or in part by said Board of Education or their immediate family members are directly or indirectly interested in this bid or in the supplies, materials, equipment, work or services to which it relates, or in any portion of profits thereof. If a situation so exists where a Board member, employee, officer of the board has an interest in the bid, etc., then please attach a letter of explanation to this document, duly signed by the president of the firm or company.

Gifts; Gratuities; Compensation

I declare and certify that no person from my firm, business, corporation, association or partnership offered or paid any fee, commission or compensation, or offered any gift, gratuity or other things of value to any school official, board member or employee of the Somerset County Vocational Board of Education.

Vendor Certifications

I declare and certify that I fully understand N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3(a) (1-4) concerning vendor contributions to school board members.

Debarment Certification

I certify that my company and any person employed by my company, nor any affiliates are not debarred from contracting with a Federal government agency, nor debarred from contracting with the State of New Jersey.

I further certify that I understand that it is a crime in the second degree in New Jersey to knowingly make a material representation that is false in connection with the negotiation, award or performance of a government contract.

President or Authorized Agent

Signature

EXHIBIT A

MANDATORY EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY LANGUAGE

N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. (P.L. 1975, C. 127)

N.J.A.C. 17:27

GOODS, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND GENERAL SERVICE CONTRACTS

During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Except with respect to affectional or sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, the contractor will ensure that equal employment opportunity is afforded to such applicants in recruitment and employment, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Such equal employment opportunity shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex.

The contractor or subcontractor will send to each labor union, with which it has a collective bargaining agreement, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union of the contractor's commitments under this chapter and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to make good faith efforts to meet targeted county employment goals established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to inform in writing its appropriate recruitment agencies including, but not limited to, employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, and labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job related testing, as established by the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey and as established by applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

In conforming with the targeted employment goals, the contractor or subcontractor agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and layoff to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

The contractor shall submit to the public agency, after notification of award but prior to execution of a goods and services contract, one of the following three documents:

- Letter of Federal Affirmative Action Plan Approval;
- Certificate of Employee Information Report; or
- Employee Information Report Form AA-302 (electronically provided by the Division and distributed to the public agency through the Division's website at: [http:// www.state.nj.us/treasury/contract_compliance/](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/contract_compliance/)).

The contractor and its subcontractors shall furnish such reports or other documents to the Division of Purchase & Property, CCAU, EEO Monitoring Program as may be requested by the office from time to time in order to carry out the purposes of these regulations, and public agencies shall furnish such information as may be requested by the Division of Purchase & Property, CCAU, EEO Monitoring Program for conducting a compliance investigation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-1.1 et seq.

(Revised: January, 2016)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
Equal Opportunity for Individuals with Disability

The contractor must comply with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), P.L 101-336, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. S121 01 et seq.

The contractor and the Board of Education (hereafter "owner") do hereby agree that the provisions of Title 11 of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (the "Act") (42 U.S.C. S121 01 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities in all services, programs, and activities provided or made available by public entities, and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant there unto, are made a part of this contract. In providing any aid, benefit, or service on behalf of the owner pursuant to this contract, the contractor agrees that the performance shall be in strict compliance with the Act. In the event that the contractor, its agents, servants, employees, or subcontractors violate or are alleged to have violated the Act during the performance of this contract, the contractor shall defend the owner in any action or administrative proceeding commenced pursuant to this Act. The contractor shall indemnify, protect, and save harmless the owner, its agents, servants, and employees from and against any and all suits, claims, losses, demands, or damages, of whatever kind or nature arising out of or claimed to arise out of the alleged violation. The contractor shall, at its own expense, appear, defend, and pay any and all charges for legal services and any and all costs and other expenses arising from such action or administrative proceeding or incurred in connection therewith. In any and all complaints brought pursuant to the owner's grievance procedure, the contractor agrees to abide by any decision of the owner which is rendered pursuant to said grievance procedure. If any action or administrative proceeding results in an award of damages against the owner, or if the owner incurs any expense to cure a violation of the ADA which has been brought pursuant to its grievance procedure, the contractor shall satisfy and discharge the same at its own expense.

The owner shall, as soon as practicable after a claim has been made against it, give written notice thereof to the contractor along with full and complete particulars of the claim, If any action or administrative proceeding is brought against the owner or any of its agents, servants, and employees, the *owner shall* expeditiously forward or have forwarded to the contractor every demand, complaint, notice, summons, pleading, or other process received by the owner or its representatives.

It is expressly agreed and understood that any approval by the owner of the services provided by the contractor pursuant to this contract will not relieve the contractor of the obligation to comply with the Act and to defend, indemnify, protect, and save harmless the owner pursuant to this paragraph.

It is further agreed and understood that the owner assumes no obligation to indemnify or save harmless the contractor, its agents, servants, employees and subcontractors for any claim which may arise out of their performance of this Agreement. Furthermore, the contractor expressly understands and agrees that the provisions of this indemnification clause shall in no way limit the contractor's obligations assumed in this Agreement, nor shall they be construed to relieve the contractor from any liability, nor preclude the owner from taking any other actions available to it under any other provisions of the Agreement or otherwise at law.

To All Respondents

REMINDER!

Did you sign all of the documents?

All qualifications documents returned to the Board shall be signed with original signatures. Please try to use **blue ink**.

The Board will not accept facsimile, rubber stamp, electronic or digital signatures.

Failure to sign all qualifications documents may be cause for disqualification and rejection of the proposal.

Raelene Sipple

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
