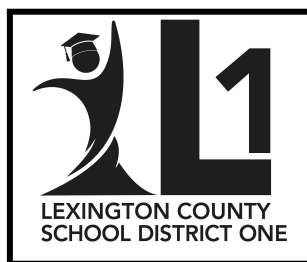


REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) PT2025.6 COMMUNICATIONS AUDIT



SOLICITATION NO. PT2025.6

RFP TITLE: COMMUNICATIONS AUDIT

<p>CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS RFP: Elizabeth Marsh, CPPB, NIGP-CPP Director of Procurement 100 Tarrar Springs Road Lexington, SC 29072 emarsh@lexington1.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">INQUIRIES -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please direct all inquiries via email to the contact person named as contact.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No telephone inquiries accepted to anyone in the District or School Board</p>
<p>AWARDS & AMENDMENTS/ADDENDA Any addenda will be posted on the Lexington County School District One webpage: https://www.lexington1.net/departments/procurement/solicitations-awards</p>	<p>PRE PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: Monday, June 30 · 2:00 – 3:00pm Time zone: America/New_York Google Meet joining info Video call link: https://meet.google.com/coe-sgyh-iva Or dial: (US) +1 520-485-7696 PIN: 884 122 440#</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE SUBMITTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) Hard Copy Technical Proposals (do not include cost proposal) • One (1) USB containing a PDF version of the ORIGINAL Proposal • PDF version of the Cost Proposal • Submit a separate, clearly labeled "REDACTED COPY - FOR PUBLIC RELEASE" of your bid/proposal, omitting only the identified confidential portions. 	<p>SUBMITTING CONFIDENTIAL/REDACTED INFORMATION: Clearly identify the specific confidential information (pages, paragraphs, sections). Do not make blanket claims. Important: Prices, discounts, terms, conditions, and general business information are not considered confidential and cannot be redacted. Failure to follow these instructions may result in your entire bid/proposal being deemed public and subject to disclosure. The procuring agency will make the final determination regarding confidentiality. DISCLOSURE OF YOUR BID / PROPOSAL and SUBMITTING CONFIDENTIAL DATA</p>
<p>SUBMIT YOUR SEALED OFFER TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:</p> <p>PHYSICAL/MAILING ADDRESS: Lexington School District One Attn: Procurement Services 100 Tarrar Springs Road Lexington, South Carolina 29072</p> <p style="background-color: yellow; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">Emailed Bids will NOT be accepted.</p>	
<p><i>The Term "Offer" Means Your "Bid" or "Proposal". Your offer must be submitted in a sealed package. Solicitation Number & Opening Date must appear on package exterior. See "Submitting Your Offer" provision.</i></p>	

RFP Anticipated Dates

Request for Proposal Issued	June 23, 2025
Pre-Proposal Conference	June 30, 2025 2:00 PM ET
Last Date for Submission of Questions	July 1, 2025 2:00 PM ET
*Amendment One Posted (Questions Answered)	July 7, 2025
Request for Proposal Due CLOSING DATE/TIME:	August 4, 2025 3:00 PM ET
*Intent to Award	August 22, 2025
<p>The timing and sequence of events resulting from this RFP may vary and shall ultimately be determined by Lexington County School District One. *Anticipated dates</p>	

(Complete & Return Page Two with Your Offer)

OFFEROR INFORMATION

Vendor Name:

Contact Person for Purchases:

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS (Address for Offeror's home office / principal place of business)

NOTICE ADDRESS (Address to which all procurement and contract related notices should be sent.) (See "Notice" clause)

Phone

Fax

E-Mail

PAYMENT ADDRESS (Address to which payments will be sent.) (See "Payment" clause)

ORDER ADDRESS (Address to which purchase orders will be sent) (See "Purchase Orders and "Contract Documents" clauses)

___ Payment Address same as Home Office Address

___ Payment Address same as Notice Address (check only one)

___ Order Address same as Home Office Address

___ Order Address same as Notice Address (check only one)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AMENDMENTS

Offerors acknowledge receipt of amendments by indicating amendment number and its date of issue. (See "Amendments to Solicitation" Provision)

Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date	Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date	Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date
DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT (See "Discount for Prompt Payment" clause)		10 Calendar Days (%)	20 Calendar Days (%)	30 Calendar Days (%)	___ Calendar Days (%)

MINORITY PARTICIPATION

Are you a South Carolina Certified Minority Vendor? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, South Carolina Certification # _____

*I certify that this offer is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm or person submitting an offer for the same services, materials, supplies, or equipment, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud.
I hereby agree to all terms and conditions outlined in this document, confirm that my offer will remain valid for 120 days, and certify that I have the authority to sign on behalf of the offeror.*

Authorized Signature:

Name (typed or printed):

Title:

Email

Contact for Questions Regarding Proposal:

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I. SCOPE OF SOLICITATION

Lexington County School District One (Lexington One) is seeking proposals from qualified firms to conduct a comprehensive communications audit and develop a strategic communications framework that supports the district's [Strategic Plan](#), with a focus on:

2.3 Implementing consistent, high-quality communication strategies that strengthen relationships and increase engagement among students, employees, and families.

2.4 Collaborating with families, business partners, and community members to enhance the student and employee experience.

The selected firm will assess the effectiveness, accessibility and impact of the district's communications and provide data-driven recommendations to improve communication, engagement and collaboration across all stakeholder groups.

MAXIMUM CONTRACT PERIOD - ESTIMATED

Start date:**07/01/2025** End date:**06/30/2027** Dates provided are estimates only. Any resulting contract will begin on the date specified in the notice of award. See clause entitled "Term of Contract - Effective Date/Initial Contract Period".

This is a one-year contract with a one year renewal option. The maximum contract life is two years.

II. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS - A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

AMENDMENTS TO SOLICITATION

(a) The Solicitation may be amended at any time prior to opening. All actual and prospective Offerors should monitor the following web site for the issuance of Amendments: <https://www.lexington1.net/departments/procurement>

(b) Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation

(1) by signing and returning the amendment,

(2) by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on Page Two,

(3) by letter, or

(4) by submitting a bid that indicates in some way that the bidder received the amendment.

(c) If this solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions which are not modified remain unchanged.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

Notice regarding any award, cancellation of award, or extension of award will be posted at the location and on the date specified on the Cover Page or, if applicable, any notice of extension of award. Should the contract resulting from this Solicitation have a total or potential value in excess of fifty thousand dollars, such notice will be sent electronically to all Offerors responding to the Solicitation and any award will not be effective until the calendar day (including weekends and holidays) immediately following the seventh business day after such notice is given.

BID/PROPOSAL AS OFFER TO CONTRACT

By submitting Your Bid or Proposal, You are offering to enter into a contract with the Using Governmental Unit(s). Without further action by either party, a binding contract shall result upon final award. Any award issued will be issued to, and the contract will be formed with, the entity identified as the Offeror on the Cover Page. An Offer may be submitted by only one legal entity; "joint bids" are not allowed.

BID ACCEPTANCE PERIOD

In order to withdraw Your Offer after the minimum period specified on the Cover Page, You must notify the Procurement Officer in writing.

BID IN ENGLISH and DOLLARS

Offers submitted in response to this solicitation shall be in the English language and in US dollars, unless otherwise permitted by the Solicitation.

CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION

GIVING FALSE, MISLEADING, OR INCOMPLETE INFORMATION ON THIS CERTIFICATION MAY RENDER YOU SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION UNDER SECTION 16-9-10 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS.

(a) By submitting an offer, the offeror certifies that-

(1) The prices in this offer have been arrived at independently, without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other offeror or competitor relating to-

(i) Those prices;

(ii) The intention to submit an offer; or

(iii) The methods or factors used to calculate the prices offered.

(2) The prices in this offer have not been and will not be knowingly disclosed by the offeror, directly or indirectly, to any other offeror or competitor before bid opening (in the case of a sealed bid solicitation) or contract award (in the case of a negotiated solicitation) unless otherwise required by law; and

(3) No attempt has been made or will be made by the offeror to induce any other concern to submit or not to submit an offer for the purpose of restricting competition.

(b) Each signature on the offer is considered to be a certification by the signatory that the signatory-

(1) Is the person in the offeror's organization responsible for determining the prices being offered in this bid or proposal, and that the signatory has not participated and will not participate in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification; or

(2) (i) Has been authorized, in writing, to act as agent for the offeror's principals in certifying that those principals have not participated, and will not participate in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification [As used in this subdivision (b)(2)(i), the term "principals" means the person(s) in the offeror's organization responsible for determining the prices offered in this bid or proposal];

(ii) As an authorized agent, does certify that the principals referenced in subdivision (b)(2)(i) of this certification have not participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification; and

(iii) As an agent, has not personally participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification.

(c) If the offeror deletes or modifies paragraph (a)(2) of this certification, the offeror must furnish with its offer a signed statement setting forth in detail the circumstances of the disclosure.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

(a) (1) By submitting an Offer, Offeror certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that-

(i) Offeror and/or any of its Principals-

(A) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for the award of contracts by any state or federal agency;

(B) Have not, within a three-year period preceding this offer, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, state, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or state antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, or receiving stolen property; and

(C) Are not presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (a)(1)(i)(B) of this provision.

(ii) Offeror has not, within a three-year period preceding this offer, had one or more contracts terminated for default by any public (Federal, state, or local) entity.

(2) "Principals," for the purposes of this certification, means officers; directors; owners; partners; and, persons having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity (e.g., general manager; plant manager; head of a subsidiary, division, or business segment, and similar positions).

(b) Offeror shall provide immediate written notice to the Procurement Officer if, at any time prior to contract award, Offeror learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

(c) If Offeror is unable to certify the representations stated in paragraphs (a)(1), Offer must submit a written explanation regarding its inability to make the certification. The certification will be considered in connection with a review of the Offeror's responsibility. Failure of the Offeror to furnish additional information as requested by the Procurement Officer may render the Offeror non-responsible.

(d) Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render, in good faith, the certification required by paragraph (a) of this provision. The knowledge and information of an Offeror is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

(e) The certification in paragraph (a) of this provision is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when making award. If it is later determined that the Offeror knowingly or in bad faith rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the State, the Procurement Officer may terminate the contract resulting from this solicitation for default.

[02-2A035-1]

CODE OF LAWS AVAILABLE

The South Carolina Code of Laws is available at <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t11c035.php>

The District's Procurement Code is available at: <https://www.lexington1.net/departments/procurement>

COMPLETION OF FORMS / CORRECTION OF ERRORS

All prices and notations should be printed in ink or typewritten. Errors should be crossed out, corrections entered and initialed by the person signing the bid. Do not modify the solicitation document itself including the bid schedule.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF OFFER

Any offer received after the Procurement Officer or their designee has declared that the time set for opening has arrived, shall be rejected unless the offer has been delivered to the designated Procurement Office or the District Office's mail room which services that Procurement Office prior to the bid opening which is located at the physical address on the first page of the solicitation.

DEFINITIONS

EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED HEREIN, THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS ARE APPLICABLE TO ALL PARTS OF THE SOLICITATION:

AMENDMENT – means a document issued to supplement the original solicitation document.

AGREEMENT – means the written agreement, consisting of the agreement documents signed between the District and the successful proponent pursuant to this RFP and the successful proposal.

AGREEMENT DOCUMENTS – means the instructions to proponents, scope of service, addenda, response to the RFP, and the acceptance of proposal together with all subsequently negotiated agreements, written amendments, modifications, and supplements to such documents and all written authorizations signed by the administrator(s) amending, deleting, or adding to the contract.

BOARD – means the Lexington School District One Board of Trustees.

BUYER – means the Procurement Officer.

CHANGE ORDER - means any written alteration in specifications, delivery point, rate of delivery, period of performance, price, quantity, or other provisions of any contract accomplished by mutual agreement of the parties to the contract.

CONTRACT - See clause entitled "Contract Documents & Order of Precedence."

CONTRACT MODIFICATION – means a written order signed by the Procurement Officer, directing the contractor to make changes which the changes clause of the contract authorizes the Procurement Officer to order without the consent of the contractor.

CONTRACTOR - means the Offeror receiving an award as a result of this solicitation.

COVER PAGE – means the top page of the original solicitation on which the solicitation is identified by number. Offerors are cautioned that Amendments may modify information provided on the Cover Page.

DISTRICT – means Lexington County School District One.

MUST, MANDATORY, REQUIRED, or SHALL – means a requirement that must be met in order for a proposal to receive consideration.

OFFER – means the bid or proposal submitted in response to this solicitation. The terms "Bid" and "Proposal" are used interchangeably with the term "Offer."

OFFEROR – means the single legal entity submitting the offer. The term "Bidder" is used interchangeably with the term "Offeror." See bidding provisions entitled "Signing Your Offer" and "Bid/Proposal As Offer To Contract."

PAGE TWO – means the second page of the original solicitation, which is labeled Page Two.

PROCUREMENT OFFICER – means the person, or his successor, identified as such on the Cover Page.

PROPOSAL – means the Proponent's response to this "RFP".

REQUIREMENTS – means those services described in the Scope of Service section of this RFP.

SHOULD or DESIRABLE – means a requirement having a significant degree of importance to the objectives of the RFP.

SOLICITATION – means this document, including all its parts, attachments, and any Amendments.

SUBCONTRACTOR – means any person having a contract to perform work or render service to the Contractor as a part of the Contractor's agreement arising from this solicitation.

WORK - means all labor, materials, equipment, services, or property of any type, provided or to be provided by the Contractor to fulfill the Contractor's obligations under the Contract.

YOU and YOUR – means Offeror.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OR UNFAIR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

You warrant and represent that your offer identifies and explains any unfair competitive advantage you may have in competing for the proposed contract and any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your participation in this competition or your receipt of an award. The two underlying principles are (a) preventing the existence of conflicting roles that might bias a contractor's judgment, and (b) preventing an unfair competitive advantage. If you have an unfair competitive advantage or a conflict of interest, the District may withhold an award. Before withholding award on these grounds, an offeror will be notified of the concerns and provided a reasonable opportunity to respond. Efforts to avoid or mitigate such concerns, including restrictions on future activities, may be considered. Without limiting the foregoing, you represent that your offer identifies any services that relate to either this solicitation or the work and that has already been performed by you, a proposed subcontractor, or an affiliated business of either.

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE CERTIFICATION

By submitting an Offer, the Offeror certifies that, if awarded a contract, they will comply with all applicable provisions of The Drug-free Workplace Act, Title 44, Chapter 107 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.

DUTY TO INQUIRE

Offeror, by submitting an Offer, represents that it has read and understands the Solicitation and that its Offer is made in compliance with the Solicitation. Offerors are expected to examine the Solicitation thoroughly and should request an explanation of any ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation. Failure to do so will be at the Offeror's risk. All ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation shall be interpreted to require the better quality or greater quantity of work and/or materials, unless otherwise directed by amendment. Offeror assumes responsibility for any patent ambiguity in the Solicitation that Offeror does not bring to the District's attention. See clause entitled "Questions from Offerors."

ETHICS ACT

Ethics Certificate: By submitting an offer, Offeror certifies that it has and will comply with, and has not, and will not, induce a person to violate Title 8, Chapter 13 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended (ethics act). The following statutes require special attention: Section 8-13-700, regarding use of official position for financial gain; Section 8-13-705, regarding gifts to influence action of public official; Section 8-13-720, regarding offering money for advice or assistance of public official; Sections 8-13-755 and 8-13-760, regarding restrictions on employment by former public official; Section 8-13-775, prohibiting public official with economic interests from acting on contracts; Section 8-13-790, regarding recovery of kickbacks; Section 8-13-1150, regarding statements to be filed by consultants; and Section 8-13-1342, regarding restrictions on contributions by contractor to candidate who participated in awarding of contract. The state may rescind any contract and recover all amounts expended as a result of any action taken in violation of this provision. If contractor participates, directly or indirectly, in the evaluation or award of public contracts, including without limitation, change orders or task orders regarding a public contract, contractor shall, if required by law to file such a statement, provide the statement required by Section 8-13-1150 to the procurement officer at the same time the law requires the statement to be filed.

OMIT TAXES FROM PRICE

Do not include any sales or use taxes in Your price that the District may be required to pay.

OPEN TRADE REPRESENTATION

By submitting an Offer, Offeror represents that Offeror is not currently engaged in the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with whom South Carolina can enjoy open trade, as defined in SC Code Section 11-35-5300.

PROTESTS

Any prospective bidder, Offeror, contractor, or subcontractor who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation of a contract shall protest within fifteen days of the date of issuance of the applicable solicitation document at issue. Any actual bidder, Offeror, contractor, or subcontractor who is aggrieved in connection with the intended award or award of a contract shall (i) submit notice of their intent to protest within seven business days of the date notification of award is posted in accordance with the District's Procurement Code, and (ii) submit their actual protest within 15 days of the date the award notice is posted. Both protests and notices of intent to protest must be in writing, submitted to the appropriate Chief Procurement Officer. The grounds of the protest and the relief requested must be set forth with enough particularity to give notice of the issues to be decided. [Article 17 - 4210 of the District's Procurement Code]

The rights and remedies granted under Article 17 – 4210 are not available for contracts with an actual or potential value of up to fifty thousand dollars.

PUBLIC OPENING

Offers will be publicly opened at the date/time and at the location identified on the Cover Page, or last Amendment, whichever is applicable.

QUESTIONS FROM OFFERORS

(a) Any prospective offeror desiring an explanation or interpretation of the solicitation, drawings, specifications, etc., must request it in writing. Questions must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than five (5) days prior to opening unless otherwise stated on the Cover Page. Label any communication regarding your questions with the name

of the procurement officer, and the solicitation's title and number. Oral explanations or instructions will not be binding. Any information given a prospective offeror concerning a solicitation will be furnished promptly to all other prospective offerors as an Amendment to the solicitation, if that information is necessary for submitting offers or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to other prospective offerors. (b) The District seeks to permit maximum practicable competition. Offerors are urged to advise the Procurement Officer – as soon as possible – regarding any aspect of this procurement, including any aspect of the Solicitation that unnecessarily or inappropriately limits full and open competition. All questions shall be in writing and submitted to and received no later than the date found on the Cover Page of this solicitation via email, or mail. Please send questions to:

Mailing Address: Lexington County School District One
 Attn: Procurement Department, Elizabeth Marsh
 100 Tarrar Springs Road
 Lexington, South Carolina 29072
 Ref: Solicitation Number and Title

Email: emarsh@lexington1.net
 Subject Line: Reference Solicitation Number and Title

Failure to address email correctly may result in your question being discovered after the question deadline and not being answered. Questions should be submitted using the following format:

<i>Page Reference:</i>	<i>Vendor Question:</i>

REJECTION/CANCELLATION

The District may cancel this solicitation in whole or in part. The District may reject any or all proposals in whole or in part. [Article 5 - 1710 of the District’s Procurement Code]

RESPONSIVENESS/IMPROPER OFFERS

- (a) Bid as Specified. Offers for supplies or services other than those specified will not be considered unless authorized by the Solicitation.
- (b) Multiple Offers. Offerors may submit more than one Offer, provided that each Offer has significant differences other than price. Each separate Offer must satisfy all Solicitation requirements. If this solicitation is an Invitation for Bids, each separate offer must be submitted as a separate document. If this solicitation is a Request for Proposals, multiple offers may be submitted as one document, provided that you clearly differentiate between each offer and you submit a separate cost proposal for each offer, if applicable.
- (c) Responsiveness. Any Offer which fails to conform to the material requirements of the Solicitation may be rejected as nonresponsive. Offers which impose conditions that modify material requirements of the Solicitation may be rejected. If a fixed price is required, an Offer will be rejected if the total possible cost to the District cannot be determined. Offerors will not be given an opportunity to correct any material nonconformity. Any deficiency resulting from a minor informality may be cured or waived at the sole discretion of the Procurement Officer.
- (d) Price Reasonableness: Any offer may be rejected if the Procurement Officer determines in writing that it is unreasonable as to price.
- (e) Unbalanced Bidding. The District may reject an Offer as nonresponsive if the prices bid are materially unbalanced between line items or subline items. A bid is materially unbalanced when it is based on prices significantly less than cost for some work and prices which are significantly overstated in relation to cost for other work, and if there is a reasonable doubt that the bid will result in the lowest overall cost to the District even though it may be the low evaluated bid, or if it is so unbalanced as to be tantamount to allowing an advance payment.

RESTRICTIONS APPLICABLE TO OFFERORS

Violation of these restrictions may result in disqualification of your offer, suspension or debarment, and may constitute a violation of the state Ethics Act. (a) After issuance of the solicitation, *you agree not to discuss this procurement activity in any way with the District or its employees, agents or officials.* All communications must be solely with the Procurement Officer. This restriction may be lifted by express written permission from the Procurement Officer. This restriction expires once a contract has been formed. (b) Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Procurement Officer, *you agree not to give anything to the District or its employees, agents or officials prior to award.*

SIGNING YOUR OFFER

Every Offer must be signed by an individual with actual authority to bind the Offeror. (a) If the Offeror is an individual, the Offer must be signed by that individual. If the Offeror is an individual doing business as a firm, the Offer must be submitted in the firm name, signed by the individual, and state that the individual is doing business as a firm. (b) If the Offeror is a partnership, the Offer must be submitted in the partnership name, followed by the words by its Partner, and signed by a general partner. (c) If the Offeror is a corporation, the Offer must be submitted in the corporate name, followed by the signature and title of the person authorized to sign. (d) An Offer may be submitted by a joint venturer involving any combination of individuals, partnerships, or corporations. If the Offeror is a joint venture, the Offer must

be submitted in the name of the Joint Venture and signed by every participant in the joint venture in the manner prescribed in paragraphs (a) through (c) above for each type of participant. (e) If an Offer is signed by an agent, other than as stated in subparagraphs (a) through (d) above, the Offer must state that it has been signed by an Agent. Upon request, Offeror must provide proof of the agent's authorization to bind the principal.

DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSINGS

If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal District Office processes so that offers cannot be received at the District Office for receipt of bids by the exact time specified in the solicitation, the time specified for receipt of offers will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the solicitation on the first work day on which normal District Office processes resume. In lieu of an automatic extension, an Amendment may be issued to reschedule bid opening. If the District Office is closed at the time a pre-bid or pre-proposal conference is scheduled, an Amendment will be issued to reschedule the conference.

DISCLOSURE OF YOUR BID / PROPOSAL and SUBMITTING CONFIDENTIAL DATA

(a) According to Section 11-35-410, any person submitting a document in response or with regard to any solicitation or other request must "comply with instructions provided in the solicitation for marking information exempt from public disclosure. Information not marked as required by the applicable instructions may be disclosed to the public." **IF YOU IDENTIFY YOUR ENTIRE RESPONSE AS EXEMPT FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, OR IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT A REDACTED COPY AS REQUIRED, THE DISTRICT MAY, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, DETERMINE YOUR BID OR PROPOSAL NONRESPONSIVE AND INELIGIBLE FOR AWARD.**

(b) By submitting a response to this solicitation or request, Offeror (1) agrees to the public disclosure of every page, or portion thereof, of every document regarding this solicitation or request that was submitted at any time prior to entering into a contract (including, but not limited to, documents contained in a response, documents submitted to clarify a response, and documents submitted during negotiations), unless the page, or portion thereof, was redacted and conspicuously marked "Trade Secret" or "Confidential" or "Protected", (2) agrees that any information not redacted and marked, as required by these bidding instructions, as a "Trade Secret" is not a trade secret as defined by the Trade Secrets Act, and (3) agrees that, notwithstanding any claims or markings otherwise, any prices, commissions, discounts, or other financial figures used to determine the award, as well as the final contract amount, are subject to public disclosure.

(c) If your offer includes any information that you claim is exempt from public disclosure, you must submit one complete copy of your offer from which you have removed or concealed such information (the redacted copy). Except for the information removed or concealed, the redacted copy must be identical to your original offer.

(d) Do not mark your entire response (bid, proposal, quote, etc.) as confidential, trade secret, or protected. If only portions of a page are subject to some protection, do not redact the entire page. The redacted copy must reflect the same pagination as the original and show the empty space from which information was redacted. The Procurement Officer must be able to view, search, copy and print the redacted copy without a password. If your response, or any part thereof, is improperly marked as confidential or trade secret or protected, the District may, in its sole discretion, determine it nonresponsive.

(e) On the redacted copy, you must identify the basis of your claim by marking each redaction as follows: You must separately mark with the word "CONFIDENTIAL" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure because it is either (1) a trade secret as defined in Section 30-4-40(a)(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, or (2) privileged and confidential, as that phrase is used in Section 11-35-410. You must separately mark with the words "TRADE SECRET" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure as a trade secret pursuant to Section 39-8-20 of the Trade Secrets Act. You must separately mark with the word "PROTECTED" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Section 11-35- 1810. All markings must be conspicuous; use color, bold, underlining, or some other method in order to conspicuously distinguish the mark from the other text.

(f) In determining whether to release documents, the District will detrimentally rely on your redaction and marking of documents, as required by these bidding instructions, as being either "Confidential" or "Trade Secret" or "Protected". By submitting a response, you agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless Lexington County School District One, its officers and employees, from every claim, demand, loss, expense, cost, damage or injury, including attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from withholding information by the State of South Carolina or any of its agencies, that you have redacted or marked as "Confidential" or "Trade Secret" or "Protected". (All references to S.C. Code of Laws.)

SUBMITTING YOUR OFFER OR MODIFICATION

(a) Offers and offer modifications shall be submitted in sealed envelopes or packages – (1) Addressed to the office specified in the Solicitation; and (2) Showing the time and date specified for opening, the solicitation number, and the name and address of the bidder.

(b) If you are responding to more than one solicitation, each offer must be submitted in a different envelope or package.

(c) Each Offeror must submit the number of copies indicated on the Cover Page.

(d) Offerors using commercial carrier services shall ensure that the Offer is addressed and marked on the outermost envelope or wrapper as prescribed in paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this provision when delivered to the office specified in the Solicitation.

(e) Facsimile or email offers, modifications, or withdrawals, will not be considered unless authorized by the Solicitation.

TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

(a) If Offeror is owned or controlled by a common parent as defined in paragraph (b) of this provision, Offeror shall submit with its Offer the name and TIN of common parent.

(b) Definitions: "Common parent," as used in this provision, means that corporate entity that owns or controls an affiliated group of corporations that files its Federal income tax returns on a consolidated basis, and of which the offeror is a member. "Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)," as used in this provision, means the number required by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to be used by the offeror in reporting income tax and other returns. The TIN may be either a Social Security Number or an Employer Identification Number.

(c) If Offeror does not have a TIN, Offeror shall indicate if either a TIN has been applied for or a TIN is not required. If a TIN is not required, indicate whether

- (i) Offeror is a nonresident alien, foreign corporation, or foreign partnership that does not have income effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States and does not have an office or place of business or a fiscal paying agent in the United States;
- (ii) Offeror is an agency or instrumentality of a state or local government;
- (iii) Offeror is an agency or instrumentality of a foreign government; or
- (iv) Offeror is an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government

WITHDRAWAL OR CORRECTION OF OFFER

Offers may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before the exact time set for opening. If the Solicitation authorizes facsimile offers, offers may be withdrawn via facsimile received at any time before the exact time set for opening. A bid may be withdrawn in person by a bidder or its authorized representative if, before the exact time set for opening, the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the bid. The withdrawal and correction of Offers is governed by Article 5 – 1520 of the District's Procurement Code.

II. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS -- B. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CONFERENCE - PRE-BID/PROPOSAL

Pre-Proposal PT2025.6 COMMUNICATIONS AUDIT

Monday, June 30 · 2:00 – 3:00pm

Time zone: America/New_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/coe-sgyh-iva>

Or dial: (US) +1 732-630-8226 PIN: 910 521 176#

[More phone numbers:https://tel.meet/coe-sgyh-iva?pin=2651234333804](https://tel.meet/coe-sgyh-iva?pin=2651234333804)

CONTENTS OF OFFER

(a) Offers should be complete and carefully worded and should convey all of the information requested.

(b) Offers should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of offeror's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content.

(c) The contents of your offer must be divided into two parts, the technical proposal and the business proposal.

(d) If your offer includes any comment over and above the specific information requested in the solicitation, you are to include this information as a separate appendix to your offer. Offers which include either modifications to any of the solicitation's contractual requirements or an offeror's standard terms and conditions may be deemed non-responsive and not considered for award.

OPENING PROPOSALS -- INFORMATION NOT DIVULGED

In competitive sealed proposals, neither the number nor identity of offerors nor prices will be divulged at opening.

PROTESTS

Any protest must be addressed to the Chief Financial Officer, Lexington County School District One, and submitted in writing by e-mail or post-delivery as follows:

Mailing Address: Lexington County School District One
Procurement Department, Chief Procurement Officer
100 Tarrar Springs Road
Lexington, South Carolina 29072

Ref: Protest – Solicitation Number
Email: jmiller@lexington1.net and emarsh@lexington1.net

Subject Line: Protest - Ref: Solicitation Number

III. SCOPE OF WORK/SPECIFICATIONS

SCOPE OF WORK

See attached Scope of Work/Specifications.

BIDDING SCHEDULE

See attached Bidding Schedule.

DELIVERY/PERFORMANCE LOCATION -- SPECIFIED

After award, all deliveries shall be made and all services provided to the following address, unless otherwise specified:

Lexington County School District One
100 Tarrar Springs Road
Lexington, SC 29072

IV. INFORMATION FOR OFFERORS TO SUBMIT

INFORMATION FOR OFFERORS TO SUBMIT -- GENERAL

You shall submit a signed Cover Page and Page Two. Your offer should include all other information and documents requested in this part and in parts II.B. Special Instructions; III. Scope of Work; V. Qualifications; VIII. Bidding Schedule/Price Proposal; and any appropriate attachments addressed in Part IX. Attachments to Solicitations. You should submit a summary of all insurance policies you have or plan to acquire to comply with the insurance requirements stated herein, if any, including policy types; coverage types; limits, sub-limits, and deductibles for each policy and coverage type; the carrier's A.M. Best rating; and whether the policy is written on an occurrence or claims-made basis.

INFORMATION FOR OFFERORS TO SUBMIT -- EVALUATION

In addition to information requested elsewhere in this solicitation, offerors should submit the following information for purposes of evaluation:

You shall submit a **Technical Proposal** and a **Price Proposal** of your offer in separate and distinct documents. **In addition to your original offer, you are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to submit a redacted copy of the Technical Proposal.**

Instructions for Technical Proposal

The Technical Proposal shall be arranged in the following order:

Section 1 – Introductory Documents

1. Cover Page of this solicitation – Page 1 of Offeror's proposal
2. Page Two of this solicitation – Page 2 of Offeror's proposal
3. Executive Summary
 - A one or two-page executive summary to briefly describe the Offeror's proposal.
 - This summary should highlight the major features of the proposal.
 - The reader should be able to determine the essence of the proposal by reading the executive summary.

Section 2 – Experience & Expertise

1. Describe the organization's experience in the execution of comprehensive communications audits for school districts to include brief overview of organization's background, total number of years conducting communications audits for public school districts and summary of at least three completed audits to include references.
2. Demonstrate expertise in the field of communications and understanding of the unique communication and engagement challenges faced by public school districts.

Section 3 – Approach & Methodology

1. Explain the firm's data collection and analysis methodologies'.
2. Discuss how the the data will be used to develop a plan to support Strategies 2.3 and 2.4 of the district's Strategic Plan

Section 4 – Timeline

1. Ability to complete the project within the established timeframe. Feasibility of project completion within the designated timeframe.

Instructions for Cost Proposal

Technical Proposal: Pricing details are strictly prohibited.

Price Proposal: This separate and clearly identified proposal must include a duplicate of Page 1 of this solicitation, along with all information requested in **VIII. COST PROPOSAL**.

Offerors must submit a comprehensive and itemized breakdown of all costs to be incurred by the District, as specified in Section VIII. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the offer being deemed unresponsive.

MINORITY PARTICIPATION

See Page Two of the solicitation.

V. QUALIFICATIONS

QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFEROR

To be eligible for award of a contract, a prospective contractor must be responsible. In evaluating an Offeror's responsibility, the District Standards of Responsibility and information from any other source may be considered. An Offeror must, upon request of the District, furnish satisfactory evidence of its ability to meet all contractual requirements. Unreasonable failure to supply information promptly in connection with a responsibility inquiry may be grounds for determining that you are ineligible to receive an award. [Article 5 – 1810 of the District's Procurement Code]

District Standards of Responsibility: Factors to be considered in determining whether the District standards of responsibility have been met include whether a prospective contractor has:

- available the appropriate financial, material, equipment, facility, and personnel resources and expertise, or the ability to obtain them, necessary to indicate its capability to meet all contractual requirements;
- a satisfactory record of performance;
- a satisfactory record of integrity;
- qualified legally to contract with the District and State; and
- supplied all necessary information in connection with the inquiry concerning responsibility.

VI. AWARD CRITERIA

AWARD CRITERIA -- PROPOSALS

Award will be made to the highest ranked, responsive and responsible offeror whose offer is determined to be the most advantageous to the District.

AWARD TO ONE OFFEROR

Award will be made to one Offeror.

EVALUATION FACTORS -- PROPOSALS

Offers will be evaluated using only the factors stated below. Evaluation factors are stated in the relative order of importance, with the first factor being the most important. Once evaluation is complete, all responsive offerors will be ranked from most advantageous to least advantageous.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Experience & Expertise (30%)

Experience in school district communications audits and understanding of K-12 stakeholder engagement. (*Section 2*)

Approach & Methodology (30%)

Effectiveness of data collection and analysis methods, and the existence of a clear plan to align communications with strategic objectives 2.3 and 2.4. (*Section 3*)

Timeline (20%)

The evaluation panel will score the costs subjectively by looking at the reasonableness of the budget relative to the scope and deliverables, and the ability to complete the project within the established timeframe.

Cost Proposal (20%)

The evaluation panel will score the costs subjectively by looking at the reasonableness of the budget relative to the scope and deliverables, and the ability to complete the project within the established timeframe.

Phase II Presentation/Interview (if applicable)

The District reserves the right, but is not obligated, to conduct interviews with top-ranked proposers. The purpose of these interviews is to gain a deeper understanding of the proposed solutions, assess team dynamics, clarify specific capabilities, and evaluate the overall fit with the District's requirements.

Presentation/Interview Eligibility:

Interviews may be conducted at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee, specifically if the technical and cost scores of the top-ranked proposals are close enough to require further distinction. However, if a single proposer is clearly superior without significant competition, the District may choose to proceed directly to contract negotiations without interviews.

Should only one offeror achieve the highest score, the evaluation panel will determine whether to invite them for a presentation/interview. If invited and successful in this Phase II performance, negotiations may commence. If unsuccessful, the next highest-ranked offeror may then be invited. If multiple offerors proceed to Phase II, their presentation/interview scores will be added to their Phase I scores. In a pass/fail scenario for a single offeror's presentation/interview, a failure will result in the invitation of the next highest-ranked offeror.

PHASE II PRESENTATION / INTERVIEW Offerors selected to Phase II of the evaluation process will be required to give a virtual presentation/interview.

LCSD1 will notify Offerors as quickly as possible after Phase I scoring to schedule a specific date and time for the presentation.

The activities of the Offeror should be limited to a presentation of the capabilities, approach, and methods described in the Offeror's written proposal.

- Evaluator questions permitted at the end.
- Offeror answers restricted to facts.
- No new information, staff, products, or features beyond the proposal allowed.
- Negotiation not permitted during the presentation.
- Offeror cannot change the proposal.
- Offeror may be required to document answers.
- Presentation should be straightforward for clear understanding.
- Presentation clarifies the written proposal; offerors cannot ask questions or receive preliminary assessments.
- Offeror performs presentation and supplies required components.
- District provides a screen and internet connectivity.

NEGOTIATIONS

The Procurement Officer may elect to make an award without conducting negotiations. However, after the offers have been ranked, the Procurement Officer may elect to negotiate price or the general scope of work with the highest-ranked offeror. If a satisfactory agreement cannot be reached, negotiations may be conducted with the second, and then the third, and so on, ranked offerors to such level of ranking as determined by the Procurement Officer.

DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS – OPTIONAL

Submit your best terms from both a price and a technical standpoint. Your proposal may be evaluated and your offer accepted without any discussions, negotiations, or prior notice. Ordinarily, nonresponsive proposals will be rejected outright without prior notice. Nevertheless, the District may elect to conduct discussions, including the possibility of limited proposal revisions, but only for those proposals reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. [11-35-1530(6); R.19-445.2095(I)] If improper revisions are submitted during discussions, the District may elect to consider only your unrevised initial proposal, provided your initial offer is responsive. The District may also elect to conduct negotiations, beginning with the highest ranked offeror, or seek best and final offers, as provided in Section 11-35-1530(8). Negotiations may involve both price and matters affecting the scope of the contract, so long as changes are within the general scope of the request for proposals. If negotiations are conducted, the District may elect to disregard the negotiations and accept your original proposal. [06-6058-1]

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**CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS -- A. GENERAL
ASSIGNMENT, NOVATION, AND CHANGE OF NAME, IDENTITY,
OR STRUCTURE (FEB 2015)**

(a) Contractor shall not assign this contract, or its rights, obligations, or any other interest arising from this contract, or delegate any of its performance obligations, without the express written consent of the responsible procurement officer. The foregoing restriction does not apply to a transfer that occurs by operation of law (e.g., bankruptcy; corporate reorganizations and consolidations, but not including partial asset sales). Notwithstanding the foregoing, contractor may assign monies receivable under the con

tract provided that the state shall have no obligation to make payment to an assignee until thirty days after contractor (not the assignee) has provided the responsible procurement officer with (i) proof of the assignment, (ii) the identity (by contract number) of the specific state contract to which the assignment applies, and (iii) the name of the assignee and the exact address or account information to which assigned payments should be made. (b) If contractor amends, modifies, or otherwise changes its name, its identity (including its trade name), or its corporate, partnership or other structure, or its FEIN, contractor shall provide the procurement officer prompt written notice of such change. (c) Any name change, transfer, assignment, or novation is subject to the review and approval of the Procurement Officer.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The successful bidder will take affirmative action in complying with all federal and state requirements concerning fair employment and employment of the handicapped, and concerning the treatment of all employees, without regard or discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or physical handicap. The following are incorporated herein by reference: 41 C.F.R. 60-1.4, 60-250.4 and 60-741.4.

BANKRUPTCY

(a) Notice. In the event the Contractor enters into proceedings relating to bankruptcy, whether voluntary or involuntary, the Contractor agrees to furnish written notification of the bankruptcy to the District. This notification shall be furnished within five (5) days of the initiation of the proceedings relating to the bankruptcy filing. This notification shall include the date on which the bankruptcy petition was filed, the identity of the court in which the bankruptcy petition was filed, and a listing of all District contracts against which final payment has not been made. This obligation remains in effect until final payment under this Contract. (b) Termination. This contract is voidable and subject to immediate termination by the District upon the contractor's insolvency, including the filing of proceedings in bankruptcy.

CHOICE-OF-LAW

The Agreement, any dispute, claim, or controversy relating to the Agreement, and all the rights and obligations of the parties shall, in all respects, be interpreted, construed, enforced and governed by and under the laws of the State of South Carolina, except its choice of law rules. As used in this paragraph, the term "Agreement" means any transaction or agreement arising out of, relating to, or contemplated by the solicitation.

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS & ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

(a) Any contract resulting from this solicitation shall consist of the following documents: (1) a Record of Negotiations, if any, executed by you and the Procurement Officer, (2) the solicitation, as amended, (3) modifications, if any, to your offer, if accepted by the Procurement Officer, (4) your offer, (5) any statement reflecting the District's final acceptance (a/k/a "award"), and (6) purchase orders. These documents shall be read to be consistent and complementary. Any conflict among these documents shall be resolved by giving priority to these documents in the order listed above. (b) The terms and conditions of documents (1) through (5) above shall apply notwithstanding any additional or different terms and conditions in either (i) a purchase order or other instrument submitted by the District or (ii) any invoice or other document submitted by Contractor. Except as otherwise allowed herein, the terms and conditions of all such documents shall be void and of no effect. (c) No contract, license, or other agreement containing contractual terms and conditions will be signed by the District. Any document signed or otherwise agreed to by persons other than the Procurement Officer shall be void and of no effect.

DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT

(a) Discounts for prompt payment will not be considered in the evaluation of offers. However, any offered discount will form a part of the award, and will be taken if payment is made within the discount period indicated in the offer by the Offeror. As an alternative to offering a discount for prompt payment in conjunction with the offer, Offerors awarded contracts may include discounts for prompt payment on individual invoices.

(b) In connection with any discount offered for prompt payment, time shall be computed from the date of the invoice. If the Contractor has not placed a date on the invoice, the due date shall be calculated from the date the designated billing office receives a proper invoice, provided the state annotates such invoice with the date of receipt at the time of receipt. For the purpose of computing the discount earned, payment shall be considered to have been made on the date that appears on the payment check or, for an electronic funds transfer, the specified payment date. When the discount date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday when Federal Government offices are closed and Government business is not expected to be conducted, payment may be made on the following business day.

DISPUTES

(1) Choice-of-Forum. All disputes, claims, or controversies relating to the

Agreement shall be resolved exclusively by the appropriate Chief Procurement Officer in accordance with the District's Procurement Code. As used in this paragraph, the term "Agreement" means any transaction or agreement arising out of, relating to, or contemplated by the solicitation. (2) Service of Process. Contractor consents that any papers, notices, or process necessary or proper for the initiation or continuation of any disputes, claims, or controversies relating to the Agreement; for any court action in connection therewith; or for the entry of judgment on any award made, may be served on Contractor by certified mail (return receipt requested) addressed to Contractor at the address provided as the Notice Address on Page Two or by personal service or by any other manner that is permitted by law, in or outside South Carolina. Notice by certified mail is deemed duly given upon deposit in the United States mail.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Contractor is referred to and shall comply with all applicable provisions, if any, of Title 41, Part 60 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including but not limited to Sections 60-1.4, 60-4.2, 60-4.3, 60-250.5(a), and 60-741.5(a), which are hereby incorporated by reference.

FALSE CLAIMS

According to the S.C. Code of Laws § 16-13-240, "a person who by false pretense or representation obtains the signature of a person to a written instrument or obtains from another person any chattel, money, valuable security, or other property, real or personal, with intent to cheat and defraud a person of that property is guilty" of a crime.

FIXED PRICING REQUIRED

Any pricing provided by the contractor shall include all costs for performing the work associated with that price. Contractor's price shall be fixed for the duration of each term. This clause does not prohibit contractors from offering lower pricing after award.

NO INDEMNITY OR DEFENSE

Any term or condition is void to the extent it requires the District to indemnify, defend, or pay attorney's fees to anyone for any reason.

NOTICE

(a) After award, any notices shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly given (1) upon actual delivery, if delivery is by hand, (2) upon receipt by the transmitting party of automated confirmation or answer back from the recipient's device if delivery is by telex, telegram, facsimile, or electronic mail, or (3) upon deposit into the United States mail, if postage is prepaid, a return receipt is requested, and either registered or certified mail is used. (b) Notice to contractor shall be to the address identified as the Notice Address on Page Two. Notice to the District shall be to the Procurement Officer's address on the Cover Page. Either party may designate a different address for notice by giving notice in accordance with this paragraph.

OPEN TRADE

During the contract term, including any renewals or extensions, Contractor will not engage in the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with whom South Carolina can enjoy open trade, as defined in SC Code Section 11-35-5300.

PAYMENT & INTEREST

(a) Unless otherwise provided in this Solicitation, the District shall pay the Contractor, after the submission of proper invoices or vouchers, the prices stipulated in this contract for supplies delivered and accepted or services rendered and accepted, less any deductions provided in this contract. Unless otherwise specified herein, including the purchase order, payment shall not be made on partial deliveries accepted by the District. (b) Unless otherwise provided herein, including the purchase order, payment will be made by check. (c) Notwithstanding any other provision, payment shall be made in accordance with the District's Procurement Code Section 45, which provides the Contractor's exclusive means of recovering any type of interest from the Owner. Contractor waives imposition of an interest penalty unless the invoice submitted specifies that the late penalty is applicable. Except as set forth in this paragraph, the District shall not be liable for the payment of interest on any debt or claim arising out of or related to this contract for any reason. (d) Amounts due to the District shall bear interest at the rate of interest established by the South Carolina Comptroller General pursuant to Section 45 ("an amount not to exceed fifteen percent each year"), as amended. (e) Any other basis for interest, including but not limited to general (pre- and post-judgment) or specific interest statutes, including S.C. Code Ann. § 34-31-20, are expressly waived by both parties. If a court, despite this agreement and waiver, requires that interest be paid on any debt by either party other than as provided by items (c) and (d) above, the parties further agree that the applicable interest rate for any given calendar year shall be the lowest prime rate as listed in the first edition of the Wall Street Journal published for each year, applied as simple interest without compounding.

PUBLICITY

Contractor shall not publish any comments or quotes by District employees, or include the District in either news releases or a published list of customers, without the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Contractor shall not perform any work prior to the receipt of a purchase order from the District. The District shall order any supplies or services to be furnished under this contract by issuing a purchase order. Purchase orders may be used to elect any options available under this contract, e.g., quantity, item, delivery date, payment method, but are subject to all terms and conditions of this contract.

SURVIVAL OF OBLIGATIONS

The Parties' rights and obligations which, by their nature, would continue beyond the termination, cancellation, rejection, or expiration of this contract shall survive such termination, cancellation, rejection, or expiration, including, but not limited to, the rights and obligations created by the following clauses: Indemnification - Third Party Claims, Intellectual Property Indemnification,

and any provisions regarding warranty or audit.

SWMBE PARTICIPATION

Lexington County School District One encourages SWMBE businesses to participate in the Solicitation process. All business conducted with SWMBE businesses certified by the South Carolina Governor's Office of Small and Minority Business Assistance is recorded in an annual report submitted to the Board of Trustees. In order to be included in this report, you must submit a copy of your certificate with your bid.

TAXES

Any tax the contractor may be required to collect or pay upon the sale, use or delivery of the products shall be paid by the District, and such sums shall be due and payable to the contractor upon acceptance. Any personal property taxes levied after delivery shall be paid by the District. It shall be solely the District's obligation, after payment to contractor, to challenge the applicability of any tax by negotiation with, or action against, the taxing authority. Contractor agrees to refund any tax collected, which is subsequently determined not to be proper and for which a refund has been paid to contractor by the taxing authority. In the event that the contractor fails to pay, or delays in paying, to any taxing authorities, sums paid by the District to contractor, contractor shall be liable to the District for any loss (such as the assessment of additional interest) caused by virtue of this failure or delay. Taxes based on Contractor's net income or assets shall be the sole responsibility of the contractor.

TERMINATION

Subject to the conditions below, the District, providing a (30) thirty-day advance written notice is given to the vendor, may terminate the contract for any reason.

NON-APPROPRIATIONS: Any contract entered into by the District resulting from this solicitation shall be subject to cancellation without damages or further obligation when funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period or appropriated year.

FOR CONVENIENCE: In the event that this contract is terminated or canceled upon request and for the convenience of the District without the required thirty (30) days advance written notice, then the District may negotiate reasonable termination costs, if applicable.

FOR CAUSE: Termination by the District for cause, default or negligence on the part of the vendor shall be excluded from the foregoing conditions; termination costs, if any, shall not apply. The thirty (30) days advance notice requirement is waived and the default clause in this bid shall apply.

DEFAULT: In case of default by the vendor, the District reserves the right to

VII. TERMS AND CONDITIONS – B. SPECIAL CHANGES

(1) Contract Modification. By a written order, at any time, and without notice to any surety, the Procurement Officer may, subject to all appropriate adjustments, make changes within the general scope of this contract in any one or more of the following: (a) drawings, designs, or specifications, if the supplies to be furnished are to be specially manufactured for the [District] in accordance therewith;

(b) method of shipment or packing;

(c) place of delivery;

(d) description of services to be performed;

(e) time of performance (i.e., hours of the day, days of the week, etc.); or,

(f) place of performance of the services.

Subparagraphs (a) to (c) apply only if supplies are furnished under this contract. Subparagraphs (d) to (f) apply only if services are performed under this contract.

(2) Adjustments of Price or Time for Performance. If any such change increases or decreases the contractor's cost of, or the time required for, performance of any part of the work under this contract, whether or not changed by the order, an adjustment shall be made in the contract price, the delivery schedule, or both, and the contract modified in writing accordingly. Any adjustment in contract price made pursuant to this clause shall be determined in accordance with the Price Adjustment Clause of this contract. Failure of the parties to agree to an adjustment shall not excuse the contractor from proceeding with the contract as changed, provided that the District promptly and duly make such provisional adjustments in payment or time for performance as may be reasonable. By proceeding with the work, the contractor shall not be deemed to have prejudiced any claim for additional compensation, or an extension of time for completion.

(3) Time Period for Claim. Within 30 days after receipt of a written contract modification under Paragraph (1) of this clause, unless such period is extended by the Procurement Officer in writing, the contractor shall file notice of intent to assert a claim for an adjustment. Later notification shall not bar the contractor's claim unless the District is prejudiced by the delay in notification.

(4) Claim Barred After Final Payment. No claim by the contractor for an adjustment hereunder shall be allowed if notice is not given prior to final payment under this contract.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

During the term of the contract, the contractor shall comply with all applicable provisions of laws, codes, ordinances, rules, regulations, and tariffs.

CONTRACTS

Every resulting contract is subject to all terms of the district procurement code including limitations as to duration, rights of the district to terminate and means of dispute resolution. No resulting contract is renewable except to the extent provided in the solicitation. No vendor terms take precedence over the

purchase any or all items in default in the open market, charging the vendor with any additional costs. The defaulting vendor shall not be considered a responsible bidder until the assessed charge has been satisfied.

TERMINATION DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Payment and performance obligations for succeeding fiscal periods shall be subject to the availability and appropriation of funds thereafter. When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be canceled. In the event of a cancellation pursuant to this paragraph, contractor will be reimbursed the resulting unamortized, reasonably incurred, nonrecurring costs. Contractor will not be reimbursed any costs amortized beyond the initial contract term.

THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY

This Contract is made solely and specifically among and for the benefit of the parties hereto, and their respective successors and assigns, and no other person will have any rights, interest, or claims hereunder or be entitled to any benefits under or on account of this Contract as a third party beneficiary or otherwise.

WAIVER

The District does not waive any prior or subsequent breach of the terms of the Contract by making payments on the Contract, by failing to terminate the Contract for lack of performance, or by failing to strictly or promptly insist upon any term of the Contract. Only the Procurement Officer has actual authority to waive any of the District's rights under this Contract. Any waiver must be in writing.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(An overview is available at www.procurement.sc.gov)

By signing your offer, you certify that you will comply with the applicable requirements of Title 8, Chapter 14 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and agree to provide to the State upon request any documentation required to establish either: (a) that Title 8, Chapter 14 is inapplicable to you and your subcontractors or sub-subcontractors; or (b) that you and your subcontractors or sub-subcontractors are in compliance with Title 8, Chapter 14. Pursuant to Section 8-14-60, "A person who knowingly makes or files any false, fictitious, or fraudulent document, statement, or report pursuant to this chapter is guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction, must be fined within the discretion of the court or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both." You agree to include in any contracts with your subcontractors language requiring your subcontractors to (a) comply with the applicable requirements of Title 8, Chapter 14, and (b) include in their contracts with the sub-subcontractors language requiring the sub-subcontractors to comply with the applicable requirements of Title 8, Chapter 14

solicitation and the District's procurement code.

CONTRACTOR'S LIABILITY INSURANCE – GENERAL

(a) Without limiting any of the obligations or liabilities of Contractor, Contractor shall procure from a company or companies lawfully authorized to do business in South Carolina and with a current A.M. Best rating of no less than A: VII, and maintain for the duration of the contract, insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work and the results of that work by the contractor, his agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors.

(b) Coverage shall be at least as broad as:

(1) Commercial General Liability (CGL): Insurance Services Office (ISO) Form CG 00 01 12 07 covering CGL on an "occurrence" basis, including products-completed operations, personal and advertising injury, with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence. If a general aggregate limit applies, the general aggregate limit shall be twice the required occurrence limit. This contract shall be considered to be an "insured contract" as defined in the policy.

(2) Auto Liability: ISO Form Number CA 00 01 covering any auto (Code 1), or if Contractor has no owned autos, hired, (Code 8) and non-owned autos (Code 9), with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage.

(3) Worker's Compensation: As required by the State of South Carolina, with Statutory Limits, and Employer's Liability Insurance with a limit of no less than \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury or disease. (c) The District and the officers, officials, employees and volunteers of any of them, must be covered as additional insureds on the CGL policy with respect to liability arising out of work or operations performed by or on behalf of the Contractor including materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with such work or operations. General liability coverage can be provided in the form of an endorsement to the Contractor's insurance at least as broad as ISO Form CG 20 10 11 85 or if not available, through the addition of both CG 20 10 and CG 20 37 if a later edition is used. (d) For any claims related to this contract, the Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the District, and the officers, officials, employees and volunteers of any of them. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the District or the officers, officials, employees and volunteers of any of them, shall be excess of the Contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

(e) Prior to commencement of the work, the Contractor shall furnish the District with original certificates and amendatory endorsements or copies of the applicable policy language affecting coverage required by this section. All certificates are to be received and approved by the District before work commences. However, failure to obtain the required documents prior to the work beginning shall not waive the Contractor's obligation to provide them. The District reserves the right to require complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, including endorsements required by this section, at any time.

f) Should any of the above described policies be canceled before the expiration date thereof, notice will be delivered in accordance with the policy provisions. In addition, the Contractor shall notify the District immediately upon receiving any information that any of the coverages required by this section are or will be changed, canceled, or replaced. (g) Contractor hereby grants to the District a waiver of any right to subrogation which any insurer of said Contractor may acquire against the District by virtue of the payment of any loss under such insurance. Contractor agrees to obtain any endorsement that may be necessary to effect this waiver of subrogation, but this provision applies regardless of whether or not the District has received a waiver of subrogation endorsement from the insurer. (h) Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and approved by the District. The District may require the Contractor to purchase coverage with a lower deductible or retention or provide proof of ability to pay losses and related investigations, claim administration, and defense expenses within the retention. (i) The District reserves the right to modify these requirements, including limits, based on the nature of the risk, prior experience, insurer, coverage, or other special circumstances.

CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL

The Contractor shall enforce strict discipline and good order among the Contractor's employees and other persons carrying out the Contract. The Contractor shall not permit employment of unfit persons or persons not skilled in tasks assigned to them. No forms of tobacco products, alcohol, and drugs are allowed on the District's premises.

CONTRACTOR'S OBLIGATION – GENERAL

The contractor shall provide and pay for all materials, tools, equipment, labor and professional and non-professional services, and shall perform all other acts and supply all other things necessary, to fully and properly perform and complete the work. The contractor must act as the prime contractor and assume full responsibility for any subcontractor's performance. The contractor will be considered the sole point of contact with regard to all situations, including payment of all charges and the meeting of all other requirements.

CONTRACTOR'S USE OF DISTRICT PROPERTY

Upon termination of the contract for any reason, the District shall have the right, upon demand, to obtain access to, and possession of, all District properties, including, but not limited to, current copies of all District application programs and necessary documentation, all data, files, intermediate materials and supplies held by the contractor. Contractor shall not use, reproduce, distribute, display, or sell any data, material, or documentation owned exclusively by the District without the District's written consent, except to the extent necessary to carry out the work.

DEFAULT

(a)(1) The District may, subject to paragraphs (c) and (d) of this clause, by written notice of default to the Contractor, terminate this contract in whole or in part if the Contractor fails to-

(i) Deliver the supplies or to perform the services within the time specified in this contract or any extension; (ii) Make progress, so as to endanger performance of this contract (but see paragraph (a)(2) of this clause); or (iii) Perform any of the other material provisions of this contract (but see paragraph (a)(2) of this clause). (2) The District's right to terminate this contract under subdivisions (a)(1)(ii) and (1)(iii) of this clause, may be exercised if the Contractor does not cure such failure within 10 days (or more if authorized in writing by the Procurement Officer) after receipt of the notice from the Procurement Officer specifying the failure.

(b) If the District terminates this contract in whole or in part, it may acquire, under the terms and in the manner the Procurement Officer considers appropriate, supplies or services similar to those terminated, and the Contractor will be liable to the District for any excess costs for those supplies or services. However, the Contractor shall continue the work not terminated. (c) Except for defaults of subcontractors at any tier, the Contractor shall not be liable for any excess costs if the failure to perform the contract arises from causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor. Examples of such causes include (1) acts of God or of the public enemy, (2) acts of the District in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, (3) fires, (4) floods, (5) epidemics, (6) quarantine restrictions, (7) strikes, (8) freight embargoes, and (9) unusually severe weather. In each instance the failure to perform must be beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor. (d) If the failure to perform is caused by the default of a subcontractor at any tier, and if the cause of the default is beyond the control of both the Contractor and subcontractor, and without the fault or negligence of either, the Contractor shall not be liable for any excess costs for failure to perform, unless the subcontracted supplies or services were obtainable from other sources in sufficient time for the Contractor to meet the required delivery schedule.

(e) If this contract is terminated for default, the District may require the Contractor to transfer title and deliver to the District, as directed by the Procurement Officer, any (1) completed supplies, and (2) partially completed supplies and materials, parts, tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, plans, drawings, information, and contract rights (collectively referred to as "manufacturing materials" in this clause) that the Contractor has specifically produced or acquired for the terminated portion of this contract. Upon direction of the Procurement Officer, the Contractor shall also protect and preserve property in its possession in which the District has an interest.

(f) The District shall pay contract price for completed supplies delivered and accepted. The Contractor and Procurement Officer shall agree on the amount of payment for manufacturing materials delivered and accepted and for the protection and preservation of the property; if the parties fail to agree, the Procurement Officer shall set an amount subject to the Contractor's rights under the Disputes clause. Failure to agree will be a dispute under the Disputes clause. The District may withhold from these amounts any sum the Procurement Officer determines to be necessary to protect the District against loss because of outstanding liens or claims of former lien holders.

(g) If, after termination, it is determined that the Contractor was not in default, or that the default was excusable, the rights and obligations of the parties shall, if the contract contains a clause providing for termination for convenience of the District, be the same as if the termination had been issued for the convenience of the District. If, in the foregoing circumstances, this contract does not contain a clause providing for termination for convenience of the District, the contract shall be adjusted to compensate for such termination and the contract modified accordingly subject to the contractor's rights under the Disputes clause.

(h) The rights and remedies of the District in this clause are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.

INDEMNIFICATION - THIRD PARTY CLAIMS

Notwithstanding any limitation in this agreement, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor shall defend and hold harmless Indemnitees for and against any and all suits or claims of any character (and all related damages, settlement payments, attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, losses or liabilities) by a third party which are attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property arising out of or in connection with the goods or services acquired hereunder or caused in whole or in part by any act or omission of contractor, its subcontractors, their employees, workmen, servants, agents, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable, regardless of whether or not caused in part by an Indemnitee, and whether or not such claims are made by a third party or an Indemnitee; however, if an Indemnitee's negligent act or omission is subsequently determined to be the sole proximate cause of a suit or claim, the Indemnitee shall not be entitled to indemnification hereunder. Contractor shall be given timely written notice of any suit or claim. Contractor's obligations hereunder are in no way limited by any protection afforded under workers compensation acts, disability benefits acts, or other employee benefit acts. This clause shall not negate, abridge, or reduce any other rights or obligations of indemnity which would otherwise exist. The obligations of this paragraph shall survive termination, cancellation, or expiration of the parties' agreement. This provision shall be construed fairly and reasonably, neither strongly for nor against either party, and without regard to any clause regarding insurance. As used in this clause, Indemnitees means the State of South Carolina, its instrumentalities, agencies, departments, boards, political subdivisions and all their respective officers, agents and employees.

DISTRICT SITE ACCESS

Contractor's personnel must wear an identification badge as approved by the District and shall utilize the procedures authorized by the District to obtain access to District buildings. The District requires Contractor's personnel to enter through the front office.

District sites have a comprehensive visitor check-in and check-out software system located at the front desk. This system runs a background check on each visitor every time he or she visits. Each visitor must check in and out when in a school or on school grounds, regardless of the time of day. Should the system flag an individual for any reason, the system will automatically and privately alert the front office staff and the school's administrators. Those administrators will then talk to the individual and work through any issue. For additional information in regard to the procedures go to web site: http://www.lexington1.net/?page=NEWS/Issues/SchoolCheckIN/schoolcheck1_N.htm

NOTE: Contractor's personnel are not required to check-in at the front desk when performing the normal pick up service. Contractor's personnel are required to have personal identification and company credentials when on school property and shall produce when requested by school personnel. If, for any reason, Contractor's personnel are entering the school building(s), or are engaged in any activity other than regular service, the following procedures shall be followed: Contractor personnel are required to check in at the front office/desk with personal identification and company credentials, and will be issued a name tag before accessing any District property.

TOBACCO FREE ENVIRONMENT

The District provides a smoke and tobacco free environment for its staff, students and the general public. No tobacco products are permitted in any building or on the grounds of any District building.

CONTRACTOR'S CARE

Contractor shall exercise due care in protecting all property and surrounding property. Contractor will be responsible for any damage and will be required to restore any damage. If the contractor fails or refuses to repair any damage promptly, the District may have the necessary work performed and charge the pricing thereof to the contractor.

CONFERENCE – PRE-PERFORMANCE

Unless waived by the Procurement Officer, a pre-performance conference between the contractor, District and Procurement Officer shall be held at a location selected by the District within five (5) days after final award, and prior to commencement of work under the contract. The responsibilities of all parties involved will be discussed to assure a meeting of the minds of all concerned. The successful contractor or his duly authorized representative shall be required to attend at contractor's expense.

DEFAULT

(a)(1) The District may, subject to paragraphs (c) and (d) of this clause, by written notice of default to the Contractor, terminate this contract in whole or in part if the Contractor fails to-

(i) Deliver the supplies or to perform the services within the time specified in this contract or any extension;

(ii) Make progress, so as to endanger performance of this contract (but see paragraph (a)(2) of this clause); or

(iii) Perform any of the other material provisions of this contract (but see paragraph (a)(2) of this clause).

(2) The District's right to terminate this contract under subdivisions (a)(1)(ii) and (1)(iii) of this clause, may be exercised if the Contractor does not cure such failure within 10 days (or more if authorized in writing by the Procurement Officer) after receipt of the notice from the Procurement Officer specifying the failure.

(b) If the District terminates this contract in whole or in part, it may acquire, under the terms and in the manner the Procurement Officer considers appropriate, supplies or services similar to those terminated, and the Contractor will be liable to the District for any excess costs for those supplies or services. However, the Contractor shall continue the work not terminated.

(c) Except for defaults of subcontractors at any tier, the Contractor shall not be liable for any excess costs if the failure to perform the contract arises from causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor. Examples of such causes include (1) acts of God or of the public enemy, (2) acts of the District in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, (3) fires, (4) floods, (5) epidemics, (6) quarantine restrictions, (7) strikes, (8) freight embargoes, and (9) unusually severe weather. In each instance the failure to perform must be beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor.

(d) If the failure to perform is caused by the default of a subcontractor at any tier, and if the cause of the default is beyond the control of both the Contractor and subcontractor, and without the fault or negligence of either, the Contractor shall not be liable for any excess costs for failure to perform, unless the subcontracted supplies or services were obtainable from other sources in sufficient time for the Contractor to meet the required delivery schedule.

(e) If this contract is terminated for default, the District may require the Contractor to transfer title and deliver to the District, as directed by the Procurement Officer, any (1) completed supplies, and (2) partially completed supplies and materials, parts, tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, plans, drawings, information, and contract rights (collectively referred to as "manufacturing materials" in this clause) that the Contractor has specifically produced or acquired for the terminated portion of this contract. Upon direction of the Procurement Officer, the Contractor shall also protect and preserve property in its possession in which the District has an interest.

(f) The District shall pay contract price for completed supplies delivered and accepted. The Contractor and Procurement Officer shall agree on the amount of payment for manufacturing materials delivered and accepted and for the protection and preservation of the property; if the parties fail to agree, the Procurement Officer shall set an amount subject to the Contractor's rights under the Disputes clause. Failure to agree will be a dispute under the Disputes clause. The District may withhold from these amounts any sum the Procurement Officer determines to be necessary to protect the District against loss because of outstanding liens or claims of former lien holders.

(g) If, after termination, it is determined that the Contractor was not in default, or that the default was excusable, the rights and obligations of the parties shall, if the contract contains a clause providing for termination for convenience of the District, be the same as if the termination had been issued for the convenience of the District. If, in the foregoing circumstances, this contract does not contain a clause providing for termination for convenience of the District, the contract shall be adjusted to compensate for such termination and the contract modified accordingly subject to the contractor's rights under the Disputes clause.

(h) The rights and remedies of the District in this clause are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(An overview is available at www.procurement.sc.gov) By signing your offer, you certify that you will comply with the applicable requirements of Title 8, Chapter 14 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and agree to provide to the District upon request any documentation required to establish either: (a) that Title 8, Chapter 14 is inapplicable to you and your subcontractors or sub-subcontractors; or (b) that you and your subcontractors or sub-subcontractors are in compliance with Title 8, Chapter 14. Pursuant to Section 8-14-60, "A person who knowingly makes or files any false, fictitious, or fraudulent document, statement, or report pursuant to this chapter is guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction, must be fined within the discretion of the court or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both." You agree to include in any contracts with your subcontractors language requiring your subcontractors to (a) comply with the applicable requirements of Title 8, Chapter 14, and (b) include in their contracts with the sub-subcontractors language requiring the sub-subcontractors to comply with the applicable requirements of Title 8, Chapter 14.

INDEMNIFICATION - THIRD PARTY CLAIMS

Notwithstanding any limitation in this agreement, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor shall defend and hold harmless Indemnitees for and against any and all suits or claims of any character (and all related damages, settlement payments, attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, losses or liabilities) by a third party which are attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property arising out of or in connection with the goods or services acquired hereunder or caused in whole or in part by any act or omission of contractor, its subcontractors, their employees, workmen, servants, agents, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable, regardless of whether or not caused in part by an Indemnitee, and whether or not such claims are made by a third party or an Indemnitee; however, if an Indemnitee's negligent act or omission is subsequently determined to be the sole proximate cause of a suit or claim, the Indemnitee shall not be entitled to indemnification hereunder. Contractor shall be given timely written notice of any suit or claim. Contractor's obligations hereunder are in no way limited by any protection afforded under workers compensation acts, disability benefits acts, or other employee benefit acts. This clause shall not negate, abridge, or reduce any other rights or obligations of indemnity which would otherwise

exist. The obligations of this paragraph shall survive termination, cancellation, or expiration of the parties' agreement. This provision shall be construed fairly and reasonably, neither strongly for nor against either party, and without regard to any clause regarding insurance. As used in this clause, Indemnitees means the State of South Carolina, its instrumentalities, agencies, departments, boards, political subdivisions and all their respective officers, agents and employees.

OWNERSHIP OF DATA and MATERIALS

All data, material and documentation prepared for the District pursuant to this contract shall belong exclusively to the District.

PRICE ADJUSTMENTS

Prices shall remain firm for the life of the contract.

PRICING DATA – AUDIT – INSPECTION

[Clause Included Pursuant to § 11-35-1830, - 2210, & -2220] (a) Cost or Pricing Data. Upon Procurement Officer's request, you shall submit cost or pricing data, as defined by 48 C.F.R. § 2.101 (2004), prior to either (1) any award to contractor pursuant to 11-35-1530 or 11-35-1560, if the total contract price exceeds \$500,000, or (2) execution of a change order or contract modification with contractor which exceeds \$100,000. Your price, including profit or fee, shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which the District finds that such price was increased because you furnished cost or pricing data that was inaccurate, incomplete, or not current as of the date agreed upon between parties. (b) Records Retention. You shall maintain your records for three years from the date of final payment, or longer if requested by the Chief Procurement Officer. The District may audit your records at reasonable times and places. As used in this subparagraph (b), the term "records" means any books or records that relate to cost or pricing data submitted pursuant to this clause. In addition to the obligation stated in this subparagraph (b), you shall retain all records and allow any audits provided for by 11-35-2220(2). (c) Inspection. At reasonable times, the District may inspect any part of your place of business which is related to performance of the work. (d) Instructions – Certification. When you submit data pursuant to subparagraph (a), you shall (1) do so in accordance with the instructions appearing in Table 15-2 of 48 C.F.R. § 15.408 (2004) (adapted as necessary for the state context), and (2) submit a Certificate of Current Cost or Pricing Data, as prescribed by 48 CFR § 15.406-2(a) (adapted as necessary for the state context). (e) Subcontracts. You shall include the above text of this clause in all of your subcontracts. (f) Nothing in this clause limits any other rights of the District.

TERM OF CONTRACT – EFFECTIVE DATE / INITIAL CONTRACT PERIOD

The effective date of this contract is the first day of the Maximum Contract Period as specified on the final statement of award. The initial term of this agreement is one year from the effective date. Regardless, this contract expires no later than the last date stated on the final statement of award.

TERM OF CONTRACT – OPTION TO RENEW

At the end of the initial term, and at the end of each renewal term, this contract shall automatically renew for a period of one year, unless the contractor receives notice that the District elects not to renew the contract at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of renewal. Regardless, this contract expires no later than the last date stated on the final statement of award.

TERM OF CONTRACT – TERMINATION BY CONTRACTOR

Contractor may terminate this contract at the end of the initial term, or any renewal term, by providing the Procurement Officer notice of its election to terminate under this clause at least ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of the then current term.

TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

(1) Termination. The Procurement Officer may terminate this contract in whole or in part, for the convenience of the District. The Procurement Officer shall give written notice of the termination to the contractor specifying the part of the contract terminated and when termination becomes effective.

(2) Contractor's Obligations. The contractor shall incur no further obligations in connection with the terminated work and on the date set in the notice of termination the contractor will stop work to the extent specified. The contractor shall also terminate outstanding orders and subcontracts as they relate to the terminated work. The contractor shall settle the liabilities and claims arising out of the termination of subcontracts and orders connected with the terminated work. The Procurement Officer may direct the contractor to assign the contractor's right, title, and interest under terminated orders or subcontracts to the District. The contractor must still complete the work not terminated by the notice of termination and may incur obligations as are necessary to do so.

(3) Right to Supplies. The Procurement Officer may require the contractor to transfer title and deliver to the District in the manner and to the extent directed by the Procurement Officer: (a) any completed supplies; and (b) such partially completed supplies and materials, parts, tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, plans, drawings, information, and contract rights (hereinafter called "manufacturing material") as the contractor has specifically produced or specially acquired for the performance of the terminated part of this contract. The contractor shall, upon direction of the Procurement Officer, protect and preserve property in the possession of the contractor in which the District has an interest. If the Procurement Officer does not exercise this right, the contractor shall use best efforts to sell such supplies and manufacturing materials in accordance with the standards of Uniform Commercial Code Section 2-706. Utilization of this Section in no way implies that the District has breached the contract by exercise of the Termination for Convenience Clause.

(4) Compensation. (a) The contractor shall submit a termination claim specifying the amounts due because of the termination for convenience together with cost or pricing data required by Section 11-35-1830 bearing on such claim. If the contractor fails to file a termination claim within one year from the effective date of termination, the Procurement Officer may pay the contractor, if at all, an amount set in accordance with Subparagraph (c) of this

Paragraph.

(b) The Procurement Officer and the contractor may agree to a settlement and that the settlement does not exceed the total contract price plus settlement costs reduced by payments previously made by the District, the proceeds of any sales of supplies and manufacturing materials under Paragraph (3) of this clause, and the contract price of the work not terminated;

(c) Absent complete agreement under Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, the Procurement Officer shall pay the contractor the following amounts, provided payments agreed to under Subparagraph (b) shall not duplicate payments under this Subparagraph:

(i) contract prices for supplies or services accepted under the contract;

(ii) costs reasonably incurred in performing the terminated portion of the work less amounts paid or to be paid for accepted supplies or services;

(iii) reasonable costs of settling and paying claims arising out of the termination of subcontracts or orders pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this clause. These costs must not include costs paid in accordance with Subparagraph

(c)(ii) of this paragraph;

(iv) any other reasonable costs that have resulted from the termination. The total sum to be paid the contractor under this Subparagraph shall not exceed the total contract price plus the reasonable settlement costs of the contractor reduced by the amount of payments otherwise made, the proceeds of any sales of supplies and manufacturing materials under Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, and the contract price of work not terminated.

(d) Contractor must demonstrate any costs claimed, agreed to, or established under Subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this Paragraph using its standard record keeping system, provided such system is consistent with any applicable Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

(5) Contractor's failure to include an appropriate termination for convenience clause in any subcontract shall not (i) affect the District's right to require the termination of a subcontract, or (ii) increase the obligation of the District beyond what it would have been if the subcontract had contained an appropriate clause.

III. COST PROPOSAL

COST PROPOSAL

Offerors are required to furnish a total project cost document that clearly states the total project cost Lexington County School District One will incur for the entire project. The cost presentation must be submitted as a distinct document, separate from the technical proposal. The total project cost must be broken down and directly linked to project milestones that correspond with the proposed project timeline. This alignment is crucial for illustrating the schedule of progress payments that the offeror will request upon the successful completion and delivery of each defined milestone. The District expects a clear and transparent demonstration of the cost breakdown, facilitating effective budget management and progress tracking.

Furthermore, the offeror is also required to submit a schedule of hourly rates that will apply to any supplementary work requested by the District that falls outside the initial scope of this project and is to be performed after the complete conclusion of the contracted project. It is explicitly stated that these submitted hourly rates are not to be applied to any work that is already defined and included within the original scope of work for this project. This provision ensures a clear distinction between the costs associated with the core project deliverables and any potential future ad hoc requests.

For absolute clarity and to avoid any ambiguity, this specific requirement regarding cost presentation and hourly rates takes precedence over any other instructions or information that may be present elsewhere in this solicitation document. Offerors must adhere strictly to these guidelines in the preparation of their cost proposal.

IX. ATTACHMENTS TO SOLICITATION

ATTACHMENTS LIST

The following documents are attached to this solicitation:

- **Attachment One – Scope of Work/Specifications**
- **Attachment Two - Offeror's Checklist**
- **Attachment Three- New Vendor Form**

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ATTACHMENT ONE

SCOPE OF SERVICE

BACKGROUND

Lexington County School District One is committed to fostering engagement and collaboration with students, families, employees and the broader community. In alignment with the district's [Strategic Plan](#), particularly Strategy 2.3 (implementing consistent, high-quality communication) and Strategy 2.4 (collaborating with families, business partners, and community members), a comprehensive communications audit is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of our current communications, marketing and public relations strategies to assess how well they support the district's strategic plan and to identify the areas where improvement is needed.

Lexington County School District One's Strategic Plan can be found on the web page under the "About" section. <https://www.lexington1.net/about-lex1>

PURPOSE OF THE AUDIT

The communications audit will:

- **Assess the Effectiveness of District Communications**
 - Evaluate the clarity, reach and impact of communication with key stakeholders.
 - Identify gaps and opportunities to improve internal and external communications.
- **Provide a Roadmap for Strategic Communication Planning**
 - Provide research-based data to use in the development of a comprehensive strategic communications plan that supports the district's strategic plan
 - Make recommendations to enhance the district's communication efforts with a focus on improving communication in order to increase engagement.

SCOPE OF WORK

Lexington County School District One (Lexington One) is seeking proposals from qualified firms to conduct a comprehensive communications audit that will support the development and implementation of strong research-based communications, marketing and public relations strategies that support the district's Strategic Plan.

To accomplish this, the audit, at a minimum, must involve the following:

Evaluation of Communication Methods & Platforms

Conduct a comprehensive review of the district's communications across all internal and external platforms.

The audit must include:

- Digital Tools: Analyze usability, accessibility, design consistency, and engagement performance for:
 - District and school websites
 - ParentSquare communications
 - Social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter, YouTube, etc.)
- Printed Materials: Review up to 10 key print publications (e.g., newsletters, brochures, handbooks, posters, flyers) for tone, clarity, alignment to brand guidelines, etc.
- Video Content: Review 5–10 district-produced videos for clarity, audience relevance, and message consistency.

Stakeholder Feedback

To understand perceptions of communication effectiveness and access, conduct online surveys in English and Spanish, focus groups and/or interviews with:

- **Students**
- **Employees and Board Members**
- **Families**
- **Business and Community Partners**

Branding & Public Image Review

- Assess Lexington One's public perception and brand consistency across channels.
- Review adherence to district brand guidelines (logo usage, tone, visual identity)
- Analyze local and regional media coverage (past 12 months) for tone and sentiment
- Conduct a brief environmental scan of social media mentions and publicly available reviews or commentary

Benchmark

Comparison of Lexington One's data to national K–12 education communications best practices and similar-size districts.

DELIVERABLES

The selected firm will provide:

Comprehensive Communications Audit Report

- Results of the evaluation of the communication methods and platforms
- Analysis of stakeholder feedback
- Compare Lexington One's communication performance and strategies to national K–12 education communications best practices and similar-size districts.

Strategic Communications Framework

- A plan for using the data presented in the audit report to develop a strategic communications plan
- Metrics for evaluating communication impact and engagement levels.
- Methods for using metrics to update the communications plan annually

Presentation of Findings & Recommendations

- A written report that includes audit results and recommendations.
- A presentation to highlight audit results and recommendations.

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ATTACHMENT TWO
OFFEROR'S CHECKLIST
AVOID COMMON MISTAKES!

(Review this checklist prior to submitting your offer)

- ✓ COMPLETED & SIGNED ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.
- ✓ DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OF YOUR STANDARD CONTRACT FORMS!
- ✓ UNLESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED, DO NOT INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL BOILERPLATE CONTRACT CLAUSES!
- ✓ MAKE SURE YOUR OFFER DOES NOT TAKE EXCEPTION TO ANY OF THE DISTRICT'S MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS!
- ✓ MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PROPERLY MARKED ALL PROTECTED, CONFIDENTIAL OR TRADE SECRET INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS: "SUBMITTING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION." DO NOT MARK YOUR ENTIRE RESPONSE AS CONFIDENTIAL, TRADE SECRET OR PROTECTED! DO NOT INCLUDE A LEGEND ON THE COVER STATING THAT YOUR ENTIRE RESPONSE IS NOT TO BE RELEASED!
- ✓ PROPERLY ACKNOWLEDGED ALL AMENDMENTS?
- ✓ MAKE SURE THAT YOUR OFFER INCLUDES THE SOLICITATION COVER PAGE. MAKE SURE THE COVER PAGE IS SIGNED BY A PERSON THAT IS AUTHORIZED TO CONTRACTUALLY BIND YOUR BUSINESS.
- ✓ MAKE SURE YOUR OFFER INCLUDES THE NUMBER OF COPIES REQUESTED.
- ✓ CHECK TO ENSURE YOUR OFFER INCLUDES EVERYTHING REQUESTED!
- ✓ IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE SOLICITATION, DO NOT RAISE THOSE CONCERNS IN YOUR RESPONSE! AFTER OPENING, IT IS TOO LATE! IF THIS SOLICITATION INCLUDES A QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD OR A PRE-SOLICITATION CONFERENCE, RAISE YOUR QUESTIONS AS PART OF THAT PROCESS.

This checklist is included only as a reminder to help offerors avoid common mistakes.
Responsiveness will be evaluated against the solicitation, not against this checklist.

You do not need to return this checklist with your offer.

SUBMIT WITH OFFER:

1. **Cover Page**
2. **Page 2**
3. **Technical Proposal**
4. **Cost Proposal**
5. **Attachment B- Minority Participation Affidavit**
6. **Required information (Section V-Required Information)**

Completed W-9 (if needed)



Lexington County School District One

NEW VENDOR FORM

E-mail completed form with a current W9 to Procurement_Orders@lexington1.net
Please allow two days for the vendor to be added/accessible in BusinessPlus.

VENDOR TO COMPLETE THE BELOW INFORMATION:

Date:

(Completion of form)

Vendor Name:

(As it appears on W-9)

Vendor Physical Address:

Remit To Address:

(Payment- If different from above)

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

(Alternate Phone Number)

*** E-mail Address:**

(Submit Purchase Order)

Please use an email address that will not change if employees change to avoid delays in receiving purchase orders.

Purpose check one:

Service

Goods

Is your Business a certified small or minority- owned business certified through the South Carolina Division of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification (SMBCC)? If yes, please include a valid SMBCC certification with this form.

SMBCC Certification Included?

Yes

No

Office Use Only

Requested by:

Entered by:

Date Entered:

Vendor Number:
