



## **INTENT TO SOLE SOURCE**

**Posting Date: January 27, 2026**

In accordance with Sole Source Section 1560 in the District's procurement code, School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties intends to award, without competition, an annual service and supply contract to Project Lead the Way (PLTW). PLTW will provide teacher professional development, curriculum participation fees, proprietary software, equipment, supplies, and classroom infrastructure specific to PLTW for the engineering programs at CHS, CIS, CRIS, DFHS, DFMS, SHHS, and CATS.

The total estimated dollar amount of the Contract is \$100,000.00

Contract Period: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

**JUSTIFICATION AND MARKET RESEARCH** Project Lead the Way (PLTW) provides nationally recognized, standards-aligned STEM curriculum programs in computer science, engineering, biomedical science, and related fields. These programs include proprietary curriculum materials, annual participation fees, teacher certification and professional development, student assessments, software licenses, and required instructional supplies, all of which are necessary for implementation and continuation of PLTW programs.

Project Lead the Way, Inc. is the sole provider of required annual participation fees, professional development and teacher certification, and proprietary curriculum-aligned materials and supplies necessary for implementation of PLTW programs. Payment of the annual participation fee is a mandatory prerequisite for access to PLTW curriculum, proprietary software platforms, instructional resources, equipment alignment, and technical and instructional support. Additionally, PLTW exclusively provides the professional development and certification required for instructors, which is essential to maintaining program integrity and instructional fidelity. Certain instructional materials and supplies available through the PLTW Online Store are proprietary, uniquely compatible with PLTW curriculum and systems, and unavailable from any other authorized source.

A review of available STEM curriculum providers confirms that while other vendors may offer similar subject matter, none are authorized to provide PLTW participation access, certification, curriculum, or program-specific materials. Therefore, competition is not available for the specific products and services required, and these items are appropriately designated as sole source.

The District currently implements PLTW as part of the engineering programs across multiple schools and has made significant investments in the curriculum alignment, teacher training, equipment, and infrastructure. Transitioning to an alternative vendor would require replacing curriculum, retraining staff, redesigning courses, and disrupting instructional continuity. This would result in substantial additional costs, instructional delays, and loss of program fidelity.

Based on the proprietary nature of the products and services, the District's existing investment, and the necessity of continuity and program integrity, Project Lead the Way, Inc. is the only source capable of providing the required products and services for the District's PLTW engineering programs.

If you are aggrieved in connection with the intended award or award of the contract, you may be entitled to protest, but only as provided in Section 11-35-4210. To protest an award, you must (i) submit notice of your intent to protest

within five (5) business days of the date this notice is posted, and (ii) submit your actual protest within fifteen days of the date this notice is posted. Days are calculated as provided in Section 11-35-310(13). Both protests and notices of intent to protest must be in writing and must be received by the Procurement Officer within the time provided. 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. Any protest or notice of intent to protest must be addressed to:

**Lauren Bové, CPPO, CPPB**  
**Procurement Coordinator**  
**School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties**  
**1020 Dutch Fork Road**  
**Irmo, SC 29063**  
[lbove@lexrich5.org](mailto:lbove@lexrich5.org)