

Bid Protest Procedures- SPSD

1. Who may file the protest: Any bidder or prospective bidder who is aggrieved in connection with an Invitation for Bid (IFB) or Request for Proposal (RFP) from the South Park School District or the award of a contract obtained through such a process may file a protest. Protests relating to the cancellation of IFBs and RFPs, and protests relating to the rejection of all bids, are not permitted. A bidder is a person or organization that submits a bid in response to the IFB/RFP. A prospective bidder is one who has not submitted a bid.
2. Time for filing:
 - a. If a protest is submitted by a prospective bidder, it must be filed within five business days after the prospective bidder knew or should have known of the facts giving rise to the protest. In no event may a prospective bidder be allowed to submit a protest after bid opening time.
 - b. If a protest is filed by a bidder, the protest must be filed within five business days after the protesting bidder knew or should have known of the facts giving rise to the protest. Once the bid opening has occurred, the bidder has five business days to file a protest. The date of filing is the date of receipt of the protest by the School District.
3. Form of protest:
 - a. All bid protests must be in writing and filed with the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations at the South Park School District, 2005 Eagle Ridge Drive, South Park, PA 15129.
 - b. The protest must state all grounds upon which the protesting party asserts that the solicitation or award was improper. Issues not raised by the protesting party in the protests are deemed waived and may not be raised on appeal.
 - c. The protesting party may submit with the protest any documents or information deemed relevant.
4. Notice of protest: If an award has been made, the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations shall notify the successful bidder or contractor of the protest. If the protest is received before the award and substantial issues are raised by the protest, all bidders who appear to have a substantial and reasonable prospect of winning the award shall be notified and may file their agreement/disagreement with the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations within three days after receipt of notice of the protest.
5. Stay of Procurement: The Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations shall immediately decide, upon receipt of the protest, whether or not the solicitation or award should be stayed, or if the protest is timely received after the award, whether the performance of the contract should be suspended. If it is deemed that the protest has merit, the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations shall not proceed further with the bid process or award of the contract, and shall suspend performance under the contract if awarded, unless the award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect the substantial interests of the School District.

6. Procedures:

- a. Within five days of receipt of the protest, the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations shall submit to the protesting party a response to the protest. The protesting party then has five days to file a response.
- b. The Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations shall review and decide the merits of the protest based on all documentation and information, including the initial protest, subsequent responses, and any additional documentation provided. The Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations may, in her/her sole discretion, conduct a hearing.
- c. Suppose the protest occurred before the bid opening date. In that case, the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations shall decide on the merits of the protest within a reasonable time period, and, if necessary, reschedule the bid award accordingly. If the protest occurred after the bid opening, the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations shall decide on the merits of the protest before the Board of Directors' final vote on the award.
- d. Within five days of making his decision, the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations shall notify all affected parties in writing of his determination. The determination shall state the reason for the decision, and if the determination is a denial of the protest, inform the protesting party of its right to file an action in the Commonwealth Court within fifteen days of the determination mailing date.