Murfreesboro City Schools

MCS-ITB-2027-01
Mowing and Grounds Maintenance Services
Bidder Questions and Answers

Murfreesboro City Schools (MCS) provides the following responses to questions raised at the November 10, 2026, voluntary pre-bid meeting and submitted by e-mail by the question deadline listed in the ITB. Questions addressing the same topic have been combined.

1. **Are updated maps available to clarify campus service boundaries and excluded areas?**

Yes. Addendum No. 1includes four revised maps covering Hobgood Elementary, Mitchell-Neilson Primary, Salem Elementary, and Bradley Academy. The addendum identifies a fire station and Technology Engagement Center exclusions at Hobgood Elementary, a sidewalk segment included at Salem Elementary, and the road that marks the service limit at Bradley Academy.

Bidders shall use the revised maps and the written descriptions in the addendum when preparing their bids. The red outlines are approximate. The underlying parcel boundaries control, subject to the specific inclusions, exclusions, and physical boundaries described in the addendum. For all other campus map questions, bidders should refer to the campus maps included in the original ITB.

1. **Does MCS prefer mowing to take place on particular days? Is a written schedule required?**

MCS prefers weekend mowing. Contractors may mow during the week with approval from the MCS Maintenance Supervisor or designee. Before each mowing season, the contractor must submit a proposed written schedule to the Maintenance Supervisor for approval. The schedule must identify the proposed service dates for each awarded campus. When planning weekday work, contractors should account for summer school and the Extended School Program (ESP). At campuses hosting ESP, the program operates until 6:00 p.m. Crews may not mow, trim, edge, or use blowers in areas occupied by students.

2. **What mowing heights and turf types should bidders anticipate?**

The ITB does not specify historical mowing heights or predominant turf types by campus. After zones are awarded and before the first service visit, each contractor will meet with the Maintenance Supervisor to review its assigned campuses. Mowing heights will be established for each area based on turf type and seasonal conditions, as provided in Section 2.A.b.ii.

3. **When should contractors schedule the summer visit required before staff return for the 2027-2028 school year?**

The MCS 2027–2028 calendar is still in development. For planning purposes, bidders may anticipate that staff will return around Monday, August 2, 2027. Once MCS finalizes its calendar, the Maintenance Supervisor will confirm the staff return date and designate the window for completing one of the 13 required summer visits at each campus before staff return.

4. **How should crews check in and out during the summer if the school office is closed? Who should they contact about a locked gate or other access issue?**

Before servicing a campus when the office is closed, the contractor should coordinate with the Maintenance Supervisor or designee for campus-specific check-in and check-out instructions. Crews should direct gate or access issues to that same contact and secure gates promptly after use.

5. **Who is responsible for property damage caused during the work, such as a broken window from a rock thrown by a mower?**

The contractor must promptly report to MCS any property damage arising from its work. If the contractor, its employees, agents, or subcontractors cause the damage, the contractor must repair or otherwise remedy it at its own expense. The contractor must coordinate repairs with MCS and complete them to the District's reasonable satisfaction, as provided in the template contract's safety provisions.

6. **May contractors use weed spray around playgrounds or along playground fences?**

MCS permits weed spray along playground fence lines only. Its use elsewhere in or around playgrounds, including around playground equipment and edging, is prohibited. Even where spray is permitted, contractors must complete the required mowing and trimming at each service visit. Section 2.A.c of the ITB requires contractors to trim turf around fences, gates, playground equipment, and playground edging wherever mowing equipment cannot adequately reach. Trimmed areas must be reasonably consistent in height and appearance with adjacent mowed turf.

7. **Does the scope include mulching or maintaining landscape beds?**

No. Installing mulch and providing full landscape bed maintenance are outside the scope of this ITB. Crews remain responsible for the mowing, trimming, edging, and cleanup specified in Section 2.A and must keep grass clippings and debris out of landscape beds.

8. **May a bidder use subcontractors?**

Yes. Bidders must identify each proposed subcontractor in the bid, along with the services it will perform and the applicable zones. Subcontracting requires prior written MCS approval. The awarded contractor remains responsible for the subcontractor's work and compliance with the contract.