



**Guilford**  
COUNTY SCHOOLS

## **GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS Request for Proposal**

**Purchasing Department  
714 Green Valley Rd.  
Greensboro, NC 27408**

**Direct all inquiries to:**

**Request for Proposals: 6827**

Letitia Hines

**Proposal due date: May 7, 2026**

[HinesL@gcsnc.com](mailto:HinesL@gcsnc.com) 336.370.3238

**Commodity: Kitchen Safety Shoes for  
School Nutrition**

### **NOTICE TO PROPOSERS**

Proposals, subject to the conditions made a part hereof, will be received at this office 714 Green Valley Rd., Greensboro, NC 27408, until **2:00 PM EDT** on the day of opening for furnishing and delivering the commodity as described herein. Proposals submitted via facsimile (FAX) machine in response to this Request for Proposals **will not** be accepted.

### **EXECUTION**

In compliance with this Request for Proposal (RFP), and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned vendor offers and agrees to furnish and deliver any or all items upon which prices are quoted, at the prices set opposite each item within the time specified herein. By executing this proposal, the undersigned vendor certifies that this proposal is submitted competitively and without collusion (G.S. 143-54), that none of its officers, directors, or owners of an unincorporated business entity has been convicted of any violations of Chapter 78A of the General Statutes, the Securities Act of 1933, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (G.S. 143-59.2), and that it is not an ineligible vendor as set forth in G.S. 143-59.1. False certification is a Class I felony. Furthermore, by executing this proposal, the undersigned certifies to the best of the vendor's knowledge and belief, that it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal or State department or agency. As required by G.S. 143-48.5, the undersigned vendor certifies that it, and each of its sub-contractors for any contract awarded as a result of this RFP, complies with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the NC General Statutes, including the requirement for each employer with more than 25 employees in North Carolina to verify the work authorization of its employees through the federal E-Verify system.

**Failure to execute/sign bid prior to submittal shall render bid invalid and it WILL BE REJECTED. Late bids will not be accepted.**

NAME OF BIDDER:		FEDERAL ID OR SOCIAL SECURITY NO.:	
STREET ADDRESS:		N.C. SALES & TAX REGISTRATION NO.:	
CITY & STATE & ZIP:		P.O. BOX:	ZIP:
TYPE OR PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING:		TELEPHONE NUMBER:	FAX NUMBER:
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:		TITLE:	
CONTRACT LICENSE NO.:		E-MAIL:	

Offer valid for 90 days from date of opening, unless otherwise stated. After this time, any withdrawal of offer shall be made in writing, effective upon receipt by the agency issuing this RFP.

## **1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

Guilford County School Nutrition Services is seeking proposals from vendors to provide School Nutrition employees with the opportunity to purchase quality non-slip safety shoes.

## **2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

This RFP is comprised of the base bid document, any attachments, and any addenda released before contract award. All attachments and addenda released for this RFP in advance of any Contract award are incorporated herein by reference. Bids shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP and any addenda issued hereto.

### **TAXES**

Guilford County Schools is **NOT** tax-exempt. Unless otherwise indicated, tax must be computed and added to your bid. Any itemized shipping charges are also subject to tax. When invoiced, tax should be invoiced as a separate line item.

### **MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (MWBE)**

The Board of Education awards public contracts without regard to race, religion, color, creed, national origin, sex, age or handicapped condition as defined by North Carolina General Statutes, 168A-3. GCS Board of Education promotes full and equal access to business opportunities with Guilford County Schools. Minority businesses are encouraged to submit bids for this project. All vendors shall have a fair and reasonable opportunity to participate in GCS business opportunities.

## **INSURANCE**

### **Certificate of Insurance**

Each vendor shall furnish GCS a certificate of insurance showing that the required workmen's compensation and public liability insurance are carried by the Contractor. The certificate of insurance should show that it is issued to or at the request of the Guilford County Board of Education, Greensboro, North Carolina. All insurance carriers shall be licensed to do business in North Carolina or approved to issue insurance coverage by the Commission of Insurance of North Carolina.

The certificate of insurance shall include substantially the following provision: The insurance policies to which this certificate refers shall not be altered or canceled until after ten (10) days' written notice of such cancellation or alteration has been sent by certified mail to the Guilford County Board of Education, Greensboro, North Carolina.

### **Public Liability Insurance**

The vendor shall maintain public liability insurance covering his liability for bodily injury and property damage which may arise from his operations, contractual obligations, products and completed operations, as well as operations performed by independent contractors, in not less than the following amounts:

1. A combined single limit (CSL) of \$1,000,000 each occurrence, or
2. A \$1,000,000 limit for Bodily Injury Liability, and \$1,000,000 limit for Property Damage Liability.

An occurrence form of policy will be required, and the certificate of insurance submitted by the Contractor must be personally signed by a resident licensed agent of each of the companies listed on that form.

### **Worker's Compensation Insurance**

The Contractor shall maintain during the life of his contract all such workmen's compensation insurance as is or may be required by the laws of North Carolina.

### **Terms and Conditions**

It shall be the vendor's responsibility to read the instructions, terms and conditions, all relevant exhibits and attachments, and any other components made a part of this RFP and comply with all requirements and specifications herein. Vendors also are responsible for obtaining and complying with all Addenda and other changes that may be issued relating to this RFP.

All vendors are hereby notified that they must have the proper license as required under the North Carolina laws. The award of a contract under this solicitation may be paid with federal funding. Funding is contingent upon compliance with all terms and conditions of funding award. All prospective contractors shall comply with all applicable federal laws, regulations, executive orders, FEMA requirements and the terms and conditions of the funding award. In addition, contractors providing submittals shall be responsible for complying with state law and local ordinances.

## **3.0 SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

### **PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE**

There will not be a pre-proposal conference associated with this RFP.

**PROPOSAL QUESTIONS**

Upon review of the RFP documents, vendors may have questions to clarify or interpret the RFP to submit the best bid possible. To accommodate the bid questions process, vendors shall submit any such questions by April 30, 2026 at 11:00AM EDT.

**Instructions:**

Written questions shall be emailed to Letitia Hines at [HinesL@gcsnc.com](mailto:HinesL@gcsnc.com) by the date and time specified above. Vendors will enter “RFP # 6827 – Questions” as the subject for the email. Question submittals will include a reference to the applicable RFP section and be submitted in a format shown below:

Reference	Vendor Question
RFP Section, Page Number	Vendor question...?

Questions received prior to the submission deadline date, GCS’s response, and any additional terms deemed necessary by GCS will be posted in the form of an addendum. No information, instruction or advice provided orally or informally by any GCS personnel, whether made in response to a question or otherwise regarding this RFP, shall be considered authoritative or binding. Vendors shall be entitled to rely **only** on written material contained in an addendum to this RFP.

**PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL**

Sealed proposals, subject to the conditions made a part hereof and the receipt requirements described below, shall be received at the address indicated below, as described herein. **Two (2) Originals & one (1) digital copy** should be addressed in an envelope with the RFP number as shown below: It is the responsibility of the Vendor to have the proposal in the Guilford County Schools Purchasing office by the specified time and date of opening. Proposals shall be marked on the outside of the sealed envelope with the Vendor’s name, proposal number and date and time of opening. If Vendor is submitting more than one proposal, each proposal shall be submitted in separate sealed envelopes and marked accordingly. For delivery purposes, separate sealed proposals from a single Vendor may be included in the same outer package.

Attempts to submit a proposal via facsimile (FAX) machine, telephone or electronic means, including but not limited to email, in response to this Request for Proposals will **not** be accepted. Proposals are subject to rejection unless submitted with the information above included on the outside of the sealed proposal package.

**MAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

**DELIVERED BY US POSTAL SERVICE OR ANY OTHER MEANS:**

RFP No. 6827  
Letitia Hines, Purchasing Manager  
Guilford County Schools  
Purchasing Department  
714 Green Valley Rd.  
Greensboro, NC 27408

## **BRAND NAME**

**Unless otherwise indicated**, manufacturer names and model numbers specified are used for purposes of identifying and establishing general quality level desired. Such references are not intended to be restrictive and comparable products of other manufacturers will be considered. The specifications following are the minimum acceptable by Guilford County Schools. Any deviations from the specifications shall be so stated in writing in the bidder's response. Please include in your response manufacturers' model numbers along with prices of items offered. Submit complete descriptive literature and specifications on all items offered. Bids which fail to comply may be subject to rejection.

## **REFERENCES**

Guilford County Schools reserves the right to require upon request a list of references from other school districts or similar service agencies for which the company has provided the services or goods solicited in this RFP. GCS may contact these users to determine quality level. Such information may be considered in the evaluation of the proposal.

## **WARRANTY**

The vendor warrants to the owner that all equipment furnished under these specifications will be new, of good material and workmanship, and agrees to replace promptly any part or parts which by reason of defective material or workmanship shall fail under normal use, free of negligence or accident, for a minimum period of 12 months from date put in operation. Such replacement shall include all parts, labor, and transportation cost to the location where equipment is down, free of any charge to the owner or his representative.

If applicable, please be sure to describe your best warranty offering, any special training or special benefits at no charge that may be available, and any unique benefits you may offer. Award may be determined by best value analysis—not necessarily the lowest price received.

## **TRANSPORTATION CHARGES**

Free on board (FOB) to designated sites in Guilford County, NC, with all transportation charges prepaid and included in the bid price.

## **CONTRACT TERM**

The contract will be for a period of one year, with the option to renew for four (4) additional one-year periods. If pricing and terms are satisfactory to both parties.

## **4.0 PROPOSAL EVALUATION**

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### **EVALUATION**

It is the intent of Guilford County Schools (GCS) to award this Request for Proposals to the responsible Vendor(s) who best matches the needs of Guilford County Schools Maintenance Department. Guilford County Schools reserves the right to reject any or all proposals presented and to waive any informalities and irregularities. Award of this proposal may be in whole or in part as deemed to be in the best interest of GCS. All projects are awarded contingent upon funding. No proposal may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of proposals for a period of 60 days. One or more GCS review teams will evaluate Vendor's proposal based on the specific requirements defined in the RFP as well as cost and effectiveness considerations. GCS reserves the right to communicate with individual Vendors as necessary to clarify its understanding of the Vendor's response. In its evaluation, GCS will consider each proposal, any additional materials it

contains, any clarifying information GCS obtains from the Vendor, any previous contract history GCS has with the Vendor, any reliable outside references provided by the Vendor or sought out by GCS and any information that is publicly available.

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**GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Introduction and Background:**

The purpose of this document is to provide interested parties with information to enable them to prepare and submit a proposal for a kitchen safety shoe program. Guilford County Schools (GCS) School Nutrition Services (SNS) does not require that all its employees purchase shoes from the awarded vendor. GCS SNS does require all employees to wear non-slip, slip resistant, all black, closed toe and heel work safety shoes while at work. Employees are issued a \$60.00 shoe voucher upon hire date and/or at the start of the new school year in August. Each employee is expected to redeem their issued voucher for work safety shoes at their choice of vendor within 6 weeks of issuance. A majority of the safety shoe disbursements occur during the first six weeks of the school year. The awarded vendor will be given the opportunity to set up accessible mobile units for fitting and distribution during our staff Back to School Training dates in August of each school year. Employees may spend more than issued shoe vouchers and are responsible for difference. Employees may spend less than the shoe vouchers issued, and no refund is due to employees. As this is a proposal and not a bid, the only information available at opening will be the names of the responding vendors.

Guilford County Schools' School Nutrition Department includes approximately 119 school sites with approximately 700 permanent employees. Characteristics of winning bid should include (but not be limited to):

- 1- Broad selection of safety shoes with excellent slip resistance as rated by independent laboratories.
- 2- Broad selection of slip resistant shoes at affordable prices to employee.
- 3- Capacity to collect orders and ship directly to employee at home or work address.
- 4- A variety of options for employees to order directly from vendor, including on-line or U.S. Mail.
- 5-Warranty against defects.
- 6- Satisfaction Guarantee for fit and comfort.
- 7- Safety posters highlighting slips and falls for all kitchens.
- 8- Administrative support staff to implement coupon/voucher programs for employees and ability to take direct payment from employee for any amount in excess of shoe allowance and for any additional purchases.

**Scope of Project:**

The School Nutrition Services Department intends to enter into an agreement with a Contractor who will be designated as the primary vendor for slip-resistant safety shoe purchases. SNS provides a \$60.00 allowance per employee with a voucher.

**Procuring and Administration Responsibility:**

The RFP is issued by Guilford County Schools, School Nutrition Services Department. The person responsible for managing the procurement process and contract administration is Letitia Hines, [HinesL@gcsnc.com](mailto:HinesL@gcsnc.com).

**Clarifications:**

SNS Contract Manager: Kim Best, [Bestk@gcsnc.com](mailto:Bestk@gcsnc.com) 336.370.3254

Any questions concerning this RFP must be submitted via e-mail to Letitia Hines no later than 11:00 AM EDT on April 30, 2026.

Vendors are expected to raise any questions, exceptions, or additions they have concerning the RFP document at this point of the RFP process. If vendor discovers any significant ambiguity, error, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other deficiency in this RFP, the vendor should immediately notify the above-named individual of such error and request modification or clarification of the RFP document.

In the event it becomes necessary to provide additional clarifying data or information all parties invited to bid and all others who notify Letitia Hines of their interest will be notified by e-mail and/or addenda posted to the GCS purchasing bid site.

**Calendar of Events:**

April 24, 2026.....Date of issue of the RFP  
April 30, 2026.....Last date for submitting questions and noting discrepancies  
May 7, 2026..... Proposals due from vendors by 2:00 PM, EST  
June 10, 2026.....Notification of intent to award bid sent to all participating vendors.

**Contract Term:**

The initial contract term shall be one year starting July 01, 2026, with an option by mutual agreement of GCS School Nutrition Department and contractor to renew for up to four (4) additional one-year periods unless amended, cancelled or re-bid.

The School Nutrition Services Department has the right to cancel contract if contractor fails to perform. The cancellation will provide thirty (30) days’ notice during which time both parties will continue to uphold the terms of the contract.

The School Nutrition Services Department has the right to cancel the contract without cause if deemed in the best interest of the Department. The cancellation will provide sixty (60) days notice during which time both parties will continue to uphold the terms of the contract.

**Preparing and Submitting a Proposal:**

**General Instructions:**

The evaluation and selection of a contractor will be based upon the vendor’s proposal, products, and references. Failure to respond to each of the requirements in the RFP may be the basis for rejecting the proposal. Elaborate proposals (e.g. expensive artwork) beyond that sufficient to present a complete and effective proposal are not necessary or desired.

**Proprietary Information:**

Informal bids received under N.C. G.S. 143-131 are confidential, and not subject to public inspection until the purchase order is awarded.

**Incurring Costs:**

School Nutrition Services is not liable for any cost incurred by proposers in replying to this RFP.

**Submitting the Proposal:**

Proposers must submit proposals by 2:00 PM EDT on May 20, 2026. Please use the address format shown on page 4 and include the bid number (6827) on the package.

**Proposal Organization and Format:**

Proposals should be typed and submitted on 8.5 X 11-inch portrait format. Proposals should be organized and presented in the order and by the number assigned in the RFP. The RFP sections which should be submitted or responded are:

**-Response to general requirements**

- Introduction
- Organizational qualifications
- Staff qualifications
- Description of current business operation
- Evidence of experience demonstrating capacity to provide service
- Proposer References
- Methodology to meet requirements of RFP

**-Response to technical requirements**

- Documentation of Safety Shoe Performance
- Order and Delivery Procedures
- Shipping Costs
- Warranty and Refund Policy

**-Product Selection and Pricing**

- Product photographs, specifications, safety ratings, and price sheet

**Proposal Scoring:**

Accepted proposals will be reviewed by an evaluation committee and scored against the stated criteria. The committee may review references or request additional information from vendor and use the results in scoring the proposals. After completion of the paper screen of proposals, the highest scoring proposer will be notified to submit samples of shoes being offered for further evaluation. Samples may be provided with the bid prior to opening but are not required.

**Right to Reject Proposals and Negotiate Contract Terms**

GCS reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and technicalities. The judgment of GCS on such matters shall be final. GCS further retains the right to negotiate the terms of the contract, including the award amount, with the selected proposer prior to entering into a contract. If contract negotiations cannot be concluded successfully with the highest scoring proposer, the Department may negotiate a contract with the next highest scoring proposer.

**Evaluation Criteria**

The proposals will be scored using the following criteria:

**Introduction (15 points)**

- Organizational qualifications
- Staff qualifications
- Description of current business operation
- Evidence of experience demonstrating capacity to provide service
- Proposer References
- Methodology to meet requirements of RFP

**Response to technical requirements (25 points)**

- Documentation of Safety Shoe Performance
- Order and Delivery Procedures and Shipping Costs
- Warranty and Refund Policies

**Product availability**

- Accessible location/s to purchase products **(15 points)**
- Shoe truck present for use by GCS staff **(15 points)**

**Product Selection and Pricing (30 points)**

**TOTAL 100 points**

**Organization Capabilities:**

Provide a brief history of the company and the present organizational structure of the firm describing the management organization and this project’s coordination structure

**Staff Qualifications**

Provide a brief description for each of the key staff who would be assigned to the project with years of experience with your company. Indicate who will be the company’s primary contacts.

**Proposer References**

Proposers must include in their RFPs a list of three organizations, including points of contact (name, address, e-mail, and telephone number), which can be used as references for work performed in the area of service required. A brief description of the services provided shall accompany each reference. Selected organizations may be contacted to determine the quality of work performed and personnel assigned to the project. The results of the references will be used in scoring the written proposals.

**Methodology**

The vendor shall describe in detail the methodology and procedures that will be used to meet the requirements of the RFP. This should include planning, coordination, problem solving, and technical assistance support.

**Technical Requirements:**

Documentation of Safety Shoe Performance

Provide independent laboratory evaluations of your product indicating slip resistance ratings.

**Product Availability**

Do you have an accessible retail location for staff to purchase products? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

Do you have a shoe truck that can be available in Guilford County, NC for 2 days or more in mid to late August? \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

**Order, Delivery Procedures, and Shipping Costs:**

Provide overview of process and clarify costs.

**Warranty and Refund Policies**

Explain warranty against product defects and describe process for customer returns, credits and refunds.

**Product Categories & Pricing**

Provide detailed information on your line of slip resistant shoes and their cost to our employees.

**Award and Final Offers**

If awarded, the intent of GCS is to award to the highest scoring responsive and responsible proposer. GCS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

**Notification of Intent to Award:**

As a courtesy, the District may send a notification of award memo to respond to vendors at the time of the award.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

1. **READ, REVIEW AND COMPLY:** It shall be the bidder's responsibility to read this entire document, review all enclosures and attachments, and comply with all requirements specified herein.
2. **NOTICE TO BIDDERS:** All bids are subject to the provisions of the Instructions to Bidders, special terms and conditions specific to this Invitation for Bids, the specifications, and the North Carolina General Contract Terms and Conditions. The Guilford County Schools (GCS) objects to and will not evaluate or consider any additional terms and conditions submitted with a bidder response. This applies to any language appearing in or attached to the document as part of the bidder's response. **DO NOT ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**  
By execution and delivery of this document, the bidder agrees that any additional terms and conditions, whether submitted purposely or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect.
3. **DEFINITIONS:**
  - **BIDDER:** Company, firm, corporation, partnership, individual, etc., submitting a response to an Invitation for Bids.
  - **TERM CONTRACT:** A contract generally intended to cover all normal requirements for a commodity for a specified period of time based on estimated quantities only.
  - **STATEWIDE TERM CONTRACT:** A term Contract for all agencies, unless exempted by statute, rule, or special term and condition specific to this bid.
  - **AGENCY SPECIFIC TERM CONTRACT:** A Term Contract for a specific agency.
  - **OPEN MARKET CONTRACT:** A contract for the purchase of a commodity not covered by a term contract.
4. **EXECUTION:** Failure to sign under EXECUTION section will render bid invalid.
5. **ORDER OF PRECEDENCE:** In cases of conflict between specific provisions in this bid, the order of precedence shall be (1) special terms and conditions specific to this bid, (2) specifications, (3) North Carolina General Contract Terms and Conditions, and (4) Instructions to Bidders.
6. **TIME FOR CONSIDERATION:** Unless otherwise indicated on the first page of this document, bidder's offer shall be valid for 45 days from the date of bid opening. Preference may be given to bids allowing not less than 45 days for consideration and acceptance.
7. **PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNTS:** Bidders are urged to compute all discounts into the price offered. If a prompt payment discount is offered, it will not be considered in the award of the contract except as a factor to aid in resolving cases of identical prices.
8. **SPECIFICATIONS:** Any deviation from specifications indicated herein must be clearly pointed out; otherwise, it will be considered that items offered are in strict compliance with these specifications, and bidder will be held responsible therefore. Deviations shall be explained in detail. **The bidder shall not construe this paragraph as inviting deviation or implying that any deviation will be acceptable.**
9. **INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE:** Bidder is to furnish all information requested and in the spaces provided in this document. Further, if required elsewhere in this bid, each bidder must submit with their bid sketches, descriptive literature and/or complete specifications covering the products offered. Reference to literature submitted with a previous bid will not satisfy this provision. Bids which do not comply with these requirements will be subject to rejection.
10. **RECYCLING AND SOURCE REDUCTION:** It is the policy of this State to encourage and promote the purchase of products with recycled content to the extent economically practicable, and to purchase items which are reusable, refillable, repairable, more durable, and less toxic to the extent that the purchase or use is practicable and cost-effective. We also encourage and promote using minimal packaging and the use of recycled/recyclable products in the packaging of commodities purchased. However, no sacrifice in quality of packaging will be acceptable. The company remains responsible for providing packaging that will protect the commodity and contain it for its intended use. Companies are strongly urged to bring to the attention of the purchasers in the Division of Purchase and Contract those products or packaging they offer which have recycled content and that are recyclable.
11. **CLARIFICATIONS/INTERPRETATIONS:** Any and all questions regarding this document must be addressed to the purchaser named on the cover sheet of this document. Do not contact the user directly. Any and all revisions to this document shall be made only by written addendum from the Division of Purchase and Contract. The bidder is cautioned that the requirements of this bid can be altered only by written addendum and that verbal communications from whatever source are of no effect.
12. **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION:** GCS reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in bids and, unless otherwise specified by the bidder, to accept any item in the bid. If either a unit price or extended price is obviously in error and the other is obviously correct, the incorrect price will be disregarded.
13. **REFERENCES:** GCS reserves the right to require a list of users of the exact item offered. GCS may contact these users to determine acceptability of the bid. Such information may be considered in the evaluation of the bid.
14. **TAXES:**
  - **FEDERAL:** All agencies participating in this contract are exempt from Federal Taxes, such as excise and transportation. Exemption forms submitted by the contractor will be executed and returned by the using agency.
  - **OTHER:** Prices offered are not to include any personal property taxes, nor any sales or use tax (or fees) unless required by the North Carolina Department of Revenue.
  - Any applicable taxes shall be invoiced as a separate item.

15. **AWARD OF CONTRACT:** As directed by statute, qualified bids will be evaluated and acceptance may be made of the lowest and best bid most advantageous to GCS as determined upon consideration of such factors as: prices offered; the quality of the articles offered; the general reputation and performance capabilities of the bidders; the substantial conformity with the specifications and other conditions set forth in the bid; the suitability of the articles for the intended use; the related services needed; the date or dates of delivery and performance; and such other factors deemed by GCS to be pertinent or peculiar to the purchase in question. Unless otherwise specified by GCS or the bidder, GCS reserves the right to accept any item or group of items on a multi-item bid.

In addition, on TERM CONTRACTS, GCS reserves the right to make partial, progressive or multiple awards: where it is advantageous to award separately by items; or where more than one supplier is needed to provide the contemplated requirements as to quantity, quality, delivery, service, geographical areas; other factors deemed by GCS to be pertinent or peculiar to the purchase in question.

**All contracts are awarded contingent upon the availability of funds.**

16. **HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES:** Pursuant to General Statute 143-48 and Executive Order #150, GCS invites and encourages participation in this procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled.
17. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:** As provided by statute and rule, the GCS will consider keeping trade secrets which the bidder does not wish disclosed confidential. Each page shall be identified in boldface at the top and bottom as "CONFIDENTIAL" by the bidder. Cost information shall not be deemed confidential. In spite of what is labeled as a trade secret, the determination whether it is or not will be determined by North Carolina law.
18. **SAMPLES:** Sample of items, when required, must be furnished as stipulated herein, free of expense, and if not destroyed will, upon request be returned at the bidder's expense. Request for the return of samples must be made within 10 days following date of bid opening. Otherwise the samples will become GCS property. Each individual sample must be labeled with the bidder's name, bid number, and item number. A sample on which an award is made, will be retained until the contract is completed, and then returned, if requested, as specified above.
19. **PROTEST PROCEDURES:** When an offeror wants to protest a contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation, that is over \$10,000, they must submit a written request to the GCS Purchasing Officer at the address given in the solicitation document entitled "Mailing Instructions". This request must be received in the Purchasing Department within (5) consecutive business days of the e-mail notification to the offeror of GCS' intent to maintain the original award. The offeror must submit a written protest letter to the GCS Purchasing Officer. This letter must contain specific reasons and any supporting documentation for the protest.

PART 1 -

20. **MISCELLANEOUS:** Masculine pronouns shall be read to include feminine pronouns, and the singular of any word or phrase shall be read to include the plural and vice versa.

21. **DEFAULT AND PERFORMANCE BOND:** In case of default by the contractor, Guilford County Schools (GCS) may procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the contractor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby. GCS reserves the right to require performance bond or other acceptable alternative guarantees from successful bidder without expense to GCS.

22. **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND**

- A. Criminal Background Investigations of individuals working on school property (sites occupied with students and sites not occupied with students).

At a minimum, the contractor shall obtain a complete North Carolina statewide criminal background investigation for all employees and subcontractors who will work on this project, covering a period for the last seven (7) years. If the contractor or subcontractor is from out of state, the criminal background investigation shall be broadened to include their home state, as well as the state of North Carolina as outlined above. The company providing such information must be recognized by local law enforcement agency as qualified to do so. All costs associated with these criminal background checks is the responsibility of the contractor.

Each prime contractor will be responsible for all their employees and all of their subcontractors working under them.

On sites that are occupied with students and staff, a daily sign-in sheet will be presented by each prime contractor to the principal and SRO – Student Resource Officer by 9:00 a.m. each morning. If there is no SRO – provide to the Principal. This list will contain the name of each person on site and the company they work for.

Any individual with the following criminal convictions or pending charges will NOT be permitted on any school project or property.

1. Child Molestation or Abuse or indecent liberties with a child;
2. Rape;
3. Any Sexually Oriented Crime;
4. Drugs: Felony use, possession or distribution;
5. Murder, manslaughter or other death related charge; or

6. Assault with a deadly weapon or assault with intent to kill.

Any individual with a prior conviction or pending charges contained in the aforementioned list, shall be banned (not allowed) from any school project or property.

Each person on site must wear a plastic laminated identification badge that identifies the name of the company and the person's name. These badges are to be computer produced at a font large enough to be clearly visible. All costs associated with these criminal background checks is the responsibility of the contractor. The ID badge template will be made available to the successful prime contractors at the Pre-Construction Meeting.

Guilford County Schools, may, at any time, request verification of criminal background investigation for any employee or subcontractor on school property.

## GENERAL CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **DEFAULT AND PERFORMANCE BOND:** In case of default by the contractor, Guilford County Schools (GCS) may procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the contractor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby. GCS reserves the right to require performance bond or other acceptable alternative guarantees from successful bidder without expense to GCS.
2. **GOVERNMENTAL RESTRICTIONS:** In the event any Governmental restrictions are imposed which necessitate alteration of the material, quality, workmanship or performance of the items offered prior to their delivery, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to notify, in writing, the issuing purchasing office at once, indicating the specific regulation which required such alterations. GCS reserves the right to accept any such alterations, including any price adjustments occasioned thereby, or to cancel the contract.
3. **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** Any and all payments to the contractor are dependent upon and subject to the availability of funds to the agency for the purpose set forth in this agreement. No goods or services should be shipped or provided prior to issuance of a Purchase Order to the vendor/contractor by Guilford County Schools.
4. **TAXES:** Any applicable taxes shall be invoiced as a separate item.

G.S. 143-59.1 bars the Secretary of Administration from entering into contracts with vendors if the vendor or its affiliates meet one of the conditions of G. S. 105-164.8(b) and refuse to collect use tax on sales of tangible personal property to purchasers in North Carolina. Conditions under G. S. 105-164.8(b) include: (1) Maintenance of a retail establishment or office, (2) Presence of representatives in the State that solicit sales or transact business on behalf of the vendor and (3) Systematic exploitation of the market by media-assisted, media-facilitated, or media-solicited means. By execution of the bid document the vendor certifies that it and all of its affiliates, (if it has affiliates), collect(s) the appropriate taxes.

5. **SITUS:** The place of this contract, its situs and forum, shall be North Carolina, where all matters, whether sounding in contract or tort, relating to its validity, construction, interpretation and enforcement shall be determined.
6. **GOVERNING LAWS:** This contract is made under and shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina.
7. **INSPECTION AT CONTRACTOR'S SITE:** GCS reserves the right to inspect, at a reasonable time, the equipment/item, plant or other facilities of a prospective contractor prior to contract award, and during the contract term as necessary for GCS determination that such equipment/item, plant or other facilities conform with the specifications/requirements and are adequate and suitable for the proper and effective performance of the contract.
8. **PAYMENT TERMS:** Payment terms are Net 30 days after receipt of correct invoice or acceptance of goods. The using agency is responsible for all payments to the contractor under the contract. Payment by some agencies may be made by procurement card and it shall be accepted by the contractor for payment if the contractor accepts that card (Visa, Mastercard, etc.) from other customers. If payment is made by procurement card, then payment may be processed immediately by the contractor.
9. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** The contractor will take affirmative action in complying with all Federal and State requirements concerning fair employment and employment of people with disabilities and concerning the treatment of all employees without regard to discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or disability.
10. **CONDITION AND PACKAGING:** Unless otherwise provided by special terms and conditions or specifications, it is understood and agreed that any item offered or shipped has not been sold or used for any purpose and shall be in first class condition. All containers/packaging shall be suitable for handling, storage or shipment.
11. **STANDARDS:** All manufactured items and/or fabricated assemblies subject to operation under pressure, operation by connection to an electric source, or operation involving a connection to a manufactured, natural, or LP gas source shall be constructed and approved in a manner acceptable to the appropriate state inspector which customarily requires the label or re-examination listing or identification marking of the appropriate safety standard organization; such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for pressure vessels; the Underwriters Laboratories and /or National Electrical Manufacturers' Association for electrically operated assemblies; or the American Gas Association for gas operated assemblies, where such approvals of listings have been established for the type of device offered and furnished. Further, all items furnished shall meet all requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and state and federal requirements relating to clean air and water pollution.
12. **PATENT:** The contractor shall hold and save GCS, its officers, agents and employees, harmless from liability of any kind, including costs and expenses, on account of any copyrighted material, patented or unpatented invention, articles, device or appliance manufactured or used in the performance of this contract, including use by the government.
13. **ADVERTISING:** Contractor agrees not to use the existence of this contract or the name of the State of North Carolina as part of any commercial advertising.
14. **ACCESS TO PERSONS AND RECORDS:** The State Auditor and the using agency's internal auditors shall have access to persons and records as a result of all contracts or grants entered into by State agencies or political subdivisions in accordance with General Statute 147-64.7 and Session Law 2010-194, Section 21 (i.e., the State Auditors and internal auditors may audit the records of the contractor during the term of the contract to verify accounts and data affecting fees or performance).
15. **ASSIGNMENT:** No assignment of the contractor's obligations nor the contractor's right to receive payment hereunder shall be permitted. However, upon written request approved by the issuing purchasing authority and solely as a convenience to the contractor, may:
  - a. Forward the contractor's payment check directly to any person or entity designated by the contractor, and

- b. Include any person or entity designated by contractor as a joint payee on the contractor's payment check. In no event shall such approval and action obligate the State to anyone other than the contractor and the contractor shall remain responsible for fulfillment of all contract obligations.
16. **INSURANCE COVERAGE:** - During the term of the contract, the contractor at its sole cost and expense shall provide commercial insurance of such type and with such terms and limits as may be reasonably associated with the contract. As a minimum, the contractor shall provide and maintain the following coverage and limits:
- Worker's Compensation** - The contractor shall provide and maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance, as required by the laws of North Carolina, as well as employer's liability coverage with minimum limits of \$150,000.00, covering all of contractor's employees who are engaged in any work under the contract. If any work is sublet, the contractor shall require the subcontractor to provide the same coverage for any of his employees engaged in any work under the contract.
  - Commercial General Liability** - General Liability Coverage on a Comprehensive Broad Form on an occurrence basis in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00 Combined Single Limit. (Defense cost shall be in excess of the limit of liability.)
  - Automobile** - Automobile Liability Insurance, to include liability coverage, covering all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles, used in connection with the contract. The minimum combined single limit shall be \$150,000.00 bodily injury and property damage; \$150,000.00 uninsured/under insured motorist; and \$1,000.00 medical payment.
- REQUIREMENTS:** Providing and maintaining adequate insurance coverage is a material obligation of the contractor and is of the essence of this contract. All such insurance shall meet all laws of the State of North Carolina. Such insurance coverage shall be obtained from companies that are authorized to provide such coverage and that are authorized by the Commissioner of Insurance to do business in North Carolina. The contractor shall at all times comply with the terms of such insurance policies, and all requirements of the insurer under any such insurance policies, except as they may conflict with existing North Carolina laws or this contract. The limits of coverage under each insurance policy maintained by the contractor shall not be interpreted as limiting the contractor's liability and obligations under the contract.
17. **GENERAL INDEMNITY:** The contractor shall hold and save the State, its officers, agents, and employees, harmless from liability of any kind, including all claims and losses, with the exception of consequential damages, accruing or resulting to any other person, firm, or corporation furnishing or supplying work, services, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of this contract, and from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm, or corporation that may be injured or damaged by the contractor in the performance of this contract and that are attributable to the negligence or intentionally tortuous acts of the contractor provided that the contractor is notified in writing within 30 days that the State has knowledge of such claims. The contractor represents and warrants that it shall make no claim of any kind or nature against the State's agents who are involved in the delivery or processing of contractor goods to the State. The representation and warranty in the preceding sentence shall survive the termination or expiration of this contract.
18. **THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER(S) SHALL PAY A TRANSACTION FEE OF 1.75% (.0175) ON THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT (EXCLUDING SALES TAXES) OF EACH PURCHASE ORDER ISSUED THROUGH THE STATEWIDE E-PROCUREMENT SERVICE** This applies to all e-procurement purchase orders, regardless of the quantity or dollar amount of the purchase order. This transaction fee shall neither be charged to nor paid by GCS. The transaction fee shall not be stated or included as a separate item in the proposed contract or invoice. There are no additional fees or charges to the contractor for the services rendered by GCS under this contract.
19. **CANCELLATION (TERM CONTRACTS ONLY):** All contract obligations shall prevail for at least 180 days after the effective date of the contract. After that period, in addition to the provisions of the paragraph entitled Price Adjustments, for the protection of both parties, this contract may be canceled in whole or in part by either party by giving 30 days prior notice in writing to the other party. Such notice of cancellation, as required herein, shall be transmitted via U.S. MAIL, Certified, Return Receipt Requested. The 30 days' notice for cancellation shall begin on the day the return receipt is signed and dated.
20. **QUANTITIES (TERM CONTRACTS ONLY):** The award of a term contract neither implies nor guarantees any minimum or maximum purchases thereunder.
21. **PRICE ADJUSTMENTS (TERM CONTRACTS ONLY):** Any price changes, downward or upward, which might be permitted during the contract period must be general, either by reason of market change or on the part of the contractor to other customers.
- Notification:** Must be given to GCS, in writing, concerning any proposed price adjustments. Such notification shall be accompanied by copy of manufacturer's official notice or other acceptable evidence that the change is general in nature.
  - Decreases:** GCS shall receive full proportionate benefit immediately at any time during the contract period.
  - Increases:** All prices shall be firm against any increase for 180 days from the effective date of the contract. After this period, a request for increase may be submitted with GCS reserving the right to accept or reject the increase, or cancel the contract. Such action by GCS shall occur not later than 15 days after the receipt by GCS of a properly documented request for price increase. Any increases accepted shall become effective not later than 30 days after the expiration of the original 15 days reserved to evaluate the request for increase.
  - Invoices:** It is understood and agreed that orders will be shipped at the established contract prices in effect on dates orders are placed. Invoicing at variance with this provision will subject the contract to cancellation. Applicable North Carolina sales tax shall be invoiced as a separate item.
22. **Records Retention Requirements:**
- By signing this bid, the offeror understands that the SFA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the NC Department of Public Instruction, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access

to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor which are directly pertinent to the specific contract, for the purpose of audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.

- b. Additionally, the offeror must provide all documents as necessary for the independent auditor to conduct the SFA's single audit. The SFA will contract to have the single audit conducted as a regular, direct expense to the SFA; Child Nutrition funds may not be used for this purpose.
- c. The offeror must retain pertinent records identified by source, type, and category of beverages for a minimum of three years after the SFA makes final payments. In the event of any unresolved audit findings, the records shall be retained beyond the three (3) year period for as long as required for resolution of the issues raised by the audit.

23. **Assurances regarding Legal and Ethical Matters**

By signing this bid, the offeror assures that:

- a. he/she has read and understands all the General Terms and Conditions in this document and agrees to be bound by them, and is authorized to submit bids on behalf of the offering entity,
- b. the offeror has noted any and all relationships that might be conflicts of interest and included such information with his/her bid response,
- c. the bid submitted conforms with all item specification, these General Terms and Conditions, and any other instructions, requirements, or schedules outlined or included in this RFQ,
- d. if this bid is accepted, in whole or in part, the offering entity will furnish any item(s) awarded to them under this RFQ to the SFA at the proposed price and in accordance with the item specifications and the terms and conditions contained in this RFQ,
- e. the offering entity has, or has the ability to obtain, such financial and other resources, including inventories, as may be required to fulfill all the responsibilities associated with this bid,
- f. the offering entity has a high degree of integrity and business ethics, and a satisfactory record of performances, and has not been notified by any local, state or federal agency with competent jurisdiction that its standing in any matters whatsoever would preclude it from participating in this bid, it would in no other way whatsoever be disqualified to propose or receive any award or contract related to this bid, and the offeror will comply with any reasonable request from the SFA to supply any information sufficient to substantiate the proposing entity's ability to meet these minimum standards,
- g. concerning paragraph (f) above, the offering entity has identified and disclosed in this written bid any and all known suspected matters that would disqualify it from participating in this bid or receiving any award or contract related to this bid, recognizing that the offer's failure to identify and disclose any such matters constitutes its affirmation that no such matters exist, and that failure to disclose in this bid any such matters which do exist is a material breach of contract which would void the submitted bid or any resulting contracts, and subject the offeror to removal from all procurement lists and possible criminal prosecution
- h. the offering entity has obtained, and will continue to maintain during the entire term of this contract, all permits, approvals or licensed necessary for lawful performance of its obligations under this contract,
- i. the prices, prompt payment discount terms, delivery terms, distribution allowances, and the quality and/or performance of the products offered in the bid are and will remain the same or better than those offered to the vendor's most favored customer under equivalent circumstances,
- j. the offering entity will comply with all laws relating to intellectual property,
- k. will not infringe on any third party's intellectual property rights, and will indemnify, defend and hold the SFA and its members harmless against any claims for infringement of any copyrights, patents, or other infringements related to its activities under this contract,
- l. the offering entity will maintain, at the offering entity's expense, any
- m. insurance necessary to protect the SFA and its members from all claims for bodily injury, death, or property damage that might arise from the performance by the offering entity or the offering entity's employees or its agents or any service required of the offering entity under this contract; however, the existence of such insurance will not relieve the offering entity of full responsibility and liability for damages, injury, death or loss as described or as otherwise provided for by law,
- n. neither the SFA nor any of its members shall be liable to the offering entity for any damages (including, but not limited to, loss of profits or loss of business, or any special, consequential, exemplary, or incidental damages) in the event that the SFA declares the offering entity in default,
- o. he/she understands that by signing the bid with any false statement is a material breach of the contract which will void the submitted bid or any resulting contract(s), and subject the bidder to removal from all procurement lists, and possible criminal prosecution,
- p. Offerors must comply with the State of North Carolina Conflict of Interest requirement as defined in General Statutes, Chapter 14-234.

24. **Assurance of Non-Collusion**

By signing this bid, the offeror assures that, to the best of his/her knowledge:

- a. Neither the offeror nor any business entity represented by the offeror has received compensation for participation in the preparation of the item's specifications or the General Terms and Conditions related to this RFQ,
- b. This bid has been arrived at independently and is submitted without collusion with any other offeror, with any competitor or potential competitor, or with any other person or entity to obtain any information or gain any special treatment or favoritism

that would in any way limit competition or give any offeror an unfair advantage over any other offeror with respect to this RRP.

- c. The offeror has not accepted, offered, conferred or agreed to confer, and will not in the future accept, offer confer, or agree to confer any benefit or anything of value to any person or entity related to the SFA or any of its members in connection with any information or submission related to this bid, any recommendations, decision, vote or award related to this bid, or the exercise of any influence or discretion concerning the sale, delivery, or performance of any product or served related to this bid,
- d. Neither the offeror, nor any business entity represented by the bidder, nor anyone acting for such business entity, has violated the Federal Antitrust Laws or the antitrust laws of the state of North Carolina with regard to this bid, and this bid has not been knowingly disclosed, and will not be knowingly disclosed to another offeror, competitor, or potential competitor prior to the opening of bids.
- e. No attempt has been or will be made to induce any other person or entity to submit or to not submit a bid.

## 25. **Buy American Provision**

SFAs participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs in the contiguous United States are required to purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic products for use in meals served under the programs. Regulations define a "domestic product" as one that is produced in the United States and is processed in the United States, substantially using agricultural commodities that are produced in the United States. "Substantially" means over 51 percent of the final processed product consists of agricultural commodities that were grown domestically.

## 26. **Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract, and Termination of Contract**

If the vendor cannot comply with the terms and conditions in fulfilling its Contract as anticipated, the vendor must supply the same products or services contracted from other sources at the contract price. The vendor's delay in the above will constitute the vendor's material breach of contract, whereupon the SFA may terminate the vendor's contract for cause as provided by the remainder of this section.

Unless this Contract is extended by mutual agreement of the parties beyond the expiration of the contract time period as stated on the Bid Certification, this Contract shall terminate upon the expiration of the contract term as stated on the Bid Certification.

If any delay or failure of performance is caused by a Force Majeure event as described in the General Terms and Conditions document entitled "Force Majeure," the SFA may, in its sole discretion, terminate this contract in whole or part, provided such termination follows the remaining requirements of this section.

Except as otherwise provided within the General Terms and Conditions of this document, this Contract may be terminated in whole or in part by either party in the event of substantial failure by the other party to fulfill its obligations under this contract through no fault of the terminating party; provided that no such termination may be implemented unless and until the other party is given 1) at least thirty (30) days written notice (delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested ) of intent to terminate, and 2) an opportunity for consultation with the terminating party, followed by a reasonable opportunity, of not more than ten (10) working days, to rectify the defects in products or performance, prior to termination.

Valid causes for termination of this Contract will include, but are not limited to:

- (1) the vendor's failure to adhere to any of the provisions of the General Terms and Conditions of this RFQ,
- (2) the vendor delivering any product(s) that fail to meet the Item Specifications included in this RFQ relating to the awarded product(s),
- (3) the vendor delivering any substitution(s) of product(s) different than those originally proposed and awarded without the prior written approval of the SFA, the vendor's failure to meet the required delivery schedules as identified in
- (4) the contract documents, or
- (5) the vendor's violation of any other provision contained within these General Terms and Conditions or any attachment thereto which provides for contract termination as a remedy.

Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, in the event of the vendor's breach of any provision in this contract, the SFA reserves the right to enforce the performance of this contract in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of its members, including, but not limited to, the purchase of other products of like type and quality from other sources in the open market. In the event the SFA elects to purchase other products from other sources, the SFA will invoice the vendor for any increased costs to the SFA, and the vendor agrees, by submission of a bid response, to promptly pay any such charges invoiced.

In the event the SFA terminates this Contract, in whole or in part, for any reason provided for within the contract, the SFA reserves the right to award the canceled Contract, or any portion thereof, to the next lowest or most responsible offeror as it deems such award to be in the best interest of the SFA.

Any Contract termination resulting from any cause other than a Force Majeure event will be deemed a valid reason for not considering any future bid from the defaulting vendor.

In the performance of this contract, time is of the essence and these General Terms and Conditions are of the essence.

## **27. Extension Clause**

This contract may be extended annually for up to four (4) additional years from the expiration of the Contract period, unless sooner terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Contract, if the vendor and the SFA mutually agree, and no increases in costs are incurred, and the maximum allowable escalation price is capped by the annual national Consumer Price Index, *Cost of Food Away from Home*, increase.

## **28. Regulatory Compliance**

- (1) The offeror and SFA mutually agree to comply with all applicable standards, orders or requirements issued pursuant to Section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 USC 1857 [h]), Section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1368), Executive Order 117389 and Environmental Protection Agency regulations (40 CFR Part 15). Any violations thereof shall be reported to the Administrator for Enforcement or other appropriate authority. Each party shall not be responsible to the other for acts beyond its control or acts caused by the negligence of the other party.
- (2) The offeror agrees to comply with all mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency as cited in the State Energy Conservation Plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (P.L. 94 – 163).
- (3) The offeror shall comply with Executive Order 11246, entitled Equal Employment Opportunity, as amended by Executive Order 11375 of October 13, 1967, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations, 41 CFR Part 60.
- (4) The offeror shall comply with the following civil rights laws as amended: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Title 7 CFR parts 15, 15a, and 15b; the Americans with Disabilities Act; and FNS Instruction 113-6, "Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement in School Nutrition Programs".
- (5) The offeror shall comply with the "Buy American" provision for Contracts that involve the purchase of food and/or beverages as per 7 CFR Part 250.
- (6) The offeror shall comply with the provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Act.
- (7) The offeror shall complete and sign the *Certification of Independent Price Determination* form; *Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion* form; and *Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying* and shall include these documents as part of the Agreement. (See Attachments)
- (8) The offeror shall abide by all applicable State and Federal laws and policies of the State Board of Education when providing services under this Contract.
- (9) Allowable costs will be paid from the nonprofit school food service account to the contractor net of all discounts, rebates and other applicable credits accruing to or received by the contractor or any assignee under the contract, to the extent those credits are allocable to the allowable portion of the costs billed to the SFA.

## **29. Pricing**

All "Line Item" bids must be for a specific price for the unit of measure specified for that item. The offeror is responsible for clearly noting any differences in proposed packaging and/or units of measure in the bid response, and the offeror shall understand that if the item in question is awarded to the offeror, the quantity specified for that item will be adjusted to achieve an approximately equivalent amount of the product.

In cases where another price is requested for comparison purposes (e.g., "portion price" or "price per ounce"), such price is for comparison purposes only. Purchases will be made in the increments of the unit of measure specified. In the case of any discrepancy or error in comparison price calculations, the price for the unit of measure specified will prevail. Excessive errors in comparison price calculations will be sufficient grounds for rejection of the entire bid.

"Discount from Catalog" RFPs requires a single discount percentage to be applied to all items in the offeror's published catalog, which must be supplied with the bid response.

Allowable costs will be paid from the nonprofit school food service account to the offeror/contractor net of all discounts, rebates and other applicable credits accruing to or received by the contractor or any assignee under the contract, to the extent those credits are allocable to the allowable portion of the costs billed to the SFA. The offeror/contractor agrees to fully disclose all discounts, rebates, allowances, and incentives received by the Company from its suppliers. If the offeror/contractor receives a

discount, rebate, allowance, or incentive from any supplier, the offeror/contractor must disclose and return to the Guilford School

District the full amount of the discount, rebate, or applicable credit that is received based on the purchases made on behalf of the Guilford School District. All discounts, rebates, allowances, and incentives must be returned to the Guilford School District during a mutually agreed upon timeframe that is beneficial to the School District.

“Cost Plus” bids will not be accepted unless otherwise requested in this RFP.

Proposed prices must be firm for acceptance for at least 90 days from the bid opening date, unless otherwise specified in this RFP or in the offeror’s response.

If during the term of the Contract, a successful offeror’s net prices to any or all of its other customers in similar market circumstances for any of the same items awarded under this RFP are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such price reduction shall be extended to the SFA.

### **30. Invoices, Packing Lists, and Payment Conditions**

Packing Lists or other suitable shipping documents must accompany each shipment and must identify (a) the name and address of the vendor, (b) the name and address or delivery location of the receiving entity, (c) the Purchase Order Number, and (d) detailed descriptive information identifying the item(s) delivered, including quantity, item number, product code, item description, number of containers, etc.

All Invoices must reflect (a) the name and address of the vendor, (b) the name and address or delivery location of the receiving entity, (c) the appropriate Purchase Order Number, and (d) detailed descriptive information identifying the item(s) delivered, including quantity, item number, product code, item description, etc., and must include a properly signed copy of the delivery receipt. Invoices must be mailed directly to the SFA.

The SFA will not be held responsible for any products delivered or invoiced without a valid current Purchase Order Number.

Notwithstanding the above, the payments stated on each individual Purchase Order will be the controlling factor in the determination of payment terms. Each Invoice should include the vendor’s normal payment terms in the event that any Purchase Order fails to address the subject.

In any case, payment will be made only after satisfactory delivery and acceptance of merchandise in good order, including the necessary documentation indicated above, and only after receipt of a correct Invoice form the vendor, including the necessary information indicated above.

At the option of the SFA, invoices with incorrect prices or other errors or inconsistencies will not be paid until corrected, whether by credit memo(s) or issuance of a corrected invoice. At the option of the SFA, invoices may be corrected upon receipt and payment may be made based upon their corrections.

## **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Please return Attachments 1-5 with your proposal**

**ATTACHMENT I**

**HUB CERTIFICATION**

Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Certification

Companies submitting Bids that have been certified by the North Carolina Department of Administration as Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Entities are encouraged to indicate their HUB status when responding to this IFB.

Mark YES or No with an "X" as applicable and sign below.

**Yes**, I certify that my company has been certified by the North Carolina Department of Administration as Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), and I have attached a copy of our HUB certification to this form. Required documentation for recognition as a HUB:

Check all that apply:

- Minority
- Small Business
- Women Owned

**No**, I certify that my company does not qualify for HUB status.

**Company Name (Type)**

**Signature of Authorized Representative**

**Print Authorized Representative Name**

**Date**

## Attachment 2

### CERTIFICATION OF CONTRACTS, GRANTS, LOANS, COOPERATIVE LOBBYING AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying", in accordance with its instructions.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including sub-contracts, sub-grants and contracts under grants, loans and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31 U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

  
Company Name (Type)

  
**Signature of Authorized Representative**

  
Print Authorized Representative Name

  
Date

## Attachment 3

### CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS - PRIMARY COVERED TRANSACTIONS

- (1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
- (a) are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
  - (b) have not within a three-year period preceding this bid 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) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
  - (c) are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or Local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1) (b) of this certification; and
  - (d) have not within a three-year period preceding this application/bid had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or Local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this bid.

  
**Company Name (Type)**

  
**Signature of Authorized Representative**

  
**Date**

  
**Print Authorized Representative Name**

#### Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this form, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out in this document in accordance with these instructions.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to whom this bid is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary" covered transaction," "principal," "bid," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this bid is submitted for assistance in obtaining copy of the regulations.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this form that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this form that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the Non-Procurement List.
8. 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 this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment

## Attachment 4










### NC LUNSFORD ACT N.C. General Statute 14-208.18

The Distributor acknowledges that N.C. General Statute 14-208.18 prohibits anyone required to register as a sex offender under Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes from knowingly, among other things, being on the premises of any school. This prohibition applies to persons required to register under Article 27A who have committed any offense in Article 7A of Chapter 14 or any offense where the victim of the offense was under the age of 16 years at the time of the offense.

#### CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS:

1. The Distributor shall conduct or have conducted within the previous twelve (12) months, a criminal background check (which includes a check of the State Sex Offender and Public Protection Registration Program, the State Sexually Violent Predator Registration Program, and the National Sex Offender Registry) (collectively, "listed registries") on each of its employees or agents who, pursuant to this Agreement, engage in any services on the premises of a school or within 300 feet of any location intended primarily for the use, care, or supervision of minors, including but not limited to schools, children's museums, child care centers, nurseries, and playgrounds, prior to any such employee or agent engaging in such services.
  - a. Distributor shall conduct such criminal background checks no less than once every twelve (12) months thereafter.
  - b. Distributor shall maintain a log of the date and results of all such criminal background checks and subsequent criminal background checks for those assigned employees and agents.
  - c. Within 5 days of a request from the school district, Distributor shall provide to the school district the log and results required by subsection b above.
2. Distributor shall not assign any employee or agent to, pursuant to this Agreement, provide services on the premises of a school or within 300 feet of any location intended primarily for the use, care, or supervision of minors, including but not limited to schools, children's museums, child care centers, nurseries, and playgrounds if said worker:
  - a. appears on any of the listed registries;
  - b. has been convicted of any crime, whether misdemeanor or felony, involving a minor;
  - c. has been convicted of any felony involving sex, violence, or drugs; or
  - d. has engaged in any crime or conduct indicating that the worker may pose a threat to the safety or well-being of students or school personnel.
3. Each North Carolina school district reserves the right to prohibit any individual employee or agent of Distributor from providing services on school district property or at any school district events if the school district(s) determines, in its sole discretion, that such employee or agent poses a threat to the safety or well-being of students, school personnel or others.

#### Signed:

		
<b>Authorized Signature</b>	<b>Printed Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
		
<b>Name of Company</b>	<b>City, State, Zip Code</b>	
		
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Attachment 5**  
**EVIDENCE OF INSURANCE**

Attach copy, or evidence, of required Property, Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance.