

BIDS

Advertised/Competitive Bids

Except as provided in the "Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act" section below, the district shall seek competitive bids through advertisement for contracts involving an expenditure of \$15,000 or more for a public project. (Public Contract Code 20111)

"Public project" includes construction, reconstruction, erection, alteration, renovation, improvement, painting, repainting, demolition and repair work involving a district owned, leased or operated facility. (Public Contract Code 20111, 22002)

The amount by which contracts shall be competitively bid shall escalate automatically based upon the annual adjustment by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Competitive bids shall be sought through advertisement for contracts-for the following: (Public Contract Code 20111; Government Code 53060)

1. The purchase of equipment, material or supplies to be furnished, sold or leased to the district
2. Services, not including construction services, or special services and advice such as accounting, financial, legal or administrative matters
3. Repairs, including maintenance that is not a public project

"Maintenance" means routine, recurring and usual work for preserving, protecting and keeping a district facility operating in a safe, efficient and continually usable condition for the intended purpose for which it was designed, improved, constructed, altered or repaired. "Maintenance" includes, but is not limited to, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, glazing and other craft work designed to preserve the facility as well as repairs, cleaning and other operations on machinery and other permanently attached equipment. This definition does not include, among other types of work, janitorial or custodial services and protection provided by security forces, nor does it include painting, repainting or decorating other than touchup. (Public Contract Code 20115)

Instructions and Procedures for Advertised Bids

The Superintendent or designee shall call for bids by advertising in a local newspaper or general circulation published in the district, or if no such paper exists then in some newspaper of general circulation, circulated in the county at least once a week for two weeks. The notice shall state the work to be done or materials or supplies to be furnished and the time and place and web site where bids will be opened. The district may accept a bid that has been submitted electronically or on paper. (Public Contract Code 20112)

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

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The notice shall contain the time, date and location of any mandatory prebid conference, site visit or meeting. The notice shall also detail when and where project documents, including final plan and specifications, are available. Any such mandatory visit or meeting shall not occur within a minimum of five calendar days of the publication of the initial notice. (Public Contract Code 6610)

Bid instructions and specifications shall include the following requirements and information:

1. All bidders shall certify the minimum, if not exact, percentage of post-consumer materials in products, materials, goods, or supplies offered or sold. (Public Contract Code 22152)

(cf. 3510 – Green School Operations)

2. All bids for construction work shall be presented under sealed cover and shall be accompanied by one of the following forms of bidder's security: (Public Contract Code 20107, 20111)
 - a. Cash
 - b. A cashier's check made payable to the district
 - c. A certified check made payable to the district
 - d. A bidder's bond executed by an admitted surety insurer and made payable to the district

The security of unsuccessful bidders shall be returned in a reasonable period of time, in no event any later than 60 days after the bid is awarded. (Public Contract Code 20111)

3. When a standardized proposal form is provided by the district, bids not presented on the standard form shall be disregarded. (Public Contract Code 20111.5)
4. Bids shall not be accepted after the advertised bid opening time, regardless of whether the bids are actually opened at that time. (Public Contract Code 20112)
5. When two or more identical lowest or highest bids are received, the Board may determine by lot which bid shall be accepted. (Public Contract Code 20117)
6. If the district requires that the bid include prices for items that may be added to or deducted from the scope of work in the contract, depending on the availability of funds, the bid solicitation shall specify which one of the following methods will be used to determine the lowest bid. In the absence of such a specification, only the method provided in item 6a, below, will be used: (Public Contract Code 20103.8)

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- a. The lowest bid shall be the lowest bid price on the base contract without consideration of the prices on the additive or deductive items.
 - b. The lowest bid shall be the lowest total of the bid prices on the base contract and those additive or deductive items that were specifically identified in the bid solicitation as being used for the purpose of determining the lowest bid price.
 - c. The lowest bid shall be the lowest total of the bid prices on the base contract and those additive or deductive items that, when taken in order from a specifically identified list of those items in the solicitation, and added to or subtracted from the base contract, are less than or equal to a funding amount publicly disclosed by the district before the first bid is opened.
 - d.** The lowest bid shall be determined in a manner that prevents any information that would identify any of the bidders or proposed subcontractors or suppliers from being revealed to the district before the ranking of all bidders from lowest to highest has been determined. (Public Contract Code 20103.8)
7. The district shall consider only responsive bids from responsible bidders in determining the lowest bid.
 8. Any subsequent change or alteration of a contract shall be governed by the provisions of Public Contract Code 20118.4.
 9. After being opened, all submitted bids become public records pursuant to Government Code 6252 and shall be made available for review pursuant to law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

10. When a bid is disqualified as nonresponsive based on district investigation or other information not obtained from the submitted bid, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the bidder and give him/her an opportunity to respond to the information.

Sole Sourcing

In any contract for the construction, alteration, or repair of school facilities, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the bid specification: (Public Contract Code 3400)

1. Does not directly or indirectly limit bidding to any one specific concern

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2. Does not call for a designated material, product, thing, or service by a specific brand or trade name, unless the specification is followed by the words "or equal," so that bidders may furnish any equal material, product, thing, or service

In any such case, the bid specification shall provide a time period, before and/or after the award of the contract, for the contractor to submit data substantiating the request for substituting the designated material, product, thing, or service. If no such time period is specified, the contractor may submit the data within 35 days after the award of the contract.

When the bid is for a roof project, a material, product, thing, or service is considered "equal" to that designated if it is equal in quality, durability, design, and appearance; will perform the intended function equally well; and conforms substantially to the detailed requirements in the bid specification. (Public Contract Code 3002)

However, the Superintendent or designee may designate a specific material, product, thing, or service by brand or trade name (sole sourcing) if the Board has made a finding, described in the invitation for bids or RFP, that a particular material, product, thing, or service is designated for any of the following purposes: (Public Contract Code 3400)

1. To conduct a field test or experiment to determine its suitability for future use
2. To match others in use on a particular public improvement that has been completed or is in the course of completion
3. To obtain a necessary item that is only available from one source
4. To respond to the Board's declaration of an emergency, as long as the declaration has been approved by four-fifths of the Board when issuing the invitation for bid or RFP

(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)

Bids Not Required

Without advertising for bids and upon a determination that it is in the best interest of the district, the Board may authorize another public corporation or agency, by contract, lease, requisition, or purchase order, to lease data-processing equipment or to purchase materials, supplies, equipment, automotive vehicles, tractors, and other personal property for the district in the manner that the other public corporation or agency is authorized to make the leases or purchases from a vendor ("piggyback"). Alternatively, if the public corporation or agency has an existing contract with a vendor for the lease or purchase of personal property, the district may authorize the lease or purchase of personal property directly from the vendor and make payments under the same terms that are available to the public corporation or agency under the contract. (Public Contract Code 20118)

Business and Noninstructional Operations

AR 3311(e)

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(cf. 3300 - Expenditures and Purchases)
(cf. 3512 - Equipment)

Without advertising for bids, the Board may enter into an energy service contract and any related facility ground lease, when it determines that the terms of the contract and lease are in the best interest of the district. The Board's determination shall be made at a regularly scheduled public hearing of which notice is given to the public at least two weeks in advance and shall be based on cost comparison findings specified in Government Code 4217.12. (Government Code 4217.12)

(cf. 3511 - Energy and Water Management)
(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Supplementary textbooks, library books, educational films, audiovisual materials, test materials, workbooks, instructional computer software packages, or periodicals may be purchased in any amount without taking estimates or advertising for bids. (Public Contract Code 20118.3)

(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)
(cf. 6161.11 - Supplementary Instructional Materials)
(cf. 6163.1 - Library Media Centers)

Perishable foodstuffs and seasonal commodities needed in the operations of cafeterias may be purchased through bid or on the open market. (Education Code 38083)

(cf. 3551 - Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund)

Bids shall not be required for day labor under circumstances specified in Public Contract Code 20114. Day labor shall include the use of maintenance personnel employed on a permanent or temporary basis. (Public Contract Code 20114)

In an emergency when any repairs, alterations, work, or improvement to any school facility is necessary to permit the continuance of existing school classes or to avoid danger to life or property, the Board may, by unanimous vote and with the approval of the County Superintendent of Schools, contract for labor and materials or supplies without advertising for or inviting bids or may authorize the use of day labor or force account for the emergency purpose. (Public Contract Code 1102, 20113)

(cf. 3517 - Facilities Inspection)

The district may purchase any surplus property from the federal government or any of its agencies in any quantity needed for the operation of its schools without taking estimates or advertising for bids. (Education Code 17602)

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Lease-Leaseback Contract

Upon a determination that it is in the best interest of the district and subject to the competitive selection process required pursuant to Education Code 17406, the Board may lease an available site to any person, firm, or corporation for a minimum of \$1 per year, as long as the agreement requires the person, firm, or corporation to construct a building or buildings on the property for the district's use during the lease and the property and building(s) will vest in the district prior to or at the expiration of the lease ("lease-leaseback").

The Superintendent or designee shall have on file the contractor's enforceable commitment that the contractor and its subcontractors at every tier will use a skilled and trained workforce to perform all work on the project or contract that falls within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades. (Education Code 17406, 17407.5)

(cf. 3280 - Sale or Lease of District-Owned Real Property)

Any lease-leaseback agreement shall be reviewed by the district's legal counsel to ensure that all required terms, including a lease term that provides for the district's occupancy of the building or improved property during the lease and, if applicable, an appropriate financing component, are included in the agreement.

(cf. 9124 - Attorney)

Regardless of the funding source, when any lease-leaseback agreement is for a public project, involves an expenditure of \$1,000,000 or more, and meets other criteria in Public Contract Code 20111.6, the prequalification requirements specified in the "Prequalification Procedure" section below shall be followed. (Education Code 17406)

Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act

Procedures for awarding contracts for public works projects shall be determined on the basis of the amount of the project, as follows:

1. Public projects of \$45,000 or less may be performed by district employees by force account, negotiated contract, or purchase order. (Public Contract Code 22032)
2. Contracts for public projects of \$175,000 or less may be awarded through the following informal procedures: (Public Contract Code 22032, 22034, 22038)
 - a. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a list of qualified contractors, identified according to categories of work.

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b. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare a notice inviting informal bids which describes the project in general terms, explains how to obtain more information about the project, and states the time and place for submission of bids. The notice shall be disseminated by mail, fax, or email to one or both of the following:

(1) To all contractors on the district's list for the category of work being bid, unless the product or service is proprietary, at least 10 calendar days before bids are due

(2) To all construction trade journals identified pursuant to Public Contract Code 22036

c. The district shall review the informal bids and award the contract, except that:

(1) If all bids received through the informal process are in excess of \$175,000, the contract may be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, provided that the Board adopts a resolution with a four-fifths vote to award the contract at \$187,500 or less and the Board determines the district's cost estimate was reasonable.

(2) If no bids are received through the informal bid procedure, the project may be performed by district employees by force account or negotiated contract.

3. Public projects of more than \$175,000 shall, except as otherwise provided by law, be subject to formal bidding procedures, as follows: (Public Contract Code 22032, 22037, 22038)

a. Notice inviting formal bids shall state the time and place for receiving and opening sealed bids and distinctly describe the project. The notice shall be disseminated in both of the following ways:

(1) Through publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the district's jurisdiction or, if there is no such newspaper, then by posting the notice in at least three places designated by the district as places for posting its notices. Such notice shall be published at least 14 calendar days before the date that bids will be opened.

(2) By mail and electronically, if available, by either fax or email, to all construction trade journals identified pursuant to Public Contract Code 22036. Such notice shall be sent at least 15 calendar days before the date that bids will be opened.

In addition to notice required above, the district may give such other notice as it deems proper.

b. The district shall award the contract as follows:

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- (1) The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. If two or more bids are the same and the lowest, the district may accept the one it chooses.
- (2) At its discretion, the district may reject all bids presented and declare that the project can be more economically performed by district employees, provided that the district notifies an apparent low bidder, in writing, of the district's intention to reject the bid. Such notice shall be mailed at least two business days prior to the hearing at which the district intends to reject the bid.
- (3) If no bids are received through the formal bid procedure, the project may be performed by district employees by force account or negotiated contract.

In cases of emergency when repair or replacements are necessary, the Board may proceed at once to replace or repair a facility without adopting plans, specifications, strain sheets, or working details, or giving notice for bids to let contracts, in accordance with the contracting procedures in Public Contract Code 22050. The work may be done by day labor under the direction of the Board and/or contractor. (Public Contract Code 22035)

Prequalification Procedure

For any contract for which bids are legally required, the Board may require that each prospective bidder complete and submit a standardized questionnaire and financial statement. For this purpose, the Superintendent or designee shall supply a form which requires a complete statement of the bidder's financial ability and experience in performing public works. Prospective bidders shall submit the questionnaire and financial statement at least five days before the date fixed for public opening of sealed bids. The information shall be verified under oath in the manner in which civil law pleadings are verified. The questionnaires and financial statements shall not be public records and shall not be open to public inspection. (Code of Civil Procedure 446; Public Contract Code 20111.5, 20111.6)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a uniform system for rating bidders on the basis of completed questionnaires and financial statements in order to determine the size of contracts on which each bidder is qualified to bid. Bidders must be deemed prequalified by the district at least one day before the fixed bid-opening date. (Public Contract Code 20111.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall furnish each qualified bidder with a standardized proposal form. Bids not presented on the standard form shall be disregarded. (Public Contract Code 20111.5)

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The district may establish a procedure for prequalifying bidders on a quarterly basis and may authorize that prequalification be considered valid for up to one calendar year following the date of the initial prequalification. (Public Contract Code 20111.5)

When any public project involves an expenditure of \$1,000,000 or more and is funded or reimbursed wholly or partly by the School Facilities Program funds or other future state school bond, the district shall prequalify prospective bidders either quarterly or annually. The prequalification shall be valid for one year and the following requirements shall apply: (Education Code 17406, 17407; Public Contract Code 20111.6)

1. Prospective bidders, including, but not limited to, prime, general engineering, and general building contractors and electrical, mechanical, and plumbing subcontractors, as defined in the Business and Professions Code 4113, 7056, or 7057, as applicable, shall submit a standardized questionnaire and financial statement 10 or more business days, as determined by the district, before the date fixed for the public opening of sealed bids.
2. Prospective bidders shall be prequalified by the district five or more business days, as determined by the district, before the date fixed for the public opening of sealed bids.

If the project includes electrical, mechanical, or plumbing components that will be performed by electrical, mechanical, or plumbing contractors, the Superintendent or designee shall make available to all bidders a list of prequalified general contractors and electrical, mechanical, and plumbing subcontractors five or more business days, as determined by the district, before the date fixed for the public opening of sealed bids.

For all other contracts requiring competitive bidding, the district may establish a procedure for prequalifying bidders on a quarterly basis and may authorize that prequalification be considered valid for up to one calendar year following the date of the initial prequalification. Prospective bidders for such contracts shall submit the questionnaire and financial statement at least five days before the date fixed for public opening of sealed bids and shall be prequalified by the district at least one day before the fixed bid-opening date. (Public Contract Code 20111.5)

Award of Contract

The district shall award each contract to the lowest responsible bidder except in the following circumstances:

1. When the contract is for the procurement and/or maintenance of electronic data processing systems and supporting software, in which case the Board may contract with any one of the three lowest responsible bidders (Public Contract Code 20118.1)

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2. When the contract is for any transportation service which involves an expenditure of more than \$10,000 and which will be made with any person or corporation other than a common carrier, municipally owned transit system, or a parent/guardian of students who are to be transported, in which case the Board may contract with other than the lowest bidder (Education Code 39802)
3. When the contract is one for which the Board has established goals and requirements relating to participation of disabled veteran or small business enterprises in accordance with Public Contract Code 2000-2002, in which case the Board may contract with the lowest responsible bidder who submits a responsive bid and complies or makes a good faith effort to comply with the goals and requirements (Public Contract Code 2000-2002)
4. When procuring a design-build contract for a public works project in excess of \$1,000,000 in accordance with the section "Design-Build Contracts" below, in which case the Board may award the contract to either the low bid or the best value to the district, taking into consideration, at a minimum, price, technical design and construction expertise, and life-cycle costs (Education Code 17250.20, 17250.25) (cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

Protests by Bidders

A bidder may protest a bid award if he/she believes that the award was inconsistent with Board policy or the bid's specifications or was not in compliance with law.

A protest must be filed in writing with the Superintendent or designee within five working days after receipt of notification of the contract award. The bidder shall submit all documents supporting or justifying the protest. A bidder's failure to timely file the protest documents shall constitute a waiver of his/her right to protest the award of the contract.

The Superintendent or designee shall review the documents submitted with the bidder's claims and render a decision in writing within 30 days. The Superintendent or designee also may convene a meeting with the bidder in order to attempt to resolve the problem.

The bidder may appeal the Superintendent or designee's decision to the Board. The Superintendent or designee shall provide reasonable notice to the bidder of the time for Board consideration of the contract award. The Board's decision shall be final.

Alternative Bid Procedures for Technological Supplies and Equipment

Rather than seek competitive bids, the Board may use competitive negotiation when it makes a finding that a district procurement is for computers, software, telecommunications equipment, microwave equipment, or other related electronic equipment and apparatus. Competitive negotiation shall not be used to contract for construction or for the procurement of any product that is available in substantial quantities to the general public. (Public Contract Code 20118.2)

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The competitive negotiation process shall include, but not be limited to, the following requirements: (Public Contract Code 20118.2)

1. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare a request for proposals (RFP) that shall be submitted to an adequate number of qualified sources, as determined by the district, to permit reasonable competition consistent with the nature and requirement of the procurement.
2. Notice of the RFP shall be published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation, at least 10 days before the date for receipt of the proposals.
3. The Superintendent or designee shall make every effort to generate the maximum feasible number of proposals from qualified sources and shall make a finding to that effect before proceeding to negotiate if only a single response to the RFP is received.
4. The RFP shall identify all significant evaluation factors, including price, and their relative importance.
5. The Superintendent or designee shall provide reasonable procedures for the technical evaluation of the RFPs received, the identification of qualified sources, and the selection for the award of the contract.
6. The Board shall award the contract to the qualified bidder whose proposal meets the evaluation standards and will be most advantageous to the district with price and all other factors considered.
7. If the Board does not award the contract to the bidder whose proposal contains the lowest price, then the Board shall make a finding setting forth the basis for the award to another bidder.
8. The Board, at its discretion, may reject all proposals and request new RFPs.
9. Provisions in any contract concerning utilization of small business enterprises that are in accordance with the RFP shall not be subject to negotiation with the successful proposer.

Design-Build Contracts

When it is in the best interest of the district, the Board may approve a contract with a single entity for both design and construction of any school facility in excess of \$1,000,000, awarding the contract to either the low bid or the best value as determined by evaluation of objective criteria. (Education Code 17250.20)

The procurement process for design-build projects shall be as follows: (Education Code 17250.25)

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1. The district shall prepare a set of documents setting forth the scope and estimated price of the project. The documents may include, but are not limited to, the size, type, and desired design character of the project; performance specifications covering the quality of materials, equipment, workmanship, preliminary plans, or building layouts; or any other information deemed necessary to describe adequately the district's needs. The documents may include operations during a training or transition period, but shall not include long-term operations for a project. The performance specifications and any plans shall be prepared by a design professional who is duly licensed and registered in California.

2. The district shall prepare and issue a request for qualifications in order to prequalify or develop a short list of the design-build entities whose proposals shall be evaluated for final selection. The request for qualifications shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following elements:
 - a. Identification of the basic scope and needs of the project or contract, the expected cost range, the methodology that will be used by the district to evaluate proposals, the procedure for final selection of the design-build entity, and any other information deemed necessary by the district to inform interested parties of the contracting opportunity

 - b. Significant factors that the district reasonably expects to consider in evaluating qualifications, including technical design and construction experience, acceptable safety record, and all other non-price-related factors

 - c. A standard template request for statements of qualifications prepared by the district, which shall contain all of the information required pursuant to Education Code 17250.25

The district also may identify specific types of subcontractors that must be included in the statement of qualification and proposal.

A design-build entity shall not be prequalified or short-listed unless the entity provides an enforceable commitment to the district that the entity and its subcontractors at every tier will use a skilled and trained workforce, as defined in Education Code 17250.25, to perform all work on the project or contract that falls within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades. The entity may demonstrate such commitment through a project labor agreement, by becoming a party to the district's project labor agreement, or through an agreement with the district to provide evidence of compliance on a monthly basis during the performance of the project or contract. (Education Code 17250.25)

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3. The district shall prepare a request for proposals that invites prequalified or short-listed entities to submit competitive sealed proposals in a manner prescribed by the district.

The request for proposals shall include the information identified in items #2a and 2b above and the relative importance or weight assigned to each of the factors. If the district uses a best value selection method, the district may reserve the right to request proposal revisions and hold discussions and negotiations with responsive proposers, in which case the district shall so specify in the request for proposals and shall publish separately or incorporate into the request for proposals applicable procedures to be observed by the district to ensure that any discussions or negotiations are conducted in good faith.

4. For those projects utilizing low bid as the final selection method, the bidding process shall result in lump-sum bids by the prequalified or short-listed design-build entities, and the contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

5. For those projects utilizing best value as a selection method, the following procedures shall be used:

a. Competitive proposals shall be evaluated using only the criteria and selection procedures specifically identified in the request for proposals. Criteria shall be weighted as deemed appropriate by the district and shall, at a minimum, include price, unless a stipulated sum is specified; technical design and construction experience; and life-cycle costs over 15 or more years.

b. Following any discussions or negotiations with responsive proposers and completion of the evaluation process, the responsive proposers shall be ranked on a determination of value provided, provided that no more than three proposers are required to be ranked.

c. The contract shall be awarded to the responsible entity whose proposal is determined by the district to have offered the best value to the public.

d. The district shall publicly announce the contract award, identifying the entity to which the award is made and the basis of the award. This statement and the contract file shall provide sufficient information to satisfy an external audit.