

	<b>District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties</b>  <b>Request for Proposals</b>	Solicitation #	2026-049
		Date Issued	June 16, 2026
		Procurement Official	Chris Winslow
		Phone	<b>(803) 476-8140</b>
		E-Mail Address	<a href="mailto:D5bids@lexrich5.org">D5bids@lexrich5.org</a>

DESCRIPTION	Benefits Enrollment Services
-------------	------------------------------

*The Term "Offer" Means Your "Bid" or "Proposal"*

SUBMIT OFFER BY	July 7, 2026 @ 11:00 am
QUESTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY	June 25, 2026 @ 12:00 pm Electronically to <a href="mailto:D5bids@lexrich5.org">D5bids@lexrich5.org</a>
NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE SUBMITTED	One (1) Original, and Five (5) Copies Mailed (Marked "Copy") One Electronic (USB)

**Offers must be submitted in a sealed package. Solicitation number & Opening Date must appear on package exterior**

SUBMIT YOUR SEALED OFFER TO:

**District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties**  
**Purchasing Office**  
**1020 Dutch Fork Road**  
**Irmo, SC 29063**

<b>CONFERENCE TYPE:</b> N/A <b>DATE &amp; TIME:</b>  As appropriate, see "Conferences - Pre-Bid/Proposal" & "Site Visit" provisions	<b>LOCATION:</b> N/A
--	----------------------

<b>AWARD &amp; AMENDMENTS</b>	The award, this solicitation, and any amendments will be posted at the following web address: <a href="https://www.lexrich5.org/departments/office-of-finance/purchasing/solicitations-and-awards">https://www.lexrich5.org/departments/office-of-finance/purchasing/solicitations-and-awards</a>
-------------------------------	--

You **must** submit a signed copy of this form with Your Offer. By submitting a bid or proposal, You agree to be bound by the terms of the Solicitation. You agree to hold Your Offer open for a minimum of sixty (60) calendar days after the Opening Date.

NAME OF OFFEROR (Full legal name of business submitting the offer)		<b>OFFEROR'S TYPE OF ENTITY:</b> (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietorship <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation (tax-exempt) <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate entity (not tax-exempt) <input type="checkbox"/> Government entity (federal, state, or local) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ (See "Signing Your Offer" provision.)
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE  (Person signing <b>must</b> be authorized to submit a binding offer to enter into a contract on behalf of Offeror named above.)		
TITLE (Business title of person signing above)		
PRINTED NAME (Printed name of person signing above)	DATE SIGNED	

Instructions regarding Offeror's name: Any award issued will be issued to, and the contract will be formed with, the entity identified as the Offeror above. The entity named as the Offeror **must** be a single and distinct legal entity. Do not use the name of a branch office or a division of a larger entity if the branch or division is not a separate legal entity, *i.e.*, a separate corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, etc.

STATE OF INCORPORATION (If Offeror is a corporation, identify the state of Incorporation.)	TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NO.
---	-----------------------------

**COVER PAGE**

**PAGE TWO**  
**(Return Page Two with Your Offer)**

<b>HOME OFFICE ADDRESS</b> (Address for Offeror's home office / principal place of business)	<b>NOTICE ADDRESS</b> (Address to which all procurement and contract related notices should be sent.) (See "Notice" clause)
	Area Code -    Number -    Extension    Facsimile
	E-Mail Address

<b>PAYMENT ADDRESS</b> (Address to which payments will be sent.) (See "Payment" clause)	<b>ORDER ADDRESS</b> (Address to which purchase orders will be sent) (See "Purchase Orders" and "Contract Documents" clauses)
	Order E-Mail Address:
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Address same as Home Office Address <input type="checkbox"/> Payment Address same as Notice Address <b>(check only one)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Order Address same as Home Office Address <input type="checkbox"/> Order Address same as Notice Address <b>(check only one)</b>

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AMENDMENTS:**  
Offerors acknowledge receipt of amendments by indicating amendment number and its date of issue. (See "Amendments to Solicitation" Provision)

Amend ment No.	Amendment Issue Date	Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date	Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date	Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date

DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT (See "Discount for Prompt Payment" clause)	10 Calendar Days (%)  _____	20 Calendar Days (%)  _____	30 Calendar Days (%)  _____	_____ Calendar Days (%)
---	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------

**PREFERENCES - A NOTICE TO VENDORS (SEP. 2009):** On June 16, 2009, the South Carolina General Assembly rewrote the law governing preferences available to in-state vendors, vendors using in-state subcontractors, and vendors selling in-state or US end products. This law appears in Section 11-35-1524 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. A summary of the new preferences is available at [www.procurement.sc.gov/preferences](http://www.procurement.sc.gov/preferences). **ALL THE PREFERENCES MUST BE CLAIMED AND ARE APPLIED BY LINE ITEM, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER AWARD IS MADE BY ITEM OR LOT. VENDORS ARE CAUTIONED TO CAREFULLY REVIEW THE STATUTE BEFORE CLAIMING ANY PREFERENCES. THE REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY HAVE CHANGED. IF YOU REQUEST A PREFERENCE, YOU ARE CERTIFYING THAT YOUR OFFER QUALIFIES FOR THE PREFERENCE YOU'VE CLAIMED. IMPROPERLY REQUESTING A PREFERENCE CAN HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.** [11-35-1524(E)(4) & (6)]

**PREFERENCES - ADDRESS AND PHONE OF IN-STATE OFFICE:** Please provide the address and phone number for your in-state office in the space provided below. An in-state office is necessary to claim either the Resident Vendor Preference (11-35-1524(C)(1)(i)&(ii)) or the Resident Contractor Preference (11-35-1524(C)(1)(iii)). Accordingly, you must provide this information to qualify for the preference. An in-state office is not required, but can be beneficial, if you are claiming the Resident Subcontractor Preference (11-35-1524(D)).

In-State Office Address same as Home Office Address  
 In-State Office Address same as Notice Address (check only one)

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- I. Scope of Solicitation
- II. Instructions to Offerors
  - A. General Instructions
  - B. Special Instructions
- III. Scope of Work / Specifications
- IV. Information for Offerors to Submit
- V. Qualifications
- VI. Award Criteria
- VII. Terms and Conditions
  - A. General
  - B. Special
- VIII. Bidding Schedule / Price Business Proposal
- IX. Attachments to Solicitation

**I. SCOPE OF SOLICITATION**

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide Benefits Enrollment Services for eligible employees.

**ACQUIRE SERVICES:** The purpose of this solicitation is to acquire services complying with the enclosed description and or specifications and conditions.

**MAXIMUM CONTRACT PERIOD (ESTIMATED):** Start: July 26, 2026 End: July 25, 2031. Dates are estimates only. Any resulting contract will begin on the date specified in the notice of award.

The initial term of the contract will be one (1) year with four (4) additional one-year options to renew for a maximum contract term of five (5) years. Extensions beyond the five (5) year period require approval of the District’s Superintendent.

**II. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS – A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

**DEFINITIONS, CAPITALIZATION, AND HEADINGS:** CLAUSE HEADINGS USED IN THIS SOLICITATION ARE FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND SHALL NOT BE USED TO CONSTRUE MEANING OR INTENT. EVEN IF NOT CAPITALIZED, THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS ARE APPLICABLE TO ALL PARTS OF THE SOLICITATION, UNLESS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED OTHERWISE.

AMENDMENT means a document issued to supplement the original solicitation document.

BOARD means the Board of Trustees of District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties.

BUSINESS means any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint stock company, joint venture, or any other legal entity.

CHANGE ORDER means any written alteration in specifications, delivery point, rate of delivery, period of performance, price, quantity, or other provisions of any contract accomplished by mutual agreement of the parties to the contract.

CONTRACT means all types of District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties’ agreements, regardless of what they may be called, for the procurement or disposal of supplies, services, equipment or construction.

CONTRACT MODIFICATION means a written order signed by the Procurement Officer, directing the contractor to make changes which the clause of the contract TITLED “Changes, “if included herein, authorizes the Procurement Coordinator to order without the consent of the contractor.

CONTRACTOR means the Offeror receiving an award as a result of this solicitation.

COVER PAGE means the top page of the original solicitation on which the solicitation is identified by number. Offerors are cautioned that Amendments may modify information provided on the Cover Page.

DISTRICT means District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties.

OFFER means the bid, quote or proposal submitted in response to this solicitation. The terms Bid and Proposal are used interchangeably with the term Offer.

OFFEROR means the single legal entity submitting the offer. The term Bidder is used interchangeably with the term Offeror. See bidding provisions entitled Signing Your Offer and Bid/Proposal As Offer To Contract.

PAGE TWO means the second page of the original solicitation, which is labeled Page Two.

PROCUREMENT OFFICER means the person, or his successor, identified as such on either the cover page, an amendment, or an award notice.

YOU and YOUR means Offeror.

SOLICITATION means this document, including all its parts, attachments, and any Amendments.

SUBCONTRACTOR means any person you contract with to perform or provide any part of the work.

US or WE means the District.

WORK means all labor, materials, equipment, services, or property of any type, provided or to be provided by the Contractor to fulfill the Contractor's obligations under the Contract.

**AMENDMENTS TO SOLICITATION:** (a) The Solicitation may be amended at any time prior to opening. All actual and prospective Offerors should monitor the following web site for the issuance of Amendments: <https://www.lexrich5.org/departments/office-of-finance/procurement/solicitations-and-awards> (b) Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation (1) by signing and returning the amendment, (2) by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on Page Two, (3) by letter, or (4) by submitting a bid that indicates in some way that the bidder received the amendment. (c) If this solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions which are not modified remain unchanged

**AUTHORIZED AGENT:** All authority regarding this procurement is vested solely with the responsible Procurement Officer. Unless specifically delegated in writing, the Procurement Officer is the only government official authorized to bind the government with regard to this procurement or the resulting contract.

**AWARD NOTIFICATION:** Notice regarding any award, cancellation of award, or extension of award will be posted at the location and on the date specified on the Cover Page or, if applicable, the most recent notice of extension of award. Should the contract resulting from this Solicitation have a total or potential value more than one hundred thousand dollars, such notice will be sent electronically to all Offerors responding to the Solicitation. Unless a written notice of intent to protest is timely filed pursuant to Section 11-35-4210(1)(b) or the award is otherwise suspended or canceled, the award will be effective on the calendar day (including weekends and holidays) immediately following the seventh business day after such notice is given.

**BID/PROPOSAL AS OFFER TO CONTRACT:** By submitting Your Bid or Proposal, You are offering to enter into a contract with District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties. Without further action by either party, a binding contract shall result upon final award. Any award issued will be issued to, and the contract will be formed with, the entity identified as the Offeror on the Cover Page. An Offer may be submitted by only one legal entity; "joint bids" are not allowed.

**BID ACCEPTANCE PERIOD:** In order to withdraw Your Offer after the minimum period specified on the Cover Page, you must notify the Procurement Officer in writing.

**BID IN ENGLISH and DOLLARS:** Offers submitted in response to this solicitation shall be in the English language and in US dollars, unless otherwise permitted by the Solicitation.

**BYRD ANTI-LOBBYING CERTIFICATION:** By submitting an Offer, Contractor certifies that, if awarded a contract, Contractor will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352.

**CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION: GIVING FALSE, MISLEADING, OR INCOMPLETE INFORMATION ON THIS CERTIFICATION MAY RENDER YOU SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION UNDER SECTION 16-9-10 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS.**

(a) By submitting an offer, the Offeror certifies that:

(1) The prices in this offer have been arrived at independently, without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other Offeror or competitor relating to:

- (i) Those prices;
- (ii) The intention to submit an offer; or
- (iii) The methods or factors used to calculate the prices offered.

(2) The prices in this offer have not been and will not be knowingly disclosed by the Offeror, directly or indirectly, to any other Offeror or competitor before bid opening (in the case of a sealed bid solicitation) or contract award (in the case of a negotiated solicitation) unless otherwise required by law; and

(3) No attempt has been made or will be made by the Offeror to induce any other concern to submit or not to submit an offer for the purpose of restricting competition.

(b) Each signature on the offer is considered to be a certification by the signatory that the signatory:

(1) Is the person in the Offeror's organization responsible for determining the prices being offered in this bid or proposal, and that the signatory has not participated and will not participate in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification; or

(2)(i) Has been authorized, in writing, to act as agent for the Offeror's principals in certifying that those principals have not participated, and will not participate in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification [As used in this subdivision (b)(2)(i), the term "principals" means the person(s) in the Offeror's organization responsible for determining the prices offered in this bid or proposal].

(ii) As an authorized agent, does certify that the principals referenced in subdivision (b)(2)(i) of this certification have not participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification; and

(iii) As an agent, has not personally participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification.

(c) If the Offeror deletes or modifies paragraph (a)(2) of this certification, the Offeror must furnish with its offer a signed statement setting forth in detail the circumstances of the disclosure.

#### **CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS:**

(a)(1) By submitting an Offer, Offeror certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that-

(i) Offeror and/or any of its principals

(A) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for the award of contracts by any state or federal agency;

(B) Have not, within a three-year period preceding this offer, 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) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or state antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, or receiving stolen property; and

(C) Are not presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (a)(1)(i)(B) of this provision.

(ii) Offeror has not, within a three-year period preceding this offer, had one or more contracts terminated for default by any public (Federal, state, or local) entity.

(2) "Principals," for the purposes of this certification, means officers; directors; owners; partners; and, persons having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity (e.g., general manager; plant manager; head of a subsidiary, division, or business segment, and similar positions).

(b) Offeror shall provide immediate written notice to the Procurement Officer if, at any time prior to contract award, Offeror learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

(c) If Offeror is unable to certify the representations stated in paragraphs (a)(1), Offer must submit a written explanation regarding its inability to make the certification. The certification will be considered in connection with a review of the Offeror's responsibility. Failure of the Offeror to furnish additional information as requested by the Procurement Officer may render the Offeror non-responsible.

(d) 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 paragraph (a) of this provision. The knowledge and information of an Offeror is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

(e) The certification in paragraph (a) of this provision is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when making award. If it is later determined that the Offeror knowingly or in bad

faith rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the District, the Procurement Officer may terminate the contract resulting from this solicitation for default. Check for federal and state disbarments at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) and <http://procurement.sc.gov/legal/legal-suspend-debar>.

**CLEAN AIR ACT AND FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT:** Contractors are referred to and must comply with all applicable standards of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q) and Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387). Violations must be reported to the District, Federal awarding agency, and the EPA.

**CODE OF LAWS AVAILABLE:** The District's Procurement Code is available at: [www.lexrich5.org](http://www.lexrich5.org).

**COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONTRACT WORK HOURS AND SAFETY STANDARDS ACT.** Overtime requirements. No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.

**CONTRACT VIOLATION:** During the term of the contract, contractors who violate any contract will be considered in breach and subject to cancellation for cause. Contractors may be suspended or debarred from doing business with the District. Examples of vendor violations include, but are not limited to: (1) Adding items to the contract without approval. (2) Increasing contract price without approval. (3) Misrepresentation of the contract to any District entity.

**COPELAND "ANTI-KICKBACK" ACT (40 U.S.C. 3145):** Contractors shall comply with the Copeland "AntiKickback" Act (40 U.S.C. 3145), as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR part 3, "Contractors and Subcontractors on Public Building or Public Work Financed in Whole or in Part by Loans or Grants from the United States"). The Act provides in part that Contractors shall be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which it is otherwise entitled.

**DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OR UNFAIR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE:** You warrant and represent that your offer identifies and explains any unfair competitive advantage you may have in competing for the proposed contract and any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your participation in this competition or your receipt of an award. The two underlying principles are (a) preventing the existence of conflicting roles that might bias a contractor's judgment, and (b) preventing an unfair competitive advantage. If you have an unfair competitive advantage or a conflict of interest, the District may withhold award. Before withholding award on these grounds, an Offeror will be notified of the concerns and provided a reasonable opportunity to respond. Efforts to avoid or mitigate such concerns, including restrictions on future activities, may be considered. Without limiting the foregoing, you represent that your offer identifies any services that relate to either this solicitation or the work and that has already been performed by you, a proposed subcontractor, or an affiliated business of either.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF OFFER:** Any offer received after the Procurement Officer of the District or their designee has declared that the time set for opening has arrived, shall be rejected unless the offer has been delivered to the designated District office or mailroom as instructed on the Cover page prior to the bid opening.

**DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSINGS:** If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal processes so that offers cannot be received at the District as designated for receipt of bids by the exact time specified in the solicitation, the time specified for receipt of offers will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the solicitation on the first work day on which normal district processes resume. In lieu of an automatic extension, an Amendment may be issued to reschedule the bid opening. If district offices are closed at the time a pre-bid or pre-proposal conference is scheduled, an Amendment will be issued to reschedule the conference. Useful information may be available at: <http://www.lexrich5.org>

**DRUG FREE WORK PLACE CERTIFICATION:** By submitting an Offer, Contractor certifies that, if awarded a contract, Contractor will comply with all applicable provisions of The Drug-free Workplace Act, Title 44, Chapter 107 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.

**DUTY TO INQUIRE:** Offeror, by submitting an Offer, represents that it has read and understands the Solicitation and that its Offer is made in compliance with the Solicitation. Offerors are expected to examine the Solicitation thoroughly and should request an explanation of any ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation. Failure to do so will be at the Offeror's risk. All ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation shall be interpreted to require the better quality or greater quantity of work and/or materials, unless otherwise directed by amendment. Offeror assumes responsibility for any patent ambiguity in the Solicitation that Offeror does not bring to the District's attention. See clause entitled "Questions from Offerors."

**ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT (42 U.S.C. 6201):** Contractor agrees to comply with all mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency which are contained in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C).

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** Except as otherwise provided under 41 CFR Part 60, Contractor agrees to comply with the equal opportunity clause under 41 CFR 60-1.4(b), incorporated herein by reference, and E.O. 11246, "Equal Employment Opportunity," as amended by E.O. 11375, "Amending Executive Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity," and as supplemented by regulations at 41 CFR part 60, "Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor."

**ETHICS CERTIFICATE:** By submitting an offer, the offeror certifies that the offeror has and will comply with, and has not, and will not, induce a person to violate Title 8, Chapter 13 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended (ethics act). The following statutes require special attention: Section 8-13-700, regarding use of official position for financial gain; Section 8-13-705, regarding gifts to influence action of public official; Section 8-13-720, regarding offering money for advice or assistance of public official; Sections 8-13-755 and 8-13-760, regarding restrictions on employment by former public official; Section 8-13-775, prohibiting public official with economic interests from acting on contracts; Section 8-13-790, regarding recovery of kickbacks; Section 8-13-1150, regarding statements to be filed by consultants; and Section 8-13-1342, regarding restrictions on contributions by contractor to candidate who participated in awarding of contract. The district may rescind any contract and recover all amounts expended as a result of any action taken in violation of this provision. If contractor participates, directly or indirectly, in the evaluation or award of public contracts, including without limitation, change orders or task orders regarding a public contract, contractor shall, if required by law to file such a statement, provide the statement required by Section 8-13-1150 to the procurement officer at the same time the law requires the statement to be filed.

**MULTIPLE OFFERS:** Offerors may submit more than one Offer, provided that each Offer has significant differences other than price. Each separate Offer must satisfy all Solicitation requirements. If this solicitation is an Invitation for Bids, each separate offer must be submitted or uploaded as a separate document and must clearly indicate that it is a separate offer. If this solicitation is a Request for Proposals, multiple offers may be submitted or uploaded as one document, provided that you clearly differentiate between each offer and you submit a separate cost proposal for each offer, if applicable.

**OMIT TAXES FROM PRICE:** Do not include any sales or use taxes in your price that the District may be required to pay.

**OPEN TRADE REPRESENTATION:** By submitting an Offer, Offeror represents that Offeror is not currently engaged in the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with whom South Carolina can enjoy open trade, as defined in SC Code Section 11-35-5300.

**PRICING:** (a) Fixed Price. If a fixed price is required, award will not be made on an Offer if the total possible price to the District cannot be determined. (b) Price Reasonableness: Any offer may be rejected if the Procurement Officer determines in writing that it is unreasonable as to price. (c) Unbalanced Pricing. The district will analyze all offers with separately priced line items or subline items to determine if the prices are unbalanced. Unbalanced pricing exists when, despite an acceptable total evaluated price, the price of one or more-line items is significantly over or understated. The responsible procurement officer may reject an offer as unreasonably priced if she determines that unbalanced pricing increases performance risk (e.g., it is so unbalanced as to be tantamount to allowing an advance payment) or could result in payment of unreasonably high prices. S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 19-445.2122C.

**PROHIBITION AGAINST CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS, GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS:** Any

employee or any official of the school District, elective or appointive, who shall take, receive or offer to take or receive either directly or indirectly, any rebate, percentage of contract, money or other things of value, as an inducement or intended inducement, in the procurement of business, or the giving of business, for, or to, or from, any person, partnership, firm of corporation, offering, bidding for, or in open market seeking to make sales to the school District shall be deemed guilty of a felony and upon conviction such person or persons shall be subject to punishment or a fine in accord with State and/or Federal laws.

**PROTESTS:** If you are aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of the contract, you may be entitled to protest, but only as provided in Section 11-35-4210. To protest the solicitation or an amendment, your written protest must be received within fifteen Days of the date the applicable solicitation document is issued. To protest an award, (i) written notice of your intent to protest must be received within seven Business Days of the date the award notice is posted and (ii) your actual written protest must be received within fifteen Days of the date the award notice is posted. Time periods are computed in accordance with Section 11-35-310(13) and the definitions for Day and Business Day. Both protests and notices of intent to protest must be received by the appropriate Chief Procurement Officer (CPO). See clause entitled "Protest – CPO." (b) Pursuant to Section 11-35-410, documents directly connected to a procurement activity may be available within five days after request. All document requests should be directed to:

Lauren Bové, Coordinator of Procurement  
School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties  
1020 Dutch Fork Road  
Irmo, SC 29063  
Fax: 803-476-8182  
E-Mail: [lbove@lexrich5.org](mailto:lbove@lexrich5.org)

If a protest is pending, the protestant's lawyer may access otherwise unavailable information by applying to the CPO for the issuance of a protective order. Additional information is available at [www.procurement.sc.gov/legal](http://www.procurement.sc.gov/legal).

**PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS AND DONATIONS:** Violation of these restrictions may result in disqualification of your offer, suspension or debarment, and may constitute a violation of law. (a) During the period between publication of the solicitation and final award, you must not communicate, directly or indirectly, with the District or its employees, agents or officials regarding any aspect of this procurement activity, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Procurement Officer.

(b) You are advised to familiarize yourself with Regulation 19-445.2165, which restricts donation to a governmental entity with whom you have or seek to have a contract. You represent that your offer discloses any gifts made, directly or through an intermediary, by you or your named subcontractors to or for the benefit of the District during the period beginning eighteen months prior to the Opening Date.

**PUBLIC OPENING:** Offers will be publicly opened at the date/time and at the location identified on the Cover Page, or last Amendment, whichever is applicable.

**QUESTIONS FROM OFFERORS:**

(a) Any prospective Offeror desiring an explanation or interpretation of the solicitation, drawings, specifications, etc., must request it in writing. Questions regarding the original solicitation or any amendment must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than five (5) days prior to opening unless an earlier date is stated on the Cover Page. Label any communication regarding your questions with the name of the procurement officer, and the solicitation's title and number. Oral explanations or instructions will not be binding. Any information given a prospective Offeror concerning a solicitation will be furnished promptly to all other prospective Offerors as an Amendment to the solicitation, if that information is necessary for submitting offers or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to other prospective Offerors. We will not identify you in our answer to your question. (b) The District seeks to permit maximum practicable competition. Offerors are urged to advise the Procurement Officer -- as soon as possible -- regarding any aspect of this procurement, including any aspect of the Solicitation, that unnecessarily or inappropriately limits full and open competition.

**Email is the preferred method for submitting with "Questions: Solicitation # as the subject of the email."**  
**Questions must be submitted in an easily copied format such as Word.**

**Email:** [D5bids@lexrich5.org](mailto:D5bids@lexrich5.org)

Questions may also be submitted to the address listed on the Cover Page of this document or faxed to (803) 476-8138.

**REJECTION/CANCELLATION:** The District may cancel this solicitation in whole or in part. The District may reject any or all proposals in whole or in part.

**RESPONSIVENESS:** (a) Award will not be made on a nonresponsive offer. An offer is nonresponsive (i) if it does not constitute an unambiguous offer to enter into a contract with the District, or (ii) if it imposes conditions inconsistent with, or does not unambiguously agree to, the solicitation's material requirements. (b) Bid as Specified. Offers for supplies or services other than those specified will not be considered unless authorized by the Solicitation.

**SIGNING YOUR OFFER:** Every Offer must be signed by an individual with actual authority to bind the Offer. (a) If the Offeror is an individual, the Offer must be signed by that individual. If the Offeror is an individual doing business as a firm, the Offer must be submitted in the firm name, signed by the individual, and state that the individual is doing business as a firm. (b) If the Offeror is a partnership, the Offer must be submitted in the partnership name, followed by the words by its Partner, and signed by a general partner. (c) If the Offeror is a corporation, the Offer must be submitted in the corporate name, followed by the signature and title of the person authorized to sign. (d) An Offer may be submitted by a joint venturer involving any combination of individuals, partnerships, or corporations. If the Offeror is a joint venture, the Offer must be submitted in the name of the Joint Venture and signed by every participant in the joint venture in the manner prescribed in paragraphs (a) through (c) above for each type of participant. (e) If an Offer is signed by an agent, other than as stated in subparagraphs (a) through (d) above, the Offer must state that it has been signed by an Agent. Upon request, Offeror must provide proof of the agent's authorization to bind the principal.

**DISCLOSURE OF YOUR BID / PROPOSAL & SUBMITTING CONFIDENTIAL DATA:** (a) According to Section 11-35-410, any person submitting a document in response or with regard to any solicitation or other request must "comply with instructions provided in the solicitation for marking information exempt from public disclosure. Information not marked as required by the applicable instructions may be disclosed to the public." IF YOU IDENTIFY YOUR ENTIRE RESPONSE AS EXEMPT FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, OR IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT A REDACTED COPY AS REQUIRED, THE STATE MAY, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, DETERMINE YOUR BID OR PROPOSAL NONRESPONSIVE AND INELIGIBLE FOR AWARD. (b) By submitting a response to this solicitation or request, Offeror agrees to the public disclosure of every page, or portion thereof, of every document regarding this solicitation or request that was submitted at any time prior to entering into a contract (including, but not limited to, documents contained in a response, documents submitted to clarify a response, and documents submitted during negotiations), unless the page, or portion thereof, was redacted and conspicuously marked "Trade Secret" or "Confidential" or "Protected," (2) agrees that any information not redacted and marked, as required by these bidding instructions, as a "Trade Secret" is not a trade secret as defined by the Trade Secrets Act, and (3) agrees that, notwithstanding any claims or markings otherwise, any prices, commissions, discounts, or other financial figures used to determine the award, as well as the final contract amount, are subject to public disclosure. (c) If your offer includes any information that you claim is exempt from public disclosure, you must submit one complete copy of your offer from which you have removed or concealed such information (the redacted copy). Except for the information removed or concealed, the redacted copy must be identical to your original offer. (d) Do not mark your entire response (bid, proposal, quote, etc.) as confidential, trade secret, or protected. If only portions of a page are subject to some protection, do not redact the entire page. The redacted copy must reflect the same pagination as the original and show the empty space from which information was redacted. The Procurement Officer must be able to view, search, copy and print the redacted copy without a password. If your response, or any part thereof, is improperly marked as confidential or trade secret or protected, the District may, in its sole discretion, determine it nonresponsive. (e) On the redacted copy, you must identify the basis of your claim by marking each redaction as follows: You must separately mark with the word "CONFIDENTIAL" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure because it is either (1) a trade secret as defined in Section 30-4-40(a)(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, or (2) privileged and confidential, as that phrase is used in Section 11-35-410. You must separately mark with the words "TRADE SECRET" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure as a trade secret pursuant to Section 39-8-20 of the Trade Secrets Act. You must separately mark with the word "PROTECTED" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Section 11-35- 1810. All markings must be conspicuous; use color, bold, underlining, or some other method in order to conspicuously distinguish the mark from the other text. (f) In determining whether to release documents, the District will detrimentally rely on your redaction and marking of documents, as required by these bidding instructions, as being either "Confidential" or "Trade Secret" or "Protected." By submitting a response, you

agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the District, its agencies, officers and employees, from every claim, demand, loss, expense, cost, damage or injury, including attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from withholding information by the District that you have redacted or marked as "Confidential" or "Trade Secret" or "Protected."

**SUBMITTING A PAPER OFFER OR MODIFICATION:** (a) All prices and notations should be printed in ink or typewritten. Errors should be crossed out, corrections entered and initialed by the person signing the bid. Do not modify the solicitation document itself (including bid schedule). (b) (1) All copies of the offer or modification, and any other documents required to be submitted with the offer shall be enclosed in a sealed, opaque envelope or package. (2) Address to the Office of Procurement Services as specified in the Solicitation (3) The envelope or package must show the time and date specified for opening, the solicitation number, and the name and address of the bidder. If the offer or modification is sent by mail or special delivery service (UPS, Federal Express, etc.), the outermost envelope or wrapper must be labeled "OFFER ENCLOSED" on the face thereof. (c) If you are responding to more than one solicitation, submit each offer in a separate envelope or package. (d) Submit the number of copies indicated on the Cover Page. (e) Facsimile or e-mail offers, modifications, or withdrawals, will not be considered unless authorized by the Solicitation.

**TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:** (a) If Offeror is owned or controlled by a common parent as defined in paragraph (b) of this provision, Offeror shall submit with its Offer the name and TIN of common parent.

(b) Definitions: "Common parent," as used in this provision, means that corporate entity that owns or controls an affiliated group of corporations that files its Federal income tax returns on a consolidated basis, and of which the Offeror is a member. "Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)," as used in this provision, means the number required by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to be used by the Offeror in reporting income tax and other returns. The TIN may be either a Social Security Number or an Employer Identification Number.

(c) If Offeror does not have a TIN, Offeror shall indicate if either a TIN has been applied for or a TIN is not required. If a TIN is not required, indicate whether (i) Offeror is a nonresident alien, foreign corporation, or foreign partnership that does not have income effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States and does not have an office or place of business or a fiscal paying agent in the United States; (ii) Offeror is an agency or instrumentality of a state or local government; (iii) Offeror is an agency or instrumentality of a foreign government; or (iv) Offeror is an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

**TERMINATION:** Subject to the provisions below, the contract may be terminated for any reason by the Procurement Department providing a 30-day advance notice in writing to the contractor. (a) Termination for Convenience: In the event that this contract is terminated or canceled upon request and for the convenience of the District without the required thirty (30) days advance written notice, then the District may negotiate reasonable termination costs, if applicable. (b) Termination for Cause: Termination by the District for cause, default, or negligence on the part of the contractor shall be excluded from the foregoing provision; termination costs, if any, shall not apply. The thirty (30) days advance notice requirement is waived and the default provision in this bid shall apply.

**VENDOR REGISTRATION:** Offerors who have not provided products/services to the District in the past or within the past three years should complete a W-9 and submit it with your offer.

**WITHDRAWAL OR CORRECTION OF OFFER:** Offers may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before the exact time set for opening. If the Solicitation authorizes facsimile offers, offers may be withdrawn via facsimile received at any time before the exact time set for opening. A bid may be withdrawn in person by a bidder or its authorized representative if, before the exact time set for opening, the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the bid. The withdrawal and correction of Offers is governed by S.C. Code Section 11-35-1520 and Regulation 19-445.2085.

## **II. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS – B. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

**BACKGROUND CHECKS:** the vendor and all representatives of the vendor must have an acceptable background check to enter school property. At a minimum, the bidder shall obtain a complete South Carolina statewide criminal background investigation for all individuals and employees performing work or services for bidder or any other entities such as subcontractors, sub-sub-contractors, and consultants who will perform work or a service on this project. In the event that the individual being investigated is from out of state, the criminal background investigation shall be broadened to include their home state, as well as the state of South Carolina as outlined above. The company providing such information must be recognized by local law enforcement agency as qualified to do so. In addition, the bidder

shall check employees against the national database of registered sex offenders. Any individual that is registered as a sex offender will not be permitted on school property. All costs associated with these criminal background checks are the responsibility of the bidder. The district reserves the right to request a copy of sled checks on any representatives of the vendor who will be on district property. The district reserves the right to deny access to any employee, contractor or person caused to be present on district property by the vendor/contractor. Removal of employees on this basis shall not disrupt the project schedule or cost.

**CONTENTS OF OFFER (RFP):** (a) Offers should be complete and carefully worded and should convey all of the information requested. (b) Offers should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of offeror's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content. (c) If your offer includes any comment over and above the specific information requested in the solicitation, you are to include this information as a separate appendix to your offer. Offers which include either modifications to any of the solicitation's contractual requirements or an offeror's standard terms and conditions may be deemed nonresponsive and not considered for award.

**ELECTRONIC COPIES –REQUIRED MEDIA AND FORMAT:** In Addition to your original offer, you must submit an electronic copy or copies on USB drive. Submit the number of copies indicated on the cover page. Every USB drive must be labeled with the solicitation number and the offeror's name. If multiple-disk sets are provided, each disk in the set must be appropriately identified as to its relationship to the set, e.g., 1 of 2. The electronic copy must be identical to the original offer. File format shall be compatible with Microsoft Office (version 2003) or later, or Adobe Acrobat or equivalent Portable Document Format (.pdf) viewer. The Procurement Officer must be able to view, search, copy, and print electronic documents without a password.

**ELECTRONIC COPIES –REQUIRED MEDIA AND FORMAT:** In Addition to your original offer, you must submit an electronic copy or copies on USB drive. Submit the number of copies indicated on the cover page. Every USB drive must be labeled with the solicitation number and the offeror's name. If multiple-disk sets are provided, each disk in the set must be appropriately identified as to its relationship to the set, e.g., 1 of 2. The electronic copy must be identical to the original offer. File format shall be compatible with Microsoft Office (version 2003) or later, or Adobe Acrobat or equivalent Portable Document Format (.pdf) viewer. The Procurement Officer must be able to view, search, copy, and print electronic documents without a password .

**OPENING PROPOSALS – INFORMATION NOT DIVULGED:** In competitive sealed proposals, neither the number or identity of offerors nor prices will be divulged at opening.

**EVERY RESULTING CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO ALL TERMS OF THE DISTRICT PROCUREMENT CODE INCLUDING LIMITATIONS AS TO DURATION, RIGHTS OF THE DISTRICT TO TERMINATE AND MEANS OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION. NO RESULTING CONTRACT IS RENEWABLE EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT PROVIDED IN THE SOLICITATION. NO VENDOR TERMS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE SOLICITATION AND DISTRICT PROCUREMENT CODE.**

### III. SCOPE OF WORK / SPECIFICATIONS

#### SCOPE OF WORK:

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties (the District) seeks proposals from qualified firms to provide comprehensive Benefits Enrollment Services and support the Human Resources Department in the administration of employee benefit programs.

The selected contractor shall provide an automated employee benefits enrollment platform that interfaces with the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) and the District's payroll system, Infinite Visions. The contractor shall conduct annual open enrollment, assist with new employee enrollment, provide employee benefit education and counseling, and support year-round benefits administration for approximately 2,500 benefit-eligible employees and 100 annual new hires. The District has one centralized payroll unit and all employees are paid on the same semi-monthly schedule.

The contractor shall work collaboratively with the District's Benefits Administrator to administer all State-approved and District-approved benefit programs, including health and welfare benefits, voluntary products, retirement plans, annuities, and deferred compensation offerings. The contractor shall not market or enroll employees in any benefit products that have not been approved by the District.

The District seeks a firm capable of maintaining and enhancing its existing automated benefits enrollment process while providing knowledgeable enrollment counselors, responsive customer service, accurate reporting, and efficient administration. The District operates a centralized payroll function, and all employees are paid on a semi-monthly schedule.

The District anticipates that the proposed services will be provided at no direct cost to the District. The resulting contract will be awarded in conjunction with the administration of District-approved voluntary benefit products. The current District approved voluntary products include universal and whole life, short-term disability, and cancer/critical illness. The awarded contractor shall serve as the agent of record for all District-approved supplemental and voluntary benefit products. Employees currently enrolled in voluntary benefits through payroll deduction may retain their existing coverage and payroll deductions; however, all future enrollments shall be processed through the awarded contractor.

Proposals shall clearly describe the firm's qualifications, technology platform, implementation approach, enrollment strategy, customer service model, and overall management of the services specified in this solicitation. The District encourages respondents to include recommendations and innovative solutions that may improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and employee experience of its current benefits enrollment process.

**SPECIFICATIONS:** These specifications describe the professional services required to provide all supervision, labor, materials, training, technical support, supplies, equipment, and other resources necessary to perform the services requested. Specifically, the District seeks assistance with employee benefits enrollment, benefits education, group presentations, and individual employee consultations to communicate and administer available benefit programs. Services shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

#### **Voluntary Products**

1. Conduct an annual review of all District-approved supplemental and voluntary benefit products and provide recommendations regarding coverage options, plan design, and insurance carriers to support a competitive employee benefits program.
2. Identify and describe the offeror's access to and relationships with multiple insurance carriers and benefit providers.
3. Present and promote all District-approved benefit programs, products, and services in an objective and unbiased manner. No preferential treatment shall be given to any product, carrier, or service provider unless specifically directed by the District.

4. Accurately process and reconcile voluntary benefit payroll deductions and ensure timely remittance to the appropriate carriers or vendors on the District's semi-monthly payroll schedule.
5. Maintain Errors and Omissions (E&O) insurance coverage throughout the term of the contract in amounts acceptable to the District and provide proof of coverage upon request.

### **Enrollment – New Employees – Ongoing**

1. Provide, at a minimum, one (1) qualified enrollment counselor on a year-round basis, as requested by the District's Benefits Department.
2. Provide virtual enrollment and counseling services for employees.
3. Provide additional qualified enrollment counselors during peak enrollment periods, including the June through August new-hire season and the annual open enrollment period.
4. Provide a toll-free, bilingual (English/Spanish) customer service call center to assist employees with enrollment inquiries, claims assistance, benefit information, and general customer service needs.
5. Provide employee training and enrollment support for the State's web-based benefits platform, MyBenefits, including guidance on system navigation and benefit elections.

### **Enrollment/Training:**

1. Conduct new employee benefit orientation sessions and group enrollment meetings for eligible employees, as requested by the District.
2. Meet individually with newly hired employees throughout the year to explain and facilitate enrollment in State-sponsored benefits, District-approved benefits, supplemental benefits, State retirement programs, and voluntary retirement savings options.
3. Track and document participation of eligible new hires in orientation and enrollment activities and maintain records verifying completion of the enrollment process.
4. Assist eligible employees with completing the electronic benefits enrollment process within thirty-one (31) days of hire, including enrollment through applicable State, District, carrier, and vendor systems. Included in the process will be a combination of EIPs, EBS system, and vendor system. Support the completion of paper enrollment forms when required.
5. Provide the District with all enrollment confirmations, supporting documentation, and other records necessary to establish and maintain employee benefit files. (i.e. EBS confirmation statement and other enrollment forms)
6. Conduct ongoing employee benefits education and outreach throughout the year, including individual worksite consultations to review current benefit elections and provide instruction on the State's MyBenefits platform, as coordinated with the District's Benefits Department.
7. Support the District's Human Resources and Benefits Departments by assisting with employee benefit matters, including status changes, dependent verification and certification issues, retiree benefit inquiries, and other benefits-related concerns.
8. Provide additional benefits administration and enrollment support services as reasonably requested by the District.

### **Annual Open Enrollment (October of each year)**

1. Develop and coordinate an annual enrollment schedule for all District schools and administrative locations in collaboration with the District's Benefits Department.
2. Provide virtual enrollment and counseling options for employees unable to participate in person.
3. Meet individually with benefit-eligible employees at their work locations or through virtual appointments to:
  - a. Explain State and District benefit program changes and available enrollment options.
  - b. Educate and train employees on the use of the State's MyBenefits enrollment platform.
4. Initiate and process all applicable State benefit elections and changes through MyBenefits.
5. Provide employees with enrollment confirmations and summaries of benefit elections generated through MyBenefits or other approved enrollment systems.
6. Maintain a contingency enrollment process in the event MyBenefits is unavailable. Any backup enrollment solution shall comply with all applicable Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) requirements and be capable of generating a Notice of Election (NOE) form for employee signature.

7. Securely collect, transmit, and synchronize enrollment data through the contractor's enrollment system at least nightly to a secure server or other approved secure environment and maintain appropriate safeguards to protect confidential employee information.
8. Communicate District-approved benefits information, policies, procedures, and programs as requested by the District.
9. Maintain records of employee enrollment sessions, including:
  - a. Date, time, and duration of the meeting.
  - b. Whether benefit elections were changed.
  - c. Method used to process changes (e.g., MyBenefits or contractor enrollment system), including documentation of any exceptions requiring use of the contractor's system.
  - d. Voluntary and supplemental benefit elections or changes.
10. Process all applicable ASI Flex enrollments and changes, including medical spending accounts, dependent care spending accounts, and health savings accounts, through the contractor's enrollment system. The system shall generate required enrollment documentation and enforce applicable eligibility and contribution requirements.
11. Provide completed ASI Flex enrollment forms and supporting documentation to the District's Benefits Administrator on a weekly basis, or as otherwise directed by the District.
12. Provide original Notice of Election (NOE) forms and related enrollment documentation to the District's Benefits Administrator on a weekly basis, or as otherwise directed by the District.
13. Administer an anonymous employee satisfaction survey following the enrollment process to evaluate the employee enrollment experience and identify opportunities for improvement.
14. Provide the District with summary reports detailing enrollment activity, participation metrics, benefit election data, and employee survey results.

#### **IV. INFORMATION FOR OFFERORS TO SUBMIT**

**INFORMATION FOR OFFERORS TO SUBMIT – GENERAL:** Offeror shall submit a signed Cover Page, Page Two, and Amendments (if applicable). Offeror should submit all other information and documents requested in this part and in parts II.B. Special Instructions; III. Scope of Work; V. Qualifications; and any appropriate attachments addressed in section IX. Attachments to Solicitations. You should submit a summary of all insurance policies you have or plan to acquire to comply with the insurance requirements stated herein, if any, including policy types; coverage types; limits, sub-limits, and deductibles for each policy and coverage type; the carrier's A.M. Best rating; and whether the policy is written on an occurrence or claims-made basis.

**INFORMATION FOR OFFERORS TO SUBMIT – EVALUATION:** In addition to information requested elsewhere in this solicitation, offerors should submit the following information for purposes of evaluation: Contractor shall deliver one (1) original copy, five (5) hard copies and one (1) USB of the information requested. All submittals must be clearly labeled on the outside of the envelope with the following wording: "RFP# 2026-049- Benefits Enrollment Services" All information should be presented in the listed order. Offerors should restate each item listed below and provide their response to that item immediately thereafter. The Contractor may reduce the repetition of identical information within several sections of the RFP by making the appropriate cross-references to other sections of the response.

##### **Section 1- Introduction**

1. **Cover Page-** Page 1 of this Solicitation Document
2. **Contact Information & Acknowledgement of Amendment(s)-** Page 2 of this Solicitation Document
3. **Cover Letter-** One-page letter, including the legal name of the Offeror, providing a summary of the Offeror's ability to perform the services requested in this solicitation and confirmation that the Offeror is willing and available to perform those services and enter into a contract with the District. The letter shall be signed by the person having the authority to commit to the Offeror to a contract.
4. **Table of Contents** – A Table of Contents of the material contained in the proposal

##### **Section 2- Organizational Background**

1. State whether your firm is local, regional, or national.
2. Provide the location of the office from which the work is to be performed and the number of partners, managers, supervisors, seniors, and other professional staff employed at that office.

3. Name the primary point of contact for all performance and contract issues. Include the representative's name, telephone number, email address and any other appropriate means for contact for the representative.
4. Provide the organizational structure of your firm. Include individuals who are employed in your firm, their duties and relevant work experience. Provide copies of all applicable licenses, accreditations, training documents, and certifications.
5. Briefly furnish your organization's history and types of services provided, legal form (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation and State of Incorporation), number and location of offices, number of employees, days/hours of operation and other pertinent data.
6. Disclose any conditions (e.g., bankruptcy or other financial problems, pending litigation, planned office closures, impending merger) that may affect your organization's ability to perform contractually. Include the current status and/or disposition.
7. Describe your professional liability insurance, including the type and level of coverage. Confirm you will notify the District at least thirty (30) days in advance of any material changes to this coverage.
8. Describe how your organization is properly licensed, bonded, and/or insured (both fidelity insurance and errors and omissions insurance).
9. Certify that your organization and any principal of the organization is not prohibited, suspended or otherwise declared ineligible to contract or provide any services required hereunder by any federal, state, or local public agency.
10. Describe your company's prior experience with K-12, higher education institutions, non-profit, local government or government agencies, if any.

### **Section 3- Response to Proposal**

#### **1. Qualifications and Experience-**

- a. Provide a comprehensive description of the firm's experience in supplying services required by this Request for Proposal, preferably within a school district setting.
- b. Vendor must provide certification that their firm or principals of the firm have been successfully providing comparable services for a minimum of five (5) years (list schools districts you are currently serving first). Include account name, contact name, address and phone number.
- c. Provide at least three (3) letters of commendation and/or letters of reference.
- d. Provide resumes or Business Experience Summary of Project Manager, Project Staff and other parties who will provide services for this contract. The resumes shall include experience relevant to the RFP.
- e. Provide the firm's most recent financial statement to include the name, address and phone number of the preparer.
- f. Describe selected engagements for other clients involving services similar to those requested by this RFP, which were successfully performed by the Offeror. The Offeror shall have successfully completed engagements of a similar nature and size as Lexington Richland School District Five and have working knowledge of school systems and the regulations under which they operate.
- g. Indicate length of service/time in the industry, experience with similar clients (preferably K-12 entities), and any awards, ratings in the industry, letters and/or testimonials received for services completed within the past 3 years.
- h. Include any additional information that will allow the evaluation team to clearly identify that the proposed project team is equipped to perform the work called for in this solicitation. Convey the information in a concise and straightforward manner so that the evaluation team is able to focus on credentials and achievements that demonstrate the firm's ability to undertake this contract. If subcontractors will be used, submit their information as well.

#### **2. Project Plan-**

- a. Provide a detailed explanation regarding how the Scope of Work will be performed and how all specifications will be met. Offeror shall discuss those attributes of their proposal that clearly and succinctly states how the Contractor proposes to meet or exceed the requirements of the RFP if selected as the Contractor.
- b. Provide a statement describing the Offeror's ability to mobilize and perform the required work, including an implementation plan and project timeline with key milestones and anticipated completion dates.
- c. Provide any additional information considered essential to the proposal which has not been specifically requested.
- d. Describe any additional optional services that may benefit the District that must follow the general scope of the project. Please limit statements to one page per service.
- e. Describe any additional benefits the District will realize through a contract with your firm.

### **Section 3. References-**

- a. Provide a list (school districts preferred) for which services substantially similar to those sought with this solicitation have been provided at any time during the past three years.
- b. The list must contain a contact name along with the contact's telephone number, physical, and email address.

**SUBMITTING REDACTED OFFERS:** If your offer includes any information that you marked as "Confidential," "Trade Secret," or "Protected" in accordance with the clause entitled "Submitting Confidential Information," you must also submit one complete copy of your offer from which you have removed or concealed such information (the redacted copy). The redacted copy should (i) reflect the same pagination as the original, (ii) show the empty space from which information was redacted, and (iii) be submitted on magnetic media. (See clause entitled "Electronic Copies - Required Media and Format.") Except for the information removed or concealed, the redacted copy must be identical to your original offer, and the Procurement Officer must be able to view, search, copy and print the redacted copy without a password.

### **V. QUALIFICATIONS**

**QUALIFICATION OF OFFEROR:** (1) To be eligible for award, you must have the capability in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance. We may also consider a documented commitment from a satisfactory source that will provide you with a capability. We may consider information from any source at any time prior to award. We may elect to consider (i) key personnel, any predecessor business, and any key personnel of any predecessor business, including any facts arising prior to the date a business was established, and/or (ii) any subcontractor you identify. (2) You must promptly furnish satisfactory evidence of responsibility upon request. Unreasonable failure to supply requested information is grounds for rejection. (3) Corporate subsidiaries are cautioned that the financial capability of an affiliated or parent company will not be considered in determining financial capability; however, we may elect to consider any security, e.g., letter of credit, performance bond, parent-company corporate guaranty, that you offer to provide. Instructions and forms to help assure acceptability are posted on [procurement.sc.gov](http://procurement.sc.gov), link to "Standard Clauses & Provisions."

#### **QUALIFICATIONS - SPECIAL STANDARDS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

(a) This section establishes special standards of responsibility. **UNLESS YOU POSSESS THE FOLLOWING MANDATORY MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS, DO NOT SUBMIT AN OFFER:**

The District will only consider offers from firms with a satisfactory performance history providing comparable services to K-12 public school districts within the past five (5) years. Such experience must be similar in size, scope, and complexity to the services described in this solicitation.

(b) Offerors shall submit a detailed narrative demonstrating compliance with the requirement above. The response must include sufficient information to verify relevant experience and qualifications, along with any supporting documentation.

### **VI. AWARD CRITERIA**

**AWARD CRITERIA - PROPOSALS:** Award will be made to the highest ranked, responsive and responsible offeror whose offer is determined to be the most advantageous to the District.

**AWARD TO ONE OFFEROR:** Award will be made to one offeror.

**DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS – OPTIONAL:** Submit your best terms from both a price and a technical standpoint. Your proposal may be evaluated and your offer accepted without any discussions, negotiations, or prior notice. Ordinarily, nonresponsive proposals will be rejected outright without prior notice. Nevertheless, the District may elect to conduct discussions, including the possibility of limited proposal revisions, but only for those proposals reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. If improper revisions are submitted during discussions, the District

may elect to consider only your unrevised initial proposal, provided your initial offer is responsive. The District may also elect to conduct negotiations, beginning with the highest ranked offeror, or seek best and final offers. Negotiations may involve both price and matters affecting the scope of the contract, so long as changes are within the general scope of the request for proposals. If negotiations are conducted, the District may elect to disregard the negotiations and accept your original proposal.

**EVALUATION FACTORS – PROPOSALS:** Offers will be evaluated using only the factors stated below. Evaluation factors are stated in the relative order of importance, with the first factor being the most important. Once evaluation is complete, all responsive offerors will be ranked from most advantageous to least advantageous.

All bids will be reviewed for purposes of determining responsiveness and responsibility. Any bid which does not meet the essential requirements of the District, will be subject to disqualification. For purposes of determining responsibility, all information given by the offeror will be reviewed. The submission of a bid for review does not necessarily qualify the offeror or bid as being responsive or responsible. Failure to provide specific information, as requested, for use in our evaluation will cause your bid to be disregarded. Proposals will be evaluated by a review committee using the following criteria:

1. **Qualifications and Experience** – Demonstrated experience providing benefits enrollment and benefits administration services for K–12 school districts or similarly sized public-sector organizations, qualifications of key personnel, references, and overall record of successful performance.

2. **Technical Capabilities** – Quality, functionality, and reliability of the proposed enrollment platform and technology solutions, including integration capabilities, data security measures, reporting features, customer service resources, and compatibility with PEBA and the District's payroll system.

3. **Response to the Scope of Work** – Demonstrated understanding of the District's requirements and the firm's ability to provide the services outlined in the Scope of Work, including enrollment support, employee education, implementation approach, staffing plan, communication strategy, and overall service delivery model.

## **VII. TERMS AND CONDITIONS – A. GENERAL**

### **ASSIGNMENT, NOVATION, AND CHANGE OF NAME, IDENTITY, OR STRUCTURE:**

(a) Contractor shall not assign this contract, or its rights, obligations, or any other interest arising from this contract, or delegate any of its performance obligations, without the express written consent of the responsible procurement officer. The foregoing restriction does not apply to a transfer that occurs by operation of law (e.g., bankruptcy; corporate reorganizations and consolidations, but not including partial asset sales). Notwithstanding the foregoing, contractor may assign monies receivable under the contract provided that the District shall have no obligation to make payment to an assignee until thirty days after contractor (not the assignee) has provided the responsible procurement officer with (i) proof of the assignment, (ii) the identity (by contract number) of the specific District contract to which the assignment applies, and (iii) the name of the assignee and the exact address or account information to which assigned payments should be made. (b) If contractor amends, modifies, or otherwise changes its name, its identity (including its trade name), or its corporate, partnership or other structure, or its FEIN, contractor shall provide the procurement officer prompt written notice of such change. (c) Any name change, transfer, assignment, or novation is subject to the conditions and approval required by Regulation 19-445.2180, which does not restrict transfers by operation of law.

**BANKRUPTCY:** (a) Notice. In the event the Contractor enters into proceedings relating to bankruptcy, whether voluntary or involuntary, the Contractor agrees to furnish written notification of the bankruptcy to the District. This notification shall be furnished within two (2) days of the initiation of the proceedings relating to the bankruptcy filing. This notification shall include the date on which the bankruptcy petition was filed, the identity of the court in which the bankruptcy petition was filed, and a listing of all District contracts against which final payment has not been made. This obligation remains in effect until final payment under this Contract. (b) Termination. This contract is cancellable and subject to immediate termination by the District upon the contractor's insolvency, including the filing of proceedings in bankruptcy.

**CHOICE-OF-LAW:** The Agreement, any dispute, claim, or controversy relating to the Agreement, and all the rights and obligations of the parties shall, in all respects, be interpreted, construed, enforced and governed by and under the laws of the State of South Carolina, except its choice of law rules. As used in this paragraph, the term "Agreement" means any transaction or agreement arising out of, relating to, or contemplated by the solicitation.

**CONTRACT AWARDED PURSUANT TO CODE:** Any contract resulting from this solicitation is formed pursuant to the District's Procurement Code and is deemed to incorporate all applicable provisions thereof and the ensuing regulations. See also clause titled "Code of Laws Available."

**CONTRACT DOCUMENTS & ORDER OF PRECEDENCE:** (a) Any contract resulting from this solicitation shall consist of the following documents: (1) the solicitation, as amended, (2) your offer, as amended, (3) any statement reflecting the District's final acceptance (a/k/a "award"), and (4) purchase orders. These documents shall be read to be consistent and complementary. Any conflict among these documents shall be resolved by giving priority to these documents in the order listed above. (b) The terms and conditions of documents (1) through (4) above shall apply notwithstanding any additional or different terms and conditions in any other document, including without limitation, (i) any instrument submitted by the District other than a purchase order, (ii) any invoice or other document submitted by Contractor, or (iii) any privacy policy, terms of use, or end user agreement. Except as otherwise allowed by the solicitation, the terms and conditions of all such documents and any purchase orders shall be void and of no effect. (c) No contract, license, or other agreement containing contractual terms and conditions will be signed by the District. Any document signed or otherwise agreed to by persons other than the Procurement Officer shall be void and of no effect.

**DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT:** (a) Discounts for prompt payment will not be considered in the evaluation of offers. However, any offered discount will form a part of the award, and will be taken if payment is made within the discount period indicated in the offer by the Offeror. As an alternative to offering a discount for prompt payment in conjunction with the offer, Offerors awarded contracts may include discounts for prompt payment on individual invoices. (b) In connection with any discount offered for prompt payment, time shall be computed from the date of the invoice. If the Contractor has not placed a date on the invoice, the due date shall be calculated from the date the designated billing office receives a proper invoice, provided the District annotates such invoice with the date of receipt at the time of receipt. For the purpose of computing the discount earned, payment shall be considered to have been made on the date that appears on the payment check or, for an electronic funds transfer, the specified payment date. When the discount date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday when Federal Government offices are closed and Government business is not expected to be conducted, payment may be made on the following business day.

**DISPUTES:** (1) Choice-of-Forum. All disputes, claims, or controversies relating to the Agreement shall be resolved exclusively by the appropriate Chief Procurement Officer in accordance with Title 11, Chapter 35, Article 17 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, or in the absence of jurisdiction, only in the Court of Common Pleas for, or a federal court located in, Richland County, State of South Carolina. Contractor agrees that any act by the Government regarding the Agreement is not a waiver of either the Government's sovereign immunity or the Government's immunity under the Eleventh Amendment of the United States Constitution. As used in this paragraph, the term "Agreement" means any transaction or agreement arising out of, relating to, or contemplated by the solicitation. (2) Service of Process. Contractor consents that any papers, notices, or process necessary or proper for the initiation or continuation of any disputes, claims, or controversies relating to the Agreement; for any court action in connection therewith; or for the entry of judgment on any award made, may be served on Contractor by certified mail (return receipt requested) addressed to Contractor at the address provided as the Notice Address on Page Two or by personal service or by any other manner that is permitted by law, in or outside South Carolina. Notice by certified mail is deemed duly given upon deposit in the United States mail.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:** Contractor is referred to and shall comply with all applicable provisions, if any, of Title 41, Part 60 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including but not limited to Sections 60-1.4, 60-4.2, 60-4.3, 60-250.5(a), and 60-741.5(a), which are hereby incorporated by reference.

**FALSE CLAIMS:** According to the S.C. Code of Laws § 16-13-240, "a person who by false pretense or representation obtains the signature of a person to a written instrument or obtains from another person any chattel, money, valuable security, or other property, real or personal, with intent to cheat and defraud a person of that property is guilty" of a crime.

**FIXED PRICING REQUIRED:** Any pricing provided by contractor shall include all costs for performing the work associated with that price. Contractor's price shall be fixed for the duration of this contract, including option terms, except as otherwise provided in this solicitation. This clause does not prohibit contractor from offering lower pricing after award.

**NO INDEMNITY OR DEFENSE:** Any term or condition is void to the extent it requires the District to indemnify, defend, or pay attorney's fees to anyone for any reason.

**NOTICE:** (A) After award, any notices shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly given (1) upon actual delivery, if delivery is by hand, (2) upon receipt by the transmitting party of automated confirmation or answer back from the recipient's device if delivery is by telex, telegram, facsimile, or electronic mail, or (3) ten days after deposit into the United States mail, if postage is prepaid, a return receipt is requested, and either registered or certified mail is used. (B) Notice to contractor shall be to the address identified as the Notice Address on Page Two. Notice to the District shall be to the Procurement Officer's address on the Cover Page. Either party may designate a different address for notice by giving notice in accordance with this paragraph.

**OPEN TRADE REPRESENTATION:** During the contract term, including any renewals or extensions, Contractor will not engage in the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with whom South Carolina can enjoy open trade, as defined SC Code Section 11-35-5300.

**ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST** (a) The Contractor agrees to immediately advise the Procurement Officer if an actual or potential organizational conflict of interest is discovered after award, and to make a full written disclosure promptly thereafter to the Procurement Officer. This disclosure shall include a description of actions which the Contractor has taken or proposes to take, after consultation with the Procurement Officer, to avoid, mitigate, or neutralize the actual or potential conflict. (b) The District may terminate this contract for convenience, in whole or in part, if it deems such termination necessary to avoid an organizational conflict of interest. Contractor's failure to include an appropriate termination for convenience clause in any subcontract shall not increase the obligation of the District beyond what it would have been if the subcontract had contained such a clause.

**PAYMENT & INTEREST:** (a) The District shall pay the Contractor, after the submission of proper invoices or vouchers, the prices stipulated in this contract for supplies delivered and accepted or services rendered and accepted, less any deductions provided in this contract. Unless otherwise specified herein, including the purchase order, payment shall not be made on partial deliveries accepted by the District. (b) Unless otherwise provided herein, including the purchase order, payment will be made by check mailed to the payment address on "page Two." (c) Notwithstanding any other provision, payment shall be made in accordance with S.C. Code Section 11-35-45, or Chapter 6 of Title 29 (real property improvements) when applicable, which provides the Contractor's exclusive means of recovering any type of interest from the Owner. Contractor waives imposition of an interest penalty unless the invoice submitted specifies that the late penalty is applicable. Except as set forth in this paragraph, the District shall not be liable for the payment of interest on any debt or claim arising out of or related to this contract for any reason. (d) Amounts due to the District shall bear interest at the rate of interest established by the South Carolina Comptroller General pursuant to Section 11-35-45 ("an amount not to exceed fifteen percent each year"), as amended, unless otherwise required by Section 29-6-30. (e) Any other basis for interest, including but not limited to general (pre- and post-judgment) or specific interest statutes, including S.C. Code Ann. Section 34-31-20, are expressly waived by both parties. If a court, despite this agreement and waiver, requires that interest be paid on any debt by either party other than as provided by items (c) and (d) above, the parties further agree that the applicable interest rate for any given calendar year shall be the lowest prime rate as listed in the first edition of the Wall Street Journal published for each year, applied as simple interest without compounding. (f) The District shall have all of its common law, equitable and statutory rights of set-off.

**PUBLICITY:** Contractor must not publish any comments or quotes from District employees, or include the District in either news releases or a published list of customers, without the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer.

**PURCHASE ORDERS:** Contractor shall not perform any work prior to the receipt of a purchase order from the District. The District shall order any supplies or services to be furnished under this contract by issuing a purchase order. Purchase orders may be used to elect any options available under this contract, e.g., quantity, item, delivery date, payment method, but are subject to all terms and conditions of this contract. Purchase orders may be electronic. No particular form is required. An order placed pursuant to the purchasing card provision qualifies as a purchase order.

Purchase order number must be clearly stated on each carton or package, shipping ticket, invoice and any/all other information related to the order.

**SURVIVAL OF OBLIGATIONS:** The Parties' rights and obligations which, by their nature, would continue beyond the termination, cancellation, rejection, or expiration of this contract shall survive such termination, cancellation, rejection, or expiration, including, but not limited to, the rights and obligations created by the following clauses: Indemnification - Third Party Claims, Intellectual Property Indemnification, and any provisions regarding warranty or audit.

**TAXES:** Any tax the contractor may be required to collect or pay upon the sale, use or delivery of the products shall be paid by the District, and such sums shall be due and payable to the contractor upon acceptance. Any personal property taxes levied after delivery shall be paid by the District. It shall be solely the District's obligation, after payment to contractor, to challenge the applicability of any tax by negotiation with, or action against, the taxing authority. Contractor agrees to refund any tax collected, which is subsequently determined not to be proper and for which a refund has been paid to contractor by the taxing authority. In the event that the contractor fails to pay, or delays in paying, to any taxing authorities, sums paid by the District to contractor, contractor shall be liable to the District for any loss (such as the assessment of additional interest) caused by virtue of this failure or delay. Taxes based on Contractor's net income or assets shall be the sole responsibility of the contractor.

**TERMINATION:** Subject to the conditions below, the District, providing a (30) thirty-day advance written notice is given to the vendor, may terminate the contract for any reason.

**NON-APPROPRIATIONS:** Any contract entered into by the District resulting from this bid invitation shall be subject to cancellation without damages or further obligation when funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period or appropriated year.

**FOR CONVENIENCE:** In the event that this contract is terminated or canceled upon request and for the convenience of the District without the required thirty (30) days advance written notice, then the District may negotiate reasonable termination costs, if applicable.

**FOR CAUSE:** Termination by the District for cause, default or negligence on the part of the vendor shall be excluded from the foregoing conditions; termination costs, if any, shall not apply. The thirty (30) days advance notice requirement is waived and the default clause in this bid shall apply.

**DEFAULT:** In case of default by the vendor, the District reserves the right to purchase any or all items in default in the open market, charging the vendor with any additional costs. The defaulting vendor shall not be considered a responsible bidder until the assessed charge has been satisfied.

**TERMINATION DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** Payment and performance obligations for succeeding fiscal periods shall be subject to the availability and appropriation of funds therefore. When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be canceled. In the event of a cancellation pursuant to this paragraph, contractor will be reimbursed the resulting unamortized, reasonably incurred, nonrecurring costs. Contractor will not be reimbursed any costs amortized beyond the initial contract term.

**THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY:** This Contract is made solely and specifically among and for the benefit of the parties hereto, and their respective successors and assigns, and no other person will have any rights, interest, or claims hereunder or be entitled to any benefits under or on account of this Contract as a third-party beneficiary or otherwise.

**WAIVER:** The District does not waive any prior or subsequent breach of the terms of the Contract by making payments on the Contract, by failing to terminate the Contract for lack of performance, or by failing to strictly or promptly insist upon any term of the Contract. Only the Procurement Officer has actual authority to waive any of District's rights under this Contract. Any waiver must be in writing.

## **VII. TERMS AND CONDITIONS – B. SPECIAL**

**BANKRUPTCY – GOVERNMENT INFORMATION** (a) All government information (as defined in the clause herein entitled "Information Security - Definitions") shall belong exclusively to the District and Contractor has no legal or equitable interest in, or claim to, such information. Contractor acknowledges and agrees that in the event Contractor enters into proceedings relating to bankruptcy, whether voluntary or involuntary, government

information in its possession and/or under its control will not be considered property of its bankruptcy estate. (b) Contractor agrees to notify the District within forty-eight (48) hours of any determination that it makes to file for bankruptcy protection, and Contractor further agrees to turn over to the District, before such filing, all government information that is in Contractor's possession in a format that can be readily utilized by the District.

**CHANGES:**

(1) Contract Modification. By a written order, at any time, and without notice to any surety, the Procurement Officer may, subject to all appropriate adjustments, make changes within the general scope of this contract in any one or more of the following:

- (a) Drawings, designs, or specifications, if the supplies to be furnished are to be specially manufactured for the District in accordance therewith;
- (b) Method of shipment or packing;
- (c) Place of delivery;
- (d) Description of services to be performed;
- (e) Time of performance (i.e., hours of the day, days of the week, etc.); or,
- (f) Place of performance of the services.

Subparagraphs (a) to (c) apply only if supplies are furnished under this contract. Subparagraphs (d) to (f) apply only if services are performed under this contract.

(2) Adjustments of Price or Time for Performance. If any such change increases or decreases the contractor's cost of, or the time required for, performance of any part of the work under this contract, whether or not changed by the order, an adjustment shall be made in the contract price, the delivery schedule, or both, and the contract modified in writing accordingly. Any adjustment in contract price made pursuant to this clause shall be determined in accordance with the Price Adjustment Clause of this contract. Failure of the parties to agree to an adjustment shall not excuse the contractor from proceeding with the contract as changed, provided that the District promptly and duly make such provisional adjustments in payment or time for performance as may be reasonable. By proceeding with the work, the contractor shall not be deemed to have prejudiced any claim for additional compensation, or an extension of time for completion.

(3) Time Period for Claim. Within 30 days after receipt of a written contract modification under Paragraph (1) of this clause, unless such period is extended by the Procurement Officer in writing, the contractor shall file notice of intent to assert a claim for an adjustment. Later notification shall not bar the contractor's claim unless the District is prejudiced by the delay in notification.

(4) Claim Barred After Final Payment. No claim by the contractor for an adjustment hereunder shall be allowed if notice is not given prior to final payment under this contract.

**COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:** During the term of the contract, contractor shall comply with all applicable provisions of laws, codes, ordinances, rules, regulations, and tariffs.

**CONTRACTOR'S LIABILITY INSURANCE - GENERAL** (a) Without limiting any of the obligations or liabilities of Contractor, Contractor shall procure from a company or companies lawfully authorized to do business in South Carolina and with a current A.M. Best rating of no less than A: VII, and maintain for the duration of the contract, insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work and the results of that work by the contractor, his agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors. (b) Coverage shall be at least as broad as: (1) Commercial General Liability (CGL): Insurance Services Office (ISO) Form CG 00 01 12 07 covering CGL on an "occurrence" basis, including products-completed operations, personal and advertising injury, with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence. If a general aggregate limit applies, the general aggregate limit shall be twice the required occurrence limit. This contract shall be considered to be an "insured contract" as defined in the policy. (2) Auto Liability: ISO Form Number CA 00 01 covering any auto (Code 1), or if Contractor has no owned autos, hired, (Code 8) and non-owned autos (Code 9), with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage. (3) Worker's Compensation: As required by the State of South Carolina, with Statutory Limits, and Employer's Liability Insurance with limit of no less than \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury or disease. (c) The District and the officers, officials, employees and volunteers thereof, must be covered as additional insureds on the CGL policy with respect to liability arising out of work or operations performed by or on behalf of the Contractor including materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with such work or operations. General liability coverage can be provided in the form of an endorsement to the Contractor's insurance at least as broad as ISO Form CG 20 10 11 85 or if not available, through the addition of both CG 20 10 and CG 20 37 if a later edition is used. (d) For any claims related to this contract, the Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the District and the officers, officials, employees and volunteers thereof. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the District, or the officers, officials, employees and volunteers thereof,

shall be excess of the Contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it. (e) Prior to commencement of the work, the Contractor shall furnish the District with original certificates and amendatory endorsements or copies of the applicable policy language effecting coverage required by this section. All certificates are to be received and approved by the District before work commences. However, failure to obtain the required documents prior to the work beginning shall not waive the Contractor's obligation to provide them. The District reserves the right to require complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, including endorsements required by this section, at any time. (f) Should any of the above-described policies be cancelled before the expiration date thereof, notice will be delivered in accordance with the policy provisions. In addition, the Contractor shall notify the District immediately upon receiving any information that any of the coverages required by this section are or will be changed, cancelled, or replaced. (g) Contractor hereby grants to the District a waiver of any right to subrogation which any insurer of said Contractor may acquire against the District by virtue of the payment of any loss under such insurance. Contractor agrees to obtain any endorsement that may be necessary to effect this waiver of subrogation, but this provision applies regardless of whether or not the District has received a waiver of subrogation endorsement from the insurer. (h) Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and approved by the District. The District may require the Contractor to purchase coverage with a lower deductible or retention or provide proof of ability to pay losses and related investigations, claim administration, and defense expenses within the retention. (i) The District reserves the right to modify these requirements, including limits, based on the nature of the risk, prior experience, insurer, coverage, or other special circumstances.

**CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL:** The Contractor shall enforce strict discipline and good order among the Contractor's employees and other persons carrying out the Contract. The Contractor shall not permit employment of unfit persons or persons not skilled in tasks assigned to them.

**CONTRACTS:** Every resulting contract is subject to all terms of the District procurement code including limitations as to duration, rights of the district to terminate and means of dispute resolution. No resulting contract is renewable except to the extent provided in the solicitation. No vendor terms take precedence over the solicitation and the District's procurement code.

**CONTRACTOR'S OBLIGATION – GENERAL:** The contractor shall provide and pay for all materials, tools, equipment, labor and professional and non-professional services, and shall perform all other acts and supply all other things necessary, to fully and properly perform and complete the work. The contractor must act as the prime contractor and assume full responsibility for any subcontractor's performance. The contractor will be considered the sole point of contact with regard to all situations, including payment of all charges and the meeting of all other requirements.

**DEFAULT:** (a) (1) The district may, subject to paragraphs (c) and (d) of this clause, by written notice of default to the Contractor, terminate this contract in whole or in part if the Contractor fails to: (i) Deliver the supplies or to perform the services within the time specified in this contract or any extension; (ii) Make progress, so as to endanger performance of this contract (but see paragraph (a)(2) of this clause); or (iii) Perform any of the other material provisions of this contract (but see paragraph (a)(2) of this clause). (2) The District's right to terminate this contract under subdivisions (a)(1)(ii) and (1)(iii) of this clause, may be exercised if the Contractor does not cure such failure within 10 days (or more if authorized in writing by the Procurement Officer) after receipt of the notice from the Procurement Officer specifying the failure. (b) If the District terminates this contract in whole or in part, it may acquire, under the terms and in the manner the Procurement Officer considers appropriate, supplies or services similar to those terminated, and the Contractor will be liable to the District for any excess costs for those supplies or services. However, the Contractor shall continue the work not terminated. (c) Except for defaults of subcontractors at any tier, the Contractor shall not be liable for any excess costs if the failure to perform the contract arises from causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor. Examples of such causes include (1) acts of God or of the public enemy, (2) acts of the District in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, (3) fires, (4) floods, (5) epidemics, (6) quarantine restrictions, (7) strikes, (8) freight embargoes, and (9) unusually severe weather. In each instance the failure to perform must be beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor. (d) If the failure to perform is caused by the default of a subcontractor at any tier, and if the cause of the default is beyond the control of both the Contractor and subcontractor, and without the fault or negligence of either, the Contractor shall not be liable for any excess costs for failure to perform, unless the subcontracted supplies or services were obtainable from other sources in sufficient time for the Contractor to meet the required delivery schedule. (e) If this contract is terminated for default, the District may require the Contractor to transfer title and deliver to the District, as directed by the Procurement Officer, any (1) completed supplies, and (2) partially completed supplies and materials, parts, tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, plans, drawings, information, and contract rights (collectively referred to as "manufacturing

materials” in this clause) that the Contractor has specifically produced or acquired for the terminated portion of this contract. Upon direction of the Procurement Officer, the Contractor shall also protect and preserve property in its possession in which the District has an interest. (f) The District shall pay contract price for completed supplies delivered and accepted. The Contractor and Procurement Officer shall agree on the amount of payment for manufacturing materials delivered and accepted and for the protection and preservation of the property; if the parties fail to agree, the Procurement Officer shall set an amount subject to the Contractor’s rights under the Disputes clause. Failure to agree will be a dispute under the Disputes clause. The District may withhold from these amounts any sum the Procurement Officer determines to be necessary to protect the State against loss because of outstanding liens or claims of former lien holders. (g) If, after termination, it is determined that the Contractor was not in default, or that the default was excusable, the rights and obligations of the parties shall, if the contract contains a clause providing for termination for convenience of the District, be the same as if the termination had been issued for the convenience of the District. If, in the foregoing circumstances, this contract does not contain a clause providing for termination for convenience of the District, the contract shall be adjusted to compensate for such termination and the contract modified accordingly subject to the contractor’s rights under the Disputes clause. (h) The rights and remedies of the District in this clause are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.

**INDEMNIFICATION - THIRD PARTY CLAIMS - GENERAL:** Notwithstanding any limitation in this agreement, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor shall defend and hold harmless indemnitees for and against any and all suits or claims of any character (and all related damages, settlement payments, attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, losses or liabilities) by a third party which are attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property arising out of or in connection with the goods or services acquired hereunder or caused in whole or in part by any act or omission of contractor, its subcontractors, their employees, workmen, servants, agents, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable, regardless of whether or not caused in part by an Indemnitee, and whether or not such claims are made by a third party or an Indemnitee; however, if an Indemnitee’s negligent act or omission is subsequently determined to be the sole proximate cause of a suit or claim, the Indemnitee shall not be entitled to indemnification hereunder. Contractor shall be given timely written notice of any suit or claim. Contractor’s obligations hereunder are in no way limited by any protection afforded under workers’ compensation acts, disability benefits acts, or other employee benefit acts. This clause shall not negate, abridge, or reduce any other rights or obligations of indemnity which would otherwise exist. The obligations of this paragraph shall survive termination, cancelation, or expiration of the parties' agreement. This provision shall be construed fairly and reasonably, neither strongly for nor against either party, and without regard to any clause regarding insurance. As used in this clause, “Indemnitees” means District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, its instrumentalities, agencies, departments, boards, and all their respective officers, agents and employees.

**RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES:** Neither party is an employee, agent, partner, or joint venturer of the other. Neither party has the right or ability to bind the other to any agreement with a third party or to incur any obligation or liability on behalf of the other party.

**TERM OF CONTRACT – EFFECTIVE DATE / INITIAL CONTRACT PERIOD:** The anticipated effective date of this contract will be July 18, 2026. The initial term of this agreement is for one (1) year from the effective date. Extensions beyond the five (5) year period require approval of the District’s Superintendent.

**TERM OF CONTRACT – OPTION TO RENEW:** (a) At the end of the initial term, this contract has the option to renew for up to four (4) additional one (1) year period(s). At the end of the initial term and each renewal term, this contract shall automatically renew unless contractor receives notice that the District elects not to renew the contract at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of renewal. Regardless, this contract expires no later than the last date stated on the final statement of award.

**TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE –** (1) Termination. The Procurement Officer may terminate this contract in whole or in part, for the convenience of the District. The Procurement Officer shall give written notice of the termination to the contractor specifying the part of the contract terminated and when termination becomes effective. (2) Contractor’s Obligations. The contractor shall incur no further obligations in connection with the terminated work and on the date set in the notice of termination the contractor will stop work to the extent specified. The contractor shall also terminate outstanding orders and subcontracts as they relate to the terminated work. The contractor shall settle the liabilities and claims arising out of the termination of subcontracts and orders connected with the terminated work. The Procurement Officer may direct the contractor to assign the contractor’s right, title, and interest under

terminated orders or subcontracts to the District. The contractor must still complete the work not terminated by the notice of termination and may incur obligations as are necessary to do so. (3) Right to Supplies. The Procurement Officer may require the contractor to transfer title and deliver to the District in the manner and to the extent directed by the Procurement Officer: (a) any completed supplies; and (b) such partially completed supplies and materials, parts, tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, plans, drawings, information, and contract rights (hereinafter called "manufacturing material") as the contractor has specifically produced or specially acquired for the performance of the terminated part of this contract. The contractor shall, upon direction of the Procurement Officer, protect and preserve property in the possession of the contractor in which the District has an interest. If the Procurement Officer does not exercise this right, the contractor shall use best efforts to sell such supplies and manufacturing materials in a accordance with the standards of Uniform Commercial Code Section 2-706. Utilization of this Section in no way implies that the District has breached the contract by exercise of the Termination for Convenience Clause. (4) Compensation. (a) The contractor shall submit a termination claim specifying the amounts due because of the termination for convenience together with cost or pricing data required by Section 11-35-1830 bearing on such claim. If the contractor fails to file a termination claim within one year from the effective date of termination, the Procurement Officer may pay the contractor, if at all, an amount set in accordance with Subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph. (b) The Procurement Officer and the contractor may agree to a settlement and that the settlement does not exceed the total contract price plus settlement costs reduced by payments previously made by the District, the proceeds of any sales of supplies and manufacturing materials under Paragraph (3) of this clause, and the contract price of the work not terminated; (c) Absent complete agreement under Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, the Procurement Officer shall pay the contractor the following amounts, provided payments agreed to under Subparagraph (b) shall not duplicate payments under this Subparagraph: (i) contract prices for supplies or services accepted under the contract; (ii) costs reasonably incurred in performing the terminated portion of the work less amounts paid or to be paid for accepted supplies or services; (iii) reasonable costs of settling and paying claims arising out of the termination of subcontracts or orders pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this clause. These costs must not include costs paid in accordance with Subparagraph (c)(ii) of this paragraph; (iv) any other reasonable costs that have resulted from the termination. The total sum to be paid the contractor under this Subparagraph shall not exceed the total contract price plus the reasonable settlement costs of the contractor reduced by the amount of payments otherwise made, the proceeds of any sales of supplies and manufacturing materials under Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, and the contract price of work not terminated. (d) Contractor must demonstrate any costs claimed, agreed to, or established under Subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this Paragraph using its standard record keeping system, provided such system is consistent with any applicable Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. (5) Contractor's failure to include an appropriate termination for convenience clause in any subcontract shall not (i) affect the District's right to require the termination of a subcontract, or (ii) increase the obligation of the District beyond what it would have been if the subcontract had contained an appropriate clause.

**OPEN TRADE REPRESENTATION:** During the contract term, including any renewals or extensions, Contractor will not engage in the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with whom South Carolina can enjoy open trade, as defined SC Code Section 11-35-5300.

**ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST** (a) The Contractor agrees to immediately advise the Procurement Officer if an actual or potential organizational conflict of interest is discovered after award, and to make a full written disclosure promptly thereafter to the Procurement Officer. This disclosure shall include a description of actions which the Contractor has taken or proposes to take, after consultation with the Procurement Officer, to avoid, mitigate, or neutralize the actual or potential conflict. (b) The District may terminate this contract for convenience, in whole or in part, if it deems such termination necessary to avoid an organizational conflict of interest. Contractor's failure to include an appropriate termination for convenience clause in any subcontract shall not increase the obligation of the District beyond what it would have been if the subcontract had contained such a clause.

**PAYMENT & INTEREST:** (a) The District shall pay the Contractor, after the submission of proper invoices or vouchers, the prices stipulated in this contract for supplies delivered and accepted or services rendered and accepted, less any deductions provided in this contract. Unless otherwise specified herein, including the purchase order, payment shall not be made on partial deliveries accepted by the District. (b) Unless otherwise provided herein, including the purchase order, payment will be made by check mailed to the payment address on "page Two." (c) Notwithstanding any other provision, payment shall be made in accordance with S.C. Code Section 11-35-45, or Chapter 6 of Title 29 (real property improvements) when applicable, which provides the Contractor's exclusive means of recovering any type of interest from the Owner. Contractor waives imposition of an interest penalty unless the invoice submitted specifies that the late penalty is applicable. Except as set forth in this paragraph, the District shall not be liable for the payment of interest on any debt or claim arising out of or related to this contract for any reason. (d) Amounts due to

the District shall bear interest at the rate of interest established by the South Carolina Comptroller General pursuant to Section 11-35-45 (“an amount not to exceed fifteen percent each year”), as amended, unless otherwise required by Section 29-6-30. (e) Any other basis for interest, including but not limited to general (pre- and post-judgment) or specific interest statutes, including S.C. Code Ann. Section 34-31-20, are expressly waived by both parties. If a court, despite this agreement and waiver, requires that interest be paid on any debt by either party other than as provided by items (c) and (d) above, the parties further agree that the applicable interest rate for any given calendar year shall be the lowest prime rate as listed in the first edition of the Wall Street Journal published for each year, applied as simple interest without compounding. (f) The District shall have all of its common law, equitable and statutory rights of set-off.

**PUBLICITY:** Contractor must not publish any comments or quotes from District employees, or include the District in either news releases or a published list of customers, without the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer.

**PURCHASE ORDERS:** Contractor shall not perform any work prior to the receipt of a purchase order from the District. The District shall order any supplies or services to be furnished under this contract by issuing a purchase order. Purchase orders may be used to elect any options available under this contract, e.g., quantity, item, delivery date, payment method, but are subject to all terms and conditions of this contract. Purchase orders may be electronic. No particular form is required. An order placed pursuant to the purchasing card provision qualifies as a purchase order. Purchase order number must be clearly stated on each carton or package, shipping ticket, invoice and any/all other information related to the order.

**SURVIVAL OF OBLIGATIONS:** The Parties' rights and obligations which, by their nature, would continue beyond the termination, cancellation, rejection, or expiration of this contract shall survive such termination, cancellation, rejection, or expiration, including, but not limited to, the rights and obligations created by the following clauses: Indemnification - Third Party Claims, Intellectual Property Indemnification, and any provisions regarding warranty or audit.

**TAXES:** Any tax the contractor may be required to collect or pay upon the sale, use or delivery of the products shall be paid by the District, and such sums shall be due and payable to the contractor upon acceptance. Any personal property taxes levied after delivery shall be paid by the District. It shall be solely the District's obligation, after payment to contractor, to challenge the applicability of any tax by negotiation with, or action against, the taxing authority. Contractor agrees to refund any tax collected, which is subsequently determined not to be proper and for which a refund has been paid to contractor by the taxing authority. In the event that the contractor fails to pay, or delays in paying, to any taxing authorities, sums paid by the District to contractor, contractor shall be liable to the District for any loss (such as the assessment of additional interest) caused by virtue of this failure or delay. Taxes based on Contractor's net income or assets shall be the sole responsibility of the contractor.

**TERMINATION:** Subject to the conditions below, the District, providing a (30) thirty-day advance written notice is given to the vendor, may terminate the contract for any reason.

**NON-APPROPRIATIONS:** Any contract entered into by the District resulting from this bid invitation shall be subject to cancellation without damages or further obligation when funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period or appropriated year.

**FOR CONVENIENCE:** In the event that this contract is terminated or canceled upon request and for the convenience of the District without the required thirty (30) days advance written notice, then the District may negotiate reasonable termination costs, if applicable.

**FOR CAUSE:** Termination by the District for cause, default or negligence on the part of the vendor shall be excluded from the foregoing conditions; termination costs, if any, shall not apply. The thirty (30) days advance notice requirement is waived and the default clause in this bid shall apply.

**DEFAULT:** In case of default by the vendor, the District reserves the right to purchase any or all items in default in the open market, charging the vendor with any additional costs. The defaulting vendor shall not be considered a responsible bidder until the assessed charge has been satisfied.

**TERMINATION DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** Payment and performance obligations for succeeding fiscal periods shall be subject to the availability and appropriation of funds therefore. When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be canceled. In the event of a cancellation pursuant to this paragraph, contractor will be reimbursed the

resulting unamortized, reasonably incurred, nonrecurring costs. Contractor will not be reimbursed any costs amortized beyond the initial contract term.

**THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY:** This Contract is made solely and specifically among and for the benefit of the parties hereto, and their respective successors and assigns, and no other person will have any rights, interest, or claims hereunder or be entitled to any benefits under or on account of this Contract as a third-party beneficiary or otherwise.

**WAIVER:** The District does not waive any prior or subsequent breach of the terms of the Contract by making payments on the Contract, by failing to terminate the Contract for lack of performance, or by failing to strictly or promptly insist upon any term of the Contract. Only the Procurement Officer has actual authority to waive any of District's rights under this Contract. Any waiver must be in writing.

## **ATTACHMENTS TO SOLICITATION**

### **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

The following documents are attached to this solicitation:

- A. References
- B. Offeror's Checklist

**ATTACHMENT A**

**REFERENCES**

**Instructions:** Provide three references of customers that you have provided similar services as is described in this solicitation. The list of References shall be completed in its entirety and submitted with the bid response.

Company/School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**Offeror's Checklist**

**OFFEROR'S CHECKLIST**

*AVOID COMMON BID/PROPOSAL MISTAKES*

Review this checklist prior to submitting your bid/proposal.

If you fail to follow this checklist, you risk having your bid/proposal rejected.

- ✓ COMPLETED & SIGNED ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.
- ✓ DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OF YOUR STANDARD CONTRACT FORMS!
- ✓ UNLESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED, DO NOT INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL BOILERPLATE CONTRACT CLAUSES!
- ✓ REREAD YOUR ENTIRE BID/PROPOSAL TO MAKE SURE YOUR BID/PROPOSAL DOES NOT TAKE EXCEPTION TO ANY OF THE DISTRICT'S MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS!
- ✓ MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PROPERLY MARKED ALL PROTECTED, CONFIDENTIAL OR TRADE SECRET INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS: "SUBMITTING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION." DO NOT MARK YOUR ENTIRE RESPONSE AS CONFIDENTIAL, TRADE SECRET OR PROTECTED! DO NOT INCLUDE A LEGEND ON THE COVER STATING THAT YOUR ENTIRE RESPONSE IS NOT TO BE RELEASED!
- ✓ HAVE YOU PROPERLY ACKNOWLEDGED ALL AMENDMENTS? INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING HOW TO ACKNOWLEDGE AN AMENDMENT SHOULD APPEAR IN ALL AMENDMENTS ISSUED.
- ✓ MAKE SURE THAT YOUR BID/PROPOSAL INCLUDES A COPY OF THE SOLICITATION COVER PAGE. MAKE SURE THE COVER PAGE IS SIGNED BY A PERSON THAT IS AUTHORIZED TO CONTRACTUALLY BIND YOUR BUSINESS.
- ✓ MAKE SURE YOUR BID/PROPOSAL INCLUDES THE NUMBER OF COPIES REQUESTED.
- ✓ CHECK TO ENSURE YOUR OFFER INCLUDES EVERYTHING REQUESTED!
- ✓ IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE SOLICITATION, DO NOT RAISE THOSE CONCERNS IN YOUR RESPONSE! **AFTER OPENING, IT IS TOO LATE! IF THIS SOLICITATION INCLUDES A QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD OR A PRE-SOLICITATION CONFERENCE, RAISE YOUR QUESTIONS AS PART OF THAT PROCESS!** PLEASE SEE INSTRUCTIONS UNDER THE HEADING "SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS" AND ANY PROVISIONS REGARDING PRE-BID/PROPOSAL CONFERENCES.

This checklist is included only as a reminder to help offerors avoid common mistakes. Responsiveness will be evaluated against the solicitation, not against this checklist. You do not need to return this checklist with your offer.

**SUBMIT WITH OFFER:**

1. Cover Page
2. Page 2
3. Business Proposal
4. References
5. Completed W-9