

General Terms and Conditions of Master Agreement

THIS MASTER COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT (this "**Master Agreement**") is entered into by and between The Cooperative Council of Governments, Inc. ("**CCOG**"), School Specialty, LLC ("**Winning Supplier**"), and Equalis Group, LLC ("**Equalis**" or "**Equalis Group**"). Throughout this Master Agreement, CCOG, Winning Supplier, and Equalis are referred to interchangeably as in the singular "Party" or in the plural "Parties."

1. RECITALS

A. CCOG is a Council of Governments formed under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code and serves as a lead agency (a "**Lead Public Agency**") for Equalis Group ("**Equalis Group**"), a national cooperative purchasing organization, by publicly procuring Master Agreements for products and services to be made available to current and prospective Equalis Group members ("**Equalis Group Member**" or "**Member**").

B. Equalis is the third-party procurement administrator for and duly authorized agent of CCOG, and in that role manages the procurement, contract management, marketing, sales, reporting, and financial activities of, for, and on behalf of CCOG at the direction and with the authorization of the CCOG Board of Directors.

C. To the extent that the laws of a state, region, territory, and/or country permit, any public sector entity may join Equalis Group as a Member. The term "**Public Sector Entities**" includes, but is not limited to, political subdivisions, municipal corporations, counties, townships, villages, school districts, special districts, public institutions of higher education or training, units of government, state/regional/territorial agencies, state/regional/territorial governments, federal/national agencies, federal/national governments, and other entities receiving financial support from tax monies and/or public funds.

D. Any organization that is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, and any other entity if permitted under the IRS Code and other applicable law, including for-profit companies, may also join Equalis Group as a Member.

E. Equalis Group makes its Master Agreements available through groups and associations ("**Association Partners**") that contract with Equalis for the purpose of providing additional benefits to the members of such Association Partners.

F. Members, Association Partners, and Association Partners' members are referred to throughout this Master Agreement as Equalis Group participants ("**Equalis Group Participants**").

G. CCOG issued a request for proposal ("**RFP**") on behalf of Equalis Group Participants and solicited responses from companies ("**Respondent**") for furniture solutions with related products and services and awarded a contract to Winning Supplier as a responsible Respondent whose proposal was most advantageous to CCOG. The products and services made available in this contract are defined by the contents of the Winning Supplier's Cost Proposal submission ("**Products & Services**").

H. CCOG and Equalis agree to make the Products & Services from Winning Supplier available to Equalis Group Participants and Winning Supplier agrees to provide the same to Equalis Group Participants who purchase Products & Services ("**Program Participants**") subject to the terms of this Master Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the Parties agree to the following terms and conditions:

2. TERMS & CONDITIONS

2.1. Personnel & Equipment. The Parties agree that the number and types of any subcontractors, dealers, distributors, personnel, or specialized equipment which may be required to furnish Products & Services to Program Participants will be determined by Winning Supplier. Winning Supplier agrees to engage the number and types of subcontractors, personnel, and/or specialized equipment necessary to furnish the types of Products & Services to all Program Participants throughout the Term of this Master Agreement and any Customer Agreement.

2.2. Supplemental Agreements. Winning Supplier may enter into separate supplemental agreements with an Equalis Group Participant and/or Program Participant to further define the terms and conditions of purchasing Products & Services (“**Customer Agreement**”). Notwithstanding the foregoing, by ordering products or services under this Master Agreement, all terms and conditions of this Master Agreement will be incorporated into a resulting Customer Agreement unless the Customer Agreement as mutually agreed between Winning Supplier and the Program Participant states otherwise. Any Customer Agreement entered into as a result of this contract is exclusively between the Program Participant and Winning Supplier. Neither CCOG, Equalis Group, its agents, Member and employees shall be made party to any claim for breach of such agreement.

2.3. Pricing

a. Not-To-Exceed Pricing. All contract pricing is “*Not-To-Exceed Pricing*” where Members will receive pricing that does not exceed the per unit pricing provided by the Respondent in Attachment B. Winning Supplier may adjust pricing lower if needed, without any approval needed, but cannot exceed the pricing on their contract price list.

b. Pricing Adjustments. No price increases are permitted within the first ninety (90) days of this contract’s Effective Date. Should it become necessary or proper during the Term of this Agreement to make any change in design or any alterations that will increase expense, Equalis Group must be notified immediately. Price increases must be approved by CCOG and no payment for additional materials or services, beyond the amount stipulated in the Agreement, shall be paid without prior approval. All price increases must be supported by manufacturer documentation, or a formal cost justification letter.

It is Winning Supplier’s responsibility to keep all pricing up to date and on file with Equalis Group. All price changes must be provided to Equalis Group, using the same format as was accepted in the original contract.

c. Rates & Charges. The rates, fees, and charges to be charged to and paid by Program Participants for Products & Services are set forth in contract price list. Winning Supplier agrees that there are no other applicable rates, fees, charges, or other monetary incentives for Products & Services except those set forth in Winning Supplier’s cost proposal.

2.4. The Term. This Master Agreement and the Appendices attached hereto will become effective as of effective date identified in the **Master Agreement Signature Form** (the “**Effective Date**”). This Master Agreement will remain in effect for four (4) years and will expire on the date identified in the **Master Agreement Signature Form** (the “**Termination Date**”) unless extended, terminated, or cancelled as set forth in the Master Agreement (the “**Initial Term**”). This Master Agreement may be renewed for one (1) additional one (1) year period by CCOG (a “**Renewal Term**”) unless this Master Agreement is terminated as set forth herein. By mutual consent of the Parties, the Term of this Master Agreement may be extended beyond the Initial and Renewal Term (the “**Extended Term**”). The Initial Term together with all Renewal Terms and Extended Terms exercised are hereinafter collectively referred to as the “**Term.**”

2.5. Formation of Contract

a. **Respondent Contract Documents.** CCOG and Equalis Group will review proposed Respondent contract documents. Respondent's contract document shall not become part of CCOG and Equalis Groups' contract with Respondent unless and until an authorized representative of CCOG and Equalis Group reviews and approves it.

b. **Entire Agreement.** This Master Agreement, including its Recitals, together with all components of the RFP, the components of the Winning Supplier's proposal, attachments, appendices, and exhibits hereto, constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior oral or written representations and agreements with regard to the same subject matter. The Parties acknowledge that this Master Agreement has been negotiated and incorporates their collective agreement as to the provisions to be contained herein. Therefore, no presumption will arise giving benefit of interpretation by virtue of authorship of any provision of this Master Agreement, and any ambiguity may not be construed for or against any Party. Winning Supplier's complete and final RFP response is hereby incorporated into and made part of this Master Agreement.

c. **Modification.** No release, discharge, abandonment, waiver, alteration, or modification of any of the provisions of this Master Agreement, or any of the Appendices incorporated herein, shall be binding upon any Party unless set forth in a writing signed by authorized representatives of the Parties.

d. **Assignment.** This Master Agreement and the rights and obligations hereunder may not be assignable by any Party hereto without the prior written consent of the other Parties, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed, provided, however, that Winning Supplier and Equalis may assign their respective rights and obligations under this Master Agreement without the consent of the other Parties in the event either Winning Supplier or Equalis shall hereafter effect a corporate reorganization, consolidation, merger, merge into, sale to, or a transfer of all or substantially all of its properties or assets to another entity. Subject to the preceding sentence, this Master Agreement will be binding upon, inure to the benefit of, and be enforceable by the Parties and their respective successors and assigns. Any instrument purporting to make an assignment in violation of this section shall be null and void. This Master Agreement may be extended to additional entities affiliated with the Parties upon the mutual agreement of the Parties. No such extension will relieve the extending Party of its rights and obligations under this Master Agreement.

e. **Order of Precedence.**

1. General terms and conditions of Master Agreement;
2. Specifications and scope of work, as awarded;
3. Attachments and exhibits to the Master Agreement;
4. The solicitation and all attachments thereto; and
5. The Respondent's proposal and all attachments thereto.

2.6. **Confidentiality.**

a. **Obligation.** The nature and details of the business relationship established by this Master Agreement, and the business information regarding the other Party(ies) (the "**Disclosing Party**") to which a Party(ies) (the "**Receiving Party**") may become privy during the Term of this Master Agreement (collectively, the "**Information**") constitute confidential and proprietary information, the disclosure, copying, or distribution of which could result in competitive harm to the Disclosing Party. Each Party agrees to maintain the other Parties' Information in the strictest confidence and agrees not to disclose, copy, or distribute the other Parties' Information, whether orally or in writing, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, except to those of the Receiving Party's employees, agents, subcontractors, and suppliers

with a need to know the Information. The foregoing will not limit a Receiving Party, for purposes of marketing, from informing actual or potential Equalis Group Participants of the existence of a contractual relationship between the Parties. The Parties further agree that they will require that all of their employees, agents, subcontractors, and suppliers abide by the terms of these confidentiality obligations. The confidentiality obligations set forth in this section will continue in effect for the Term of this Master Agreement and for a period of two (2) years after the date this Master Agreement is terminated or expires.

b. Exceptions. Nothing herein will apply to any information (a) which is or becomes generally available to the public other than as a result of a disclosure by a Receiving Party or its representatives, (b) which was available on a non-confidential basis prior to its disclosure by the Disclosing Party or its representatives, (c) which becomes available to a Receiving Party on a non-confidential basis from a source other than the Disclosing Party or its representatives, provided that such source is not known to be subject to any prohibition against transmitting the information, (d) which is disclosed pursuant to an order of court; provided that in the event that proprietary information is disclosed or threatened to be disclosed pursuant to this clause (d), the Receiving Party will give the original Disclosing Party prompt, written Notice, as hereinafter defined, of such threatened disclosure and the right to defend against such disclosure, at Disclosing Party's expense, and provided further that the original Receiving Party will cooperate reasonably in such defense, or (e) which is subject to a Freedom of Information Act Request or other public records request to which a Party is, or may be, required to respond by applicable law.

2.7. Indemnification. Winning Supplier shall protect, indemnify, and hold harmless both CCOG and Equalis Group, administrators, employees, and agents ("**Indemnified Parties**") against all claims, damages, losses and expenses ("**Claims**") arising out of or resulting from the actions of Winning Supplier, Winning Supplier employees or subcontractors in the preparation of the solicitation and the later performance under the contract, including any Customer Agreements with Program Participants ("**Losses**").

2.8. Winning Supplier Insurance. During the Term of this Master Agreement, and for two (2) years following expiration or termination of this Master Agreement, Winning Supplier, at its own expense, shall maintain and shall require that its agents, subcontractors, and suppliers engaged in Winning Supplier's performance of its duties under this Master Agreement maintain general liability insurance, property insurance, and automobile insurance (at a minimum, in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$5,000,000 annual aggregate) applicable to any claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses arising out of its performance under this Master Agreement, or any Appendix, and with respect to, or arising out of, Winning Supplier's provision of Products & Services to Program Participants. CCOG, Equalis, and their respective officers, directors, employees, and agents will be named as certificate holders on Winning Supplier's related insurance policies. All such insurance policies shall incorporate a provision requiring the giving of written Notice to CCOG and Equalis at least thirty (30) days prior to the cancellation, nonrenewal, and/or material modification of any such policies. Winning Supplier shall submit to Equalis within ten (10) calendar days after the Effective Date of this Master Agreement, and prior to furnishing Products & Services to any Program Participants, valid certificates evidencing the effectiveness of the foregoing insurance policies. Winning Supplier shall provide such valid certificates on an annual basis until the terms of this section are no longer applicable.

2.9. Termination Rights. The Parties shall have the termination rights set forth below.

a. Insolvency. If a petition in bankruptcy is filed by any Party, or if any Party is adjudicated as bankrupt, or if any Party makes a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, or if a receiver is appointed on account of the insolvency of any Party, then the other Parties, without prejudice to any other right or remedy, may terminate this Master Agreement upon giving at least five (5) business days prior written Notice of such termination.

b. **Mutual Consent.** This Master Agreement, or any Appendix, may be terminated at any time by the mutual written consent of the Parties.

c. **Breach.** In the event that any Party commits a material breach of its obligations under this Master Agreement, except for a payment obligation, the non-breaching Party(ies) may provide written Notice describing the material breach to the breaching Party. The breaching Party will have thirty (30) calendar days to cure such breach or provide acceptable reassurance to the non-breaching Party(ies), or, if the Parties agree that a cure or reassurance is not feasible within thirty calendar (30) days, such period of time for cure or satisfactory reassurance as the Parties may agree in writing. If the breach is not cured within such period or if satisfactory reassurance is not accepted by the non-breaching Party(ies) in such period, then the Party(ies) not in breach may terminate this Master Agreement upon ten (10) business days written Notice at the Addresses for Notices.

2.10. Effects of Termination. Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, all Customer Agreements entered into with Program Participants shall immediately terminate. Winning Supplier shall immediately cease any sales of Products & Services to any Program Participant under and through the terms of this Master Agreement. Following the date of termination, Winning Supplier shall not be precluded from selling its products and services to individuals, businesses, and entities that were Program Participants when this Master Agreement was in effect either directly or through some other contract vehicle. Following the date of termination, CCOG and Equalis shall not be precluded from transitioning individuals, businesses, and entities that were Program Participants when this Master Agreement was in effect to another agreement or Equalis Group supplier partner.

2.11. Audit of Winning Supplier. CCOG and Equalis, whether directly or through an independent auditor or accounting firm, shall have the right to perform audits, including inspection of books, records, and computer data relevant to Winning Supplier's provision of Products & Services to Program Participants pursuant to this Master Agreement, to ensure that pricing, inventory, quality, process, and business controls are maintained; provided, however, that such inspections and audits will be conducted upon reasonable notice to Winning Supplier and so as not to unreasonably interfere with Winning Supplier's business or operations.

2.12. Force Majeure. This Master Agreement will be temporarily suspended during any period to the extent that any Party during that period is unable to carry out its obligations under this Master Agreement or the Appendices by reason of an Act of God or the public enemy, act of terrorism, epidemic or pandemic, fire, flood, labor disorder not caused by Winning Supplier, civil commotion, closing of the public highways not caused by Winning Supplier, government interference, government regulations, or any other event or occurrence beyond the reasonable control of the affected Party ("**Event of Force Majeure**"). No Party will have any liability to the other Party(ies) for a delay in performance nor failure to perform to the extent this Master Agreement or any Appendix is so temporarily suspended; provided that nothing contained herein shall apply to payment obligations with respect to obligations which have already been performed under this Master Agreement. If the provision of Products & Services are impeded due to an Event of Force Majeure, then Winning Supplier may apportion the provision of Products & Services among its present and future customers on a fair and reasonable basis after consulting with Equalis and the Program Participants potentially affected and in a manner that would not reasonably be expected to disproportionately affect Program Participants.

2.13. Notices. All notices, claims, certificates, requests, demands, and other communications required or permitted hereunder ("**Notice**") must be in writing and will be deemed given to the Addresses for Notices (a) when delivered personally to the recipient, (b) upon delivery by reputable overnight courier service (charges prepaid), or (c) upon delivery or refusal of delivery by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, and addressed to the intended recipient. The Parties agree that the day-to-day business communications, including notification of a change of address, pricing updates, or revisions to any Appendix, may be made via electronic communication.

a. **Addresses for Notices.** Written notices for the Winning Supplier will be sent to the remittance address provided with the Winning Supplier's proposal.

i. If to **CCOG**:

The Cooperative Council of
Governments, Inc.
Attn: Board President
6001 Cochran Road, Suite 333
Cleveland, Ohio 44139
Facsimile: 440.337.0002

ii. If to **EQUALIS**:

Equalis Group, LLC.
Attn: Eric Merkle, SVP
5550 Granite Parkway,
Suite 298
Plano, Texas 75024

2.14. Waiver. Other than the rights and obligations with respect to payment provided by this Master Agreement, waiver by any Party(ies) of or the failure of any Party(ies) hereto to enforce at any time its rights with regard to any breach or failure to comply with any provision of this Master Agreement by the other Party(ies) may not be construed as, or constitute, a continuing waiver of such provision, or a waiver of any other future breach of or failure to comply with the same provision or any other provision of this Master Agreement.

2.15. Governing Law; Invalidity. This Master Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of Ohio without regard to rules of conflict of laws. If any provision of this Master Agreement is declared unlawful or unenforceable by judicial determination or performance, then the remainder of this Master Agreement shall continue in force as if the invalidated provision did not exist. Any suits filed by any Party pursuant to this Master Agreement shall be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction located in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. In the event any Party initiates a suit and that suit is adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction, the prevailing Party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs from the non-prevailing Party in addition to any other relief to which the court determines the prevailing Party is entitled or awarded.

2.16. No Third-Party Beneficiaries; Survival of Representations. This Master Agreement is made solely for the benefit of the Parties to it, and no other persons will acquire or have any right under or by virtue of this Master Agreement. Except as otherwise provided herein, all representations, warranties, covenants, and agreements of the Parties shall remain in full force and effect regardless of any termination of this Master Agreement, in whole or in part.

2.17. Execution in Counterparts. This Master Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original. For purposes of this Master Agreement, a facsimile, scanned, or electronic signature will be deemed an original signature.

2.18. Nondiscrimination & Intimidation.

a. Winning Supplier expressly agrees that in the hiring of employees for the performance of work or services under this Master Agreement or any subcontract that takes place in the State of Ohio, Winning Supplier, its subcontractors, or any person acting on a Winning Supplier's or its subcontractor's behalf shall not discriminate in the hiring of employees by reason of race, creed, sex, disability as defined in **Section 4112.01** of the Ohio Revised Code nor shall it discriminate against any citizen of the State of Ohio in the employment of labor or workers who are qualified and available to perform the Work to which the employment relates.

b. Winning Supplier expressly agrees that Winning Supplier, any of its subcontractors, or any person on behalf of Winning Supplier or its subcontractors in any manner shall not discriminate against or intimidate any

employee hired for the performance of work or services under this Master Agreement on account of race, creed, sex, disability as defined in **Section 4112.01** of the Ohio Revised Code, or color.

c. Winning Supplier expressly agrees to include principally similar provisions of this section in each of its written subcontractor agreements for the Products & Services subject to this Master Agreement.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

Furniture Solutions with Related Products & Services

RFP #:

COG-2152

ISSUED BY:

The Cooperative Council of Governments

On Behalf of Equalis Group

6001 Cochran Road, Suite 333

Cleveland, Ohio 44139

DATED:

October 13, 2023

SECTION TWO:

Proposal Submission Documents, Technical Proposal, Cost
Proposal and Other Required Forms

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PROPOSAL FORM CHECKLIST

The following documents must be submitted with the Proposal.

The below documents can be found in Section 2; Proposal Submission and Required Forms and must be submitted with the proposal. Please note Proposal Form 2 is a separate attachment (attachment B).

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

- Proposal Form 1: Technical Proposal**

PROPOSAL PRICING: Attachment B is provided separately in a Microsoft Excel file and is required to complete your cost proposal.

- Proposal Form 2: Cost Proposal**

OTHER REQUIRED PROPOSAL FORMS:

- Proposal Form 3: Diversity Vendor Certification Participation**
- Proposal Form 4: Certifications and Licenses**
- Proposal Form 5: Unresolved Findings for Recovery**
- Proposal Form 6: Mandatory Disclosures**
- Proposal Form 7: Dealer, Reseller, and Distributor Authorization**
- Proposal Form 8: Mandatory Supplier & Proposal Certifications**
- Proposal Form 9: Clean Air Act & Clean Water Act**
- Proposal Form 10: Debarment Notice**
- Proposal Form 11: Lobbying Certification**
- Proposal Form 12: Contractor Certification Requirements**
- Proposal Form 13: Boycott Certification**
- Proposal Form 14 Federal Funds Certification Forms**
- Proposal Form 15 FEMA Funding Requirements Certification Form**
- Proposal Form 16: Arizona Contractor Requirements**
- Proposal Form 17: New Jersey Requirements**
- Proposal Form 18: General Terms and Conditions Acceptance Form**
- Proposal Form 19: Equalis Group Administration Agreement Declaration**
- Proposal Form 20: Master Agreement Signature Form**

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PROPOSAL FORM 1: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

1. OVERVIEW & QUALIFICATIONS

1.1. Company Information

1.1.1. Company Name:	School Specialty, LLC	
1.1.2. Corporate Street Address:	W6316 Design Drive Greenville, WI 54942-8404	
1.1.3. Website:	www.schoolspecialty.com	
1.1.4. Formation. In what year was the company formed? For how long has your company been operating under its present business name? If your company has changed its business name, include the most recent prior business name and the year of the name change.	School Specialty, LLC has been in business since 1959 – 64 years. However, prior to 2020, the business was School Specialty, Inc.	
1.1.5. Primary Point of Contact. Provide information about the Respondent representative/contact person authorized to answer questions regarding the proposal submitted by your company:	Contact Name:	Leonard Adkins
	Title:	Assistant Secretary
	Phone:	419-589-1656
	E-Mail Address:	bidnotices@schoolspecialty.com
1.1.6. Authorized Representative. Print or type the name of the Respondent representative authorized to address contractual issues, including the authority to execute a contract on behalf of Respondent, and to whom legal notices regarding contract termination or breach, should be sent (if not the same individual as in 1.1.9., provide the following information on each such representative and specify their function).	Contact Name:	Leonard Adkins
	Title:	Assistant Secretary
	Phone:	888-388-3224
	E-Mail Address:	bidnotices@schoolspecialty.com

1.2. Financial Strength & Legal Considerations

1.2.1. Financial Strength. Demonstrate your financial strength and stability with meaningful data. This could include, but is not limited to, such items as financial statements, SEC filings, credit & bond ratings, letters of credit, and detailed reference letters. Note: If the information disclosed in your response is considered “Trade Secret” as defined in Ohio Revised Code, Respondents may mark the	Please see the attached consolidated financial statements starting on page number 1.
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<p>information as a “Trade Secret” and the response will be redacted from any future use of the RFP response.</p>	
<p>1.2.2. Bankruptcy & Insolvency. Describe any bankruptcy or insolvency for your organization (or its predecessors, if any) or any principal of the firm in the last three (3) years.</p>	<p>No bankruptcies or insolvencies.</p>
<p>1.2.3. Litigation. Describe any litigation in which your company has been involved in the last three (3) years and the status of that litigation.</p>	<p>A. Tunnel IP LLC vs. School Specialty, LLC, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Case No. 1:22-cv-00888. This lawsuit alleges that School Specialty is infringing on Tunnel IP’s U.S. Patent No 7,916,877 directly with the Califone branded product, the PA920 Power Pro Portable PA. This lawsuit was filed on May 27, 2022 and is in its initial stages.</p> <p>B. Virco Mfg. Corporation v. School Specialty, Inc., U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, Case No. 1:20-cv-906-LPS. On July 2, 2020, Virco Mfg. Corporation (“Virco”) filed a lawsuit against School Specialty for patent infringement. The lawsuit primarily alleges that School Specialty is infringing on Virco’s U.S. Patent Nos. 7,147,284 and 10,537,180 by manufacturing, selling, offering for sale, using, and/or importing certain products, namely the Classroom Select Inspo Rocker (including the 14 Inch, 16 Inch, 20 Inch, A+ and Chrome Frame models), the Classroom Select Inspo Floor Rocker (including the A+ Shell, A Shell, B Shell, and C Shell models), and the Classroom Select NeoClass Floor Rocker (including the A+ Shell, A Shall, B Shell, and C Shell models). This lawsuit is currently ongoing and in discovery.</p>
<p>1.3. Industry Qualifications</p>	
<p>1.3.1. Company Identification. How is your organization best identified? Is it a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, reseller, or service provider?</p>	<p>Primarily distributor: however, we have our own manufacturing proprietary lines (Classroom Select and Childcraft).</p>
<p>1.3.2. Manufacturer Authorization. If your company is best described as a distributor, dealer, reseller, or similar entity please certify that your organization is authorized to sell the products and services at the price points disclosed in this proposal.</p>	<p>School Specialty LLC certifies that our organization is an authorized reseller for each manufacturer we’re presenting in our offering within CCOG Equalis Group’s RFP # COG-2152, Furniture Solutions with Related Products and Services.</p>
<p>1.3.3. Authorized Distributors, Agents, Dealers, or Resellers. Describe the different channels in which this contract will be made available to Equalis Group Members. Your response should include, but is not limited to, whether your</p>	<p>School Specialty will serve as the single point of sale. Our network of more than 400 sales representatives, 26 quote team members, and marketing department would work together to ensure the contract is made available to Equalis Group Members via quoting and marketing opportunities.</p>

<p>organization will serve as the single point of sale or if the contract will be made available through a network of distributors, agents, dealers, or resellers.</p> <p>NOTE: Respondents intending to authorize distributors, agents, dealers, or resellers must complete <u>Proposal Form 7 - Dealer, Distributor and Reseller Authorization Form.</u></p>	
<p>1.3.4. Network Relationship. If your company is best described as a manufacturer or service provider, please describe how your dealer network operates to sell and deliver the Products & Services proposed in this RFP. If applicable, is your network independent or company owned?</p>	<p>Although we are primarily a distributor of other manufacturers which we have included their letter of authorizations within our response, we also manufacturer of two separate proprietary lines, Classroom Select and Childcraft. We do not have dealer partnerships for either of these brands as we're the sole proprietor for them.</p>
<p>1.3.5. Industry Experience. How long has your company provided the products and services outlined in your proposal? What percentage of your company's revenue in each of the last three (3) full calendar years was generated from these products and services?</p>	<p>We've been in business since 1959; however, we did not start providing some of the services, I.E., design, project management, and installation until 1993; however, services such as customer services were implemented when we were formed. 2021: 34% 2022: 36% 2023: 36%</p>
<p>1.3.6. Geographic Reach. Describe your company's current service area in the United States and which areas you intend to offer services under a resulting contract if awarded.</p>	<p>School Specialty provides goods and services to customers in all 50 states. If awarded a contract, we would commit to providing goods and services within the entire country.</p>
<p>1.3.7. Certifications and Licenses. Provide a detailed explanation outlining the licenses and certifications that are i) required to be held, and ii) actually held by your organization (including third parties and subcontractors that you use). Has your company maintained these certifications on an ongoing basis? If not, when and why did your company lose any referenced certifications?</p> <p>NOTE: Provide copies of any of the certificates or licenses included in your response in <u>Proposal Form 5 - Certifications and Licenses.</u></p>	<p>School Specialty hold all require federal, state, and local licenses, registrations, and certifications that are required by law or regulations of each entity including but not limited to business licenses/registrations, resell certifications, and contractor licenses. Please see documents starting on page #. Yes, we have maintained these certifications on an ongoing basis. We also require our installation subcontractors to hold maintain any required state or local licenses or registrations. Please see documents starting on page number 23.</p>
<p>1.4. Public Sector Experience</p>	
<p>1.4.1. Public Sector Cooperative Contracts. Provide a list of the public sector cooperative contracts (e.g., state term</p>	<p>School Specialty holds multiple national and regional agreements. Revenue generated from those agreements is confidential. For</p>

<p>contracts, public sector cooperatives, etc.) you currently hold or are authorized to sell through (if contracts are held with a manufacturer) and the annual revenue through those contracts in each of the last three (3) calendar year.</p> <p>NOTE: Please exclude information and data associated with Federal or GSA contracts.</p>	<p>each contract where letter of authorizations is required from manufacturers, we have them on-hand, in-house.</p>
<p>1.4.2. Education Success. What is the i) total dollar amount, and ii) percentage of your company's total annual revenue generated by sales to educational institutions (i.e., K-12 schools & school districts and high education)?</p>	<p>2021: \$629,894.00 = 85% 2022: \$760,443,844 = 86% 2023: \$672,935,288 = 86%</p>
<p>1.4.3. Government Success. What is the i) total dollar amount, and ii) percentage of your company's total annual revenue generated by sales to local governments (i.e., municipalities, counties, special districts, and state agencies)?</p>	<p>2021: \$8,753,829 = 13.8% 2022: \$7,389,038 = 9.7% 2023: \$4,749,477 = 7%</p>
<p>1.4.4. Customer References. Provide references of at least five (5) local government or educational institution customers for which your company has provided products and services similar in nature and scope to those defined in this RFP in the last three (3) years. Each reference should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Customer contact person and their title, telephone number, and email address; b. A brief description of the products and services provided by your company; c. Customer relationship starting and ending dates; and, d. Notes or other pertinent information relating to the customer and/or the products and services your company provided. 	<p>1A. Peoria Public School District 150, Peoria, IL, -Mick Willis CFO- (309) 672-6735- mick.willis@psd150.org</p> <p>1B. Science labs (HS), middle school and high school student and teacher furniture, SPED classrooms, Media Centers</p> <p>1C. 5/1/2019- current</p> <p>2A. Marietta City Schools, Marietta, GA: Charles Gardner – Chief Operations Officer – cgardner@marietta-city.org</p> <p>2B. Marietta 6th Grade Academy: to redesign all the classrooms. Marietta High School: to redesign the entire Media Center, Stem Lab, Conference Room, and one student study room.</p> <p>2C. Marietta 6th Grade Academy: The design work began in early 2022 and the project installed late 2023. Marietta High School: The project started in Fall 2022 and installed July 2023.</p> <p>3A. Bleckley County, Cochran, GA, Trey Belflower, Ed.D. – Superintendent – treyb@bleckleyschools.org</p> <p>3B. Bleckley Primary School: this was a replacement school building that we worked on. Our scope included all the classrooms, art rooms, offices, conference rooms, the media center, and cafeteria.</p> <p>3C. Bleckley Primary School: the design work began in Fall 2021 and was completed in July 2022.</p>

	<p>4A. Pasco County Schools, Pasco County, FL: Matt Hayes – Former Assistant Principal – mhayes@pasco.k12.fl.us – (813) 997-5469</p> <p>4B. Zephyrhills High School -This project was for an entire school with two buildings and three phases.</p> <p>4C. Project was done in several phases from 2019-2022</p> <p>4D. They just ordered additional furniture for classroom adds and wooden football lockers that installed summer 2023.</p> <p>5A. Rankin County School District, Rankin, MS: Dr. Pamela Reed-Simon – (601) 613-2897</p> <p>5B. Seven new Early Childhood classroom adds that will be installing at seven different schools in the county.</p> <p>5C. Project completed in October 2023.</p> <p>6A. Silo Academy, South Haven, MS Early Childhood Center New Build, Anshi (620) 521-7399 and Sonya Patel (318) 801-9372</p> <p>6B. Silo Academy - We are doing the entire center to include specialty rooms by age group, gym-gross motor room, offices, and lobby spaces.</p> <p>6C. This is scheduled to install late this year.</p>
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2. Products & Services

2.1. Products & Services

<p>2.1.1. Product & Services Description(s). Provide a detailed description of the products and services you are offering as a part of your proposal.</p> <p>Your response may include, but is not limited to, information related to product or market focus, differentiators, manufacturing capabilities & advantages, warranty information, turnkey capabilities, installation or set-up, training services, maintenance services, or any other piece of information that would help understand the breadth and depth of your products and service offering.</p> <p><u>IMPORTANT.</u> This description along with the products and services included in the <u>Attachment B – Cost Proposal</u> will be utilized to define the overall products and services available under a resulting contract.</p>	<p>School Specialty offers products for all learning environment areas in schools and the rest of the buildings as well regardless of the grade levels. We can complete provide furniture and related services from Pre-K to High School and upper education as well. For Section 5.1. of Section 1 of the RFP, we can provide products and services for each of the environments listed. For Section 5.2, with our extensive list of manufactures as well as our own proprietary brands, we can product all the product categories listed and much more. For Section 5.3, we can provide all the listed services except rental or leasing (all products we provide are sold as new) Our menu of services includes providing customer service, web services, project management, installation services, free design services regardless scope of a project, complete 360 turnkey solution for new construction or large renovation projects that could include inventorying of existing and recycling of existing furniture. Please see more details on our products and services starting on page number 59.</p>
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<p>2.1.2. Value-Add or Additional Offering. Please include any additional products and services not included in the scope of the solicitation that you think will enhance and add value to this contract’s participating agencies.</p>	<p>A. Professional Development - School Specialty offers professional development courses for teachers, covering topics such as designing student-centered learning spaces, building a culture of collaboration, and incorporating authentic student voice and choice. The courses are available in different forms including in-person and online with specific learning objectives. These courses are aimed at teachers who want to improve their teaching skills and create a better learning environment for their students. B. Delivery Services – all Equalis members will receive free, no charge inside delivery and lift gate services. C. Sensory Rooms – we can create Sensory Rooms for Special Education classrooms utilizing product from our Flaghouse and Snoezelen product lines. Equalis Member schools can work with their local School Specialty sales representative to have us review this product line that would best fit their individual needs. D. Concierge Services – for orders not requiring installation services that exceed \$12,000, Equalis Members orders equal or greater than this total will automatically receive free, no charge project management services. E. School Specialty Innovate 360 Program – our company offers a trade marked “Innovate 360 Program.” This service is a complete 360, turnkey solution for new construction, existing classrooms, or renovation projects. It’s a four-step process that our company has successfully utilized for 30 years within the K-12 education market nationally.</p>
<p>2.1.3. Open Market Products. Provide a detailed description of your ability to accommodate requests for Open Market Products. Open Market Products is a category of products that cannot be found in your standard catalog offering or non-inventoried products.</p>	<p>We have access to more than 500,000 open market items through our manufacturing partners which we provide to our K-12 customers nationally, daily. Customers have access to these items via catalogs, web links to the manufacturer’s catalogs/price lists, and even to our School Specialty website (standard items are listed on the website with the most often purchased configurations, I.E., popular sizes, colors, etc., but we explain to customers we can provide many more additional configurations along with the standards. When our sales teams, quote, or customer service teams interact with customers regarding open market items, we work with them to ensure we include them as well as our standard catalog offering. We provide them with the manufacturers’ websites, catalogs, MSRP price lists, specification sheets, renderings/drawings(when applicable) during the quoting or open discussion phases to ensure they fully understand the breadth of our offerings. To learn more, please visit corporate.schoolspecialty.com/brand-story/professional-development/</p>
<p>2.1.4. Warranty. Provide a copy of the manufacturer’s warranty. If required, please attach the warranty as an attachment, as instructed in this document. Describe notable features and/or characteristics of the warranty that a public sector customer would find interesting or appealing. Pricing related</p>	<p>Please see attached copies of the manufacturers’ warranties starting on page number 93. Although these are the manufacturer warranties, School Specialty reserves the right to extend the warranty period or services for each manufacturer which means we’ll always meet the requirements or go beyond them for our customers which they greatly appreciate. We also provide a one-year installation warranty program for all projects/orders requiring this service. We have also gone beyond the period for</p>

<p>to the any extended warranty options must be included in <u>Attachment B – Cost Proposal.</u></p>	<p>many customers even though the issues were not due to faulty installation work.</p>
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3. Business Operations

3.1. Logistics

<p>3.1.1. Store & Showroom Locations; Distribution & Shipping Capabilities. Describe how supplier proposes to distribute the products & services in Respondent’s defined geographic reach.</p> <p>Your response may include, but is not limited to, information related to the number of store or showroom locations, distribution facilities, supply chain partners, fill rates, on-time delivery rates, and your ability to accommodate expedited orders.</p>	<p>If awarded a contract, School Specialty will provide products and services nationwide through our network of freight, manufacturing, and installation partners.</p> <p>A. Delivery Services – we have national and regional contracts with more than 10 LTL carries and 30 full truckload brokers who have access to thousands nationwide. When orders are ready to ship, the manufacturers schedule the pick-up with the selected carriers and send confirmations to School Specialty. We also utilize our manufacturers shipping programs as well if applicable. This program enables the manufacturers to schedule the loads with their carriers.</p> <p>B. Manufacturers – in our offering, we have confirmed we’re authorized to provide products and services for more than 40 companies including our two proprietary brands owned by School Specialty (Classroom Select and Childcraft). Many of our manufacturer partners have manufacturing facilities and warehouses strategically located within the country.</p> <p>C. Installation – we have more than 400 installation subcontract partners nationally. Within the 400, many of our partners have multiple locations within the country which brings our total to 815 groups we have access to utilizing.</p> <p>D. Showroom – School Specialty has an outstanding showroom located in Dallas, TX, and we’re looking to expand our coverage in the future to other strategically locations within the country. Along with our Dallas showroom, several of our manufacturing partners have them located throughout the country that we have access to utilize.</p> <p>E. Fill Rate/On Time Delivery – standard delivery time for non-customized product is 4-6 weeks (depending upon the customized product, delivery can extend to 8 -10 weeks). Our goal is to ship all furniture orders at a 100% fill rate with no back orders, on time (the ship dates we provide to our customers). If there are potential backorders, we proactively notified the end user and give them the option of holding the entire orders or split shipping with no additional freight cost if possible. We do not automatically charge additional freight as our goal is customer satisfaction. Often, we’ll waive the additional freight cost if the customer elects to split ship so they will not need to pay for the shipping.</p> <p>F. Expedited Orders – many of our manufacturing partners as well as School Specialty’s Classroom Select and Childcraft brands offers quick ship programs of selected stock items. Typically, these items will ship within 7-10 days after receipt of orders at the manufacturing facilities. If customers request expedited orders,</p>
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	we'll work with our manufacturers to confirm we can ship products sooner. If there are expedited shipping charges from the carriers, we also will communicate them to the end user.
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3.2. Customer Service	
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<p>3.2.1. Customer Service Department. Describe your company's customer service department & operations. Your description may include, but is not limited to, hours of operation, number and location of service centers, parts outlets, number of customer service representatives. Clarify if the service centers are owned by your company or if they are a network of subcontractors.</p>	<p>A. School Specialty has more than 130 Customer Care Advocates in our three service centers that are owned by our company. A. Greenville, WI, Lombard, IL, and Mansfield, OH. Our hours of operations are 7:00AM – 5:00PM Central Standard Time.</p> <p>B. Online resources and tools are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Customers can place orders, change or cancel orders, obtain tracking information, request order documentation, report incomplete, missing, or damaged product and much more! To view the website to see the various services, please visit help.schoolspecialty.com</p> <p>C. For orders requiring installation services, we have five project management teams employed directly by School Specialty totaling 35 associates that are located in Mansfield, OH, that are responsible for every aspect of the orders once they are in-house from order entry to final punch list sign-off including resolving warranty or after final install issues. Our hour of operation is 7:00 – 5:00 EST; however, during back-to-school season, our project management teams are available much beyond our standard operating hours.</p>
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3.3. Customer Set Up; Order & Invoice Processing; Payment	
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<p>3.3.1. Proposal Development, Order, and Invoice Process. Describe your company's proposal development, order, and invoice process.</p>	<p>A Proposal Development – we have over Learning Environments 26 Strategic and Quote Specialists who work with our sales representatives and customers directly on their furniture proposal requests. Requests can be submitted via telephone, online, email, fax, or via our local Sales Representatives. They are routed to the appropriate team member that are aligned geographically by state. When quoting from the Equalis contract, the Specialists will have at their disposal via our system the rules of the agreement and how to price from it. Once the quotes are completed, the team will send back to the Members. Our goal is to complete non-installation required quotes within the same day of receipt if in-house by 2:00 EST or if installation services are needed, 24 – 48 hours after receipt of the requests.</p> <p>B. Orders – orders can be placed via 5 ways (Online via their specific accounts, Phone into our Service Centers between the hours of 7:00 – 5:00 CST, Email, Fax, or through their local School Specialty Sales representatives). We can accept orders with or without purchase orders depending upon the school districts</p>
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	<p>ordering rules. Our goal is to enter orders the same day received if requested via non-online services.</p> <p>C. Invoice Process – we offer two methods of invoicing. The first one is to provide an invoice on a manufacturer-by-manufacturer basis if multiple companies are utilized on an order. For example, if Classroom Select and National Public Seating items are on one order, we will invoice the end user for the Classroom Select items when they ship and then National Public Seating when their product ship. The other invoice option is called “Consolidated Invoicing”. This program enables us to not invoice until all manufacturers on an order ship, once all the product ship, we would provide one, single invoice. We can provide paper, email, or electronic (EDI) invoices which ever the district prefers.</p>
<p>3.3.2. Financing. Does your company offer any financing options or programs? If yes, describe the financing options available to Members.</p>	<p>We currently do not offer financing options or programs. Our payment terms are Net 30, but we can and often do extend the payment terms at the requests of customers and will for Equalis Members as well. Regardless of dollar value of Members’ individual purchase orders or contracts, we do not require school districts to prepay for products/services.</p>
<p>3.4. Sustainability, Reclamation, and Recycling Initiatives</p>	
<p>3.4.1. Sustainable Company Initiatives. Describe the ways in which your company is addressing the issue of sustainability.</p>	<p>School Specialty’s Continued Commitment to Sustainability and Engaging Employees, Students, and Customers on Their Green Journey. School Specialty, LLC has achieved Platinum status with the Green Business Bureau.</p> <p>The company joined the GBB in 2019 and has leveraged the platform and apps to manage their sustainability initiatives and track their progress. School Specialty, LLC completed enough initiatives to reach 400 EcoPoints™ to earn the GBB Platinum Seal. The company is committed to protecting the environment, engaging employees and customers in their sustainability efforts, and saving money through more efficient operations. They continue to utilize the GBB framework and online tools to become greener and meet their sustainability goals.</p> <p>School Specialty was looking for an opportunity to take small steps towards becoming a more environmentally friendly organization for both customers and employees. As a distributor of highly consumable products, it was important for them to look internally at what they could, and should, be doing to reduce their large footprint.</p> <p>Some of the activities which helped School Specialty achieve Platinum status toward green certification was the creation Green Teams throughout the company which served as the initial supporters of greening the business, enlisting and informing all employees of key activities, assessing where the organization was</p>

	<p>at in terms of green efforts and creating programs where employees can engage in green activities.</p> <p>Low Effort, High Impact Green Initiatives</p> <p>Like many organizations, School Specialty and their Project Green Teams initially focused on low-hanging fruit when the program first started. Putting focus on changes that include recycling of paper, adding low water flow sensors, changing out paper cups in the cafeterias to ceramic, ensuring that all cleaning supplies are green. After a bit of time the teams have started to tackle some of the long-term goals that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing virtual office spaces • Utilizing productivity tools like Microsoft Teams for meetings to reduce travel and the carbon footprint • Replacing employee water coolers with zero bottle coolers • Upgrading office lighting to LED • Working to make office and distribution spaces Zero Waste <p>“We are proud of accomplishing Platinum status with the Green Business Bureau and continue our commitment to create a more sustainable environment for both our employees and customers,” says Stacey Rubin, Senior Vice President of Marketing for School Specialty. “The elevated Platinum status with the GBB aligns well with our vision of Transforming More than Classrooms, and we are excited to have GBB as a valued partner with us.</p>
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4. PRICING

4.1. Cost Proposal

<p>4.1.1. Pricing Model. Provide a description of your pricing model or methodology identifying how the model works for the products and services included in your proposal.</p>	<p>In our response, we’re offering a discount off manufacturers’ price lists (MSRP) and a discount off School Specialty’s furniture & equipment catalog. For the discount off MSRP model, we’re offering a three-tiered, volume-based discount percentage per manufacturer that have product and freight included within these discounts (we included a percentage for installation services for both prevailing and non-prevailing wage projects/orders (Standard installation to be quoted, and cost will not exceed 18% of the order total. Prevailing wage/union installation to be quoted, and cost will not exceed 31% of the order total. For the discount off our furniture & equipment catalog, the discount is a single percentage; however, we can extend deeper discount for each individual opportunity. Freight is included within the discounts and installation services is the same as with the discount off MSRP model. Design and Project Management services are free, no cost to Equalis Members.</p>
<p>4.1.2. Auditable. Describe how the proposed pricing model is able to be audited by public sector agencies or CCOG to assure</p>	<p>Each Member will have their account loaded with the discounts off MRSP discounts along with our furniture & equipment catalog discount which enables the company to easily track and capture</p>

<p>compliance with pricing in the Master Agreement.</p>	<p>the correct pricing. As the pricing is systemically captured, we can easily provide public agencies & CCOG with auditing details by simply running reports that captures the customers individual purchase orders and invoices for auditing purposes. We can also provide copies of quotes, purchase orders, invoices, and other documents along with the account reports as well.</p>
<p>4.1.3. Cost Proposal Value. Which of the following statements best describes the pricing offered included in Respondent’s cost proposal.</p>	<p>The prices offered in your Cost Proposal are:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> lower than what you offer other group purchasing organizations, cooperative purchasing organizations, or state purchasing departments.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> equal to what you offer other group purchasing organizations, cooperative purchasing organizations, or state purchasing departments.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> higher than what you offer other group purchasing organizations, cooperative purchasing organizations, or state purchasing departments.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not applicable. Please explain below.</p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p>4.1.4. Additional Savings. Describe any quantity or volume discounts or rebate programs included in your Cost Proposal.</p>	<p>Although our pricing model is a three-tiered volume-based and discount off furniture & equipment catalog, we can extend or offer deeper discounts on an individual project basis. This is a method we currently follow not just for large projects but small opportunities as well.</p>
<p>4.1.5. Cost of Shipping. Is the cost of shipping included in the pricing submitted with your response? If no, describe how cost associated with freight, shipping, and delivery are calculated.</p>	<p>Yes, shipping is included in the pricing to all member agencies. Shipments to Alaska, Hawaii, and territories are prepaid to the port of exportation. Additional freight from US port to destination will be applied as a separate line item.</p>
<p>4.1.6. Pricing Open Market or Sourced Goods. If relevant, propose a method for the pricing of Open Market Items. For example, you may supply such items "at cost" or "at cost plus a percentage" or you supply a quote for each such request.</p> <p>NOTE: For a definition of Open Market Items, please refer to <u>Part One, Section 5.4 – Other Pricing Scenarios.</u></p>	<p>For open market items, we would follow our proposed discount off manufacturers’ price lists. Open market items would not fall within our furniture & catalog discount structure. Our discounts for open market items include discounts off MSRPs and includes shipping but not installation (that would be a separate line-item cost. Although our proposal is a two-tier, volume-based discount structure, we can extend deeper discounts on an individual job basis.</p>
<p>4.1.7. Total Cost of Acquisition. Identify any components included in the total cost of acquisition that are NOT included in the pricing submitted with your response. This cost includes all additional charges that are not directly identified as freight or shipping charges. For example, list costs for items like installation, set up,</p>	<p>School Specialty will quote standard installation at 18% and cost will not exceed this percentage of order totals. Prevailing wage/union installation to be quoted, and cost will not exceed 31% of the order total. If there is any type of mandatory training, the training will be included within these percentages.</p>

mandatory training, or initial inspection. Identify any parties that impose such costs and their relationship to the Respondent.

5. GO-TO-MARKET STRATEGY

5.1. Respondent Organizational Structure & Staffing of Relationship

5.1.1. Key Contacts. Provide contact information and resumes for the person(s) who will be responsible for the following areas;

1. Executive Contact
2. Contract Manager
3. Sales Leader
4. Reporting Contact
5. Marketing Contact.

***Indicate who the primary contact will be if it is not the Sales Leader.

Executive Contact

Name: Christopher O'Connor
 Title: Vice President of Sales, Eastern Sales Region
 Email Address: Christopher.O'Connor@schoolspecialty.com
 Telephone #: (413) 250-7388
 Years in Education K-12 Market: 23
 Years at School Specialty LLC: 23

Current Primary Responsibilities: vice-president with responsibility of managing a sales force with 110 sales team members. Manages all facets of the teams' sales activities over multiple corresponding categories including learning environment's furniture and equipment.

Contract Manager


Name: Leonard Adkins
 Title: Assistant Secretary/Bids & Contracts Manager
 Email Address: bidnotices@schoolspecialty.com
 Telephone #: (419) 589-1656
 Years in Education K-12 Market: 29.5
 Years at School Specialty LLC: 29.5
 Current Primary Responsibilities: manages learning environments bid/contract team that's responsible for responding to all furniture RFPs and bids for the company. Responsible for reviewing, signing, bids, RFPs, and awarded contract documents.

Sales Leader Contact

Name: Greg Harbaugh
 Title: Vice-President – Contracts & Strategic Agreements
 Email Address: greg.harbaugh@schoolspecialty.com
 Telephone #: (856) 217-8307
 Years in Education K-12 Market: 33
 Years at School Specialty LLC: 33
 Current Primary Responsibilities: oversees daily functions of School Specialty's Contracts, Cooperative and Strategic Agreements Team. Interacts with his team and sales representatives regarding creating contract sales strategy, cooperative partnership engagement, and creation of marketing material for awarded contracts.

	<p>Reporting Contact Name: Sherri Kremers Title: Report Analyst Email Address: sherri.kremers@schoolspecialty.com Telephone #: (920) 243-5275 Years in Education K-12 Market: 29 Years Years at School Specialty LLC: 29 Years Current Primary Responsibilities: Rebate, Administrative Fees, and Cooperative reporting, analyze sales data.</p> <p>Marketing Contact Name: Helen Schleis, Primary Contact Title: Director – Contracts, Cooperative and Strategic Agreements Email Address: helen.schleis@schoolspecialty.com Telephone #: (678) 823-5125 Years in Education K-12 Market: 27 Years at School Specialty LLC: 18 Current Primary Responsibilities: Work with School Specialty sales team on contract utilization, cooperative partner relationships, cooperative and contract marketing (creation of marketing materials).</p>
<p>5.1.2. Sales Organization. Provide a description of your sales organization, including key staff members, the size of the organization, in-house vs. third-party sales resources, geographic territories, vertical market segmentation, etc.</p>	<p>School Specialty has an extensive sales organization comprised of over 400 salespeople. This includes an Inside Sales team that primarily focuses on smaller accounts as well as a field sales team. Each field sales team has a Strategic Account Leader that covers multiple states and serves as the team leaders. He/she leads a team of Strategic Account Representatives and Inside sellers that all work together to service our customers. In addition, we have a separate sales team of Learning Environments Specialist that work in tandem with these teams but are solely focused on our furniture opportunities. Overseeing our sales organization are eight (8) Regional Managers and two (2) Vice Presidents of Sales.</p>
<p>5.2. Contract Implementation Strategy & Expectations</p>	
<p>5.2.1. Contract Expectation. What are your company’s expectations in the event of a contract award?</p>	<p>School Specialty expects a partnership and shared goals and targets with Equalis Group to increase contract utilization and revenue growth where beneficial and appropriate for both parties.</p>
<p>5.2.2. Five (5) Year Sales Vision & Strategy. Describe your company’s vision and strategy to leverage a resulting contract with Equalis over the next five (5) years. Your response may include but is not limited to; the geographic or public sector vertical markets being targeted; your strategy for acquiring new business and retaining existing business; how the</p>	<p>In partnership with Equalis Group, School Specialty will seek to inform members of the wide range of options available to them through SSL and the benefits of purchasing through the newly awarded contract. School Specialty will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish benchmarks and outline objectives for marketing performance and contract growth. • Inform existing Equalis Group customers of the newly awarded contract.

<p>contract will be deployed with your sales team; how you will market the contract, including deployment of the contract on your company website; how you will market the contract, including deployment of the contract on your company website; and the time frames in which this will be completed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform and secure new Equalis Group customers where strategically appropriate. <p>School Specialty will start this strategy with a marketing campaign centered on the newly awarded contract by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating existing School Specialty Equalis Group landing page with new contract information: https://select.schoolspecialty.com/equalis-group • Updating existing School Specialty Equalis Group comprehensive brochure and adjacent marketing collateral with new contract information. • Creating new School Specialty Sales Representative email template with Equalis Group contract information that can be utilized by SSL sellers. • Award Announcement Email Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Corresponding email dynamic copy block on existing SSL Audience Emails.
<p>5.2.3. Sales Objectives. What are your top line sales objectives in each of the five (5) years if awarded this contract?</p>	<p>Once the first year sales volume baseline is established, School Specialty’s top line sales objective would be to increase year over year growth in sales with continued contract utilization.</p>
<p>6. ADMIN FEE & REPORTING</p>	
<p>6.1. Administration Fee & Reporting</p>	

<p>6.1.1. Administrative Fee. Equalis Group only generates revenue when the Winning Supplier generates revenue based on contract utilization by current and future Members.</p> <p>The administrative fee is normally calculated as a percentage of the total Spend for agencies accessing product and services through the Master Agreement and is typically two percent (2%) to three percent (3%). In some categories, a flat fee or another fee structure may be acceptable.</p> <p>Please provide your organization's proposed Administrative Fee percentage or structure.</p> <p>NOTE: The proposed Administrative Fee language for this contract is based on the terms disclosed in the <u>Attachment A – Model Administration Agreement.</u></p>	
<p>6.1.2. Sales & Administrative Fee Reporting. Equalis Group requires monthly reports detailing sales invoiced the prior month and associated Administrative Fees earned by the 15th of each month. Confirm that your company will meet this reporting requirement. If not, explain why and propose an alternative time schedule for providing these reports to Equalis Group.</p>	<p>Yes, School Specialty will provide Equalis Group with the required monthly reports by the established dates with all required information.</p>
<p>6.1.3. Self-Audit. Describe any self-audit process or program that you plan to employ to verify compliance with your proposed contract with Equalis Group. This process includes ensuring that you sales organization provides and Members obtain the correct pricing, reports reflect all sales made under the Contract, and Winning Supplier remit the proper admin fee to Equalis.</p>	<p>Each Member account will have the pricing models loaded on their accounts which ensures we systemically can capture the correct discounts. When either the sales team or quotes team are working on pricing individual requests from the Members, the information is visible for them to review including the pertinent contract information. Each group would also receive training on how to properly price from the contract. As the pricing model are loaded on the individual accounts, our system tracks the correct sales for each order. We have a Corporate Sales Report Team that will run and provide monthly sales reports to CCOG at the required period as established by an agreement. We can also provide Members with their individual sales reports upon request or if they require them at specific times within the year.</p>

PROPOSAL FORM 2: COST PROPOSAL

A template for the Cost Proposal has been included as **Attachment B** and must be uploaded as a separate attachment to a Respondent's proposal submission. Respondents are permitted to revise any part of the spreadsheet to the Cost Proposal to accurately reflect the column titles, details, discounts, pricing categories of products, services, and solutions being offered to Equalis Group Members.

Respondent's Cost Proposal must include the information requested in **Section 5 – Cost Proposal & Pricing**.

NOTE: Cost Proposals will remain sealed and will only be opened and reviewed for those Respondents that meet the minimum Technical Proposal score threshold as described in **Section 6.2 - Evaluation and Scoring of Proposals**.

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PROPOSAL FORM 3: DIVERSITY VENDOR CERTIFICATION PARTICIPATION

Diversity Vendor Certification Participation - It is the policy of some Members participating in Equalis Group to involve minority and women business enterprises (M/WBE), small and/or disadvantaged business enterprises, disable veterans business enterprises, historically utilized businesses (HUB) and other diversity recognized businesses in the purchase of goods and services. Respondents shall indicate below whether or not they hold certification in any of the classified areas and include proof of such certification with their response.

a. Minority Women Business Enterprise

Respondent certifies that this firm is an MWBE: Yes No

List certifying agency: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

b. Small Business Enterprise (SBE) or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (“DBE”)

Respondent certifies that this firm is a SBE or DBE: Yes No

List certifying agency: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

c. Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise (DVBE)

Respondent certifies that this firm is an DVBE: Yes No

List certifying agency: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

d. Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB)

Respondent certifies that this firm is an HUB: Yes No

List certifying agency: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

e. Historically Underutilized Business Zone Enterprise (HUBZone)

Respondent certifies that this firm is an HUBZone: Yes No

List certifying agency: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

f. Other

Respondent certifies that this firm is a recognized diversity certificate holder: Yes No

List certifying agency: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

***Although School Specialty LLC does not hold any of the above listed diversity vendor certifications, we have installation subcontractors that hold various certifications. Please see their individual certificates under the “Proposal Form 4: Certification and Licenses” section within our response.**

PROPOSAL FORM 4: CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES

Provide a copy of all current licenses, registrations and certifications issued by federal, state and local agencies, and any other licenses, registrations or certifications from any other governmental entity with jurisdiction, allowing Respondent to provide the products and services included in their proposal which can include, but not limited to licenses, registrations or certifications. M/WBE, HUB, DVBE, small and disadvantaged business certifications and other diverse business certifications, as well as manufacturer certifications for sales and service must be included if applicable.

Please also list and include copies of any certificates you hold that would show value for your response and was not already included with the requested information above.

Please see attached School Specialty's registrations and certifications along with our installation partners MWBE certificates starting on page number 23.

(The rest of this page is intentionally left blank)

PROPOSAL FORM 5: UNRESOLVED FINDINGS FOR RECOVERY

O.R.C. Chapter 9.24 prohibits CCOG from awarding a contract to any entity against whom the Auditor of State has issued a finding for recovery, if such finding for recovery is “unresolved” at the time of award. By submitting a proposal, a Respondent warrants that it is not now, and will not become, subject to an “unresolved” finding for recovery under **O.R.C. Chapter 9.24** prior to the award of any contract arising out of this RFP, without notifying CCOG of such finding. The Proposal Review Team will not evaluate a proposal from any Respondent whose name, or the name of any of the subcontractors proposed by the Respondent, appears on the website of the Auditor of the State of Ohio as having an “unresolved” finding for recovery.

Is your company the subject of any unresolved findings for recoveries?

- Yes
- No

PROPOSAL FORM 6: MANDATORY DISCLOSURES

1. *Mandatory Contract Performance Disclosure.*

Disclose whether your company's performance and/or the performance of any of the proposed subcontractor(s) under contracts for the provision of products and services that are the same or similar to those to be provided for the Program which is the subject of this RFP has resulted in any formal claims for breach of those contracts. For purposes of this disclosure, "**formal claims**" means any claims for breach that have been filed as a lawsuit in any court, submitted for arbitration (whether voluntary or involuntary, binding or not), or assigned to mediation. For any such claims disclosed, fully explain the details of those claims, including the allegations regarding all alleged breaches, any written or legal action resulting from those allegations, and the results of any litigation, arbitration, or mediation regarding those claims, including terms of any settlement. While disclosure of any formal claims will not automatically disqualify a Respondent from consideration, at the sole discretion of Equalis Group, such claims and a review of the background details may result in a rejection of a Respondent's proposal. Equalis Group will make this decision based on the Proposal Review Team's determination of the seriousness of the claims, the potential impact that the behavior that led to the claims could have on the Respondent's performance of the work, and the best interests of Members.

Provide statement here. No Claims

2. *Mandatory Disclosure of Governmental Investigations.*

Indicate whether your company and/or any of the proposed subcontractor(s) has been the subject of any adverse regulatory or adverse administrative governmental action (federal, state, or local) with respect to your company's performance of services similar to those described in this RFP. If any such instances are disclosed, Respondents must fully explain, in detail, the nature of the governmental action, the allegations that led to the governmental action, and the results of the governmental action including any legal action that was taken against the Respondent by the governmental agency. While disclosure of any governmental action will not automatically disqualify a Respondent from consideration, such governmental action and a review of the background details may result in a rejection of the Respondent's proposal at Group's sole discretion. Equalis Group will make this decision based on the Proposal Review Team's determination of the seriousness of the claims, the potential impact that the behavior that led to the claims could have on the Respondent's performance of the work, and the best interests of Members.

Provide statement here. No Investigations

PROPOSAL FORM 7: DEALER, RESELLER, AND DISTRIBUTOR AUTHORIZATION

CCOG allows Suppliers to authorize dealers, distributors, and resellers to sell the products and services made available through, and consistent with the Terms and Conditions set forth in, the Master Agreement. If Supplier intends to authorize their dealers, distributors, or resellers access to the Master Agreement in the event of a contract award Supplier must provide a list, either in the form of a document or a weblink, to identify those organizations who are being authorized access to the Master Agreement.

Will the Supplier authorize dealers, distributors, resellers access to Master Agreement?

Yes

No

If yes, how will Supplier disclose which organization(s) will have access to the Master Agreement? This list can be updated from time to time upon CCOG's approval.

Respondent Response: Click or tap here to enter text.

PROPOSAL FORM 8: MANDATORY SUPPLIER & PROPOSAL CERTIFICATIONS

CCOG may not enter into contracts with any suppliers who have been found to be ineligible for state contracts under specific federal or Ohio statutes or regulations. Companies responding to any CCOG RFP MUST certify that they are NOT ineligible by signing each of the statements below. **Failure to provide proper affirming signature on any of these statements will result in a Respondent's proposal being deemed nonresponsive to this RFP.**

I, Leonard Adkins, hereby certify and affirm that School Specialty LLC, has not been debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in transactions by the United States Department of Labor, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, or any other federal department or agency as set forth in 29 CFR Part 98, or 45 CFR Part 76, or other applicable statutes.

AND

I, Leonard Adkins, hereby certify and affirm that School Specialty LLC, is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services and the following:

- Not penalized or debarred from any public contracts or falsified certified payroll records or any other violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act in the last three (3) years;
- Not found to have violated any worker's compensation law within the last three (3) years;
- Not violated any employee discrimination law within the last three (3) years;
- Not have been found to have committed more than one (1) willful or repeated OSHA violation of a safety standard (*as opposed to a record keeping or administrative standard*) in the last three (3) years;
- Not have an Experience Modification Rating of greater than 1.5 (a penalty-rated employer) with respect to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation risk assessment rating; and
- Not have failed to file any required tax returns or failed to pay any required taxes to any governmental entity within the past three (3) years.

AND

I, , hereby certify and affirm that , is not on the list established by the Ohio Secretary of State, pursuant to **ORC Section 121.23**, which identifies persons and businesses with more than one unfair labor practice contempt of court finding against them.

AND

I, , hereby certify and affirm that either is not subject to a finding for recovery under **ORC Section 9.24**, or has taken appropriate remedial steps required under that statute to resolve any findings for recovery, or otherwise qualifies under that section to enter into contracts with CCOG.

I, , hereby affirm that this proposal accurately represents the capabilities and qualifications of , and I hereby affirm that the cost(s) proposed to CCOG for the performance of services and/or provision of goods covered in this proposal in response to this CCOG RFP is a firm fixed price structure as described in the Cost Proposal, inclusive of all incidental as well as primary costs. (*Failure to provide the proper affirming signature on this item may result in the disqualification of your proposal.*)

PROPOSAL FORM 9: CLEAN AIR ACT & CLEAN WATER ACT

The Respondent is in compliance with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act of 1970, as Amended (42 U.S. C. 1857 (h), Section 508 of the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1368), Executive Order 117389 and Environmental Protection Agency Regulation, 40 CFR Part 15 as required under OMB Circular A-102, Attachment O, Paragraph 14 (1) regarding reporting violations to the grantor agency and to the United States Environment Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for the Enforcement.

Authorized signature: *Leonard Adkins*

Printed Name: Leonard Adkins

Company Name: School Specialty LLC

Mailing Address: 100 Paragon Parkway, Mansfield, OH 44903

Email Address: bidnotices@schoolspecialty.com

Job Title: Assistant Secretary

PROPOSAL FORM 10: DEBARMENT NOTICE

I, the Respondent, certify that my company has not been debarred, suspended or otherwise ineligible for participation in Federal Assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, "Debarment and Suspension", as described in the Federal Register and Rules and Regulations.

Respondents Name:	<u>Leonard Adkins</u>
Mailing Address:	<u>100 Paragon Parkway, Mansfield, OH 44903</u>
Signature	<u><i>Leonard Adkins</i></u>
Title of Signatory:	<u>Assistant Secretary</u>

PROPOSAL FORM 11: LOBBYING CERTIFICATIONS

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

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, on behalf of Respondent that:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of a Federal contract, the making of a Federal grant, the making of a Federal loan, the entering into a cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.
3. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all covered sub-awards exceeding one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in Federal funds at all appropriate tiers and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Signature: Leonard Adkins
Date: 11/7/23

PROPOSAL FORM 12: CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Contractor's Employment Eligibility

By entering the contract, Contractor warrants compliance with the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act (FINA), and all other federal and state immigration laws and regulations. The Contractor further warrants that it is in compliance with the various state statutes of the states it will operate this contract in.

Participating Government Entities including School Districts may request verification of compliance from any Contractor or subcontractor performing work under this Contract. These Entities reserve the right to confirm compliance in accordance with applicable laws.

Should the Participating Entities suspect or find that the Contractor or any of its subcontractors are not in compliance, they may pursue any and all remedies allowed by law, including, but not limited to: suspension of work, termination of the Contract for default, and suspension and/or debarment of the Contractor. All costs necessary to verify compliance are the responsibility of the Contractor.

The Respondent complies and maintains compliance with the appropriate statutes which requires compliance with federal immigration laws by State employers, State contractors and State subcontractors in accordance with the E-Verify Employee Eligibility Verification Program.

Contractor shall comply with governing board policy of the CCOG Participating entities in which work is being performed.

2. Fingerprint & Criminal Background Checks

If required to provide services on school district property at least five (5) times during a month, contractor shall submit a full set of fingerprints to the school district if requested of each person or employee who may provide such service. Alternately, the school district may fingerprint those persons or employees. An exception to this requirement may be made as authorized in Governing Board policy. The district shall conduct a fingerprint check in accordance with the appropriate state and federal laws of all contractors, subcontractors or vendors and their employees for which fingerprints are submitted to the district. Contractor, subcontractors, vendors and their employees shall not provide services on school district properties until authorized by the District.

The Respondent shall comply with fingerprinting requirements in accordance with appropriate statutes in the state in which the work is being performed unless otherwise exempted.

Contractor shall comply with governing board policy in the school district or Participating Entity in which work is being performed.

Signature: Leonard Adkins
Date: 11/7/23

PROPOSAL FORM 13: BOYCOTT CERTIFICATION

Respondent must certify that during the term of any Agreement, it does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel. "Boycott" means refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations specifically with Israel, or with a person or entity doing business in Israel or in an Israeli-controlled territory, but does not include an action made for ordinary business purposes.

Does Respondent agree? LA

(Initials of Authorized Representative)

PROPOSAL FORM 14: FEDERAL FUNDS CERTIFICATION FORMS

When a participating agency seeks to procure goods and services using funds under a federal grant or contract, specific federal laws, regulations, and requirements may apply in addition to those under state law. This includes, but is not limited to, the procurement standards of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 CFR 200 (sometimes referred to as the "Uniform Guidance" or "EDGAR" requirements).

All Respondents submitting proposals must complete this Federal Funds Certification Form regarding Respondent's willingness and ability to comply with certain requirements which may be applicable to specific participating agency purchases using federal grant funds. This completed form will be made available to Members for their use while considering their purchasing options when using federal grant funds. Members may also require Supplier Partners to enter into ancillary agreements, in addition to the contract's general terms and conditions, to address the member's specific contractual needs, including contract requirements for a procurement using federal grants or contracts.

For each of the items below, respondent should certify their agreement and ability to comply, where applicable, by having respondents authorized representative complete and initial the applicable lines after each section and sign the acknowledgment at the end of this form. If a Respondent fails to complete any item in this form, CCOG will consider the Respondent's response to be that they are unable or unwilling to comply. A negative response to any of the items may, if applicable, impact the ability of a participating agency to purchase from the Supplier Partner using federal funds.

1. *Supplier Partner Violation or Breach of Contract Terms*

Contracts for more than the simplified acquisition threshold currently set at one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000), which is the inflation adjusted amount determined by the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) as authorized by 41 USC 1908, must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where Supplier Partners violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate.

Any contract award will be subject to Terms and Conditions of the Master Agreement, as well as any additional terms and conditions in any purchase order, participating agency ancillary contract, or Member construction contract agreed upon by Supplier Partner and the participating agency which must be consistent with and protect the participating agency at least to the same extent as the CCOG Terms and Conditions.

The remedies under the contract are in addition to any other remedies that may be available under law or in equity. By submitting a proposal, you agree to these Supplier Partner violation and breach of contract terms.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

2. *Termination for Cause or Convenience*

When a participating agency expends federal funds, the participating agency reserves the right to immediately terminate any agreement in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) resulting from this procurement process in the event of a breach or default of the agreement by Offeror in the event Offeror fails to: (1) meet schedules, deadlines, and/or delivery dates within the time specified in the procurement solicitation, contract, and/or a purchase order; (2) make any payments owed; or (3) otherwise perform in accordance with the contract and/or the procurement solicitation. Participating agency also reserves the right to terminate the contract immediately, with written notice to offeror, for convenience, if participating agency believes, in its sole discretion that it is in the best interest of participating agency to do so. Respondent

will be compensated for work performed and accepted and goods accepted by participating agency as of the termination date if the contract is terminated for convenience of participating agency. Any award under this procurement process is not exclusive and participating agency reserves the right to purchase goods and services from other offerors when it is in participating agency's best interest.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

3. Equal Employment Opportunity

Except as otherwise provided under 41 CFR Part 60, all participating agency purchases or contracts that meet the definition of "federally assisted construction contract" in 41 CFR Part 60-1.3 shall be deemed to include the equal opportunity clause provided under 41 CFR 60-1.4(b), in accordance with Executive Order 11246, "Equal Employment Opportunity" (30 FR 12319, 12935, 3 CFR Part, 1964-1965 Comp., p. 339), as amended by Executive Order 11375, "Amending Executive Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity," and implementing regulations at 41 CFR Part 60, "Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor."

The equal opportunity clause provided under 41 CFR 60-1.4(b) is hereby incorporated by reference. Supplier Partner agrees that such provision applies to any participating agency purchase or contract that meets the definition of "federally assisted construction contract" in 41 CFR Part 60-1.3 and Supplier Partner agrees that it shall comply with such provision.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

4. Davis-Bacon Act

When required by Federal program legislation, Supplier Partner agrees that, for all participating agency prime construction contracts/purchases in excess of two thousand dollars (\$2,000), Supplier Partner shall comply with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 USC 3141-3144, and 3146-3148) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR Part 5, "Labor Standards Provisions Applicable to Contracts Covering Federally Financed and Assisted Construction"). In accordance with the statute, Supplier Partner is required to pay wages to laborers and mechanics at a rate not less than the prevailing wages specified in a wage determinate made by the Secretary of Labor. In addition, Supplier Partner shall pay wages not less than once a week.

Current prevailing wage determinations issued by the Department of Labor are available at www.wdol.gov. Supplier Partner agrees that, for any purchase to which this requirement applies, the award of the purchase to the Supplier Partner is conditioned upon Supplier Partner's acceptance of the wage determination.

Supplier Partner further agrees that it shall also comply with the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (40 USC 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 that each Supplier Partner or subrecipient must 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 he or she is otherwise entitled.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

5. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act

Where applicable, for all participating agency contracts or purchases in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers, Supplier Partner agrees to comply with 40 USC 3702 and 3704, as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR Part 5). Under 40 USC 3702 of the Act, Supplier Partner is required to compute the wages of every mechanic and laborer on the basis of a standard work week of forty (40) hours. Work in excess of the standard work week is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than one and a half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in the work week. The requirements of 40 USC 3704 are applicable to construction work and provide that no laborer or mechanic must be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous. These requirements do not apply to the purchases of supplies or materials or articles ordinarily available on the open market, or contracts for transportation or transmission of intelligence.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

6. Right to Inventions Made Under a Contract or Agreement

If the participating agency’s Federal award meets the definition of “funding agreement” under 37 CFR 401.2(a) and the recipient or subrecipient wishes to enter into a contract with a small business firm or nonprofit organization regarding the substitution of parties, assignment or performance or experimental, developmental, or research work under that “funding agreement,” the recipient or subrecipient must comply with the requirements of 37 CFR Part 401, “Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements,” and any implementing regulations issued by the awarding agency.

Supplier Partner agrees to comply with the above requirements when applicable.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

7. Clean Air Act and Federal Water Pollution Control Act

Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401-7671q.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 USC 1251-1387), as amended – Contracts and subgrants of amounts in excess of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) must contain a provision that requires the non-Federal award to agree to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401-7671q.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 USC 1251-1387). Violations must be reported to the Federal awarding agency and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

When required, Supplier Partner agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

8. Debarment and Suspension

Debarment and Suspension (Executive Orders 12549 and 12689) – A contract award (see 2 CFR 180.220) must not be made to parties listed on the government-wide exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM), in accordance

with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR Part 1966 Comp. p. 189) and 12689 (3CFR Part 1989 Comp. p. 235), "Debarment and Suspension." SAM Exclusions contains the names of parties debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies, as well as parties declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549.

Supplier Partner certifies that Supplier Partner is not currently listed on the government-wide exclusions in SAM, is not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies or declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549. Supplier Partner further agrees to immediately notify the Cooperative and all Members with pending purchases or seeking to purchase from Supplier Partner if Supplier Partner is later listed on the government-wide exclusions in SAM, or is debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies or declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

9. *Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment*

Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 USC 1352) – Supplier Partners that apply or bid for an award exceeding one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) must file the required certification. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it 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 USC 1352. Each tier must also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the non-Federal award. As applicable, Supplier Partner agrees to file all certifications and disclosures required by, and otherwise comply with, the Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 USC 1352).

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

10. *Procurement of Recovered Materials*

For participating agency purchases utilizing Federal funds, Supplier Partner agrees to comply with Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act where applicable and provide such information and certifications as a participating agency maybe required to confirm estimates and otherwise comply. The requirements of Section 6002 includes procuring only items designated in guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 40 CFR Part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or the value of the quantity acquired during the preceding fiscal year exceeded ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery, and establishing an affirmative procurement program for procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

11. *Profit as a Separate Element of Price*

For purchases using federal funds in excess of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000), a participating agency may be required to negotiate profit as a separate element of the price. See, 2 CFR 200.324(b). When required by a participating

agency, Supplier Partner agrees to provide information and negotiate with the participating agency regarding profit as a separate element of the price for a particular purchase. However, Supplier Partner agrees that the total price, including profit, charged by Supplier Partner to the participating agency shall not exceed the awarded pricing, including any applicable discount, under Supplier Partner’s Group Purchasing Agreement.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

12. Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment

Vendor agrees that recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending loan or grant funds to procure or obtain, extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain, or enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system from companies described in Public Law 115-232, section 889. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country are also prohibited.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

13. Domestic preferences for procurements

For participating agency purchases utilizing Federal funds, Respondent agrees to provide proof, where applicable, that the materials, including but not limited to, iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products are produced in the United States.

“Produced in the United States” means, for iron and steel products, that all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States.

“Manufactured products” means items and construction materials composed in whole or in part of non-ferrous metals such as aluminum; plastics and polymer-based products such as polyvinyl chloride pipe; aggregates such as concrete; glass, including optical fiber; and lumber.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

14. General Compliance and Cooperation with Members

In addition to the foregoing specific requirements, Vendor agrees, in accepting any purchase order from a Member, it shall make a good faith effort to work with Members to provide such information and to satisfy such requirements as may apply to a particular participating agency purchase or purchases including, but not limited to, applicable recordkeeping and record retention requirements.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

15. Applicability to Subcontractors

Offeror agrees that all contracts it awards pursuant to the Contract shall be bound by the foregoing terms and conditions.

Does Respondent agree? LA

(Initials of Authorized Representative)

By signature below, I certify that the information in this form is true, complete, and accurate and that I am authorized by my company to make this certification and all consents and agreements contained herein.

Authorized signature: *Leonard Adkins*

Printed Name: Leonard Adkins

Company Name: School Specialty LLC

Mailing Address: 100 Paragon Parkway, Mansfield, OH 44903

Job Title: Assistant Secretary

PROPOSAL FORM 15: FEMA FUNDING REQUIREMENTS CERTIFICATION FORMS

Please answer the following question. If yes, complete this Proposal Form.

In the event of a contract award, does the Respondent intend to make their products and services available to public agencies utilizing FEMA funds or seeking reimbursement from FEMA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

When a participating agency seeks to procure goods and services using funds under a federal grant or contract, specific federal laws, regulations, and requirements may apply in addition to those under state law. This includes, but is not limited to, the procurement standards of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 CFR 200 (sometimes referred to as the “Uniform Guidance” or “EDGAR” requirements). Additionally, Appendix II to Part 200 authorizes FEMA to require or recommend additional provisions for contracts.

All bidders submitting proposals who desire to work with Members utilizing FEMA funds must complete this FEMA Recommended Contract Provisions Form regarding bidder’s willingness and ability to comply with certain requirements which may be applicable to specific participating agency purchases using FEMA funds. This completed form will be made available to Members for their use while considering their purchasing options when using FEMA grant funds. Members may also require Supplier Partners to enter into ancillary agreements, in addition to the contract’s general terms and conditions, to address the member’s specific contractual needs, including contract requirements for a procurement using federal grants or contracts.

For each of the items below, Bidder should certify bidder’s agreement and ability to comply, where applicable, by having respondents authorized representative complete and initial the applicable lines after each section and sign the acknowledgment at the end of this form. If a Bidder fails to complete any item in this form, CCOG will consider the respondent’s response to be that they are unable or unwilling to comply. A negative response to any of the items may, if applicable, impact the ability of a participating agency to purchase from the Supplier Partner using federal funds.

16. Access to Records

For All Procurements

The Winning Supplier agrees to provide the participating agency, the pass-through entity (if applicable), the FEMA Administrator, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to this contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.

The Winning Supplier agrees to permit any of the foregoing parties to reproduce by any means whatsoever or to copy excerpts and transcriptions as reasonably needed.

The Winning Supplier agrees to provide the FEMA Administrator or his authorized representatives access to construction or other work sites pertaining to the work being completed under the contract.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

For Contracts Entered into After August 1, 2017, Under a Major Disaster or Emergency Declaration

In compliance with section 1225 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, the participating agency, and the Winning Supplier acknowledge and agree that no language in this contract is intended to prohibit audits or internal reviews by the FEMA Administrator or the Comptroller General of the United States.”

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

17. Changes

FEMA recommends that all contracts include a changes clause that describes how, if at all, changes can be made by either party to alter the method, price, or schedule of the work without breaching the contract. The language of the clause may depend on the nature of the contract and the procured item(s) or service(s). The participating agency should also consult their servicing legal counsel to determine whether and how contract changes are permissible under applicable state, local, or tribal laws or regulations.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

18. Use of DHS Seal, Logo, and Flags

The Winning Supplier shall not use the DHS seal(s), logos, crests, or reproductions of flags or likenesses of DHS agency officials without specific FEMA pre-approval. The contractor shall include this provision in any subcontracts.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

19. Compliance with Federal Law, Regulations, And Executive Orders and Acknowledgement of Federal Funding

This is an acknowledgement that when FEMA financial assistance is used to fund all or a portion of the participating agency's contract with the Winning Supplier, the Winning Supplier will comply with all applicable federal law, regulations, executive orders, FEMA policies, procedures, and directives.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

20. No Obligation by Federal Government

The federal government is not a party to this or any contract resulting from this or future procurements with the participating agencies and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-federal entity, contractor, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the contract.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

21. Program Fraud and False or Fraudulent Statements or Related Acts

The Winning Supplier acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chap. 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to the contractor's actions pertaining to this contract.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

22. Affirmative Socioeconomic Steps

If subcontracts are to be let, the Winning Supplier is required to take all necessary steps identified in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321(b)(1)-(5) to ensure that small and minority businesses, women’s business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

23. License and Delivery of Works Subject to Copyright and Data Rights

The Winning Supplier grants to the participating agency, a paid-up, royalty-free, nonexclusive, irrevocable, worldwide license in data first produced in the performance of this contract to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, including prepare derivative works, distribute copies to the public, and perform publicly and display publicly such data. For data required by the contract but not first produced in the performance of this contract, the Winning Supplier will identify such data and grant to the participating agency or acquires on its behalf a license of the same scope as for data first produced in the performance of this contract. Data, as used herein, shall include any work subject to copyright under 17 U.S.C. § 102, for example, any written reports or literary works, software and/or source code, music, choreography, pictures or images, graphics, sculptures, videos, motion pictures or other audiovisual works, sound and/or video recordings, and architectural works. Upon or before the completion of this contract, the Winning Supplier will deliver to the participating agency data first produced in the performance of this contract and data required by the contract but not first produced in the performance of this contract in formats acceptable by the (insert name of the non-federal entity).

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

By signature below, I certify that the information in this form is true, complete, and accurate and that I am authorized by my company to make this certification and all consents and agreements contained herein.

Authorized signature:

Leonard Adkins

Printed Name: Leonard Adkins
Company Name: School Specialty LLC
Mailing Address: 100 Paragon Parkway, Mansfield, OH 44903
Job Title: Assistant Secretary

PROPOSAL FORM 16: ARIZONA CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS

Please answer the following question. If yes, please complete this Proposal Form.

Does the awarded supplier intend to make their products and services available to public agencies in the State of Arizona?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

In the event the Awarded Supplier desires to pursue public sector opportunities in the State of Arizona, it is important to understand the requirements for working with those public agencies. The documentation and information contained in this proposal form are intended to provide the Respondent with documentation that could be relevant to the providing products & services to public agencies in the State of Arizona. It is the responsibility of the public agency to ensure they are in compliance with local requirements.

AZ Compliance with Federal and State Requirements

Contractor agrees when working on any federally assisted projects with more than \$2,000.00 in labor costs, to comply with all federal and state requirements, as well as Equal Opportunity Employment requirements and all other federal and state laws, statutes, etc. Contractor agrees to post wage rates at the work site and submit a copy of their payroll to the member for their files. Contractor must retain records for three years to allow the federal grantor agency access to these records, upon demand. Contractor also agrees to comply with the Arizona Executive Order 75-5, as amended by Executive Order 99-4.

When working on contracts funded with Federal Grant monies, contractor additionally agrees to comply with the administrative requirements for grants, and cooperative agreements to state, local and federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments.

AZ compliance with workforce requirements

Pursuant to ARS 41-4401, Contractor and subcontractor(s) warrant their compliance with all federal and state immigration laws and regulations that relate to their employees, and compliance with ARS 23-214 subsection A, which states, "... every employer, after hiring an employee, shall verify the employment eligibility of the employee through the E-Verify program"

CCOG reserves the right to cancel or suspend the use of any contract for violations of immigration laws and regulations. CCOG and its members reserve the right to inspect the papers of any contractor or subcontract employee who works under this contract to ensure compliance with the warranty above.

AZ Contractor Employee Work Eligibility

By entering into this contract, contractor agrees and warrants compliance with A.R.S. 41-4401, A.R.S. 23-214, the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act (FINA), and all other Federal immigration laws and regulations. CCOG and/or CCOG members may request verification of compliance from any contractor or sub-contractor performing work under this contract. CCOG and CCOG members reserve the right to confirm compliance. In the event that CCOG or CCOG members suspect or find that any contractor or subcontractor is not in compliance, CCOG may pursue any and all remedies allowed by law, including but not limited to suspension of work, termination of contract, suspension and/or debarment of the contractor. All cost associated with any legal action will be the responsibility of the contractor.

AZ Non-Compliance

All federally assisted contracts to members that exceed \$10,000.00 may be terminated by the federal grantee for noncompliance by contractor. In projects that are not federally funded, Respondent must agree to meet any federal, state or local requirements as necessary. In addition, if compliance with the federal regulations increases the contract costs beyond the agreed upon costs in this solicitation, the additional costs may only apply to the portion of the work paid by the federal grantee.

Registered Sex Offender Restrictions (Arizona)

For work to be performed at an Arizona school, contractor agrees that no employee or employee of a subcontractor who has been adjudicated to be a registered sex offender will perform work at any time when students are present, or reasonably expected to be present. Contractor agrees that a violation of this condition shall be considered a material breach and may result in the cancellation of the purchase order at the CCOG member’s discretion. Contractor must identify any additional costs associated with compliance to this term. If no costs are specified, compliance with this term will be provided at no additional charge.

Offshore Performance of Work Prohibited

Due to security and identity protection concerns, direct services under this contract shall be performed within the borders of the United States.

Terrorism Country Divestments: In accordance with A.R.S. 35-392, CCOG and CCOG members are prohibited from purchasing from a company that is in violation of the Export Administration Act. By entering into the contract, contractor warrants compliance with the Export Administration Act.

The undersigned hereby accepts and agrees to comply with all statutory compliance and notice requirements listed in this document.

Does Respondent agree? LA
(Initials of Authorized Representative)

Date: 11/7/23

PROPOSAL FORM 17: NEW JERSEY REQUIREMENTS

Please answer the following question. If yes, please complete this Proposal Form.

Does the awarded supplier intend to make their products and services available to public agencies in the State of New Jersey?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

In the event the Awarded Supplier desires to pursue public sector opportunities in the State of New Jersey, it is important to understand the requirements for working with those public agencies. The documentation and information contained in this proposal form are intended to provide the Respondent with documentation that could be relevant to the providing products & services to public agencies in the State of New Jersey. It is the responsibility of the public agency to ensure they are in compliance with local requirements.

New Jersey vendors are also required to comply with the following New Jersey statutes when applicable:

- All anti-discrimination laws, including those contained in N.J.S.A. 10:2-1 through N.J.S.A. 10:2-14, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1, and N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 through 10:5-38.
- Compliance with Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.26, for all contracts within the contemplation of the Act.
- Compliance with Public Works Contractor Registration Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.26
- Bid and Performance Security, as required by the applicable municipal or state statutes.

A. Ownership Disclosure Form (N.J.S. 52:25-24.2)

Pursuant to the requirements of P.L. 1999, Chapter 440 effective April 17, 2000 (Local Public Contracts Law), the Respondent shall complete the form attached to these specifications listing the persons owning 10 percent (10%) or more of the firm presenting the proposal.

Company Name: School Specialty LLC
Street: 100 Paragon Parkway
City, State, Zip Code: Mansfield, OH 44903

Complete as appropriate:

I, **Click or tap here to enter text.**, certify that I am the sole owner of **Click or tap here to enter text.**, that there are no partners and the business is not incorporated, and the provisions of N.J.S. 52:25-24.2 do not apply.

OR:

I, **Click or tap here to enter text.**, a partner in **Click or tap here to enter text.**, do hereby certify that the following is a list of all individual partners who own a 10% or greater interest therein. I further certify that if one (1) or more of the partners is itself a corporation or partnership, there is also set forth the names and addresses of the stockholders holding 10% or more of that corporation's stock or the individual partners owning 10% or greater interest in that partnership.

OR:

I, Leonard Adkins, an authorized representative School Specialty LLC, a corporation, do hereby certify that the following is a list of the names and addresses of all stockholders in the corporation who own 10% or more of its stock of any class. I further certify that if one (1) or more of such stockholders is itself a corporation or partnership, that there is also set forth the names and addresses of the stockholders holding 10% or more of the corporation's stock or the individual partners owning a 10% or greater interest in that partnership.

(Note: If there are no partners or stockholders owning 10% or more interest, indicate none.)

Name	Address	Interest
SSI Parent LLC	W6316 Design Dr, Greenville, WI 54942	100%

FEIN # 85-2150354

I further certify that the statements and information contained herein, are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Leonard Adkins

Date: 11/7/23

B. Non-Collusion Affidavit

Respondent Name: Leonard Adkins

Street Address: 100 Paragon Parkway

City, State Zip: Mansfield, OH 44903

~~State of New Jersey~~ State of Ohio

County of Richland

I, Leonard Adkins of the Mansfield in the County of Richland, State of Ohio of full age, being duly sworn according to law on my oath depose and say that:

I am the Assistant Secretary of the firm of School Specialty LLC the Respondent making the Proposal for the goods, services or public work specified under the Harrison Township Board of Education attached proposal, and that I executed the said proposal with full authority to do so; that said Respondent has not directly or indirectly entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free, competitive bidding in connection with the above proposal, and that all statements contained in said bid proposal and in this affidavit are true and correct, and made with full knowledge that the Harrison Township Board of Education relies upon the truth of the statements contained in said bid proposal and in the statements contained in this affidavit in awarding the contract for the said goods, services or public work.

I further warrant that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure such contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by

Authorized signature: Leonard Adkins
Job Title: Assistant Secretary

Subscribed and sworn before me

this 7th day of Nov, 2023

Cassie G. Oakley

Notary Public of ~~New Jersey~~ Notary Public of Ohio

My commission expires January 21, 2026

SEAL



CASSIE G OAKLEY
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires:
1/21/2026

C. Affirmative Action Affidavit (P.L. 1975, C.127)

Company Name: School Specialty LLC
Street Address: 100 Paragon Parkway
City, State, Zip Code: Mansfield, OH 44903

Bid Proposal Certification:

Indicate below your compliance with New Jersey Affirmative Action regulations. Your proposal will be accepted even if you are not in compliance at this time. No contract and/or purchase order may be issued, however, until all Affirmative Action requirements are met.

Required Affirmative Action Evidence:

Procurement, Professional & Service Contracts (Exhibit A)

Suppliers must submit with proposal:

1. A photo copy of their Federal Letter of Affirmative Action Plan Approval
OR
2. A photo copy of their Certificate of Employee Information Report
OR
3. A complete Affirmative Action Employee Information Report (AA302) **Please see attached AA302 Certificate on page # 195.**

Public Work – Over \$50,000 Total Project Cost:

No approved Federal or New Jersey Affirmative Action Plan. We will complete Report Form AA201-A upon receipt from the Harrison Township Board of Education

Approved Federal or New Jersey Plan – certificate enclosed

I further certify that the statements and information contained herein, are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Authorized Signature: Leonard Adkins
Title of Signatory: Assistant Secretary
Date: 11/7/23

P.L. 1995, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27)

MANDATORY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION LANGUAGE

PROCUREMENT, PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE CONTRACTS

During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, affectional or sexual orientation. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, affectional or sexual orientation. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment

advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this non-discrimination clause.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable will, in all solicitations or advertisement for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, affectional or sexual orientation.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this act and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to attempt in good faith to employ minority and female workers trade consistent with the applicable county employment goal prescribed by N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2 promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, C.127, as amended and supplemented from time to time or in accordance with a binding determination of the applicable county employment goals determined by the Affirmative

Action Office pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2 promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, C.127, as amended and supplemented from time to time.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to inform in writing appropriate recruitment agencies in the area, including employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to revise any of it testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job-related testing, as established by the statutes and court decisions of the state of New Jersey and as established by applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and lay-off to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, and conform with the applicable employment goals, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

The contractor and its subcontractors shall furnish such reports or other documents to the Affirmative Action Office as may be requested by the office from time to time in order to carry out the purposes of these regulations, and public agencies shall furnish such information as may be requested by the Affirmative Action Office for conducting a compliance investigation pursuant to Subchapter 10 of the Administrative Code (NJAC 17:27).

Leonard Adkins

Signature of Procurement Agent

D. C. 271 Political Contribution Disclosure Form

PUBLIC AGENCY INSTRUCTIONS

This page provides guidance to public agencies entering into contracts with business entities that are required to file Political Contribution Disclosure forms with the agency. **It is not intended to be provided to contractors.** What follows are instructions on the use of form local units can provide to contractors that are required to disclose political contributions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26 (P.L. 2005, c. 271, s.2). Additional information is available in Local Finance Notice 2006-1 (https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/resources/lfns_2006.html).

1. The disclosure is required for all contracts in excess of \$17,500 that are **not awarded** pursuant to a “fair and open” process (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7).
2. Due to the potential length of some contractor submissions, the public agency should consider allowing data to be submitted in electronic form (i.e., spreadsheet, pdf file, etc.). Submissions must be kept with the contract documents or in an appropriate computer file and be available for public access. **The form is worded to accept this alternate submission.** The text should be amended if electronic submission will not be allowed.
3. The submission must be **received from the contractor and** on file at least 10 days prior to award of the contract. Resolutions of award should reflect that the disclosure has been received and is on file.
4. The contractor must disclose contributions made to candidate and party committees covering a wide range of public agencies, including all public agencies that have elected officials in the county of the public agency, state legislative positions, and various state entities. The Division of Local Government Services recommends that contractors be provided a list of the affected agencies. This will assist contractors in determining the campaign and political committees of the officials and candidates affected by the disclosure.
 - a) The Division has prepared model disclosure forms for each county. They can be downloaded from the “County PCD Forms” link on the Pay-to-Play web site at https://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/pay_2_play.html. They will be updated from time-to-time as necessary.
 - b) A public agency using these forms **should edit them to properly reflect the correct legislative district(s)**. As the forms are county-based, **they list all legislative districts** in each county. **Districts that do not represent the public agency should be removed from the lists.**
 - c) Some contractors may find it easier to provide a single list that covers all contributions, regardless of the county. These submissions are appropriate and should be accepted.
 - d) The form may be used “as-is”, subject to edits as described herein.
 - e) The “Contractor Instructions” sheet is intended to be provided with the form. It is recommended that the Instructions and the form be printed on the same piece of paper. The form notes that the Instructions are printed on the back of the form; where that is not the case, the text should be edited accordingly.
 - f) The form is a Word document and can be edited to meet local needs, and posted for download on web sites, used as an e-mail attachment, or provided as a printed document.
5. It is recommended that the contractor also complete a “Stockholder Disclosure Certification.” This will assist the local unit in its obligation to ensure that contractor did not make any prohibited contributions to the committees listed on the Business Entity Disclosure Certification in the 12 months prior to the contract. (See Local Finance Notice 2006-7 for additional information on this obligation) A sample Certification form is part of this package and the instruction to complete it is included in the Contractor Instructions. **NOTE: This section is not applicable to Boards of Education.**

CONTRACTOR INSTRUCTIONS

Business entities (contractors) receiving contracts from a public agency in the state of New Jersey that are NOT awarded pursuant to a “fair and open” process (defined at [N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7](#)) are subject to the provisions of P.L. 2005, c. 271, s.2 ([N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26](#)). This law provides that 10 days prior to the award of such a contract, the contractor shall disclose contributions to:

- any State, county, or municipal committee of a political party
- any legislative leadership committee*
- any continuing political committee (a.k.a., political action committee)
- any candidate committee of a candidate for, or holder of, an elective office:
 - of the public entity awarding the contract
 - of that county in which that public entity is located
 - of another public entity within that county
 - or of a legislative district in which that public entity is located or, when the public entity is a county, of any legislative district which includes all or part of the county. The disclosure must list reportable contributions to any of the committees that exceed \$300 per election cycle that were made during the 12 months prior to award of the contract. See [N.J.S.A. 19:44A-8](#) and [19:44A-16](#) for more details on reportable contributions.

[N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26](#) itemizes the parties from whom contributions must be disclosed when a business entity is not a natural person. This includes the following:

- individuals with an “interest” ownership or control of more than 10% of the profits or assets of a business entity or 10% of the stock in the case of a business entity that is a corporation for profit
- all principals, partners, officers, or directors of the business entity or their spouses
- any subsidiaries directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity
- IRS Code Section 527 New Jersey based organizations, directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity and filing as continuing political committees, (PACs). When the business entity is a natural person, “a contribution by that person’s spouse or child, residing therewith, shall be deemed to be a contribution by the business entity.” [[N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26\(b\)](#)] The contributor must be listed on the disclosure. Any business entity that fails to comply with the disclosure provisions shall be subject to a fine imposed by ELEC in an amount to be determined by the Commission which may be based upon the amount that the business entity failed to report. The enclosed list of agencies is provided to assist the contractor in identifying those public agencies whose elected official and/or candidate campaign committees are affected by the disclosure requirement. It is the contractor’s responsibility to identify the specific committees to which contributions may have been made and need to be disclosed. The disclosed information may exceed the minimum requirement. The enclosed form, a content-consistent facsimile, or an electronic data file containing the required details (along with a signed cover sheet) may be used as the contractor’s submission and is disclosable to the public under the Open Public Records Act. The contractor must also complete the attached Stockholder Disclosure Certification. This will assist the agency in meeting its obligations under the law.

NOTE: This section does not apply to Board of Education contracts.

¹ [N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3\(s\)](#): “The term “legislative leadership committee” means a committee established, authorized to be established, or designated by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly or the Minority Leader of the General Assembly pursuant to section 16 of P.L.1993, c.65 ([C.19:44A-10.1](#)) for the purpose of receiving contributions and making expenditures.”

C. 271 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM

Required Pursuant To [N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26](#)

This form or its permitted facsimile must be submitted to the local unit no later than 10 days prior to the award of the contract.

Part I – Vendor Information

List of Agencies with Elected Officials Required for Political Contribution Disclosure

N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26

County Name:

State: Governor, and Legislative Leadership Committees

Legislative District #s:

State Senator and two members of the General Assembly per district.

County:

Freeholders	County Clerk	Sheriff
{County Executive}	Surrogate	

Municipalities (Mayor and members of governing body, regardless of title):

USERS SHOULD CREATE THEIR OWN FORM, OR DOWNLOAD FROM WWW.NJ.GOV/DCA/LGS/P2P A COUNTY-BASED, CUSTOMIZABLE FORM.

E. Stockholder Disclosure Certification

Name of Business:

I certify that the list below contains the names and home addresses of all stockholders holding 10% or more of the issued and outstanding stock of the undersigned.

OR

I certify that no one stockholder owns 10% or more of the issued and outstanding stock of the undersigned.

Check the box that represents the type of business organization:

- Partnership
- Corporation
- Sole Proprietorship
- Limited Partnership
- Limited Liability Corporation
- Limited Liability Partnership
- Subchapter S Corporation

Sign and notarize the form below, and, if necessary, complete the stockholder list below.

Stockholders:

Name: SSI Parent LLC	Name: Stockholder Name
Home Address: W6316 Design Drive Greenville, WI 54942	Home Address: Home Address
Name: Stockholder Name	Name: Stockholder Name

Home Address:
Home Address

Home Address:
Home Address

Name: Stockholder Name

Name: Stockholder Name

Home Address:
Home Address

Home Address:
Home Address

Subscribed and sworn before me this 7 day of _____
____November_____, 2023 ____.

Leonard Adkins
(Affiant)

(Notary Public)

Leonard Adkins, Assistant Secretary

(Print name & title of affiant)



CASSIE G. OAKLEY
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires:
1/21/2026

My Commission expires: January 21st, 2026



(Corporate Seal)

PROPOSAL FORM 18: GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ACCEPTANCE FORM

Check one of the following responses to the General Terms and Conditions in this solicitation, including the Master Agreement:

We take no exceptions/deviations to the general terms and conditions.
(Note: If none are listed below, it is understood that no exceptions/deviations are taken.)

We take the following exceptions/deviations to the general terms and conditions. All exceptions/deviations must be clearly explained. Reference the corresponding general terms and conditions that you are taking exceptions/deviations to. Clearly state if you are adding additions terms and conditions to the general terms and conditions. Provide details on your exceptions/deviations below:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

(Note: Unacceptable exceptions shall remove your proposal from consideration for award. CCOG shall be the sole judge on the acceptance of exceptions/deviations and the decision shall be final.)

PROPOSAL FORM 19: EQUALIS GROUP ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT DECLARATION

Attachment A - Sample Administration Agreement of this solicitation is for reference only. Contracting with Equalis Group and the Winning Supplier will occur after contract award.

Execution of the Administration Agreement is required for the Master Agreement to be administered by Equalis Group. **Attachment A - Sample Administration Agreement** defines i) the roles and responsibilities of both parties relating to marketing and selling the Program to current and prospective Members, and ii) the financial terms between Equalis Group and Winning Supplier.

Redlined copies of this agreement should not be submitted with the response.

Should a Respondent be recommended for award, this agreement will be negotiated and executed between Equalis Group and the Respondent. Respondents must select one of the following options for submitting their response.

- Respondent agrees to all terms and conditions in **Attachment A - Sample Administration Agreement**.
- Respondent wishes to negotiate directly with Equalis Group on terms and conditions in the Sample Administration Agreement. Negotiations will commence after CCOG has completed contract award.

PROPOSAL FORM 20: MASTER AGREEMENT SIGNATURE FORM

RESPONDENTS MUST SUBMIT THIS FORM COMPLETED AND SIGNED WITH THEIR RESPONSE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AWARD.

The undersigned hereby proposes and agrees to furnish Products & Services in strict compliance with the terms, specifications, and conditions contained within this RFP and the Master Agreement at the prices proposed within the submitted proposal unless noted in writing. The undersigned further certifies that he/she is an officer of the company and has authority to negotiate and bind the company named below and has not prepared this proposal in collusion with any other Respondent and that the contents of this proposal as to prices, terms or conditions of said proposal have not been communicated by the undersigned nor by any employee or agent to any person engaged in this type of business prior to the official opening of this proposal.

Company Name School Specialty LLC
Address 100 Paragon Parkway
City/State/Zip Mansfield, OH 44903
Phone Number 419-589-1656
Email Address bidnotices@schoolspecialty.com
Printed Name Leonard Adkins
Job Title Assistant Secretary

Authorized Signature 

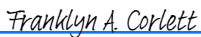
Initial Term of the Master Agreement


Contract Effective Date: January 1, 2024
Contract Expiration Date: December 31, 2027
Contract Number: COG-21520

(Note: Contract Number will be applied prior to CCOG and Equalis Group countersigning.)

The Cooperative Council of Governments, Inc.
6001 Cochran Road, Suite 333
Cleveland, Ohio 44139

Equalis Group, LLC.
5550 Granite Parkway, Suite 298
Plano, Texas 75024

By: 
Franklyn A. Corlett (Jan 19, 2024 08:52 EST)
Name: Franklyn A. Corlett
As: CCOG Board President
Date: Jan 19, 2024

By: 
Eric Merkle (Jan 19, 2024 07:44 CST)
Name: Eric Merkle
As: EVP, Procurement & Operations
Date: Jan 19, 2024