

(ATTACHMENT 1) ACTION ON THE AWARD OF EXCEPTION-TO-BID CONTRACTS

This item initiated by the Administration.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the following exception-to-bid requests:

Exception Authorization to Extend a Contract with Cooperative Education Service Agency #1 to Provide Educational Coaching

The Administration is requesting authorization to extend a contract with Cooperative Education Service Agency #1 ("CESA #1"), for Educational Coaching. The contractor shall provide a total of 138 full days of instructional coaching to Milwaukee Public Schools between July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The Administration is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with CESA #1 for instructional coaching services. As part of the "Every Student Succeeds Act" Milwaukee Public Schools is required to implement a research based professional learning strategy.

High-Quality Professional Learning Strategy: Schools will implement evidence-based professional learning for staff in content knowledge and instructional practices. The professional learning must be aligned to curriculum, assessments and standards focusing on a topic for a minimum of 50 hours over time. Authentic experiences should be provided where teachers can collaborate and struggle through issues related to implementing the new information into their practice. All professional learning needs measurable outcomes for learning, implementation and student learning. Ongoing supports must be evident such that staff are provided coaching, mentoring, observations and feedback to successfully implement their learning.

Part of this strategy includes a robust coaching component. CESA #1 will be contracted to provide training for all Instructional Coaches, and School Support Teachers to effectively implement and support the district-wide and school-based professional learning work in the district. This work will be aligned to the Ambitious Instruction: Accelerating Learning framework. CESA #1 will also provide ongoing school-based coaching support and guidance to designated school staff in specific high-needs schools.

This contract is an Exception to Bid per the direction of the Department of Public Instruction. The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis that the services under this contract comply with an established MPS standard (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(vi)).

This contract will run from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and the total cost will not exceed \$246,400.

Budget Code:

SDV-0-S-3Z4-DW-ECTS.....(Contract Services)\$246,400.00

Cooperative Education Service Agency #1

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%

Proposed0%

\$ ValueN/A

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS
Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

Exception Authorization to Extend a Contract with Cooperative Educational Service Agency #9 (CESA #9)/Wisconsin Virtual School for the Provision of Virtual Program/School

The Administration is requesting authorization to extend a contract with Cooperative Educational Service Agency #9 (CESA #9)/ Wisconsin Virtual School (WVS) for the provision of equitably-accessible, high-quality online educational options, courses, and services for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and its students for use in an MPS virtual program/school. Contractor will be used to deliver online education courses in grades 6 through 12 as well as advanced-placement and credit-recovery courses that align with Wisconsin State Standards. Contractor will utilize staff that hold appropriate teachers' licenses from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for the subject area and grade level of each online education course. Contractor will also provide guidance and training for MPS administration and staff to teach courses and to further develop and operate the MPS virtual program and school.

This contract is in response to, and in alignment with, the Board's approval of the Administration's regional development plan on July 26, 2018 which directed establishing a MPS virtual school to begin effective with the second semester of the 2018-19 school year.

WVS, which has been operated out of CESA #9 since 2000, is the state-led online and blended-learning supplemental program that partners with school districts throughout Wisconsin to offer online courses to middle- and high-school students. WVS has an agreement with DPI to provide online courses and services to Wisconsin schools as a partner in the Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative (WDLC). The WDLC consists of two collaborating organizations, WVS and the Wisconsin eSchool Network. These two organizations partner with DPI to provide a single point for schools to access quality online courses. Combined, the programs provide partnership pathways for schools to provide a variety of online and blended-learning opportunities. WVS provides high-quality, media-rich online courses that meet Wisconsin and national standards and are taught by instructors holding appropriate Wisconsin DPI licensing. WVS also offers assistance and training to districts in developing their own virtual programs. As such, WVS is uniquely situated to provide the services requested by MPS.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis that the services under this contract are considered one-of-a-kind and competitive vendors do not exist (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(i)).

The contract extension will run from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and the total cost will not exceed \$350,000.

Budget Codes:

GOE-0-I-1T4-SM-ECTV.....\$350,000.00

Cooperative Educational Service Agency #9 (CESA #9)/Wisconsin Virtual School

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required.....0%

Proposed.....0%

\$ Value.....N/A

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 200 HOURS

Exception Authorization to Contract with Chenhalls Nissen, S.C., (Chenhalls) to Provide Legal Services in Processing H-1B Paperwork for Recruitment of International Teachers

The Administration is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Chenhalls Nissen, S.C., (Chenhalls) to provide legal assistance in processing H-1B paperwork for current employees and new hires. Specifically, Chenhalls will provide counsel and legal advice to the district concerning its Labor Condition Application (LCA) with the U.S. Department of Labor. Additionally, Chenhalls will complete, file, and maintain petitions seeking approval of H-1B classification and status from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for district employees. Chenhalls has provided legal services to the district with regard to employees on H-1B visas since 2017. Jennifer Nissen, the attorney of record on the district’s H-1B visa cases, has provided these services to the district since 2014.

Chenhalls has worked closely with Human Resources on H-1B visa cases and has extensive knowledge of district operations which facilitate efficient processing of H-1B visa cases. Switching law firms would be detrimental to district operations as efficiencies would be diminished which would result in delays in getting international teachers into classrooms.

The exception to bid has been approved on the basis of continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(E)(1)(b)(iv)).

The contract will run from September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024. The total cost of the contract will not exceed \$350,000.00.

Budget Code:

DTI-0-S-9C4-HR-ECTS.....(Contracted Services)..... \$350,000.00

Chenhalls Nissen, S.C.

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%

Proposed0%

\$ ValueNA

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

Exception Authorization to Enter into a Contract with Qualtrics, LLC for Provision of Survey Software, Associated Dashboards.

The Administration is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Qualtrics, LLC to continue to provide technical support and maintenance as well as administration of the district’s survey software and associated dashboards. This request continues with the use of the software to the "Employee Experience Life Cycle and Exit" solution. This includes unlimited touchpoints, dashboards, automated directory import, automated actions, expert content and pre-configured questions and reporting, as well as ‘always on feedback’.

Qualtrics, LLC was originally chosen via Quick Quote to provide survey software for the Division of Research and Evaluation, which has expanded to now include all district staff under the current contract. Therefore, the exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis of continuity of services (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(iv)).

This contract will run from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The total cost of the contract will not exceed \$277,068.75.

Budget Code:

SYS-0-0-AMT-RH-ECTS.....(Instructional Resources – Software).....\$184,668.75
 DTI-0-S-9C4-HR-ECTS.....(Instructional Resources – Software).....\$92,400.00

Qualtrics, LLC.

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%

Proposed0%

\$ ValueNA

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

Exception Authorization to Enter into a Contract with The Writing Revolution Inc. for Writing Strategies Training

The Administration is requesting authorization to issue a contract with The Writing Revolution Inc for Advanced Thinking Through Writing training.

This 3-day training course introduces participants to the Hochman Method, an explicit set of sequenced strategies for teaching expository writing that can be integrated into any content. Specific strategies are presented to improve the structure, coherence and clarity of students’ writing, beginning at the sentence level. The focus moves to outlines, paragraphs, and compositions. Participants will also learn how to teach notetaking, summarization, and revision. There are opportunities to practice and create activities as well as receive feedback from The Writing Revolution Inc faculty. This training is for educators in grades 3 – 12 and high school writing coaches.

The exception to bid has been approved on the basis of continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(E)(1)(b)(iv)).

The contract will run from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The total cost of the contract will not exceed \$56,000.

Budget Code:

(S22-0-S-8H4-CI-ECTS).....\$56,000.00

The Writing Revolution Inc

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%

Proposed0%

\$ ValueNA

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS