

**(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 Issue a Purchase Order to Alison’s Trading Corp dba Alison’s Montessori and Educational Materials for Montessori Materials**

The Administration is requesting authorization to issue a purchase order to Alison’s Trading Corp dba Alison’s Montessori and Educational Materials for Montessori materials for Lloyd Barbee Montessori School, Bay View Montessori School, Craig Montessori School, Fernwood Montessori School, Maryland Avenue Montessori School, MacDowell Montessori School and Riley Dual Language Montessori School.

Precise materials are at the heart of Montessori education. While most Montessori material is similar in style, the actual dimensions vary from one manufacturer to another. The conformity of the parts to accomplish the expected outcomes is important. Even more important is replacing with like parts as most manufacturers are not interchangeable. The materials must be consistent and therefore, must all be purchased from the same vendor. Due to the precise nature of the materials, we are requesting this purchase be approved.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis of continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(i)).

The total cost will not exceed \$77,810.84

**Budget Code:**

GEN-0-0-INV-DW-ESUP .....(Curriculum & Instruction - Purchases)....\$77,810.84

**Alison’s Trading Corp dba Alison’s Montessori and Educational Materials HUB PARTICIPATION**

Required .....0%  
Proposed .....0%  
\$ Value .....N/A

**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 Cooperative Education Service Agency #1 (CESA #1) to Provide Educational Coaching**

The Administration is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Cooperative Education Service Agency #1 (“CESA #1”), for professional learning and educational coaching. The contractor shall provide a total of 351.5 full days of services to Milwaukee Public Schools between August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

As part of the "Every Student Succeeds Act" Milwaukee Public Schools is required to implement evidence-based strategies in all Comprehensive Support and Improvement schools (CSI) and/or our Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools to improve instructional practice and improve student outcomes.

A high-quality professional learning strategy requires that schools 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 coaching professional learning and side-by-side coaching to teachers and district instructional coaches 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. A specific need for classroom management support will also be integrated in CSI and ATSI schools with the highest needs.

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 and meet the quality required as per the Department of Public Instruction (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(v) and 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(vi)).

This contract will run from August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, with a one-year option to extend. The total cost of the contract in the Initial Term will not exceed \$562,400.

**Budget Code:**

SDV-0-S-3Z5-DW-ECTS.....(Contract Services) .....\$562,400.00

**Cooperative Education Service Agency #1**

**HUB PARTICIPATION**

Required .....0%

Proposed .....0%

\$ Value .....N/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 GPS Education Partners, Inc., to Provide Alternative Education Programming**

The Administration is requesting authorization to extend the contract with GPS Education Partners, Inc. (“GPS”) to provide alternative education programming. The Contractor will provide enrollment for up to thirty (30) MPS eleventh and twelfth-grade students in the Contractor’s fully immersive, work-based educational GPSED Program. The program is a comprehensive education and career training program that utilizes the Contractor’s partnerships with manufacturing businesses, as well as businesses from the construction and automotive sectors, to execute the program.

Students who complete the program will earn a full high school diploma from MPS while being prepared for continuing education and career pathways in manufacturing, construction, or automotive. Through the program, students will participate in the GPS Youth Apprenticeship Program. The majority of students will gain paid work experience at

a manufacturing company and earn portable industry-recognized credentials through the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council. The remainder of students will gain paid work experience in construction or automotive and will earn related industry-recognized credentials. GPS and MPS will work together to identify, recruit, and select students from MPS high schools for the program.

This will be an ongoing partnership, providing a stable and reliable educational option for MPS students and is subject to an annual review to ensure the program continues to meet the needs of the students and MPS. Notification of termination of the partnership for the coming year must be given by March 31<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to the fall start of new classes.

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 initial term of the contract ran from August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024, and provided for two additional one-year extensions upon mutual written consent. The term of the contract extension will run from August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025, and will not exceed \$135,000.00.

**Budget Code:**  
GOE-0-I-1T4-EO-ECTV.....\$135,000.00

**GPS Education Partners, Inc.**

**HUB PARTICIPATION**

Required .....0%  
Proposed .....0%  
\$ Value .....N/A

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)**

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

**Exception Authorization to Issue Purchase Orders to Milwaukee County Transit System for Bus Passes**

The Administration is requesting authorization to issue purchase orders to the Milwaukee County Transit System for bus passes and tickets throughout the 2024-2025 school year.

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)).

These bus passes and tickets are provided to students for various school activities. The total cost of these purchases will not exceed \$2,100,000.

**Budget Code:**  
STP-0-0-TRS-DW-EPPT.....(Pupil Transportation).....\$2,100,000.00

**Milwaukee County Transit System**

**PRIME CONTRACTOR INFORMATION**

Certified HUB Vendor? .....NA  
Total # of Employees .....NA  
Total # of Minorities .....NA  
Total # of Women .....NA

**HUB PARTICIPATION**

Required .....NA

Proposed .....NA

\$ Value .....NA

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (per 12-month contract)**

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 20 HOURS

**Exception Authorization to Enter into a Blanket Contract with Natures Classroom Institute for the Provision of Montessori Camp Services**

The Administration requests authorization to enter into a blanket contract with Natures Classroom Institute for the provision of Montessori sleep-away camp services to Montessori schools throughout the District. A blanket contract was previously issued for this vendor which expires August 31, 2024. Continued usage of this vendor has driven the need for another district-wide contract.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis of continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(iv)).

The contract will run from September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027.

The total cost of the contract will not exceed \$250,000.

**Budget Code:**

000-0-0-000-BL-ECTS.....\$250,000.00

**Natures Classroom Institute**

**HUB PARTICIPATION**

Required ..... 0%

Proposed..... NA

\$ Value ..... NA

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

**Exception Authorization to Issue a Purchase Order to NCS Pearson, Inc. for GED Vouchers**

The Administration is requesting authorization to issue a purchase order for GED vouchers from NCS Pearson, Inc. The district intends to acquire approximately 3,240 vouchers. These vouchers are to be utilized in the Alternative Education Program, GED Option 2, and are of three types: practice, initial, and retake. GED Ready vouchers from Pearson VUE are necessary for students to take the GED tests required for graduation under the GED Option #2 program.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this purchase has been granted on the basis that the purchase of the goods is considered one-of-a-kind; Pearson VUE is the sole source provider for these vouchers. In addition, the Pearson VUE Test Delivery System for GED testing only accepts vouchers exclusively created and sold by Pearson VUE (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(i)).

The total cost of the purchase of GED vouchers shall not exceed \$88,560.00.

**Budget Code:**  
GED-0-I-SRT-DW-ECTV .....\$88,560.00

**NCS Pearson, Inc.**  
**HUB PARTICIPATION**

Required .....0%  
Proposed .....0%  
\$ Value .....\$0

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)**

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

**Exception      Authorization to Enter a Contract with Truescreen, Inc., for Criminal Background Screenings**

The Administration is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Truescreen, Inc., ("Truescreen") to provide continued criminal background screening for applicants, student teacher/field placement students, volunteers, and vendors.

Truescreen has provided criminal background check screening services to the District since 2013. The services provided by Truescreen have increased capacity, efficiency, and accuracy in processing criminal background checks. Truescreen conducts a nationwide search and a sex offender search. Truescreen's web-based platform is integrated with the District's applicant tracking system so that criminal background checks can be requested with little to no manual intervention.

The district has historically provided this service internally through the Office of Human Resources. The District has and will continue to absorb the cost of criminal background checks on applicants for employment with the district and volunteers. Currently, the District bills colleges/universities and vendors for background checks conducted.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis of continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(iv)).

The initial contract term will run from August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025 and will not exceed \$300,000.

**Budget Code:**

BGC-0-0-EMB-HR-ECTS... (Employment Benefits – Contract Services) .... \$300,000.00

**Truescreen, Inc.**  
**HUB PARTICIPATION**

Required .....0%  
Proposed .....0%  
\$ Value .....N/A

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)**

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