

Policy 3105(a)

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Soliciting Prices/Bidding Requirements

I. Definitions:

- A. **Quotation:** A notice, either oral or in writing, whereby a vendor informs the purchaser of the conditions and price under which he/she will furnish supplies, materials, equipment, or services to the purchaser.
- B. **Bid:** A notice, in writing in a sealed envelope, delivered to the buyer by a specified date, to be opened in public at a specified date and time by the buyer, whereby a vendor informs the buyer of the conditions and price under which he/she will furnish supplies, materials or equipment. Technical assistance will be provided by the requestor, where applicable, to the Business Manager who has the final responsibility for determining the vendor/price.

II. Procedures:

A. Purchases for more than \$5,000 but less than \$10,000

The Business Office shall solicit quotations from at least three (3) companies if the nature of the commodity or service permits effective competitive pricing and if possible, feasible, and to the advantage of the district. The Superintendent of Schools or designee may award bids and/or quotes up to \$10,000 and s/he may reject any or all such bids.

B. Purchases for \$10,000 and above

Purchases for \$10,000 or more shall be bid. Bids shall be advertised if deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or his/her designee. If a bid is not advertised, a vendor list will be utilized. All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and marked appropriately on the outside of the envelope. Bids shall be opened at the time specified. Bid openings shall be public. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and reserves the right to waive the bidding procedure. The Board of Education shall award all other bids upon receiving recommendations and bid results from the Superintendent.

C. Vehicle Purchase/Replacement Policy

- (1) **New-** New vehicles will be purchased within the framework of policy 3323.

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Soliciting Prices/Bidding Requirements (continued)

- (2) **Used** - Used vehicles shall be purchased from authorized dealers only. The purchase of a used vehicle from private individuals is prohibited. An independent appraisal may be required in addition to the Blue Book Value to determine the value of the vehicle. A vehicle which is more than 7 years old may not be considered for purchase unless it is determined to be in the best interest of the district. State of Connecticut bid awards are an acceptable means of purchasing a used vehicle. The process for awarding a contract on a state bid will be consistent with other bid awards.

D. Emergency Situation

The Board of Education recognizes that emergency situations may arise which affect the health, welfare and/or safety of students and/or staff. In an emergency situation, the procedures of sections A and B may be suspended for the emergency only. The decision as to whether a given situation is an emergency situation shall be made by the Superintendent and a report will be given to the Board of Education within a two week period of time detailing the emergency, why the policy was suspended and the amount of funds expended and to whom.

The Superintendent of Schools may provide temporary special education transportation pending completion of the bidding process. Such temporary arrangements shall not exceed 30 days without Board of Education approval.

The authority to sign contracts is delegated to the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

Bids are not required on the following:

1. Purchases where only one supplier exists.
2. Architectural services.
3. Legal services.
4. Services requiring specific expertise. (consultants, specialists)
5. Textbook purchases.

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WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Waterford, Connecticut