BIDS

The Governing Board is committed to promoting public accountability and ensuring prudent use of public funds. When leasing, purchasing, or contracting for equipment, materials, supplies, or services for the district, including when contracting for public projects involving district facilities, the Board shall explore lawful opportunities to obtain the greatest possible value for its expenditure of public funds. When required by law, or if the Board determines that it is in the best interest of the district, such contracts shall be made using competitive bidding.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 3000 - Concepts and Roles)
(cf. 3230 - Federal Grant Funds)
(cf. 3300 - Expenditures and Purchases)
(cf. 3311.1 - Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures)
(cf. 3311.2 - Lease-Leaseback Contracts)
(cf. 3311.3 - Design-Build Contracts)
(cf. 3311.4 - Procurement of Technological Equipment)

No work, project, service, or purchase shall be split or separated into smaller work orders or projects for the purpose of evading legal requirements for competitive bidding. (Public Contract Code 20116)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish comprehensive bidding procedures for the district in accordance with law. The procedures shall include a process for advertising bids, instructions and timelines for submitting and opening bids, and other relevant requirements.

For award of contracts which, by law or Board policy, require prequalification, the procedures shall identify a uniform system for rating bidders on the basis of a completed questionnaire and financial statements.

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

When calling for bids, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the bid specifications clearly describe in appropriate detail the quality, delivery, and service required and include all information which the district knows, or has in its possession, that is relevant to the work to be performed or that may impact the cost of performing the work.

Except as authorized by law, contracts shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder who shall give such security as the Board requires, or else all bids shall be rejected. (Public Contract Code 20111)

When the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the district, the district may piggyback onto the contract of another public agency or corporation to lease or purchase any personal property to the extent authorized by law. (Public Contract Code 20118)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

BIDS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
17070.10-17079.30 Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act
17250.10-17250.55 Design-build contracts
17406 Lease-leaseback contracts
17595 Purchase of supplies through Department of General Services
17602 Purchase of surplus property from federal agencies
38083 Purchase of perishable foodstuffs and seasonable commodities
38110-38120 Apparatus and supplies
39802 Transportation services
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE
7056 General engineering contractor
7057 General building contractor
CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
446 Verification of pleadings
GOVERNMENT CODE
4217.10-4217.18 Energy conservation contracts
4330-4334 Preference for California-made materials
6252 Definition of public record
53060 Special services and advice
54201-54205 Purchase of supplies and equipment by local agencies
PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE
1102 Emergencies
1103 Definition, responsible bidder
2000-2002 Responsive bidders
3000-3010 Roofing projects
3400 Bids, specifications by brand or trade name not permitted
3410 United States produce and processed foods
4113 Prime contractor; subcontractor
6610 Bid visits
12200 Definitions, recycled goods, materials and supplies
20101-20103.7 Public construction projects, requirements for bidding
20103.8 Award of contracts
20110-20118.4 Local Agency Public Construction Act; school districts
20189 Bidder's security, earthquake relief
22000-22045 Alternative procedures for public projects (UPCCAA)
22152 Recycled product procurement
COURT DECISIONS
Los Angeles Unified School District v. Great American Insurance Co., (2010) 49 Cal.4th 739
Great West Contractors Inc. v. Irvine Unified School District, (2010) 187 Cal.App.4th 1425
Marshall v. Pasadena Unified School District, (2004) 119 Cal.App.4th 1241
Konica Business Machines v. Regents of the University of California, (1988) 206 Cal.App.3d 449
City of Inglewood-Los Angeles County Civic Center Authority v. Superior Court, (1972) 7 Cal.3d 861
ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS
89 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 1 (2006)

Management Resources: (see next page)

BIDS (continued)

Management Resources:
WEB SITES
CSBA: http:// www.csba.org
California Association of School Business Officials: http://www.casbo.org
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
California Department of General Services: https://www.dgs.ca.gov

Policy
adopted: April 14, 1997
revised: March 13, 2001
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revised: May 11, 2010
revised: January 28, 2014
revised: February 28, 2017
revised: November 7, 2017

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California

BIDS

Advertised/Competitive Bids

The district shall advertise for any of the following: (Public Contract Code 20111)

1. A public project contract that involves an expenditure of $15,000 or more, including a contract for construction, reconstruction, erection, alteration, renovation, improvement, painting, repainting, demolition, or repair work involving a district owned, leased, or operated facility
2. A contract that exceeds the amount specified in law, as annually adjusted by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, for any of the following:

    a. The purchase of equipment, materials, or supplies to be furnished, sold, or leased to the district

    b. Services, not including construction services or special services and advice in accounting, financial, legal, or administrative matters

    c. Repairs that are not a public project, including maintenance

Maintenance means routine, recurring, and usual work for preserving, protecting, and keeping a district facility operating in a safe, efficient, and continually usable condition for the intended purpose for which it was designed, improved, constructed, altered, or repaired. Maintenance includes, but is not limited to, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, glazing, and other craft work designed to preserve the facility, as well as repairs, cleaning, and other operations on machinery and other permanently attached equipment. Maintenance does not include painting, repainting, or decorating other than touchup, or among other types of work, janitorial or custodial services and protection provided by security forces. (Public Contract Code 20115)

Instructions and Procedures for Advertised Bids

The Superintendent or designee shall call for bids by placing a notice at least once a week for two weeks in a local newspaper of general circulation published in the district, or if no such newspaper exists, then in some newspaper of general circulation that is circulated in the county. The Superintendent or designee also may post the notice on the district's website or through an electronic portal. The notice shall state the work to be done or materials or supplies to be furnished and the time and place and website where bids will be opened. (Public Contract Code 20112)

The notice shall contain the time, date, and location of any mandatory prebid conference, site visit, or meeting and details regarding when and where project documents, including the final plan and specifications, are available. Any such mandatory visit or meeting shall occur not less than five calendar days after the publication of the initial notice. For lease-leaseback,

BIDS (continued)

design-build, and alternative design-build projects, the notice shall specify that the project is subject to skilled and trained workforce requirements. (Education Code 17250.25, 17250.62, 17407.5; Public Contract Code 2600, 6610)

Bid instructions and specifications shall include the following requirements and information:

1. All bidders shall certify in writing the minimum, if not exact, percentage of post-consumer materials in products, materials, goods, or supplies offered or sold. (Public Contract Code 22152)

2. All bids for construction work shall be presented under sealed cover. The district may accept a bid that has been submitted electronically or on paper. (Public Contract Code 20111, 20112)

   The bid shall be accompanied by a form of bidder's security, including either cash, a cashier's check payable to the district, a certified check made payable to the district, or a bidder's bond executed by an admitted surety insurer and made payable to the district. The security of unsuccessful bidders shall be returned in a reasonable period of time, but in no event later than 60 days after the bid is awarded. (Public Contract Code 20111, 20112)

3. When a standardized proposal form is provided by the district, bids not presented on the standard form shall be disregarded. (Public Contract Code 20111.5)

4. Bids shall not be accepted after the advertised bid opening time, regardless of whether the bids are actually opened at that time. (Public Contract Code 20112)

5. When two or more identical lowest or highest bids are received, the Governing Board may determine by lot which bid shall be accepted. (Public Contract Code 20117)
6. If the district requires that the bid include prices for items that may be added to or deducted from the scope of work in the contract, the bid solicitation shall specify which one of the following methods will be used to determine the lowest bid. In the absence of such a specification, only the method provided in Item #6a below shall be used. (Public Contract Code 20103.8)

   a. The lowest bid shall be the lowest total of the bid prices on the base contract without consideration of the prices on the additive or deductive items.

   b. The lowest bid shall be the lowest total of the bid prices on the base contract and those additive or deductive items that were specifically identified in the bid solicitation as being used for the purpose of determining the lowest bid price.

BIDS (continued)

c. The lowest bid shall be the lowest total of the bid prices on the base contract and those additive or deductive items that, when taken in order from a specifically identified list of those items in the solicitation, and added to or subtracted from the base contract, are less than or equal to a funding amount publicly disclosed by the district before the first bid is opened.

   The lowest bid shall be determined in a manner that prevents any information that would identify any of the bidders or proposed subcontractors or suppliers from being revealed to the district before the ranking of all bidders from lowest to highest has been determined. (Public Contract Code 20103.8)

d. In determining the lowest bid, the district shall consider only responsive bids that conform to bid specifications and are submitted by responsible bidders who have demonstrated trustworthiness, quality, fitness, capacity, and experience to satisfactorily perform the public works contract.

e. When a bid is determined to be nonresponsive, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the bidder and give the bidder an opportunity to respond to the determination.

f. When the lowest bidder is determined to be nonresponsible, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the bidder of the right to present evidence of the bidder's responsibility at a hearing before the Board.

7. After being opened, all submitted bids become public records pursuant to Government Code 7920.530 and shall be made available for public review pursuant to law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

Prequalification Procedure

When required by law or the Board, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a uniform system for rating bidders on the basis of completed questionnaires and financial statements in order to determine the size of contracts on which each bidder is qualified to bid. For this purpose, the Superintendent or designee shall furnish prospective bidders a standardized prequalification questionnaire and financial record which, when completed, shall indicate a bidder's statement of financial ability and experience in performing public works. The bidder's information shall be verified under oath in the manner in which civil law pleadings are verified. The questionnaires and financial statements shall not be public records and shall not be open to public inspection. (Code of Civil Procedure 446; Public Contract Code 20111.5, 20111.6)

When any public project involves an expenditure of $1,000,000 or more and is funded or reimbursed wholly or partly by the School Facilities Program funds or other future state school bond, the district shall prequalify prospective bidders either quarterly or annually. The prequalification shall be valid for one year and the following requirements shall apply: (Public Contract Code 20111.6)

BIDS (continued)

1. Prospective bidders, including, but not limited to, prime, general engineering, and general building contractors and electrical, mechanical, and plumbing subcontractors, as defined in Public Contract Code 4113 or Business and Professions Code 7056 or 7057, as applicable, shall submit a standardized questionnaire and financial statement 10 or more business days, as determined by the district, before the date fixed for the public opening of sealed bids.

2. Prospective bidders shall be prequalified by the district five or more business days, as determined by the district, before the date fixed for the public opening of sealed bids.

If the project includes electrical, mechanical, or plumbing components that will be performed by electrical, mechanical, or plumbing contractors, the Superintendent or designee shall make available to all bidders a list of prequalified general contractors and electrical, mechanical, and plumbing subcontractors five or more business days, as determined by the district, before the date fixed for the public opening of sealed bids. (Public Contract Code 20111.6)

For all other contracts requiring competitive bidding, the district may establish a procedure for prequalifying bidders on a quarterly basis and may authorize that prequalification be considered valid for up to one calendar year following the date of the initial prequalification. Prospective bidders for such contracts shall submit the questionnaire and financial statement at least five days before the date fixed for public opening of sealed bids and shall be prequalified by the district at least one day before the fixed bid-opening date. (Public Contract Code 20111.5)

Award of Contract

The district shall award each contract to the lowest responsible bidder, except in the following circumstances:

1. When the contract is for the procurement and/or maintenance of electronic data processing systems and supporting software, in which case the Board may contract with any one of the three lowest responsible bidders (Public Contract Code 20118.1)

2. When the contract is for any transportation service which involves an expenditure of more than $10,000 and which will be made with any person or corporation other than a common carrier, municipally owned transit system, or a parent/guardian of a student who is to be transported, in which case the Board may contract with other than the lowest bidder (Education Code 39802)
3. When the contract is one for which the Board has established goals and requirements relating to participation of disabled veteran or small business enterprises in accordance with Public Contract Code 2000-2002, in which case the Board may contract with the lowest responsible bidder who submits a responsive bid and complies or makes a good faith effort to comply with the goals and requirements (Public Contract Code 2000-2002)

BIDS (continued)

4. When procuring a lease-leaseback contract, in which case the Board shall award the contract based on objective criteria for determining the best combination of price and qualifications in accordance with Education Code 17400 and 17406
5. When procuring a design-build contract for a public works project in excess of $1,000,000 in accordance with Education Code 17250.20, in which case the Board may award the contract to either the low bid or the best value to the district, taking into consideration, at a minimum, price, technical design and construction expertise, and life-cycle costs (Education Code 17250.20, 17250.25)
6. When procuring an alternative design-build contract for a public works project in excess of $5,000,000 in accordance with Education Code 17250.62, in which case the Board may award the contract to either the low bid or the best value, taking into consideration, at a minimum design cost, general conditions, overhead, and profit as a component of the project price; technical design and construction expertise; and life-cycle costs (Education Code 17250.61, 17250.62)

Protests by Bidders

If the bidder believes that the award is not in compliance with law, Board policy, or the bid specification, the bidder may protest the award. A protest must be filed in writing with the Superintendent or designee within five working days after receipt of notification of the contract award and shall include all documents supporting or justifying the protest. A bidder's failure to file the protested documents in a timely manner shall constitute a waiver of the right to protest the award of the contract.

The Superintendent or designee shall review the documents submitted with the bidder's claims and render a decision in writing within 30 working days. The Superintendent or designee may also convene a meeting with the bidder in order to attempt to resolve the problem.

The bidder may appeal the Superintendent or designee's decision to the Board. The Superintendent or designee shall provide notice to the bidder of the date and time for Board consideration of the protest at least three business days before the Board meeting. The Board's decision shall be final.

Limitation on Use of Sole Sourcing

In any contract for the construction, alteration, or repair of school facilities, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the bid specification: (Public Contract Code 3002, 3400)

1. Does not directly or indirectly limit bidding to any one specific concern

BIDS (continued)

2. Does not call for a designated material, product, thing, or service by a specific brand or trade name, unless the specification is followed by the words "or equal," so that bidders may furnish any equal material, product, thing, or service

   In any such case, the bid specification shall provide a time period, before and/or after the award of the contract, for the contractor to submit data substantiating the request for substituting the designated material, product, thing, or service. If no such time period is specified, the contractor may submit the data within 35 days after the award of the contract.

When the bid is for a roof project, a material, product, thing, or service is considered "equal" to that designated if it is equal in quality, durability, design, and appearance; will perform the intended function equally well; and conforms substantially to the detailed requirements in the bid specification. (Public Contract Code 3002)

However, the Superintendent or designee may designate a specific material, product, thing, or service by brand or trade name, also known as sole sourcing, if the Board has made a finding, described in the invitation for bids or request for proposals (RFP), that a particular material, product, thing, or service is designated for any of the following purposes: (Public Contract Code 3400)

1. To conduct a field test or experiment to determine its suitability for future use

2. To match others in use on a particular public improvement that has been completed or is in the course of completion

3. To obtain a necessary item that is only available from one source

4. To respond to the Board's declaration of an emergency, as long as the declaration has been approved by four-fifths of the Board when issuing the invitation for bid or RFP

Bids Not Required

Without advertising for bids and upon a determination that it is in the best interest of the district, the Board may "piggyback" by authorizing another public corporation or agency, by contract, lease, requisition, or purchase order, to lease data-processing equipment or to purchase materials, supplies, equipment, automotive vehicles, tractors, and other personal property for the district in the manner that the other public corporation or agency is authorized to make the leases or purchases from a vendor. Alternatively, if the public corporation or agency has an existing contract with a vendor for the lease or purchase of personal property, the district may authorize the lease or purchase of personal property directly from the vendor and make payments under the same terms that are available to the public corporation or agency under the contract. (Public Contract Code 20118)

BIDS (continued)

Without advertising for bids, the Board may enter into an energy service contract and any related facility ground lease, when it determines that the terms of the contract and lease are in the best interest of the district and meet the cost effectiveness requirements specified in Government Code 4217.12. The Board's determination shall be made at a regularly scheduled public hearing of which notice is given to the public at least two weeks in advance and shall be based on a cost and saving comparison finding specified in Government Code 4217.12. (Government Code 4217.12)

Supplementary textbooks, library books, educational films, audiovisual materials, test materials, workbooks, instructional computer software packages, or periodicals may be purchased in any amount without taking estimates or advertising for bids. (Public Contract Code 20118.3)

Perishable foodstuffs and seasonal commodities needed in the operations of cafeterias may be purchased through bid or on the open market. (Education Code 38083)
Bids shall not be required for day labor under circumstances specified in Public Contract Code 20114. Day labor shall include the use of maintenance personnel employed on a permanent or temporary basis. (Public Contract Code 20114)
In an emergency when any repairs, alterations, work, or improvement to any school facility is necessary to permit the continuance of existing school classes or to avoid danger to life or property, the Board may, by unanimous vote and with the approval of the County Superintendent of Schools, contract for labor and materials or supplies without advertising for or inviting bids or may authorize the use of day labor or force account for the emergency purpose. (Public Contract Code 1102, 20113)

The district may purchase any surplus property from the federal government or any of its agencies in any quantity needed for the operation of its schools without taking estimates or advertising for bids. (Education Code 17602)

BIDS (continued)

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
Bus. Code 7056	General engineering contractor
Bus. Code 7057	General building contractor
Code of Civil Procedure 446	Verification of pleadings
Ed. Code 17070.10-17079.30	Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act
Ed. Code 17250.10-17250.55	Design-build contracts
Ed. Code 17250.60-17250.69	Alternative design-build contracts
Ed. Code 17406	Lease-leaseback contract
Ed. Code 17595	Purchase of supplies through Department of General Services
Ed. Code 17602	Purchase of surplus property from federal agencies
Ed. Code 38083	Purchase of perishable foodstuffs and seasonal commodities
Ed. Code 38110-38120	Apparatus and supplies
Ed. Code 39802	Transportation services
Gov. Code 4217.10-4217.18	Energy conservation contracts
Gov. Code 4330-4334	California made materials
Gov. Code 53060	Special services and advice
Gov. Code 54201-54205	Purchase of supplies and equipment by local agencies
Gov. Code 7920.530	Definition of public record
Pub. Cont. Code 1102	Definition of emergency
Pub. Cont. Code 1103	Definition; responsible bidder
Pub. Cont. Code 12200	Definitions, recycled goods, materials and supplies
Pub. Cont. Code 2000-2002	Responsive bidders
Pub. Cont. Code 20101-20103.7	Public construction projects; requirements for bidding
Pub. Cont. Code 20103.8	Award of contracts
Pub. Cont. Code 20110-20118.4	Local Agency Public Construction Act; school districts
Pub. Cont. Code 20189	Bidder's security; earthquake relief
Pub. Cont. Code 22000-22045	Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act
Pub. Cont. Code 22152	Recycled product procurement
Pub. Cont. Code 3000-3010	Roofing projects
Pub. Cont. Code 3400	Bid specifications
Pub. Cont. Code 3410	U.S. produce and processed foods
Pub. Cont. Code 4113	Prime contractor; subcontractor
Pub. Cont. Code 6102	Bribery of public official; voidable contract
Pub. Cont. Code 6610	Bid visits

BIDS (continued)

Management Resources	**Description**
Attorney General Opinion	89 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 1 (2006)
CA Department of General Services Publication	Office of Public School Construction, Piggyback Contracts
CA Department of General Services Publication	Office of Public School Construction Notification to School Districts Regarding Use of Piggyback Contracts for SAB-Administered Programs, July 2022
CA Department of Industrial Relations Publication	Model Prequalification Questionnaire
Court Decision	City of Inglewood-Los Angeles County Civic Center Authority v. Superior Court, (1972) 7 Cal.3d 861
Court Decision	Great West Contractors Inc. v. Irvine Unified School District, (2010) 187 Cal.App.4th 1425
Court Decision	Konica Business Machines v. Regents of the University of California, (1988) 206 Cal.App.3d 449
Court Decision	Los Angeles Unified School District v. Great American Insurance Co., (2010) 49 Cal.4th 739
Court Decision	Marshall v. Pasadena Unified School District, (2004) 119 Cal.App.4th 1241
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Department of General Services
Website	CSBA
Website	California Department of Education
Website	California Association of School Business Officials

BIDS (continued)

Cross References

Code	Description
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
1113	District And School Websites
1113	District And School Websites
1113-E(1)	District And School Websites
1340	Access To District Records
1340	Access To District Records
3000	Concepts And Roles
3230	Federal Grant Funds
3230	Federal Grant Funds
3270	Sale And Disposal Of Books, Equipment And Supplies
3270	Sale And Disposal Of Books, Equipment And Supplies
3300	Expenditures And Purchases
3311.1	Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures
3311.1	Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures
3311.2	Lease-Leaseback Contracts
3311.3	Design-Build Contracts
3311.4	Procurement Of Technological Equipment
3312	Contracts
3314	Payment For Goods And Services
3314	Payment For Goods And Services
3510	Green School Operations
3511	Energy And Water Management
3511	Energy And Water Management
3511.1	Integrated Waste Management
3511.1	Integrated Waste Management
3512	Equipment
3512-E(1)	Equipment
3517	Facilities Inspection
3517-E(1)	Facilities Inspection
3540	Transportation
3551	Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
3551	Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
3580	District Records
3580	District Records
3600	Consultants
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1-E(1)	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.11	Supplementary Instructional Materials
6163.1	Library Media Centers

BIDS (continued)

7000	Concepts And Roles
7140	Architectural And Engineering Services
7140	Architectural And Engineering Services
9270	Conflict Of Interest
9270-E(1)	Conflict Of Interest
9320	Meetings And Notices
9323.2	Actions By The Board
9323.2-E(1)	Actions By The Board
9323.2-E(2)	Actions By The Board

Regulation
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