**STATE OF MAINE**

**Department of Education**

*Education in the Unorganized Territory*



**RFP# 202502022**

**Student Transportation for Greenfield Township**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **RFP Coordinator** | **NAME:** | Gary Lewis |
| **TITLE:** | Facilities and Transportation Manager |
| **EMAIL:** | Gary.A.Lewis@Maine.gov  |
| *All communication regarding the RFP must be made through the RFP Coordinator.* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Submitted Questions Due Date** | March 25, 2025, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time |
| *All questions must be received by the RFP Coordinator by the date and time listed above.*  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Proposal Submission Deadline** | **DATE:** | April 7, 2025, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time. |
| **TO:** | Proposals@maine.gov |
| *Proposals must be received electronically by the Office of State Procurement Services by the date and time listed above.* |

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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**State of Maine**

**Department of Education**

***Education in the Unorganized Territory***

**RFP# 202502022**

**Student Transportation for Greenfield Township**

The State of Maine is seeking proposals for daily student transportation services of resident students from the Unorganized Territory of Greenfield Township to their assigned school administrative units from home and back beginning school year 2025-2027.

A copy of the RFP and all related documents can be obtained at: <https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/rfps>

Proposals must be submitted to the Office of State Procurement Services, via e-mail, at: Proposals@maine.gov. Proposal submissions must be received no later than 11:59 p.m., local time, on April 7, 2025. Proposals will be opened the following business day.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**RFP TERMS/ACRONYMS with DEFINITIONS**

The following terms and acronyms, as referenced in the RFP, have the meanings indicated below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term/Acronym** | **Definition** |
| **Department** | Department of Education |
| **EUT** | Education in the Unorganized Territory |
| **FERPA** | [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/ferpa) |
| **RFP** | Request for Proposals |
| **State** | State of Maine |
| **Unorganized Territory** | Territory not part of a municipality |

**State of Maine**

**Department of Education**

*Education in the Unorganized Territory*

**RFP# 202502022**

**Student Transportation for the Greenfield Township**

**PART I INTRODUCTION**

1. **Purpose and Background**

The Department of Education(Department), Education in the Unorganized Territory (EUT), is seeking to provide daily student transportation as defined in this Request for Proposals (RFP) document. This document provides instructions for submitting proposals, the procedure and criteria by which the awarded Bidder will be selected, and the contractual terms which will govern the relationship between the State of Maine (State) and the awarded Bidder.

The EUT is required to coordinate and provide both fiscally and administratively for the educational needs of the Unorganized Territories resident students. It is EUT’s practice to coordinate education-related transportation for the residents of the Unorganized Territories. Additional information about the Maine statue governing education in EUT can be found here: [Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A: EDUCATION, Chapter 119: UNORGANIZED TERRITORY, §3252 ELEMENTARY PUPILS](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/20-A/title20-Ach119sec0.html)

1. **General Provisions**
	1. From the time the RFP is issued until award notification is made, all contact with the State regarding the RFP must be made through the RFP Coordinator. No other person/ State employee is empowered to make binding statements regarding the RFP. Violation of this provision may lead to disqualification from the bidding process, at the State’s discretion.
	2. Issuance of the RFP does not commit the Department to issue an award or to pay expenses incurred by a Bidder in the preparation of a response to the RFP. This includes attendance at personal interviews or other meetings and software or system demonstrations, where applicable.
	3. All proposals must adhere to the instructions and format requirements outlined in the RFP and all written supplements and amendments (such as the Summary of Questions and Answers), issued by the Department. Proposals are to follow the format and respond to all questions and instructions specified below in the “Proposal Submission Requirements” section of the RFP.
	4. Bidders will take careful note that in evaluating a proposal submitted in response to the RFP, the Department will consider materials provided in the proposal, information obtained through interviews/presentations (if any), and internal Departmental information of previous contract history with the Bidder (if any). The Department also reserves the right to consider other reliable references and publicly available information in evaluating a Bidder’s experience and capabilities.
	5. The proposal must be signed by a person authorized to legally bind the Bidder and must contain a statement that the proposal and the pricing contained therein will remain valid and binding for a period of 180 days from the date and time of the bid opening.
	6. The RFP and the awarded Bidder’s proposal, including all appendices or attachments, will be the basis for the final contract, as determined by the Department.
	7. Following announcement of an award decision, all submissions in response to this RFP will be public records, available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) ([1 M.R.S. § 401](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/1/title1sec401.html) et seq.). State contracts and information related to contracts, including bid submissions, are generally public records per FOAA.
	8. In the event that a Bidder believes any information that it submits in response to this RFP is confidential, it must mark that information accordingly, and include citation to legal authority in support of the Bidder’s claim of confidentiality. In the event that the Department receives a FOAA request that includes submissions marked as confidential, the Department shall evaluate the information and any legal authority from the Bidder to determine whether the information is an exception to FOAA’s definition of public record. If the Department determines to release information that a Bidder has marked confidential, it shall provide advance notice to the Bidder to allow for them to seek legal relief.
	9. The Department, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to recognize and waive minor informalities and irregularities found in proposals received in response to the RFP.
	10. All applicable laws, whether or not herein contained, are included by this reference. It is the Bidder’s responsibility to determine the applicability and requirements of any such laws and to abide by them.
2. **Eligibility to Submit Bids**

The Bidder must hold all endorsements as required by law for student transportation. This includes Class B CDL w/passenger (P) School Bus (S).

1. **Contract Term**

The Department is seeking cost-efficient proposals to provide services, as defined in this RFP, for the anticipated contract period defined in the table below. The dates below are estimated and may be adjusted, as necessary, in order to comply with all procedural requirements associated with the RFP and the contracting process. The actual contract start date will be established by a completed and approved contract.

Contract Renewal: Following the initial term of the contract, the Department may opt to renew the contract for two (2) renewal periods, as shown in the table below, and subject to continued availability of funding and satisfactory performance.

The term of the anticipated contract, resulting from the RFP, is defined as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period** | **Start Date** | **End Date** |
| Initial Period of Performance | 08/15/2025 | 08/14/2027 |
| Renewal Period #1 | 08/15/2027 | 08/14/2029 |
| Renewal Period #2 | 08/15/2029 | 08/14/2030 |

1. **Number of Awards**

The Department anticipates making one award as a result of this RFP process.

**PART II SCOPE OF SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED**

It is EUT’s practice to provide daily, round trip transportation services for students residing in Greenfield Township.

1. Location of Services and number of students:
	1. Approximately 30 Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8 students to and from Dr. Lewis S. Libby School at 13 School Street, Milford, ME 04461 (approximately 30 miles roundtrip), and;
	2. Approximately 13 high school students to and from Old Town High (RSU 34) at 203 Stillwater Avenue, Old Town, ME 04468 (approximately 33 miles roundtrip).
2. Routes: The transportation services would be to and from the student’s home or pre- determined bus pickup locations to school and back at each day’s end. A pre-determined location is based on the road conditions and bus size and is made in agreement between the awarded Bidder and the receiving school. The EUT transportation manager reserves the right for final approval of pick-up locations and routes. The awarded Bidder shall work directly with the receiving school to establish routes and prepare a bus transportation schedule. In the event that the awarded Bidder can provide routing software, please provide relevant information in the bid materials.
3. Vehicles:
	1. The awarded Bidder shall provide a reliable, appropriately sized vehicle equipped with the appropriate age-level safety equipment as required by law for transporting youths in all vehicles to be used and shall bear all the operational costs of such vehicles.
	2. All vehicles must be inspected before the start of morning, afternoon, or mid-day school routes in compliance of [Maine Department of Education Chapter 81](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fsos%2Fcec%2Frules%2F05%2F071%2F071c081.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK). Inspection will include but are not limited to: brakes, lights, tires, radiator, oil, gas, heaters, and all safety appliances and accessories. Copies of inspection and service records shall be made available to the EUT transportation manager or receiving school on demand.
	3. The awarded Bidder must be able to address unanticipated changes in enrollments and special education that necessitate transportation changes in either vehicle size or to other schools/school units within the surrounding areas.
	4. Per [Maine Uniform School Bus Specifications Chapter 86](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fsos%2Fcec%2Frules%2F05%2F071%2F071c086.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK), the Department adopts the [National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures 2015](https://nasdpts.org/NSTSP-Documents) as enacted by the 16th National Congress on School Transportation and with some exceptions specific to Maine. The following *exceptions* apply:
		1. Bus body and chassis specifications, color, section C of the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures 2015 (pg. 31).
			1. Roof color exception: a white roof on a school bus is not a state school bus specification.
		2. Bus body and chassis specifications, heating and air conditioning systems, section B of the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures 2015 (pg. 46).
			1. Air conditioning exception: air conditioning on a school bus is not a state school bus specification.
		3. Operational procedures, local school districts, in-use capacity of a school bus, section C.1, paragraph 4 of the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures 2015 (pg. 143).
			1. Overloading exception: overloading a school bus is prohibited.
		4. Operational procedures, selection and training of bus drivers, section C.6 of the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures 2015 (pg. 159).
			1. Crossing exception: procedures for escorted crossing are not a state school bus specification.
		5. Activity Bus Operations, Transportation Other Than To and From School or Head Start, section A.1.c.VI of the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures 2015 (pg. 186).
			1. Activity bus operation exception: replace with [49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 395.5.](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-III/subchapter-B/part-395/subpart-A/section-395.5)
		6. Appendix B, School Bus Body and Chassis Specifications of the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures 2015 (pg. 284).
			1. School bus body and chassis exception: a white roof on a school bus is not a state school bus specification.
		7. Appendix D, Recommended Procedures for Escorted Crossing, all sections of the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures 2015 (pg. 367).
			1. Escorted crossing exception: procedures for escorted crossing are not a state school bus specification.
	5. The [Maine Uniform School Bus Specifications Chapter 86](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fsos%2Fcec%2Frules%2F05%2F071%2F071c086.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK), adopts the following *additional* regulations to the [National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures 2015](https://nasdpts.org/NSTSP-Documents):
		1. Onboard video systems (also known as surveillance cameras) with a minimum of four cameras and continuous recording shall be installed on the inside of all new school buses.
		2. School bus seat restraint (also known as seat belts) installation shall be a local decision except when federal mandated seat restraint installation is required on specific school bus types. If the awarded Bidder chooses to install seat restraints, the Department recommends three-point lap-shoulder belts.
	6. All of the vehicles used must have State and Federal mandated equipment specifically needed for the safe transportation of students.
	7. Any vehicle upon which there is installed lap shoulder belt assembly or upon which there is installed a child restraint system shall have a minimum of one hand grip style seatbelt cutter. Such belt cutter shall be located in such a position that it can be reached by the driver from a fully seated position behind the steering wheel of the bus.
4. Time:
	1. The transportation services would be required during each school year from August 2025 through August 2030, totaling 175 days per school year.
	2. In the event there are changes the school starting and ending times during the term of the Contract, the awarded Bidder shall make the necessary adjustments to comply with the changed times.
5. Drivers:
	1. The awarded Bidder must ensure that drivers meet the requirements as specified in [Title 29-A, Section 2303](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/29-A/title29-Asec2303.pdf) of the Laws of the State of Maine and past performance is satisfactory as indicted by a Driver Record Report and notify the EUT transportation manager of any driver-related incidents or violations that would adversely effect their ability to maintain their CDL.
	2. The awarded Bidder must ensure that drivers and monitors submit to fingerprinting and background checks by the Department or currently have the required credentials on file with the Department.
	3. The awarded Bidder must ensure all drivers maintain a current and valid driver’s license throughout the entire contract period, and hold all endorsements as required by law for student transportation. This includes Class B CDL w/passenger (P) School Bus (S).
	4. Monitors, drivers and dispatch staff will often be provided personally identifiable student information. There is a need for these employees to be trained in the confidentiality of information ([FERPA](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/ferpa)) by the EUT or receiving school who will assist in this training. Special education bus drivers and monitors will be required to attend “De-escalation” training as provided by the Department.
	5. Drivers and monitors shall not smoke or carry a lighted cigar, cigarette, marijuana, vape device, or pipe when operating a bus.
	6. Drivers shall not have a cellular phone in their hand while the bus is in motion.
	7. Drivers do not have the authority to refuse any child, who is eligible for transportation, the right to ride the bus or to remove him/her from the bus without the prior, written approval of the Department (or designee).
	8. The EUT reserves the right to accept or reject any and all drivers, if it is deemed in the best interest of the students to do so.
	9. The EUT reserves the right to request a change or removal of a driver at any time with or without cause. The request shall be made in writing and state the reason(s) therefore and shall not be in violation of any applicable local, state or federal law or regulation. The awarded Bidder must comply within 24 hours of notice being provided by the EUT or designee. The temporary or permanent removal of drivers from the awarded Bidder’s roster of drivers for EUT shall not relieve the awarded Bidder of its responsibility to fulfill all the terms of the contract.
6. Communication
The awarded bidder shall make available a direct telephone connection through which the EUT may make immediate contact at any time during the regular school year.

**PART III KEY RFP EVENTS**

1. **Questions**
	1. **General Instructions:** It is the responsibility of all Bidders and other interested parties to examine the entire RFP and to seek clarification, in writing, if they do not understand any information or instructions.
		1. Bidders and other interested parties should use **Appendix E** (Submitted Questions Form) for submission of questions. If used, the form is to be submitted as a WORD document.
		2. Questions must be submitted, by e-mail, and received by the RFP Coordinator identified on the cover page of the RFP as soon as possible but no later than the date and time specified on the RFP cover page.
		3. The RFP Number and Title must be included in the subject line of the e-mail containing the submitted questions. The Department assumes no liability for assuring accurate/complete/on time e-mail transmission and receipt.
	2. **Question & Answer Summary:** Responses to all questions will be compiled in writing and posted on the following website no later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the proposal due date: [Office of State Procurement Services RFP Page](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/rfps). It is the responsibility of all interested parties to go to this website to obtain a copy of the Question & Answer Summary. Only those answers issued in writing on this website will be considered binding.
2. **Amendments**

All amendments released in regard to the RFP will also be posted on the following website: [Office of State Procurement Services RFP Page](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/rfps). It is the responsibility of all interested parties to go to this website to obtain amendments. Only those amendments posted on this website are considered binding.

1. **Proposal Submission**
	1. **Proposals Due:** Proposals must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. local time, on the date listed on the cover page of the RFP.
		1. Any e-mails containing original proposal submissions or any additional or revised proposal files, received after the 11:59 p.m. deadline, will be rejected without exception.
	2. **Delivery Instructions:** E-mail proposal submissions must be submitted to the Office of State Procurement Services at Proposals@maine.gov.
		1. Only proposal submissions received by e-mail will be considered. The Department assumes no liability for assuring accurate/complete e-mail transmission and receipt.
			1. Proposal submission e-mails that are successfully received by the proposals@maine.gov inbox will receive an automatic reply stating as such.
		2. E-mails containing links to file sharing sites or online file repositories will not be accepted as submissions. Only e-mail proposal submissions that have the actual requested files attached will be accepted.
		3. Encrypted e-mails received which require opening attachments and logging into a proprietary system will not be accepted as submissions. Bidders should work with their Information Technology team to ensure that the proposal submission will not be encrypted due to any security settings.
		4. File size limits are 25MB per e-mail. Bidders may submit files separately across multiple e-mails, as necessary, due to file size concerns. All e-mails and files must be received by the due date and time listed above.
	3. **Submission Format:**
		1. Bidders are to insert the following into the subject line of their e-mail proposal submission: **“RFP# 202502022 Proposal Submission – [Bidder’s Name]”**
		2. Bidder’s proposal submissions are to be broken down into multiple files, with each file named as it is titled in bold below, and include:
* **File 1 [Bidder’s Name] – Preliminary Information:**

*PDF format preferred*

**Appendix A** (Proposal Cover Page)

**Appendix B** (Responsible Bidder Certification)

* **File 2 [Bidder’s Name] – Organization Qualifications and Experience:**

*PDF format preferred*

**Appendix C** (Organization Qualifications and Experience Form) and all required information and attachments stated in PART IV, Section II.

* **File 3 [Bidder’s Name] – Proposed Services:**

*PDF format preferred*

All required information and attachments stated in PART IV, Section III.

* **File 4 [Bidder’s Name] – Cost Proposal:**

*PDF format preferred*

**Appendix D** (Cost Proposal Form) and all required information and attachments stated in PART IV, Section IV.

**PART IV PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

This section contains instructions for Bidders to use in preparing their proposals. The Department seeks detailed yet succinct responses that demonstrate the Bidder’s qualifications, experience, and ability to perform the requirements specified throughout the RFP.

Bidders’ proposals must follow the outline used below, including the numbering, section, and sub-section headings. Failure to use the outline specified in PART IV, or failure to respond to all questions and instructions throughout the RFP, may result in the proposal being disqualified as non-responsive or receiving a reduced score. The Department, and its evaluation team, has sole discretion to determine whether a variance from the RFP specifications will result either in disqualification or reduction in scoring of a proposal. Rephrasing of the content provided in the RFP will, at best, be considered minimally responsive.

Bidders are not to provide additional attachments beyond those specified in the RFP for the purpose of extending their response. Additional materials not requested will not be considered part of the proposal and will not be evaluated. Bidders must include any forms provided in the submission package or reproduce those forms as closely as possible. All information must be presented in the same order and format as described in the RFP.

**Proposal Format and Contents**

**Section I Preliminary Information** (File #1)

* 1. **Proposal Cover Page**

Bidders must complete **Appendix A** (Proposal Cover Page). It is critical that the cover page show the specific information requested, including Bidder address(es) and other details listed. The Proposal Cover Page must be dated and signed by a person authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the Bidder.

* 1. **Responsible Bidder Certification**

Bidders must complete **Appendix B** (Responsible Bidder Certification). The Responsible Bidder Certification must be dated and signed by a person authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the Bidder.

**Section II Organization Qualifications and Experience** (File #2)

* 1. **Overview of the Organization**

Bidders must complete **Appendix C** (Qualifications and Experience Form) describing their qualifications and skills to provide the requested services in the RFP. Bidders must include three (3) examples of projects which demonstrate their experience and expertise in performing these services, as well as highlighting the Bidder’s stated qualifications and skills.

* 1. **Subcontractors**

If subcontractors are to be used, Bidders must provide a list that specifies the name, address, phone number, contact person, and a brief description of the subcontractors’ organizational capacity and qualifications.

* 1. **Organizational Chart**

Bidders must provide an organizational chart.  The organizational chart must include the project being proposed.  Each position must be identified by position title and corresponding to the personnel job descriptions.

* 1. **Litigation**

Bidders must attach a list of all current litigation in which the Bidder is named and a list of all closed cases that have closed within the past five (5) years in which the Bidder paid the claimant either as part of a settlement or by decree.  For each, list the entity bringing suit, the complaint, the accusation, amount, and outcome.

* 1. **Certificate of Insurance**

Bidders must provide:

* + 1. a certificate of insurance on a standard ACORD form (or the equivalent) evidencing the Bidder’s general liability, professional liability and any other relevant liability insurance policies that might be associated with the proposed services;
		2. proof of sufficient liability insurance coverage as required by law such as by the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles under [29-A MRSA chapter 13](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/29-A/title29-Ach13sec0.html); and
		3. an accident report prepared by the bidders’ insurance company that occurred in the previous five-year period at the time of the bid.

**Section III Proposed Services** (File #3)

**Services to be Provided**

Bidders must discuss the Scope of Services referenced above in Part II of the RFP and what the Bidder will offer, including a description of the methods and resources the Bidder will use and how each task involved will be accomplished. Bidders must also describe how the expectations and/or desired outcomes as a result of these services will be achieved. If subcontractors are involved, Bidders must clearly identify the work each will perform. Assignment or subletting of the contract or work shall not be made without the written consent of the EUT.

**Section IV Cost Proposal** (File #4)

* 1. **General Instructions**
		1. Bidders must submit a cost proposal that covers the period starting 08/15/2025 and ending on 08/14/2030.
		2. The cost proposal must include the costs necessary for the Bidder to fully comply with the contract terms, conditions, and RFP requirements.
		3. No costs related to the preparation of the proposal for the RFP, or to the negotiation of the contract with the Department, may be included in the proposal. Only costs to be incurred after the contract effective date that are specifically related to the implementation or operation of contracted services may be included.
	2. **Cost Proposal Form Instructions**

Bidders must fill out **Appendix D** (Cost Proposal Form), following the instructions detailed here and in the form. Failure to provide the requested information, and to follow the required cost proposal format provided, may result in disqualification or reduction in scoring of the cost proposal, at the discretion of the Department.

**PART V PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SELECTION**

Evaluation of the submitted proposals will be accomplished as follows:

1. **Evaluation Process – General Information**
	1. An evaluation team, composed of qualified reviewers, will judge the merits of the proposals received in accordance with the criteria defined in the RFP.
	2. Officials responsible for making decisions on the award selection will ensure that the selection process accords equal opportunity and appropriate consideration to all who are capable of meeting the specifications. The goals of the evaluation process are to ensure fairness and objectivity in review of the proposals and to ensure that the contract is awarded to the Bidder whose proposal provides the best value to the State of Maine.
	3. The Department reserves the right to communicate and/or schedule interviews/presentations with Bidders, if needed, to obtain clarification of information contained in the proposals received. The Department may revise the scores assigned in the initial evaluation to reflect those communications and/or interviews/presentations.
	4. Changes to proposals, including updating or adding information, will not be permitted during any portion of the evaluation process. Therefore, Bidders must submit proposals that present their rates and other requested information as clearly and completely as possible.
2. **Scoring Weights and Process**
	1. **Scoring Weights:** Proposal scores will be based on a 100-point scale and will measure the degree to which each proposal meets the following criteria:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Section I.** | **Preliminary Information**Proposal materials to be evaluated in this section: all elements addressed in Part IV, Section I of the RFP. | **(No Points)** |
| **Section II.** | **Organization Qualifications and Experience** Proposal materials to be evaluated in this section: all elements addressed above in Part IV, Section II of the RFP. | **(30 points)** |
| **Section III.** | **Proposed Services** Proposal materials to be evaluated in this section: all elements addressed above in Part IV, Section III of the RFP. | **(30 points)** |
| **Section IV.** | **Cost Proposal** Proposal materials to be evaluated in this section:all elements addressed above in Part IV, Section IV of the RFP. | **(40 points)**  |

* 1. **Scoring Process:** For proposals that demonstrate meeting the eligibility requirements in Section I, if applicable, the evaluation team will use a consensus approach to evaluate and score Sections II & III above. Members of the evaluation team will not score those sections individually but, instead, will arrive at a consensus as to assignment of points for each of those sections. Section IV, the Cost Proposal, will be scored as described below.
	2. **Scoring the Cost Proposal:** The total cost proposed for conducting all the functions specified in the RFP will be assigned a score according to a mathematical formula. The lowest bid will be awarded 40 points. Proposals with higher bid values will be awarded proportionately fewer points calculated in comparison with the lowest bid.

The scoring formula is:

(Lowest submitted cost proposal / Cost of proposal being scored) x 40 points= pro-rated score

No Best and Final Offers: The State of Maine will not seek or accept a best and final offer (BAFO) from any Bidder in this procurement process.  All Bidders are expected to provide their best value pricing with the submission of their proposal.

* 1. **Negotiations:** The Department reserves the right to negotiate with the awarded Bidder to finalize a contract. Such negotiations may not significantly vary the content, nature or requirements of the proposal or the Department’s Request for Proposal to an extent that may affect the price of goods or services requested. The Department reserves the right to terminate contract negotiations with an awarded Bidder who submits a proposed contract significantly different from the proposal they submitted in response to the advertised RFP. In the event that an acceptable contract cannot be negotiated with the highest ranked Bidder, the Department may withdraw its award and negotiate with the next-highest ranked Bidder, and so on, until an acceptable contract has been finalized. Alternatively, the Department may cancel the RFP, at its sole discretion.
1. **Selection and Award**
	1. The final decision regarding the award of the contract will be made by representatives of the Department subject to approval by the State Procurement Review Committee.
	2. Notification of conditional award selection or non-selection will be made in writing by the Department.
	3. Issuance of the RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the State of Maine to award a contract, to pay costs incurred in the preparation of a response to the RFP, or to pay costs incurred in procuring or contracting for services, supplies, physical space, personnel or any other costs incurred by the Bidder.
	4. The Department reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or to make multiple awards.
2. **Appeal of Contract Awards**

Any person aggrieved by the award decision that results from the RFP may appeal the decision to the Director of the Bureau of General Services in the manner prescribed in [5 M.R.S.A. § 1825-E](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/5/title5sec1825-E.html) and [18-554 Code of Maine Rules Chapter 120](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/policies-procedures/chapter-120).  The appeal must be in writing and filed with the Director of the Bureau of General Services, 9 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0009 within 15 calendar days of receipt of notification of conditional contract award.

**PART VI CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION AND CONDITIONS**

1. **Contract Document**
	1. The awarded Bidder will be required to execute a State of Maine Service Contract with appropriate riders as determined by the issuing department.

The complete set of standard State of Maine Service Contract documents, along with other forms and contract documents commonly used by the State, may be found on the Office of State Procurement Services’ website at the following link: [Office of State Procurement Services Forms Page](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/forms)

* 1. Allocation of funds is final upon successful negotiation and execution of the contract, subject to the review and approval of the State Procurement Review Committee. Contracts are not considered fully executed and valid until approved by the State Procurement Review Committee and funds are encumbered. No contract will be approved based on an RFP which has an effective date less than fourteen (14) calendar days after award notification to Bidders. (Referenced in the regulations of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, [Chapter 110, § 3(B)(i)](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/policies-procedures/chapter-110).)

This provision means that a contract cannot be effective until at least 14 calendar days after award notification.

* 1. The State recognizes that the actual contract effective date depends upon completion of the RFP process, date of formal award notification, length of contract negotiation, and preparation and approval by the State Procurement Review Committee. Any appeals to the Department’s award decision(s) may further postpone the actual contract effective date, depending upon the outcome. The contract effective date listed in the RFP may need to be adjusted, if necessary, to comply with mandated requirements.
	2. In providing services and performing under the contract, the awarded Bidder must act as an independent contractor and not as an agent of the State of Maine.
1. **Standard State Contract Provisions**
	1. Contract Administration

Following the award, a Contract Administrator from the Department will be appointed to assist with the development and administration of the contract and to act as administrator during the entire contract period. Department staff will be available after the award to consult with the awarded Bidder in the finalization of the contract.

* 1. Payments and Other Provisions

The State anticipates paying the Contractor on the basis of net 30 payment terms, upon the receipt of an accurate and acceptable invoice. Invoices to be submitted to EUT on a monthly basis. An invoice will be considered accurate and acceptable if it contains a reference to the State of Maine contract number, contains correct pricing information relative to the contract, and provides any required supporting documents, as applicable, and any other specific and agreed-upon requirements listed within the contract that results from the RFP.

* 1. Termination
	Should the awarded bidder fail to comply with any of the terms or conditions set forth in the contract, or should the Department, at its sole discretion, determine that the awarded bidder is unfit, unqualified, or unable to perform the transportation needs of the Department under the contract, or that the awarded bidder is in breach of the contract, including without limitation, repeatedly arriving late at pick up or drop off locations, failing to make scheduled runs, failing to communicate with the EUT transportation manager and the receiving school, then upon thirty (30) days written notice to the Contractor, the agreement may be terminated. The Department may also terminate the contract for any reason with or without cause with thirty (30) days written notice. These terms may trigger the Rider B Termination clause of the state’s Service Contract.

**PART VII LIST OF RFP APPENDICES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS**

**Appendix A** – Proposal Cover Page

**Appendix B** – Responsible Bidder Certification

**Appendix C** – Qualifications and Experience Form

**Appendix D** – Cost Proposal Form

**Appendix E** – Submitted Questions Form

**APPENDIX A**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Education**

*Education in the Unorganized Territory*

**PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

**RFP# 202502022**

**Student Transportation for the Greenfield Township**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bidder’s Organization Name:** |  |
| **Chief Executive - Name/Title:** |  |
| **Tel:** |  | **E-mail:** |  |
| **Headquarters Street Address:** |  |
| **Headquarters City/State/Zip:** |  |
| *(Provide information requested below if* ***different*** *from above)* |
| **Lead Point of Contact for Proposal - Name/Title:** |  |
| **Tel:** |  | **E-mail:** |  |
| **Headquarters Street Address:** |  |
| **Headquarters City/State/Zip:** |  |

* This proposal and the pricing structure contained herein will remain firm for a period of 180 days from the date and time of the bid opening.
* No personnel currently employed by the Department or any other State agency participated, either directly or indirectly, in any activities relating to the preparation of the Bidder’s proposal.
* No attempt has been made, or will be made, by the Bidder to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a proposal.
* The above-named organization is the legal entity entering into the resulting contract with the Department if they are awarded the contract.
* The undersigned is authorized to enter contractual obligations on behalf of the above-named organization.

*To the best of my knowledge, all information provided in the enclosed proposal, both programmatic and financial, is complete and accurate at the time of submission.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name (Print):** | **Title:** |
| **Authorized Signature:** | **Date:** |

**APPENDIX B**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Education**

*Education in the Unorganized Territory*

**RESPONSIBLE BIDDER CERTIFICATION**

**RFP# 202502022**

**Student Transportation for the Greenfield Township**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bidder’s Organization Name:** |  |

*By signing this document, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the aforementioned organization, its principals and any subcontractors named in this proposal:*

1. *Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, and declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from bidding or working on contracts issued by any governmental agency.*
2. *Have not within three years of submitting the proposal for this contract been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for:*
	1. *Fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a federal, state, or local government transaction or contract.*
	2. *Violating Federal or State antitrust statutes or committing embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property.*
3. *Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or Local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (b) of this certification.*
4. *Have not within a three (3) year period preceding this proposal had one or more federal, state, or local government transactions terminated for cause or default*.
5. *Have not entered into a prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a response for the same materials, supplies, equipment, or services and this proposal is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. The above-mentioned entities understand and agree that collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards.*
6. *Is not a foreign adversary business entity (*[*https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies*](https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies)*).*
7. *Is not on the list of prohibited companies (*[*https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies*](https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies)*) or does not obtain or purchase any information or communications technology or services included on the list of prohibited information and communications technology and services* [*https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies*](https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies) *(Title 5 §2030-B).*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name (Print):** | **Title:** |
| **Authorized Signature:** | **Date:** |

**APPENDIX C**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Education**

*Education in the Unorganized Territory*

## QUALIFICATIONS and EXPERIENCE FORM

**RFP# 202502022**

**Student Transportation for the Greenfield Township**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bidder’s Organization Name:** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Present a brief statement of qualifications. Describe the history of the Bidder’s organization, especially regarding skills pertinent to the specific work required by the RFP and any special or unique characteristics of the organization which would make it especially qualified to perform the required work activities. You may expand this form and use additional pages to provide this information.** |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Provide a description of projects that occurred within the past five (5) years which reflect experience and expertise needed in performing the functions described in Part II – Scope of Services to be Provided of the RFP. Contract history with the State of Maine, whether positive or negative, may be considered in evaluating proposals even if not provided by the Bidder.**  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project One** |
| **Client Name:** |  |
| **Client Contact Person:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  |
| **E-Mail:** |  |
| **Brief Description of Project** |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Two** |
| **Client Name:** |  |
| **Client Contact Person:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  |
| **E-Mail:** |  |
| **Brief Description of Project** |
|  |

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| --- |
| **Project Three** |
| **Client Name:** |  |
| **Client Contact Person:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  |
| **E-Mail:** |  |
| **Brief Description of Project** |
|  |

**APPENDIX D**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Education**

*Education in the Unorganized Territory*

**COST PROPOSAL FORM**

**RFP# 202502022**

**Student Transportation for the Greenfield Township**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bidder’s Organization Name:** |  |
| **Total Proposed Cost:** | **$**  |

Bidders must submit a cost proposal that includes the costs necessary for the Bidder to fully comply with the contract terms, conditions, and RFP requirements. The proposed cost must be presented as a fixed cost. The total proposed fixed cost will be used to score the cost proposal as defined Part V, B, 3 of the RFP.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Period | 08/15/2025-08/14/2027Initial Period of Performance | 08/15/2027-08/14/2029Renewal Period #1 | 08/15/2029-08/14/2030Renewal Period #2 |
| Amount | $ | $ | $ |

 **APPENDIX E**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Education**

*Education in the Unorganized Territory*

**SUBMITTED QUESTIONS FORM**

**RFP# 202502022**

**Student Transportation for the Greenfield Township**

This form should be used by Bidders when submitting written questions to the RFP Coordinator as defined in Part III of the RFP.

If a question is not related to any section of the RFP, enter “N/A” under the RFP Section & Page Number. Add additional rows as necessary.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organization Name:** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  |  |
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