

RFP Smallwares 2019-2020
Gaston County School Nutrition
Date: 07/15/2019

**Invitation for Bid
RFP Smallwares 2019-2020**

Quotes will be received until: July 31, 2019
Commodity: **Smallwares**

Using Agency: Gaston County Board of Education (GCBE)
Gaston County School Nutrition (GCSN)

Refer ALL Inquiries to: Joyce Wright
Gaston County School Nutrition
500 Reid Street
Lowell, NC 28098
704-836-9110
jawright@gaston.k12.nc.us

NOTICE TO BIDDER

Quotes, subject to the conditions made a part hereof, will be received at this office, The Gaston County School Nutrition Department, 500 Reid Street, Lowell, NC, 28098 until July 31, 2019 at 11:00 AM, for furnishing and delivering the commodity as described herein. Refer to page 4 for proper mailing instructions. Quotes are subject to rejection unless submitted on this form.

EXECUTION

In compliance with this Request for Proposal, and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned Vendor offers and agrees to furnish and deliver any or all items upon which prices are quoted, at the prices set opposite each item within the time specified herein. By executing this quote, the undersigned Vendor certifies that this proposal is submitted competitively and without collusion (G.S. 143-54), that none of its officers, directors, or owners of an unincorporated business entity has been convicted of any violations of Chapter 78A of the General Statutes, the Securities Act of 1933, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (G.S. 143-59.2), and that it is not an ineligible Vendor as set forth in G.S. 143-59.1. False certification is a Class I felony. Furthermore, by executing this quote, the undersigned certifies to the best of Vendor's knowledge and belief, that it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal or State department or agency. As required by G.S. 143-48.5, the undersigned Vendor certifies that it, and each of its sub-contractors for any Contract awarded as a result of this RFP, complies with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the NC General Statutes, including the requirement for each employer with more than 25 employees in North Carolina to verify the work authorization of its employees through the federal E-Verify system. G.S. 133-32 and Executive Order 24 (2009) prohibit the offer to, or acceptance by, any State Employee associated with the preparing plans, specifications, estimates for public Contract; or awarding or administering public Contracts; or inspecting or supervising delivery of the public Contract of any gift from anyone with a Contract with the State, or from any person seeking to do business with the State. By execution of any response in this quote, you attest, for your entire organization and its employees or agents, that you are not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees of your organization.

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**Failure to execute/sign quote prior to submittal shall render quote invalid and it WILL BE REJECTED.
 Late proposals cannot be accepted.**

VENDOR:		
STREET ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX:	ZIP:
CITY & STATE & ZIP:	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	TOLL FREE TEL. NO:
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS ITEM #11):		
PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING ON BEHALF OF VENDOR:		FAX NUMBER:
VENDOR'S AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	DATE:	EMAIL:

Offer valid for at least 60 days from date of quote opening, unless otherwise stated here: _____ days. After this time, any withdrawal of offer shall be made in writing, effective upon receipt by the agency issuing this RFP.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

If any or all parts of this quote are accepted by an authorized representative of GCSN shall affix his/her signature hereto and this document and all provisions of this Request for Proposal along with the Vendor response and the written results of any negotiations shall then constitute the written agreement between the parties. A copy of this acceptance will be forwarded to the successful Vendor(s).

<p><u>FOR GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION USE ONLY:</u> Offer accepted and Contract awarded this ____ day of _____, 20____, as indicated on the attached certification, by _____</p>
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Please provide your company's Federal Employer Identification Number or alternate identification number (e.g. Social Security Number). Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 132-1.10(b) this identification number shall not be released to the public. **This page will be removed and shredded, or otherwise kept confidential**, before the procurement file is made available for public inspection.

This page is to be filled out and returned with your quote.

ID Number:

Federal ID Number or Social Security Number

Vendor Name

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Mail only one fully executed quote document, unless otherwise instructed, and only one quote per envelope. Address envelope and insert quote number as shown below: It is the responsibility of the bidder to have the quote in this office by the specified time and date of opening.

Delivered by U S Postal Service	Delivered by any other means
QUOTE NO. RFP Smallwares 2019-2020 Gaston County School Nutrition Attention: Joyce Wright 500 Reid Street Lowell, NC 28098	QUOTE NO. RFP Smallwares 2019-2020 Gaston County School Nutrition Attention: Joyce Wright 500 Reid Street Lowell, NC 28098

Vendors shall deliver or email one **(1) signed, original executed quote** to the address identified in the table in this Section. Address package and insert proposal description as shown in the table above

Requests for information may be submitted via mail, express delivery, facsimile (FAX) machine or by electronic means, including but not limited to email, in response to this Request for Proposal.

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is the responsibility of the Vendor to have the signed received by this Office by the specified time and date of opening, regardless of the method of delivery. **This is an absolute requirement.** The time of delivery will be marked on each proposal when received, and any proposal received after the submission deadline will not be accepted or evaluated. Sealed quotes, subject to the conditions made a part hereof, will be received at the address indicated in the table in this Section, for furnishing and delivering the commodity as described herein.

All risk of late arrival due to unanticipated delay—whether delivered by hand, U.S. Postal Service, courier or other delivery service or method—is entirely on the Vendor. Note that the U.S. Postal Service generally does not deliver mail to the street address above, but to the State’s Mail Service Center. Vendors are cautioned that quotes sent via U.S. Mail, including Express Mail, may not be delivered by the Mail Service Center to the agency’s purchasing office on the due date in time to meet the proposal deadline. All Vendors are urged to take the possibility of delay into account when submitting a proposal.

IRAN DIVESTMENT ACT

As provided in G.S. 147-86.59, any person identified as engaging in investment activities in Iran, determined by appearing on the Final Divestment List created by the State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-86.58, is ineligible to contract with the State of North Carolina or any political subdivision of the State.

LUNSFORD ACT

The Vendor acknowledges that N.C. General Statute 14-208.18 prohibits anyone required to register as a sex offender under Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes from knowingly being on the premises of any school. This prohibition applies to persons required to register under Article 27A who have committed any offense in Article 7A of Chapter 14 or any offense where the victim of the offense was under the age of 16 years at the time of the offense.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

The Vendor shall conduct criminal background checks on each of its employees who, pursuant to this Agreement, engage in any services on GCSN property or at GCSN events. The Vendor shall provide documentation that criminal background checks were conducted on each of its employees prior to hiring, and shall refuse employment to any person convicted of a felony or any other crime, whether misdemeanor or felony, that indicates the person poses a threat to the physical safety of students, school personnel or others. Such check shall include an annual check of the State Sex Offender and Public Protection Registration Program, the State Sexually Violent Predator Registration Program, and the National Sex Offender Registry. Vendor shall not assign any employee or agent to provide services pursuant to this contract if (1) said worker appears on any of the listed registries; (2) said worker has been convicted of a felony; (3) said worker has been convicted of any crime, whether misdemeanor or felony, involving sex, violence, or drugs; or (4) said worker has engaged in any crime or conduct indicating that the worker may pose a threat to the safety or well-being of student or school personnel. GCSN reserves the right to prohibit any individual employee of the Vendor from providing services on GCSN property or at GCSN events even if GCSN determines, in its sole discretion, that such employee poses a threat to the safety or well-being of students, school personnel or others.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

Please see APPENDIX A (Attachment)- Pricing Forms for Product Specification

The nature of all deviations from the *Specifications/Requirements* listed herein shall be clearly described by the Vendor. Otherwise, it will be considered that items offered by the Vendor are in strict compliance with the *Specifications/ Requirements*, and Vendor shall be held responsible to supply conforming goods. Deviations shall be explained in detail below or on an attached sheet. However, no implication is made or intended by the GCSN that any deviation will be acceptable.

ROLLOVER OR RENEWAL

Not applicable.

STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. Scope and Purpose

It is the intent of GCSN to contract with an interested party or parties for the purchase of Smallwares for the students of Gaston County Public Schools that fall within Federal regulations and State statutes that will be provided at an economical price for GCSN.

The section titles contained in this General Terms and Conditions document are for convenience and reference only, and in no way define, describe, extend, or limit the scope or intent of the provisions of any section of this document.

Unless otherwise stated, any listing of factors or criteria in this document does not constitute an order of preference or importance.

The term "Contract," as used in this document, means the comprehensive collection of:

- (1) this General Terms and Conditions document, including any attachments and or amendments thereto,
- (2) the Item Specifications included in the RFP and any subsequent addenda thereto, the offeror's signed Bid Certification, which must be completed, signed by an authorized representative of the offering entity, and returned with the offeror's response, along with this ENTIRE Terms and Conditions document and all other forms and information collection pages included with this RFP,
- (3) the offeror's response to the RFP,
- (4) the offeror's Notice of Award document, and
- (5) any additional terms, conditions, or instructions issued by the GCSN.

Collectively, these documents represent the entire agreement between the parties.

B. Contract Time Period

The time period for purchases covered by a Contract resulting from an award under this RFP is stated in the Bid Certification. GCSN reserves the right to award the Contract to a vendor for a longer initial term period than the time period stated in the Bid Certification if it is determined to be in the best interest of GCSN. Unless otherwise indicated in these General Terms and Conditions, all pricing will be firm throughout the entire contract period.

The transfer, assignment, or subcontracting of contracts is prohibited, and the offeror agrees not to sell, assign, transfer, convey, or subcontract any portion of this contract resulting from this RFP without the prior written consent of GCSN.

C. Addendum

In the event any changes to this RFP occur subsequent to the mailing or other delivery of the original RFP, the changes or corrections to this Bid request will be made by addendum, and any updated information contained in any addendum will prevail over the information contained in the original RFP or any previous addendum. Each addendum will be mailed to all entities that are known to have received a copy of this RFP. GCSN is the sole authority for the issuance of any addendum related to this RFP. Any communications from

any person or entity other than GCSN regarding any matters related to this bid are invalid and will have no influence on this RFP.

Each addendum must be acknowledged on the acknowledgement form provided with the addendum. Any required acknowledgement form must be submitted along with the submission of any bid response.

D. Specifications

Catalog numbers, brand names, or manufacturer's product or reference numbers used in the item specifications are intended to be descriptive, not restrictive. These references, as well as "approved brands" listed, are intended to identify and indicate the type of product being sought, and establish the level of quality desired. If any conflict exists in the item specifications between the product descriptions and any brand names or model or reference numbers used, the product descriptions will override the brand names or product number references.

In most cases, bids on brands of equivalent nature and quality will be considered, provided they are regularly produced products from a reputable manufacturer. However, in some cases, GCSN may find it advantageous to standardize equipment and/or supplies by manufacturer in order to achieve efficiencies in procurement, repair, and operation, to match existing stock, or to satisfy other requirements. In these cases, preferences will be given to the specific products identified as "approved brands" especially if all other evaluation factors are deemed to be equal. For this reason, where specific brands or products are identified, it is preferable for the offeror to propose the exact item specified, in addition to an alternate brand or model where desired.

All bids must identify the manufacturer, brand, portion size, etc. of the product being offered. "**Pre-Approved Equal**" Brands may be allowed where indicated. To offer "Pre-Approved Equal" items rather than any "approved brand" specified, the offeror must supply a complete description and sufficient data for GCSN to properly analyze the product being compared. Samples may be requested for items other than "approved brands". These "Pre-Approved Equal" brands must be approved by GCSN **before** the bid opening. GCSN reserves the right to reject any brand submitted if GCSN does not have sufficient information or time to conduct taste-testing in order to deem the product as a "Pre-approved Equal".

If the offeror fails to identify the manufacturer, brand, portion size, etc. for any item included in the bid, GCSN will assume the offeror is proposing **the exact brand/product and portion size identified in the specification**, and if awarded, the offeror will be required to furnish the **exact brand names, portion sizes, etc. as specified. Substitutions will not be allowed.**

The apparent silence of the specifications as to any detail or the apparent omission from any specification of a detailed description concerning any point shall be regarded as meaning that only the best communication practices shall prevail. All interpretations of the specifications shall be made on the basis of this statement.

If you discover or suspect error in the item specifications in this RFP, please note it as part of your bid response.

General Specification Provisions:

1. Quantities

Quantities reflected in this RFP are exact based on the projected needs for GCSN.

2. Packaging

Unless otherwise provided for in this RFP, all products supplied under any Contract resulting from this RFP must be packaged in containers that are new, appropriately designed for the products involved, and sturdy enough to protect the products involved in loading, transit, unloading, and storage. Any products supplied under Contract resulting from this RFP for which palletizing is appropriate must be delivered on standard 48" 4-way pallets in good, serviceable condition unless otherwise specified.

3. Pricing

All "Line Item" bids must be for a specific price for the unit of measure specified for that item. The offeror is responsible for clearly noting any differences in proposed packaging and/or units of measure in the bid response, and the offeror shall understand that if the item in question is awarded to the offeror, the quantity specified for that item will be adjusted to achieve an approximately equivalent amount of the product.

In cases where another price is requested for comparison purposes (e.g., "portion price" or "price per ounce"), such price is for comparison purposes only. Purchases will be made in the increments of the unit of measure specified. In the case of any discrepancy or error in comparison price calculations, the price for the unit of measure specified will prevail. Excessive errors in comparison price calculations will be sufficient grounds for rejection of the entire bid.

"Discount from Catalog" RFPs requires a single discount percentage to be applied to all items in the offeror's published catalog, which must be supplied with the bid response.

Allowable costs will be paid from the nonprofit school food service account to the offeror/contractor net of all discounts, rebates and other applicable credits accruing to or received by the contractor or any assignee under the contract, to the extent those credits are allocable to the allowable portion of the costs billed to GCSN. The offeror/contractor agrees to fully disclose all discounts, rebates, allowances, and incentives received by the Company from its suppliers. If the offeror/contractor receives a discount, rebate, allowance, or incentive from any supplier, the offeror/contractor must disclose and return to the GCS District the full amount of the discount, rebate, or applicable credit that is received based on the purchases made on behalf of the Gaston County School District. All discounts, rebates, allowances, and incentives must be returned to the Gaston County School District during a mutually agreed upon timeframe that is beneficial to the School District.

"Cost Plus" bids will not be accepted unless otherwise requested in this RFP.

If during the term of the Contract, a successful offeror's net prices to any or all of its other customers in similar market circumstances for any of the same items awarded under this RFP are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such price reduction shall be extended to GCSN.

4. Delivery and Transportation

Unless otherwise noted in these General Terms and Conditions or the Purchase Order, or unless prior approval has been obtained from GCSN, all deliveries shall be made between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Unless otherwise noted in this RFP or in the Purchase Order, the offeror must deliver products awarded under this RFP by the specified delivery date per received order. The vendor must immediately notify GCSN, by telephone and/or fax, if any delays occur. GCSN will have the option to cancel the order if unable to accept the delay. At the discretion of GCSN, items received after the due date, for which GCSN has not been notified regarding the delay, may be returned at the vendor's expense with no penalty to the GCSN.

Repeated failure to meet delivery dates will constitute a breach of Contract by the vendor, and may result in the initiation of actions covered in this General Terms and Conditions document entitled "Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract", and "Contract Termination" and the associated financial impacts attached thereto, as well as jeopardize any future business from the GCSN.

All freight, delivery, and handling charges are the responsibility of the offeror, and all bid prices must be quoted freight prepaid, F.O.B. destination, and shall include all freight, delivery, and handling charges, including unloading and inside deliveries where required.

Cartons must be marked with appropriate product identifying information as indicated on the Purchase Order. Each shipment must include a packing list and waybill or delivery ticket.

If the vendor is delivering products out of more than one warehouse or distribution center, all warehouses or distribution centers involved in the distribution plan MUST carry or have timely access to all awarded items and MUST be able to respond to orders in a timely manner. Unless otherwise specified in this RFP, product substitutions are not allowed, and the involvement of multiple distribution centers will not be construed as to alter the restrictions against product substitutions. In the event the vendor uses multiple distribution centers, the SFA will have ONE CONTACT PERSON for overall Contract management relative to any Contract resulting from any award under this RFP, and GCSN WILL NOT be required to deal with multiple Contacts for overall contract management.

When the needs of GCSN require immediate response, the right to pick up products awarded under this RFP on an "over the counter" basis must be available for the majority of the items awarded to a vendor. Under such circumstances, the SFA's personnel may pick up products at the vendor's warehouse location at the agreed-upon price with no minimum purchase required.

Except for items that have hidden defects or that do not meet specification, title to all products shall pass to GCSN upon receipt and acceptance at the time of delivery.

5. Quality

Unless otherwise indicated in the RFP, all items proposed must be new and in highest quality condition and must conform to the highest standards of manufacturing practice, including containers suitable for shipment and storage. Unless otherwise requested, GCSN will not accept "factory seconds" or otherwise inferior goods, and reserves the right to return any such item(s) within (30) days of receipt at vendor's expense.

All electrical items must meet all applicable OSHA standards and regulations, and must bear the appropriate listing from US, FMRC, NEMA, or U L Laboratories.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on chemicals or any other products customarily requiring MSDS must be provided to the SFA with the first shipment to GCSN at the beginning of the contract period. Promptly and at no additional costs, the offeror will provide additional Materials Safety Data Sheets to GCSN upon request. Providing a web site access location to MSDS information is an acceptable alternative.

6. Product Inspection, Testing, and Defective Items

All products supplied under this contract should arrive in the best possible condition and will be subject to inspection, testing, and approval by GCSN. Tests may be performed on any samples submitted as part of the bid or evaluation process, or on samples taken from any regular shipment. In the event any product tested fails to meet or exceed all requirements of the bid item specifications or the General Terms and Conditions of the RFP, the cost of the samples used and the cost of the testing shall be borne by the supplier, and upon notification to the vendor, the defective product(s) will be picked up and replaced by the vendor. Repeated incidents of delivery of products that fail to pass product inspection and/or testing by a vendor will warrant cancellation of the Contract in addition to the remedies outlined above. Furthermore, future business from GCSN could be jeopardized.

Products damaged in shipment will be considered as defective products and will be subject to the same remedies outlined above.

The failure of any consumable products (food items) to meet specifications or acceptable chemical or bacterial levels may result in cancellation of the contract in addition to the remedies outlined above. Furthermore, future business from GCSN could be jeopardized. All products in GCSN warehouse at the time of any such cancellation must be picked up and credit issued to GCSN. Latent defects discovered after delivery and acceptance of any products may result in revocation of the acceptance.

GCSN shall have access to any supplier's place of business during normal business hours for the purpose of inspecting merchandise.

7. Samples

If samples are needed for bid evaluation, they will be requested as part of the RFP or in a separate communication. Unless otherwise indicated in the request for the samples, the samples must be received by the requestor within 72 hours from the time of the request.

Samples must be labeled with GCSN Bid Name, Item Number, Product Identification number(s), and the name of the offering entity. Do not include samples with the bid response unless otherwise instructed in the RFP.

All samples will be retained by GCSN for a sufficient length of time for proper evaluation. If not destroyed or consumed during examination of testing, samples will be returned to the offeror at the offeror's expense, but only upon written request submitted with the samples at the time the samples were submitted. However, notwithstanding the above samples from the successful offeror may be retained permanently by GCSN for the purpose of determining the quality of the delivered items are comparable to the samples. GCSN shall incur no liability for any samples that are damaged, destroyed or consumed during examination or testing.

Failure by any offeror to submit samples when requested will result in the items in question not being considered for award to that offeror.

8. Warranties

By submission of a bid, the offeror warrants that he/she is an authorized dealer, distributor, or manufacturer for the product(s) being offered, that all items proposed conform to the specifications for which the items are being offered, and that all items supplied under any contract related to this RFP will be free from all defects in material, and title.

The offeror shall provide for replacement of defective merchandise from GCSN location and delivery of the replacement(s) to the same location. This shall be effective from the date of acceptance of the merchandise.

9. Buy American provision

GCSN's participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs in the contiguous United States are required to purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic products for use in meals served under the programs. Regulations define "domestic products" as one that is produced in the United States and is processed in the United States, substantially using agricultural commodities that are produced in the United States. "Substantially" means over 51 percent of the final processed product consists of agricultural commodities that were grown domestically.

E. Bid Evaluation and Award

All bids received in response to this RFP which are submitted in accordance with the instructions and restrictions contained in this General Terms and Conditions document entitled "Bid Preparation and Submission Procedures" will initially be considered for award; however, initial consideration of any bid will not constitute an assessment of its meeting the necessary qualifications, and any bid may be disqualified at any time during the process of evaluating bids for failure to meet any other terms or conditions contained anywhere else in the bid request.

GCSN reserves the right to waive any or all bid irregularities, formalities, or other technicalities, to be the sole and independent judge of quality and suitability of any products offered, and may accept or reject any bids in their entirety, or may reject any part of any bid without affecting the remainder of that bid, and may award the individual items included in the bid in any combination or any way to best serve the interests of its members as it perceives those interests to be in its sole discretion.

It is not the policy of GCSN to purchase on the basis of low bid price alone. All bid items are subject to evaluation and approval by GCSN. In evaluating the bids received and determining the best value for GCSN. GCSN may consider any combination of the following criteria: (1) the purchase price; (2) the reputation of the vendor and of the vendor's goods and/or services; (3) the extent to which the goods and/or services meet the needs of GCSN; (4) the vendor's location, service, and delivery capabilities; (5) the vendor's past performance with GCSN; (6) student preferences; (7) the warranties offered and the vendor's warranty service history; (8) the probability of continuous availability of the goods and/or services offered; (9) the impact on the ability of GCSN to comply with any applicable laws or rules; (10) the total long-term cost to GCSN to acquire the vendor's goods and/or services; (11) packaging of the products and in some cases preference is given to a vendor who provides all the components relative to the complete package, and (12) any other relevant factor that a public or private entity could consider in selecting a vendor.

It is understood that GCSN may use all means at their collective disposal to evaluate the bids received on these criteria, and the final decision as to the best overall offer, both as to price and to suitability of the products and/or services offered to fit the needs of GCSN, will be made by the School Nutrition Director.

Unless otherwise indicated in this RFP, "all or nothing" bids are not acceptable and will be rejected. The offeror must be willing to accept a partial award for any combination of the items and/or services proposed and must be willing to share the business with any other successful offerors.

The successful offeror(s) will be notified by "Notice(s) of Award" issued by GCSN.

GCSN reserves the right to require a performance bond as it is deemed necessary.

F. Substitutions

GCSN will not accept any substitutes after items(s) have been awarded as specified, unless such substitutions are deemed to be in the best interest of GCSN, and unless prior agreements have been reached and reduced to writing regarding such substitutions. Substituting without the prior approval of GCSN will constitute a breach of contract by the vendor which may result in the initiation of actions covered in this General terms and Conditions document entitled "Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract, and Contract Termination" and the associated financial impacts attached thereto, and may jeopardize any future business from GCSN.

G. Deviations from Item Specification or General Terms and Conditions

Any and all limitations, expectations, qualifications, special conditions, or deviations from these General Terms and Conditions or any of the item specifications, including the offering of any alternate to the "approved brand and/or model" (where identified) must be clearly noted in detail by the offeror at the time of submission of the bid. The absence of such limitations, exceptions, qualifications, special conditions, or deviations being submitted in writing with the offeror's response will hold the offeror accountable to GCSN to perform in strict accordance with all these General Terms and Conditions and all the item specifications as written, including any such limitations, exceptions, qualifications, special conditions, or deviations with the bid response may place the offeror at a competitive disadvantage or otherwise prevent GCSN from considering the affected items(s).

Any deviation from any of the item specifications, including the delivery of any product other than the specific brand of the product awarded, will be grounds for rejection of the product(s) when delivered, and will expose the vendor to the remedies identified in this General Terms and Conditions document entitled "Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract, and Contract Termination" and may jeopardize future business from GCSN.

H. Contract and Purchase Order Requirements

A response to this RFP is an offer to contract with GCSN based upon the Item Specifications and the General Terms and Conditions contained in the RFP. Offers do not become Contracts unless and until they are both accepted by GCSN through an Award Notice to the offeror, and put into effect by the issuance of a Purchase Order(s) signed by an authorized representative of GCSN.

This contract shall collectively include (1) the General Terms and Conditions and the Item Specifications included in the RFP and any subsequent addenda thereto, (2) the offeror's signed Bid Certification and any subsequent addenda thereto, (3) the offeror's entire response to the RFP, (4) the offeror's Notice of Award document, (5) and any additional terms, conditions, or instructions contained in each individual Purchase Order. All binding agreements should be submitted as part of the bid packet. The contract shall be interpreted by and governed under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

I. Invoices, Packing Lists, and Payment Conditions

Packing Lists or other suitable shipping documents must accompany each shipment and must identify (a) the name and address of the vendor, (b) the name and address or delivery location of the receiving entity, (c) the Purchase Order Number, and (d) detailed descriptive information identifying the item(s) delivered, including quantity, item number, product code, item description, number of containers, etc.

All Invoices must reflect (a) the name and address of the vendor, (b) the name and address or delivery location of the receiving entity, (c) the appropriate Purchase Order Number, and (d) detailed descriptive information identifying the item(s) delivered, including quantity, item number, product code, item description, etc

Notwithstanding the above, the payments stated on each individual Purchase Order will be the controlling factor in the determination of payment terms. Each Invoice should include the vendor's normal payment terms in the event that any Purchase Order fails to address the subject.

Payment will be made only after satisfactory delivery and acceptance of merchandise in good order, including the necessary documentation indicated above, and only after receipt of a correct Invoice form the vendor, including the necessary information indicated above.

At the option of GCSN, invoices with incorrect prices or other errors or inconsistencies will not be paid until corrected, whether by credit memo(s) or issuance of a corrected invoice. At the option of GCSN, invoices may be corrected upon receipt and payment may be made based upon their corrections.

J. Records Retention Requirements

By signing this bid, the offeror understands that GCSN, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the NC Department of Public Instruction, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor which are directly pertinent to the specific contract, for the purpose of audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.

Additionally, the offeror must provide all documents as necessary for the independent auditor to conduct GCSN's single audit. GCSN will contract to have the single audit conducted as a regular, direct expense to GCSN; Child Nutrition funds may not be used for this purpose.

The offeror must retain pertinent records identified by source, type, and category of beverages for a minimum of three years after GCSN makes final payments. In the event of any unresolved audit findings, the records shall be retained beyond the three (3) year period for as long as required for resolution of the issues raised by the audit.

K. Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract, and Termination of Contract

If the vendor cannot comply with the terms and conditions in fulfilling its Contract as anticipated, the vendor must supply the same products or services contracted from other sources at the contract price. The vendor's delay in the above will constitute the vendor's material breach of contract, whereupon GCSN may terminate the vendor's contract for cause as provided by the remainder of this section.

Unless this Contract is extended by mutual agreement of the parties beyond the expiration of the contract time period as stated on the Bid Certification, this Contract shall terminate upon the expiration of the contract term as stated on the Bid Certification.

If any delay or failure of performance is caused by a Force Majeure event as described in the General Terms and Conditions document entitled "Force Majeure," GCSN may, in its sole discretion, terminate this contract in whole or part, provided such termination follows the remaining requirements of this section.

Except as otherwise provided within the General Terms and Conditions of this document, this Contract may be terminated in whole or in part by either party in the event of substantial failure by the other party to fulfill its obligations under this contract through no fault of the terminating party; provided that no such termination may be implemented unless and until the other party is given 1) at least thirty (30) days written notice (delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested) of intent to terminate, and 2) an opportunity for consultation with the terminating party, followed by a reasonable opportunity, of not more than ten (10) working days, to rectify the defects in products or performance, prior to termination.

Valid causes for termination of this Contract will include, but are not limited to:

- (1) the vendor's failure to adhere to any of the provisions of the General Terms and Conditions of this RFP,
- (2) the vendor delivering any product(s) that fail to meet the Item Specifications included in this RFP relating to the awarded product(s),
- (3) the vendor delivering any substitution(s) of product(s) different than those originally proposed and awarded without the prior written approval of GCSN ,the vendor's failure to meet the required delivery schedules as identified in
- (4) the contract documents, or
- (5) the vendor's violation of any other provision contained within these General Terms and Conditions or any attachment thereto which provides for contract termination as a remedy.

Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, in the event of the vendor's breach of any provision in this contract, GCSN reserves the right to enforce the performance of this contract in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of its members, including, but not limited to, the purchase of other products of like type and quality from other sources in the open market. In the event GCSN elects to purchase other products from other sources, GCSN will invoice the vendor for any increased costs to GCSN, and the vendor agrees, by submission of a bid response, to promptly pay any such charges invoiced.

In the event GCSN terminates this Contract, in whole or in part, for any reason provided for within the contract, GCSN reserves the right to award the canceled Contract, or any portion thereof, to the next lowest or most responsible offeror as it deems such award to be in the best interest of GCSN.

Any Contract termination resulting from any cause other than a Force Majeure event will deemed valid reason for not considering any future bid from the defaulting vendor.

In the performance of this contract, time is of the essence and these General Terms and Conditions are of the essence.

L. Force Majeure Consideration

The term Force Majeure shall include, but is not limited to, governmental restraints or decrees, provided they affect all companies in the vendor's industry equally and are not actions taken solely against the vendor; acts of God (except natural phenomena, such as rain, wind or flood, which are normally expected in the locale in which performance is to take place); work stoppages due to labor disputes or strikes; fires; explosions; epidemics; riots; war; rebellion; or sabotage.

The parties to this Contract will be required to use due caution and preventative measures to protect against the effects of Force Majeure, and the burden of proving that Force Majeure has occurred shall rest on the party seeking relief under this section. The party seeking relief due to Force Majeure will be required to promptly notify the other party in writing, citing the details of the Force Majeure event, and will be required to use due diligence to overcome obstacles to performance created by the Force Majeure event, and shall

resume performance immediately after the obstacles have been removed, provided the Contract has not been terminated in the interim.

Delay or failure of performance, by either party to this contract, caused solely by the Force Majeure event shall be excused for the period of delay caused solely by the Force Majeure event, provided the affected party has promptly notified the other party in writing. Neither party shall have any claim for damages against the other resulting from delays caused solely by Force Majeure.

GCSN will not be responsible for any costs incurred by the vendor because of the Force Majeure event unless GCSN has requested, in writing, that the vendor incur such costs in connection with any delay or work stoppage caused by the Force Majeure event, and GCSN has agreed in writing to incur such additional costs.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in the event the vendor's performance of its obligations under this contract is delayed or stopped by a Force Majeure event, GCSN shall have the option to terminate this contract in accordance with the General Terms and Conditions document entitled "Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract, and Contract Termination." Furthermore, this section shall not be interpreted as to limit or otherwise modify any of the GCSN's rights as provided elsewhere in this contract.

M. Venue

This agreement will be construed and governed according to the laws of the State of North Carolina. Both parties agree that venue for any litigation arising from this contract shall lie in Gaston County, N.C.

N. Waiver

No claims or rights arising out of a breach of this Contract can be discharged in whole or part by a waiver or renunciation of the claim or right unless the waiver or renunciation is supported by consideration and is in writing signed by the aggrieved party.

O. Right to Assurance

Whenever one party to this contract in good faith has reason to question the other party's intent to perform the questioning party may demand that the other party give a written assurance of his intent to perform. In the event that a demand is made and no assurance is given within five (5) days, the demanding party may treat this failure as an anticipatory repudiation of the contract.

P. Extension Clause

Not applicable.

Q. Regulatory Compliance

- (1) The offeror and GCSN mutually agree to comply with all applicable standards, orders or requirements issued pursuant to Section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 USC 1857 [h]), Section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1368), Executive Order 117389 and Environmental Protection Agency regulations (40 CFR Part 15). Any violations thereof shall be reported to the Administrator for Enforcement or other appropriate authority. Each party shall not be responsible to the other for acts beyond its control or acts caused by the negligence of the other party.

- (2) The offeror agrees to comply with all mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency as cited in the State Energy Conservation Plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (P.L. 94 – 163).
- (3) The offeror shall comply with Executive Order 11246, entitled Equal Employment Opportunity, as amended by Executive Order 11375 of October 13, 1967, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations, 41 CFR Part 60.
- (4) The offeror shall comply with the following civil rights laws as amended: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Title 7 CFR parts 15, 15a, and 15b; the Americans with Disabilities Act; and FNS Instruction 113-6, “Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement in School Nutrition Programs”.
- (5) The offeror shall comply with the “Buy American” provision for Contracts that involve the purchase of food and/or beverages as per 7 CFR Part 250.
- (6) The offeror shall comply with the provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Act.
- (7) The offeror shall complete and sign the *Certification of Independent Price Determination* form; *Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion* form; and *Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying* and shall include these documents as part of the Agreement. (See Attachments)
- (8) The offeror shall abide by all applicable State and Federal laws and policies of the State Board of Education when providing services under this Contract.
- (9) Allowable costs will be paid from the nonprofit school food service account to the contractor net of all discounts, rebates and other applicable credits accruing to or received by the contractor or any assignee under the contract, to the extent those credits are allocable to the allowable portion of the costs billed to GCSN.

R. Assurance of Non-Collusion

By signing this bid, the offeror assures that, to the best of his/her knowledge:

- (1) Neither the offeror nor any business entity represented by the offeror has received compensation for participation in the preparation of the items specifications or the General Terms and Conditions related to this RFP,
- (2) This bid has been arrived at independently and is submitted without collusion with any other offeror, with any competitor or potential competitor, or with any other person or entity to obtain any information or gain any special treatment or favoritism that would in any way limit competition or give any offeror an unfair advantage over any other offeror with respect to this RFP .
- (3) The offeror has not accepted, offered, conferred or agreed to confer, and will not in the future accept, offer confer, or agree to confer any benefit or anything of value to any person or entity related to GCSN or any of its members in connection with any information or submission related to this bid, any recommendations, decision, vote or award related to this bid, or the exercise of any influence or discretion concerning the sale, delivery, or performance of any product or served related to this bid,
- (4) Neither the offeror, nor any business entity represented by the bidder, nor anyone acting for such business entity, has violated the Federal Antitrust Laws or the antitrust laws of the state of North Carolina with regard to this bid, and this bid has not been knowingly disclosed, and will not be

knowingly disclosed to another offeror, competitor, or potential competitor prior to the opening of bids.

- (5) No attempt has been or will be made to induce any other person or entity to submit or to not submit a bid.

S. Assurances regarding Legal and Ethical Matters

By signing this bid, the offeror assures that:

- (1) he/she has read and understands all the General Terms and Conditions in this document and agrees to be bound by them, and is authorized to submit bids on behalf of the offering entity,
- (2) the offeror has noted any and all relationships that might be conflicts of interest and included such information with his/her bid response,
- (3) the bid submitted conforms with all item specification, these General Terms and Conditions, and any other instructions, requirements, or schedules outlined or included in this RFP,
- (4) if this bid is accepted, in whole or in part, the offering entity will furnish any item(s) awarded to them under this RFP to GCSN at the proposed price and in accordance with the item specifications and the terms and conditions contained in this RFP,
- (5) the offering entity has, or has the ability to obtain, such financial and other resources, including inventories, as may be required to fulfill all the responsibilities associated with this bid,
- (6) the offering entity has a high degree of integrity and business ethics, and a satisfactory record of performances, and has not been notified by any local, state or federal agency with competent jurisdiction that its standing in any matters whatsoever would preclude it from participating in this bid, it would in no other way whatsoever be disqualified to propose or receive any award or contract related to this bid, and the offeror will comply with any reasonable request from the SFA to supply any information sufficient to substantiate the proposing entity's ability to meet these minimum standards,
- (7) concerning paragraph (6) above, the offering entity has identified and disclosed in this written bid any and all known suspected matters that would disqualify it from participating in this bid or receiving any award or contract related to this bid, recognizing that the offer's failure to identify and disclose any such matters constitutes its affirmation that no such matters exist, and that failure to disclose in this bid any such matters which do exist is a material breach of contract which would void the submitted bid or any resulting contracts, and subject the offeror to removal from all procurement lists and possible criminal prosecution
- (8) the offering entity has obtained, and will continue to maintain during the entire term of this contract, all permits, approvals or licensed necessary for lawful performance of its obligations under this contract,
- (9) the prices, prompt payment discount terms, delivery terms, distribution allowances, and the quality and/or performance of the products offered in the bid are and will remain the same or better than those offered to the vendor's most favored customer under equivalent circumstances,
- (10) the offering entity will comply with all laws relating to intellectual property, will not infringe on any third party's intellectual property rights, and will indemnify, defend and hold GCSN and its members harmless against any claims for infringement of any copyrights, patents, or other infringements related to its activities under this contract,
- (11) the offering entity will maintain, at the offering entity's expense, any insurance necessary to protect GCSN and its members from all claims for bodily injury, death, or property damage that might arise from the performance by the offering entity or the offering entity's employees or its agents or any service required of the offering entity under this contract; however, the existence of such insurance will not relieve the offering entity of full responsibility and liability for damages, injury, death or loss as described or as otherwise provided for by law,
- (12) neither GCSN nor any of its members shall be liable to the offering entity for any damages (including, but not limited to, loss of profits or loss of business, or any special, consequential, exemplary, or incidental damages) in the event that GCSN declares the offering entity in default,

- (13) he/she understands that by signing the bid with any false statement is a material breach of the contract which will void the submitted bid or any resulting contract(s), and subject the bidder to removal from all procurement lists, and possible criminal prosecution,
- (14) Offerors must comply with the State of North Carolina Conflict of Interest requirement as defined in General Statutes, Chapter 14-234.

T. Bid Acceptance

The period for acceptance of this bid will be 10 calendar days unless a different period is indicated by the offeror.

U. Protest Procedure

Protests of awards exceeding \$10,000 in value must be submitted to the issuing Agency. Protests must be received in this office within 15 calendar days from the date of the Contract award and provide specific reasons and any supporting documentation for the protest.

V. Questions Regarding Request for Bid

Questions or requests for additional information concerning this bid or the specifications should be addressed to:

Joyce Wright
jawright@gaston.k12.nc.us
Gaston County School Nutrition
500 Reid Street
Lowell, North Carolina 28098
704-836-9110

RFP Smallwares 2019-2020
Gaston County School Nutrition
Date: 07/15/2019

"The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited basis will apply to all programs and/or employment activities).

Under the Federal Child Nutrition Program and USDA policy, discrimination is prohibited under the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Vendor References

1. Customer Name _____
Contact Person _____ Telephone No. _____
Address _____
Installation Date _____
Number of Years Servicing Account _____
Services Provided _____

2. Customer Name _____
Contact Person _____ Telephone No. _____
Address _____
Installation Date _____
Number of Years Servicing Account _____
Services Provided _____

3. Customer Name _____
Contact Person _____ Telephone No. _____
Address _____
Installation Date _____
Number of Years Servicing Account _____
Services Provided _____

4. Customer Name _____
Contact Person _____ Telephone No. _____
Address _____
Installation Date _____
Number of Years Servicing Account _____
Services Provided _____

RFP Smallwares 2019-2020
Gaston County School Nutrition
Date: 07/15/2019

APPENDIX A – Quote Sheet (Attachment)

RETURN THIS DOCUMENT IN SEALED BID PACKET

Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Certification

Companies submitting bids that have been certified by the North Carolina Department of Administration as Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) entities are encouraged to indicate their HUB status when responding to this Request for Bid.

I certify that my company has been certified by the North Carolina Department of Administration as a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), and I have attached a copy of our HUB Certification to this form. **(Required documentation for recognition as a HUB).**

- Minority
- Small Business
- Woman Owned

My company has NOT been certified by North Carolina as a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB).

Company Name (Please Print)

Signature of Authorized Representative

**CERTIFICATION FOR CONTRACTS, GRANTS, LOANS
AND
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS**

Lobbying

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying", in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including sub-contracts, sub-grants and contracts under grants, loans and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31 U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Company Name (Please Print)

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

RETURN THIS DOCUMENT IN SEALED BID PACKET

(School District Letterhead)

**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other
Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions**

- (1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
- (a) are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
 - (b) have not within a three-year period preceding this bid been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or Local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - (c) 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 (1) (b) of this certification; and
 - (d) have not within a three-year period preceding this application/bid had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or Local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this bid.

Company Name (Please Print)

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

RETURN THIS DOCUMENT IN SEALED BID PACKET
Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this form, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out in this document in accordance with these instructions.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to whom this bid is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "bid," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this bid is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this form that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this form that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the Nonprocurement List.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

Company Name (Please Print) _____

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

RFP Smallwares 2019-2020
Gaston County School Nutrition
Date: 07/15/2019