

**Advertisement for Bid
Gaston County Schools
2025 Cafeteria Cooler Freezer Replacement Projects**

Gaston County Schools is soliciting bids from qualified Single Prime Contractors to provide construction services for multiple projects involving cafeteria walk-in cooler / freezer replacements and expansions. The schools involved in this solicitation include:

- a) Hunter Huss High School, 1518 Edgefield Avenue, Gastonia, NC 28052
- b) Sherwood Elementary School, 1744 Dixon Road, Gastonia, NC 28054
- c) W C Friday Middle School, 1221 Ratchford Drive, Dallas, NC 28034
- d) Catawba Heights Elementary School, 101 Ivey Street, Belmont, NC 28012
- e) Mount Holly Middle School, 124 South Hawthorne Street, Mount Holly, NC 28120

The scope of work and design solutions for each project vary per school, but each project generally includes selective demolition, cafeteria walk-in cooler / freezer replacements / expansions, patch and repair adjacent architectural finishes, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work. Some of the projects include associated exterior sitework, building additions, structural, and/or building envelope modifications. Therefore, the scope of work for each project necessitates the work be performed by a qualified General Contractor. Vendors who specialize in the sale and installation of refrigeration units must submit their bid as a sub-contract under a participating General Contractor or be licensed to independently provide General Contracting services to be considered.

The architect and engineering team for the project is Little Diversified Architectural Consulting, Inc. located in Charlotte, NC.

Bidding for these five (5) projects will be done concurrently, however, each project is a stand-alone project, and will have its own bid form, and will be awarded separately. Depending upon the outcome of the bids received, Gaston County Schools will decide whether to award one or more of the projects to one or more of the qualified Bidders. The Bid Form will include an opportunity for Bidders to indicate their Base Bid for each project individually, as well as an opportunity to specify any cost savings on a percentage basis that can be applied to the Base Bid if the Contractor is awarded two or more of the projects.

It is anticipated that a Notice to Proceed will be able to be issued on or before February 1, 2025. Construction planning and timing for this project is critical. No construction work on-site that causes disruption to ongoing school cafeteria operations is allowed prior to May 22, 2025 (the day after the last day of school). And all construction work for each project must be fully completed, with inspections closed-out and ready for fall semester use on or before Monday August 11, 2025. Strategically utilizing the timeframe between February 1, 2025 and May 22, 2025 will be critical in terms of project planning, working through any RFI's / Submittals, and ordering long lead items such as the cooler / freezer units. Under no circumstance will Gaston County Schools allow for on-site construction to begin on May 22, 2025, unless the new cooler / freezer units and associated equipment are already in the possession of the Contractor and being stored off-site locally along with any other long lead materials needed for the project. On some of the projects, some limited on-site construction may be able to commence prior to May 22, 2025 provided that such early work does not impact on-going school operations.

Each project will be administered under a single prime, stipulated sum contract for the work to be performed. The Single Prime Contractor shall act as the project expeditor and coordinator for the work. All bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain insurance bonds required for the work. Bidders are to adhere to applicable provisions of Chapter 8 of the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina and the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes GS-143, including guidelines for single-prime contracting options and minority business enterprise participation, shall be observed in letting and executing the work. Gaston County Schools has a ten percent (10%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of work for which contracts are awarded.

Bid security, in the amount of five (5) percent of the bid amount, shall be submitted with each bid. Separate Performance Bond, Labor and Material Payment Bonds, and Insurance in a form acceptable to the Owner in the amount of 100 percent of the contract cost, shall be required to be submitted prior to executing the work. No bids may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after receipt of bids. The owner, Gaston County Schools, reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive all informalities in the proposal process.

The Bid Documents, including Drawings and Specifications for the project are being made available as of Monday November 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. EST. Bid Documents may be obtained by e-mailing both Crystal Howard and Michael Spencer at Little Diversified Architectural Consulting, Inc. at crystal.howard@littleonline.com and michael.spencer@littleonline.com. Little will furnish the Bid Documents including any Addenda to requesting bidders via an electronic Newforma distribution. Hard copies will not be provided. Little will maintain a log of registered plan holders. Only Single Prime Contractors should contact Little to request Bid Documents, and/or any other information related to this Bid event. Other sub-bidders to the Single Prime Contractors and/or third-party agencies should not contact Little concerning this Bid event and must request documents required for preparing their sub-bids through a Single Prime Contractor.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting / tour will occur on Wednesday November 20, 2024.

- The meeting will begin in the main lobby of **Hunter Huss High School at 8:00 a.m. EST** for general introductory information and a tour through the scope of work areas.
- The tour will then continue by meeting in the loading dock area at **Sherwood Elementary School at 9:00 a.m. EST**
- The tour will then continue by meeting in the loading dock area at **W C Friday Middle School at 10:00 a.m. EST**
- So as to not disturb school cafeteria lunch operations, we will need to take a break on additional tours until 2:00 p.m. EST on the same day.
- The tour will then continue by meeting in the loading dock area at **Catawba Heights Elementary School at 2:00 p.m. EST**
- The tour will then conclude by meeting in the loading dock area at **Mount Holly Middle School at 3:00 p.m.**

Formal bid phase questions may be submitted by Single Prime Contractor's only by e-mailing questions to both Crystal Howard and Michael Spencer at Little Diversified Architectural Consulting, Inc. at crystal.howard@littleonline.com and michael.spencer@littleonline.com. Questions must be submitted no later than Wednesday November 27 at 5:00 p.m. EST. The responses to all questions received from registered plan holders along with any other necessary Addendum information will be distributed to all registered plan holders no later than Wednesday December 4 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Individually sealed hard copy bids per project are due and shall be publicly opened and read aloud on Friday December 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. EST at the Gaston County Schools Central Office at 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054 (attn: Mr. Mark Schultz).

Gaston County Schools anticipates the selected Bidder(s) to be approved during the Board of Education monthly meeting occurring on or about January 20, 2025. The awarded Bidder(s) will be notified on the next business day following the January 2025 board of education meeting with contracts being executed shortly thereafter and a Notice to Proceed being issued on or before February 1, 2025.

The successful Bidder(s) shall begin the Work upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed in accordance with the site access limitations described above and shall complete the Work within the agreed upon Contract Time. Work is subject to liquidated damages.