

**GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
INVITATION FOR LETTER OF INTEREST
FOR INSPECTION SERVICES**

Gaston County Schools invites interested vendors to submit a letter of interest to provide inspection services for the new Grier Middle School.

Submit letter of interest to Paul Nault, Facilities Department, 941 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28053 by 4:00 pm Monday, March 13, 2023.

The project includes the construction of a new approximately 165,000 total square foot Middle School and associated amenities including an indoor gym and an outdoor track, football field, softball and baseball fields. The School will be constructed using primarily masonry walls as well as structural steel framing and be supported on conventional shallow spread footings. Site work will include utility installation, SCM Wet Pond installation, and paving for associated parking and drive areas.

Providing the following special inspection services:

Verification of Soils:

1. Perform Dynamic Cone Penetrometer testing to verify materials below shallow foundations are adequate to support the design bearing capacity.
2. Perform classification and testing of compacted fill materials.

Excavation and Fill:

1. Observe conditions of excavation subgrades prior to foundation preparation or fill placement, including proof-rolling and other testing of subgrades, and suggest and observe corrective measures at problem areas.
2. Perform testing and observations during placement and compaction of the fill material to verify lift thickness, material type, and compaction efforts comply with the approved report. Modular Retaining Walls:
3. Perform appropriate laboratory testing on materials proposed for use as wall backfill in general accordance with project specifications. Testing may include:
 - (a) Grain Size Distribution, ASTM D-422
 - (b) Liquid and Plastic (Atterberg) Limits, ASTM D-4318
 - (c) Standard Proctor Moisture Density Relationships,
4. Observe conditions of excavation subgrades prior to foundation or leveling pad preparation, including proof-rolling and other testing of subgrades; and observe corrective measures at problem areas.
5. Test surface bearing of soils at footing subgrades and document whether the soil meets or exceeds design parameters through correlation of soil boring data, use of the Dynamic Cone Penetrometer, and reference to approved drawings.

6. Observe material type and placement of wall backfill to document compliance with project requirements. Perform in-place density tests as required by project specifications to document specified compaction levels are achieved.

Reinforced Concrete:

1. Observe placement of reinforcing steel for compliance with the project plans and specifications prior to the placement of concrete.
2. Observe the installation of bolts in concrete prior to and during placement of concrete.
3. Observe the installation of post-installed anchors in hardened concrete.
4. Observe formwork for shape, location, and dimensions of concrete members being formed.
5. Document the use of the required design concrete mix.
6. Perform physical property tests including slump, air content, and concrete temperature at the time fresh concrete is sampled.
7. Observe concrete placement for proper application techniques.
8. Document that the Contractor has provided proper storage and curing facilities for the first 24 hours after casting of cylinders.

Structural Steel Fabricators:

1. We anticipate that the structural steel fabricator will be AISC certified and that special inspections will not be required at the plant. The contractor shall send the AISC certification for the steel fabricator to ECS.
 - a) If the fabricator is not AISC certified, for additional fees, we will observe that the fabricator maintains detailed fabrication and quality control procedures that provide a basis for inspection control of the workmanship and the fabricator's ability to conform to approved construction documents and referenced standard.
2. In addition to the AISC certification and at the conclusion of the fabricator's work, the fabricator shall submit a Fabricator's Certificate of Compliance to ECS stating that "the work was performed in accordance with the approved construction documents" (per NCBC 1704.2.2).

Structural Masonry:

1. As masonry construction begins, the following shall be observed for compliance:
 - a. Location of reinforcement and connectors.
2. We will observe:
 - a. Size and location of structural elements.
 - b. Type, size and location of anchors, including other details of anchorage of masonry to structural members, frames or other construction.
 - c. Specified size, grade and type of reinforcement.
 - d. Protection of masonry during cold weather (temperature below 40 degrees Fahrenheit) or hot weather (temperature above 90 degrees Fahrenheit).

3. Prior to grouting, the following shall be observed to document compliance:
 - a. Grout space is clean.
Placement of reinforcement and connectors and pre-stressing tendons and anchorage.
5. Proportions of site-prepared grout and pre-stressing grout for bonded tendons.
6. Grout placement shall be observed to document compliance with code and construction document provisions.
7. Preparation of required grout specimens, mortar specimens and/or prisms shall be observed.

Welding:

1. Structural Steel and Precast Concrete Connections:
 - a. Observe complete and partial penetration groove welds.
 - b. Observe multi-pass fillet welds.
 - c. Observe single pass fillet welds $> 5/16"$.
 - d. Observe single pass fillet welds $< 5/16"$.
 - e. Observe floor and deck welds.
2. Reinforcing Steel:
 - a. Observe weld ability of reinforcing steel other than ASTM A 706.
 - b. Reinforcing steel resisting flexural and axial force in intermediate and special moment frames and boundary elements of special reinforced concrete shear walls and shear reinforcement.
3. Shear Reinforcement:
 - a. Visually observe shear studs for full weld flash at connection point.
 - b. Perform bend testing of shear studs in accordance with project documents and specifications, but not less than 5% of studs.

High Strength Bolting and Steel Frame:

1. Material documentation of high strength bolts, nuts and washers:
 - a. Observe identification markings to conform to ASTM standards specified in the approved construction documents.
2. Observe required manufacturer's certificate of compliance.
 - a. Observation of high strength bolting:
 - b. Observe bearing type connections.
 - c. Observe snug tight connections for faying surface interaction and bolt tightening.
 - d. Observe pre-tensioned connections for faying surface interaction and pretensioning methods (turn of nut, tension controlled, etc.)

- e. Observe slip-critical connections for faying surface preparation, faying surface interaction and pre-tensioning methods (turn of nut, tension controlled, etc.)

3. Material documentation of structural steel: a. Observe identification markings to conform to ASTM standards specified in the approved construction documents.

- a. Observe manufacturer's certified mill test reports.

Observe steel frame joint details for compliance with approved construction documents in regards to details such as bracing and stiffening, member locations, and application of joint details at each connection.

Sprayed Fire Resistant Materials:

1. Observe that member surface conditions have been prepared in general accordance with the approved fire-resistance design and the approved manufacturer's written instructions prior to application of the sprayed fire-resistant material.
2. Observe the substrates minimum ambient temperature before and after application as specified in the approved manufacturer's written instructions.
3. Perform thickness measurements at floor, roof, and structural framing members in general accordance with ASTM E 605.
4. Collect samples for material density testing and determination in general accordance with ASTM E 605.
5. Perform bond strength testing for cohesion and adhesion of materials applied to floor, roof, wall assemblies, and structural framing members in general accordance with ASTM E 736.

Seismic Resistance:

1. A quality assurance plan with seismic requirements shall be provided by the structural engineer of record in general accordance with Section 1704 of the NCBC.

a. It is our understanding that performance of the observations and testing outlined in the project Statement of Special Inspections will be in accordance with sections 1705.3, 1705.4, 1707, and 1708 of the NCBC as applicable to the project and determined by the RDPIRC and/or JHA. Examples may include, but are not limited to: Structural Wood, Cold-Formed Steel Light Frame Construction, Storage Racks, Architectural Components, and Mechanical and Electrical Components.

Historically Underutilized Businesses: Pursuant to General Statute 143-48 and Executive Order # 150, the State invites and encourages participation in this procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled.

Uniform Guidance procurement policy compliance statement: "Contracts funded with federal grant or loan funds must be procured in a manner that conforms with all applicable Federal laws, policies, and standards, including those under the Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200)."

Minority, Women, Small Business Enterprise Information

Gaston County Schools Board of Education promotes full and equal access to business opportunities with Gaston County Schools (GCS). Minority-owned, women-owned, and small business enterprises (collectively "M/W/SBE") as well as other responsible vendors shall have a fair and reasonable opportunity to participate in GCS business opportunities. Prime suppliers (i.e., those who deal directly with GCS) should support Gaston County School's M/W/SBE Program by making an effort to engage minority, women, and/or small businesses as subcontractors for goods and services for GCS to the extent available. Prime supplier's spending with M/W/SBE subcontractors constitutes Second Tier supplier diversity spending by GCS and the results of Second Tier spending is tracked within our program. Each bidder or respondent to the solicitation shall submit with their bid the M/W/SBE Utilization Form. Failure to complete and submit the M/W/SBE Utilization Form may render bid or proposal response invalid.

MINORITY, WOMEN, SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (M/W/SBE)

Utilization Form

For: Purchases of Goods and Services

We, _____ do certify that on the

(Bidder)

_____.

(Bid Description)

_____ \$ _____.

(Bid Number)

(Dollar Amount of Bid)

This form must be completed regardless of the amount or lack of M/W/SBE participation attained.

I will expend a minimum of _____% of the total dollar amount of the contract with minority, women, or small business enterprises. M/W/SBEs will be employed as vendors, suppliers, or providers of professional services. Such work will be subcontracted to the following firms listed below.

Attach additional sheets if required

Name and Address	*M/W/SBE Category	Work Description	Dollar Value

*M/W/SBE categories: Black, African American (B), Hispanic (H), Asian American (A), Native American

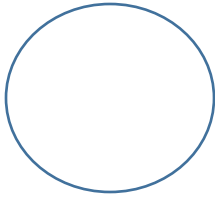
Indian (N), Female (F), Small (S), or Socially and Economically Disadvantaged (D)

The undersigned will enter into a formal agreement with Minority/Women/Small Business Firms for work listed in this schedule conditional upon execution of a contract with the Gaston County Schools Board of Education.

Failure to fulfill this commitment may constitute a breach of the contract.

The undersigned hereby certifies that he or she has read the terms of this commitment and is authorized to bind the bidder to the commitment herein set forth.

Date: _____ Name of Authorized Officer: _____



Signature: _____

Title: _____

SEAL

State of _____, County of _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ 20____

Notary Public _____

My commission expires _____

FEDERAL UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Minority, Women, and Small Business Enterprise (MWSBE) Certification

Entities should indicate their MWSBE status when responding to this Competitive Quote

Check all that apply:

☐ Minority Owned Business

☐ Women Owned Business

☐ Small Business Enterprise

☐ Yes, I certify that my company has been certified by a bona fide certifying entity as a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), including by way of example, and not limitation, such as the North Carolina Department of Administration, Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Council, National Minority Supplier Development Council and Women Business Enterprise Network Council. I have attached a copy of our certification to this form.

☐ No, my company has not yet received MWSBE certification.

☐ No, my company is not a minority, woman, or small business enterprise.

Company Name (Please Print)

Signature of Authorized Representative

Print Authorized Representative Name

Date