

Financial Services
Mr. Ron Y. Steiger, Chief Financial
Officer

**SUBJECT: AWARD INVITATION TO NEGOTIATE NO. ITN-22-039-
CM - STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIS)**

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
PLAN: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONAL
PRACTICES**

Procurement Management Services, at the request of various departments including the Office of Information Technology, the Office of Academic Transformation, the Office of District Operations, the Office of School Leadership and Performance and the Office of Financial Services, released the above-referenced solicitation for the development and implementation of a comprehensive Student Information System (SIS). This endeavor, outlined in the Invitation to Negotiate (ITN), seeks to establish a contract with proficient firms or individuals capable of crafting a cutting-edge SIS solution. Currently, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) employs a best-in-breed approach for its student systems, leveraging a core SIS within a mainframe environment, complemented by data warehouse and integration with third-party applications. The significance of the data managed by the current SIS cannot be overstated, as it plays a pivotal role in overseeing a multibillion-dollar budget.

The envisioned SIS aims to modernize the management of student data and streamline processes for all stakeholders, particularly parents. By introducing an intuitive online student registration system, the new SIS seeks to alleviate the burdensome task of manual registration. This modernization effort is driven by a commitment to enhance the parent experience, optimize operational efficiencies, enhance integrations with external applications, mitigate risks associated with legacy systems, and improve the District's state reporting capabilities.

Moreover, the selected SIS solution must go beyond basic functionalities, encompassing features such as scheduling, course management, demographics data management, student case management, and robust reporting capabilities during survey periods. Additionally, it must bring the capability to generate official documents like final transcripts, ensuring accuracy and compliance with regulatory standards.

This ITN was advertised on the Procurement Management Services website and DemandStar. This contract impacts 335,725 students, an estimated 650,000 parents and approximately 18,267 teachers and staff and it's based on an annual budget of

\$2,000,000 for a five-year period totaling \$10,000,000. The solicitation was shared with the District's Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) for additional community outreach.

The initial term of the bid shall be for a period of five (5) years, commencing upon contract execution, and may, by mutual agreement between The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and the successful bidders, be extended for three (3) additional 5-year periods, pending contract negotiations.

Pursuant to School Board Policy 6320.02, the Goal Setting Committee assigned a 15-point preference for proposals submitted by M-DCPS certified African American or Non-Minority Women firms, and up to 15 points based on a sliding scale commitment for proposals submitted by non-certified firms using a M-DCPS certified African American or Non-Minority Women subcontractor. Additionally, the Goal Setting Committee assigned a 5-point preference for proposals submitted by African American or Non-minority Women firms certified by another qualifying governmental agency, and up to 5 points based on a sliding scale commitment for proposals submitted by non-certified firms using an African American or Non-Minority Women subcontractor certified by another qualifying governmental agency.

Nine (9) vendors responded to this advertised bid, of which two (2) were no bids. M-DCPS OEO staff verified the Small, Micro, Veteran and/or M/WBE certification status of the firm(s). Based on the criteria listed in the solicitation, the Selection Committee's scoring, oral presentations made by the proposers, questions and answers session, several findings presented by the SIS subcommittees and the results of a sandbox testing environment, one (1) vendor is being recommended for award, pending contract negotiations.

On September 12, 2023, the Selection Committee convened and established assigned subject champions for each of the modules and determined that each module advertised would be reviewed separately as follows:

Gradebook
Course/Schedule Management
Scheduling
Attendance Processing
Discipline/Case Management
Dropout/Magnet Programs/ Special Programs
Registration Process/Student Demographics/Online Registration (DSIS)
Immunizations
Allocation Processing
Teacher Certification (META/Out of Field)
State Reporting (DECO/FTE Simulations)
Parent, Staff, and Student Portals and Custom Forms/Workflows
Charter Representation
Data Analytics Platform
SIS Processing and Reporting

Multiple Systems Integration Training/Implementation

Over the course of the evaluation, the Selection Committee met four (4) times. The Subcommittees met nineteen (19) times over the course of this review to evaluate and provide subject matter expertise to the systems. The Subcommittees were made up of staff from ITS, Academics and Curriculum, Exceptional Student Education, Early Childhood, Professional Development, District Operations, Financial Services, Instructional Technology, Charter School Operations, Human Resources, teachers and principals. The Subcommittees in conjunction with the Selection Committee reviewed the proposals and shortlisted proposals based on their ability to meet the needs of the District. The following proposers presented oral presentations and responded to a questions and answers session in October 2023:

Focus School Software, LLC
Follett School Solutions
PowerSchool Group, LLC
School Mint

Fund Source

Various
General

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. **AWARD** ITN-22-039-CM - STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIS), for the development and implementation of a student information system (SIS), for an initial term of five (5) years effective upon contract execution, and may, by mutual agreement between The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and the successful bidder, be extended for three (3) additional 5-year periods, pending contract negotiations as follows:

FOCUS SCHOOL SOFTWARE, LLC
475 CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 305
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701
OFFICER: ANDREW SCHMADEKE

SUBCONTRACTOR:
WILLIAMSTEK LLC MBE/MWBE
66 WEST FLAGLER STREET, 9TH FLOOR
MIAMI, FL 33130
OFFICER: MAURICE WILLIAMS

AFRICAN AMERICAN

2. **AUTHORIZE** the Superintendent to purchase up to a total estimated amount of \$10,000,000 for the initial contract term of five (5) years, and an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 for each subsequent five (5) year extension period(s). Board authorization of this recommendation does not mean the amounts shown will be expended.