

Sec. 5.10.1. PURPOSE OF POLICY.

The Board and Superintendent of Life School shall endeavor to maximize the use of Life School funds to purchase goods and services to further Life School’s mission and facilitate the implementation of the charter program. Through this policy, the Board shall address the legal requirements, as applicable, promulgated at:

- (a) Texas Education Code (“Education Code”) Sections 12.115(a)(2) and 12.1053(b)(2) and Chapter 44, Subchapter B (“Chapter 44”);
- (b) Texas Government Code (“Government Code”) Chapter 2254, Subchapter A and Chapter 2269 (“Chapter 2269”);
- (c) Texas Local Government Code (“Local Government Code”) Chapter 271, Subchapter B;
- (d) Texas Administrative Code, Title 19 (“19 TAC”), §100.1006;
- (e) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200 (“2 CFR 200”); and
- (f) Financial Accountability System Resource Guide, Module 10.

Sec. 5.10.2. APPLICABILITY OF POLICY.

This policy pertains to the purchase of any and all goods and services from state and federal funds. If not otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms shall have the same meaning as found in applicable state or federal law.

Sec. 5.10.3. DEFINITIONS.

Sec. 5.10.3.1. Component Purchases.

“Component purchases” means purchases of the component parts of an item that in normal purchasing practices would be purchased in one purchase.

Sec. 5.10.3.2. Goods.

“Goods” means personal property such as appliances, contract rights, equipment, furniture, intellectual property, materials, software, supplies and vehicles.

Sec. 5.10.3.3. Micro-purchase Threshold.

“Micro-purchase threshold” means the amount set forth at 2 CFR §200.67, or as otherwise authorized by the Office of Management and Budget in an official policy statement.

Sec. 5.10.3.4. Other Services.

“Other services” means any service not specifically identified as a professional service.

Sec. 5.10.3.5. Professional Services.

“Professional services” means services:

(a) Within the scope of the practice, as defined by state law, of:

- (1) Accounting;
- (2) Architecture;
- (3) Landscape architecture;
- (4) Land surveying;
- (5) Medicine;
- (6) Optometry;
- (7) Professional engineering;
- (8) Real estate appraising; or
- (9) Professional nursing; or

(b) Provided in connection with the professional employment or practice of a person who is licensed or registered as:

- (1) A certified public accountant;
- (2) An architect;
- (3) A landscape architect;
- (4) A land surveyor;
- (5) A physician, including a surgeon;
- (6) An optometrist;
- (7) A professional engineer;
- (8) A state certified or state licensed real estate appraiser; or
- (9) A registered nurse.

Sec. 5.10.3.6. Personal Property.

In accordance with 2 CFR §200.78 and 19 TAC §100.1001(6), “personal property” means an interest in tangible and intangible property other than real property, including:

- (a) furniture, equipment, supplies, and other goods;
- (b) computer hardware and software;
- (c) contract rights, intellectual property such as patents, and other intangible property;
- (d) cash, currency, funds, bank accounts, securities, and other investment instruments;
- (e) the right to repayment of a loan, advance, or prepayment or to the payment of other receivables; and
- (f) any other form of personal property recognized by Texas law.

Sec. 5.10.3.7. Public Works.

“Public works” means the construction, renovation, or repair of a structure, road, highway, or other improvement or addition to real property.

Sec. 5.10.3.8. Separate Purchases.

“Separate purchases” means purchases, made separately, of items that in normal purchasing practices would be purchased in one purchase.

Sec. 5.10.3.9. Sequential Purchases.

“Sequential purchases” means purchases, made over a period, of items that in normal purchasing practices would be purchased in one purchase.

Sec. 5.10.3.10. Services.

“Services” means professional services and other services.

Sec. 5.10.3.11. Simplified Acquisition Threshold.

“Simplified acquisition threshold” means the amount set forth at 2 CFR §200.88, or as otherwise authorized by the Office of Management and Budget in an official policy statement, or \$50,000 for funds administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Sec. 5.10.3.12. Supplies.

In accordance with 2 CFR §200.94, “supplies” means all tangible personal property other than those described in 2 CFR §200.33, Equipment. A computing device, as defined at 2 CFR §200.20, is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by Life School for financial statement purposes or \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life.

Sec. 5.10.1. FINAL AUTHORITY.

In accordance with applicable administrative law, the Board may not delegate, and thus retains, final authority over the expenditure or obligation of public funds or the use of public property.^{1, 2} This final authority notwithstanding, the Superintendent has the Board’s authority to initially

¹ 19 TAC § 100.1033(14)(b)(C)(ii)

² At 19 TAC § 100.1001(6), certain things, such as cash, bank accounts, loans and other such items, are defined as personal property. At 19 TAC § 100.1063(a), personal property is public property. Consequently, the Superintendent’s use of public property, such as cash, bank accounts, and loans, are subject to the Board’s final authority.

expend or obligate public funds and to initially use public property in a manner consistent with this policy. At the Board’s discretion, the Board may review any business arrangement or transaction subject to this policy and approve or disapprove the Superintendent’s initial expenditure or obligation of public funds and use of public property.

Sec. 5.10.2. DESIGNEES.

In this policy, where the Superintendent is authorized to delegate authority to a designee (as denoted by the phrase “or designee”), the Superintendent may delegate such authority to a designee(s). If the Superintendent delegates authority to a designee, the Superintendent shall do so in writing through an administrative procedure, job description or internal memorandum. The Superintendent’s delegation of authority to a designee must be specific, must cite the policy section from which it is derived, and must utilize thresholds for each approval level. The Superintendent may not delegate authority for contracts and/or transactions with a cost or value exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold. Any delegation of authority to a designee not documented as set forth in this section shall be null and void.

Sec. 5.10.3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ALL PURCHASES.

Sec. 5.10.3.1. Segregation of Duties; Checks and Balances.

To the degree feasible the Superintendent shall ensure an appropriate segregation of duties between the following functions: (1) the obligation of funds through the procurement of goods and services; (2) the receipt of goods and services including the preparation and maintenance of property inventory records; (3) the receipt of vendor invoices; (4) the disbursement of funds; and (5) the accounting of purchases and payments including the reconciliation of accounting and bank records. Where an appropriate segregation of duties between these functions is not feasible, the Superintendent shall ensure the appropriate review and approval of contractual arrangements and business transactions.

Sec. 5.10.3.2. Purchasing Officer.

The Superintendent or designee may delegate the purchasing function to an employee designated as the purchasing officer.

Sec. 5.10.3.3. Authority to Procure Goods and Services.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to procure or cause the procurement of goods and services pursuant to the budget adopted and amended by the Board. The Superintendent or designee may not procure or approve the procurement of goods and services that are not approved by the Board in the budget, as initially adopted and subsequently amended.

Sec. 5.10.3.4. Contract Required.

The Superintendent or designee shall procure or cause the procurement of goods and services with a cost or value exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold through a fully executed contract or other written legal agreement signed by all parties that protects Life School's interests in the underlying business arrangement and transaction.

Sec. 5.10.3.5. Board Approval Required.

Prior to executing a contract for the procurement of goods and services with a cost or value exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold, the Board shall approve the contract.

Sec. 5.10.3.6. Signature Authority.

Only the Superintendent or designee shall be authorized to execute contracts or other written legal agreements that obligate Life School to disburse funds for the receipt of goods and/or services. Only the Superintendent may execute a contract for goods and/or services with a cost or value exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold.

Sec. 5.10.3.7. Purchase Order System.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and maintain a purchase order system. The purchase order shall serve as the formal method for procuring goods and/or services from a vendor and shall have the effect of obligating Life School to remit payment to the vendor upon receipt of the goods and/or services purchased and of the related invoice.

Sec. 5.10.3.7.1. Required Approvals.

Only the Superintendent or designee shall be authorized to approve purchase orders.

Sec. 5.10.3.7.2. Issuance Prohibited.

Life School employees may not issue a purchase order to a vendor unless it has been approved by the Superintendent or designee.

Sec. 5.10.3.7.3. Failure to Properly Issue.

If a Life School employee issues a purchase order to a vendor without the required approvals established in Subsection 5.10.7.1, the employee may be financially responsible for the purchase, and may also be subject to adverse employment action, up to and including termination.

Sec. 5.10.3.8. Corporate Card Program.

The Superintendent may establish a corporate charge or credit card program to permit authorized Life School employees to purchase goods and/or services. The Superintendent may only use and may only allow the use of the corporate card program for official Life School business and shall prohibit the use of the corporate card program for personal benefit or use. Any employee authorized to participate in the corporate card program shall be required to sign a corporate account usage agreement. In addition to other pertinent requirements, the corporate account usage agreement shall require the employee to pay for any unsubstantiated charges or for the purchase of non-business-related goods and/or services.

Sec. 5.10.3.8.1. Purchasing Thresholds.

Employees authorized to participate in the corporate card program may do so pursuant to the following thresholds.

- (a) The Superintendent may designate an Executive team member or Director level position to purchase goods and/or services through the corporate card program for individual transactions not exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold.
- (b) Campus principals and other employees may purchase goods and/or services through the corporate card program for individual transactions up to the maximum amount established by the Superintendent or designee.

Sec. 5.10.3.8.2. Method of Procurement.

Employees authorized to use the corporate card program to purchase goods and services are required to and shall be responsible for procuring goods and services pursuant to the procurement methods identified in this policy.

Sec. 5.10.3.8.3. Required Records.

Employees authorized to use the corporate card program shall document each purchase through the corporate card program. Accordingly, the Superintendent or designee shall require participating Life School employees to prepare a purchase order form, general expense reimbursement form, travel authorization form, travel expense reimbursement form or other internal accounting record for each corporate card purchase or use. Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall require the employee to also provide an original, itemized vendor receipt or invoice for each individual purchase.

Sec. 5.10.3.8.4. Failure to Document.

If an employee fails to provide the required records pursuant to Subsection 5.10.6.3, the employee may be financially liable for the costs charged to the corporate card, and may also be subject to adverse employment action, up to and including termination.

Sec. 5.10.3.9. Receipt of Goods and Services.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and maintain a system for documenting the receipt of goods and services from a vendor, including the condition and number of items received, the satisfactory performance of services rendered, and any dispute with the condition and number of items or performance of services.

Sec. 5.10.3.10. Budget Owner Responsibilities.

Each budget owner shall be responsible for expenditures from the budget approved for his or her campus/department. Each budget owner must work with the designated Purchasing Authorization Officer(s) to purchase goods and/or services pursuant to this policy.

Sec. 5.10.3.11. Employee Purchases Prohibited.

Life School employees are prohibited from conducting any transaction that results in the purchase of goods and services and that obligates Life School funds and otherwise results in the expenditure of Life School funds except as provided in this policy. If a Life School employee fails to follow this policy to purchase goods and services, the employee may be financially responsible for any expenses incurred regardless of the benefit to the Life School and its students, and may also be subject to adverse employment action, up to and including termination.

Sec. 5.10.3.12. Separate, Sequential, or Component Purchases Prohibited.

The Superintendent and Life School employees are prohibited from making or authorizing separate, sequential, or component purchases to avoid the requirements of this policy.

Sec. 5.10.4. AUTHORIZED PROCUREMENT METHODS.

The Superintendent or designee shall procure or cause the procurement of goods and/or services through the following methods for the amounts indicated.

Sec. 5.10.4.1. Purchases with Local Funds.

The Superintendent or designee may use the most expedient manner available to procure goods and services through local funds.

Sec. 5.10.4.2. Purchases with State Funds.

With the exception of the procurement of professional services and public works, as set forth in Sec. 5.10.8 and Sec. 5.10.9, respectively, the Superintendent or designee shall procure goods and other services pursuant to the methods set forth in this Sec. 5.10.7.2.

Sec. 5.10.4.2.1. No Method Required.

The Superintendent or designee may procure goods and other services that have a cost of less than the Micro-Purchase Threshold through the most expedient manner available.

Sec. 5.10.4.2.2. Informal Quotes.

The Superintendent or designee shall procure goods and other services that have a cost or value exceeding the Micro-Purchase Threshold but less than the Simplified Acquisition Threshold through the informal solicitation of an adequate number of quotes from authorized vendors.

Sec. 5.10.4.2.3. Formal Quotes.

The Superintendent or designee shall procure goods and other services that have a cost or value exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold through a formal solicitation for quotes issued to vendors providing the sought goods and other services and the consideration of an adequate number of quotes from authorized vendors.

Sec. 5.10.4.2.4. Cooperative.

For purchases subject to this subsection, the Superintendent or designee may join and procure goods and other services through a cooperative that provides written assurance of compliance with applicable legal purchasing requirements. However, in the event that a participating vendor in any purchasing cooperative program quotes a lower direct price for the same goods or other services, the Superintendent or designee may procure the goods and other services using the vendor's direct quote and outside of the cooperative.

Sec. 5.10.4.2.5. State Grants.

The Superintendent or designee shall procure goods and other services utilizing state grant funds pursuant to applicable state law, rule, and grant requirement.

Sec. 5.10.4.3. Purchases with Federal Funds.

Sec. 5.10.4.3.1. Micro-Purchase Procedure – 2 CFR §200.320(a).

The Superintendent or designee may procure supplies and other services that have a cost or value of less than Micro-Purchase Threshold through the most expedient manner available. However, to the extent practicable, Life School must distribute micro-purchases equitably among vendors. Additionally, if a purchase is made without soliciting competitive quotes, Life School employees must document that the price was reasonable.

Sec. 5.10.4.3.2. Small Purchase Procedure – 2 CFR §200.320(b).

The Superintendent or designee shall procure supplies, personal property and other services that have a cost or value of no less than Micro-Purchase Threshold and no more than the Simplified Acquisition Threshold through the solicitation of an adequate number of quotes from authorized vendors.

Sec. 5.10.4.3.3. Sealed Bids – 2 CFR §200.320(c).

The Superintendent or designee shall procure goods and other services that have a cost or value exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold through the public solicitation of sealed bids if the following conditions apply:

- (a) A complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;
- (b) Two or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and
- (c) The procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price.

If sealed bids are used, the following requirements apply:

- (a) Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of authorized vendors, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids;
- (b) The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;
- (c) All bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids;
- (d) A firm fixed price contract award will be made in writing to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; and
- (e) Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.

Upon approval by the Board, the Superintendent or designee shall award a firm fixed price contract to the lowest responsible bidder with the bid that conforms with all the material terms and conditions of the invitation for bids.

Sec. 5.10.4.3.4. Competitive Proposals – 2 CFR §200.320(d).

If conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids, the Superintendent or designee shall procure goods and services that have a cost or value exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold through competitive proposals if the following requirements are met:

- (a) Requests for proposals must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance;
- (b) Any response to publicized requests for proposals must be considered to the maximum extent practical;
- (c) Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources;
- (d) Life School must have a written method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and for selecting recipients;
- (e) Contracts must be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered; and
- (f) Life School may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services. It cannot be used to purchase other types of services through A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.

Life School shall award either a fixed-price or cost-reimbursement type contract.

Sec. 5.10.4.3.5. Noncompetitive Proposals – 2 CFR §200.320(f).

The Superintendent or designee may procure goods through the solicitation of a proposal from only one source only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- (a) The item is available only from a single source;
- (b) The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation;
- (c) The federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from Life School; or
- (d) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

Sec. 5.10.4.3.6. Bid Specifications.

The Superintendent or designee shall prepare bid specifications for each requested competitive bid. The Superintendent or designee shall not accept any bid that does not conform to the bid specifications or that is received after the deadline for submitting a bid.

Sec. 5.10.4.3.7. Withdrawal by Bidder.

The bidder may withdraw a bid at any time prior to the scheduled time for the bid opening.

Sec. 5.10.4.3.8. Bid Opening.

The Superintendent or designee shall invite the public and all bidders to attend the bid opening.

Sec. 5.10.4.3.9. Rejection of Bids.

The Board, Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee may reject any and all bids.

Sec. 5.10.4.3.10. Recommendation to Board.

For purchases with a cost or value exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold, the Superintendent or designee shall recommend to the Board the vendor with lowest conforming bid that provides the best value to Life School. In making a recommendation, the Superintendent or designee shall consider:

- (a) The total cost of the goods and/or services;
- (b) The reputation of the vendor and of the vendor's goods and services;
- (c) The quality of the vendor's goods and/or services;
- (d) The extent to which the goods and/or services meet Life School's need(s);
- (e) The vendor's past relationship with the Life School;
- (f) The total long-term cost to Life School to acquire the vendor's goods and/or services; and
- (g) Any other factor specifically listed in the request for bids.

Sec. 5.10.4.3.11. Other Federal Procurement Standards.

In addition to this policy, the Superintendent or designee shall procure goods and services utilizing federal funds pursuant to other applicable federal procurement standards.

Sec. 5.10.5. PROCUREMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

Sec. 5.10.5.1. Selection of Provider.

The Board and Superintendent shall not select a provider of professional services or a group or association of providers or award a contract for professional services on the basis of competitive bids submitted for the contract or for the professional services. Instead, the Board and Superintendent shall select the provider for the professional service to be procured based on the following criteria.

- (a) The provider’s demonstrated competence and qualifications to perform the services.
- (b) The fairness and reasonableness of the provider’s price.

Sec. 5.10.5.2. Limitation on Fees.

A provider may not charge a fee for professional services that exceeds any maximum provided by law.

Sec. 5.10.5.3. Monitoring of Provider Performance.

The Superintendent or designee shall monitor the services and work of all professional services providers. In developing a system for monitoring the provider performance, the Superintendent shall consider the inclusion of deliverables and other measureable outcomes that demonstrate the delivery of the professional services procured from the provider and that enable the Superintendent or designee to evaluate the quality of the professional services rendered and satisfactory performance of the provider.

Sec. 5.10.6. PROCUREMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Sec. 5.10.6.1. Rules and Procedures.

Pursuant to Education Code §44.031(d) and Government Code §2269.051, the Board hereby adopts the policy statements in 5.10.8 of this policy as its rules for the acquisition of goods or services related to public works, including construction services. Additionally, as established in Government Code §2269.051, the Board further delegates to the Superintendent or designee the responsibility of adopting procedures for the acquisition of goods or services related to public works, including construction services.

Sec. 5.10.6.2. Delegation of Authority.

Pursuant to Government Code §2269.053, the Board hereby delegates its full authority under Chapter 2269 to the Superintendent or designee or a committee formed by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall provide notice of this delegation, the limits of the delegation, and the name or title of each person designated through this policy or in the request for bids, proposals, or qualifications or in an addendum to said request.

Sec. 5.10.6.3. Authorized Methods of Procurement.

The Superintendent or designee may award a contract for construction services using the method, of the following methods, that provides the best value for Life School:

- (a) Interlocal agreement,
- (b) Competitive bidding,

- (c) Competitive sealed proposal,
- (d) Construction manager-agent,
- (e) Construction manager-at-risk,
- (f) Design-build, or
- (g) Job order contracts.

The Board and Life School may seek legal and professional advice and counsel regarding the legal and other requirements applicable to the procurement method selected by the Board.

Sec. 5.10.6.4. Notice.

Life School shall publish a notice of the time by when and the place where the bids or proposals, or the responses to a request for qualifications, will be received and opened. Life School shall publish the notice in the county in which its central administrative office is located, once a week for at least two weeks before the deadline for receiving bids, proposals, or responses to a request for qualifications. If there is not a newspaper in that county, Life School shall publish its advertisement in a newspaper in the county nearest the county seat of the county in which its central administrative office is located. In a two-step procurement process, Life School is not required to separately publish the time and place where the second-step bids, proposals, or responses will be received.

Sec. 5.10.6.5. Response to Requests for Bids, Proposals, or Qualifications.

Sec. 5.10.6.5.1. Sealed Bids, Proposals, or Qualifications Required.

A person who submits a bid, proposal, or qualification is required to seal it before delivery.

The Superintendent or designee shall reject any bid, proposal or qualification that is not sealed and return it to the offeror with a statement:

- (a) Representing that the bid, proposal or qualification was not opened, viewed or otherwise examined;
- (b) Asserting that the content and form of the bid, proposal, or qualification was not duplicated or disseminated with any person or entity; and
- (c) Instructing the offeror to resubmit an appropriately sealed bid, proposal or qualification as required by state law.

Sec. 5.10.6.5.2. Receipt and Opening of Bids.

Life School shall receive, publicly open, and read aloud the names of the offerors and their bids.

Only the Board, during a lawfully convened Board meeting, or the Board's designee, at or in Life School's central administrative office, may open the bids submitted by offerors.

A bid that has been opened may not be changed for the purpose of correcting an error in the bid price. A bidder has the common-law right to withdraw a bid due to a material mistake in the bid.

Life School is entitled to reject any and all bids.

Sec. 5.10.6.6. Awarding of Contract Under Competitive Bidding Method.

In accordance with state law, “competitive bidding” is a procurement method by which Life School may contract with a contractor for the construction, alteration, rehabilitation, or repair of a facility by awarding the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

Life School may contract for the construction, alteration, rehabilitation, or repair of a facility only after it advertises for bids for the contract in a manner prescribed by law, receives competitive bids, and awards the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

A responsible bidder is a person who has the capability in all respects to perform in full the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability assuring good faith performance.

A responsible bidder may be required to meet any or all of the following requirements.

- (a) Be an experienced contractor who has served as a prime contractor on similar construction projects for Texas public schools, has satisfactorily completed the scope of work described in the construction documents, and is knowledgeable about the requirements for the construction of and the building elements for Texas public schools including, without limitation, applicable building code requirements.
- (b) Provide a warranty and support for any equipment installed as part of the construction services and in accordance with the scope of work described in the construction documents.
- (c) Be able to obtain payment and performance bonds of the types and in the amounts described in Government Code §2253.
- (d) When submitting the bid, provide a Letter of Statement from a bonding company that the bidder is able to obtain both a payment bond and a performance bond described as stipulated in Government Code §2253.
- (e) Prior to executing the contract, obtain and provide the payment and performance bonds of the types and in the amounts established at Government Code §2253.
- (f) Have adequate financial resources or ability to obtain such resources as required during the performance of any resulting contract.
- (g) Be able to comply with the required performance schedule, taking into consideration all existing business commitments.
- (h) Have necessary management and technical capability to perform any resulting contract for construction services.
- (i) Be qualified as an established firm regularly engaged in the type of business to provide the items and work required by the request for bids.

- (j) Be registered to do business in the State of Texas.
- (k) Be in good standing with the State of Texas.
- (l) Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.

Life School must include the requirements to be used to establish an offeror as a responsible bidder in the request for bids, proposals or qualifications.

Sec. 5.10.6.7. Criteria to Consider.

In determining the award of a contract pursuant to this section, Life School may consider:

- (a) The price;
- (b) The offeror's experience and reputation;
- (c) The quality and reputation of the offeror's goods or services;
- (d) The extent to which the offeror's goods or services meet Life School's needs;
- (e) The vendor's past relationship with Life School;
- (f) The impact on the ability of Life School to comply with rules relating to historically underutilized businesses;
- (g) The total long-term cost to Life School to acquire the offeror's goods or services;
- (h) Whether the vendor or the vendor's ultimate parent company or majority owner:
 - i. Has its principal place of business in this state; or
 - ii. Employs at least 500 persons in this state;
- (i) The offeror's safety record;
- (j) The offeror's proposed personnel;
- (k) Whether the offeror's financial capability is appropriate to the size and scope of the project; and
- (l) Any other relevant factor specifically listed in the request for bids, proposals, or qualifications.

In determining the award of a contract under this chapter, Life School shall:

- (a) Consider and apply any existing laws, including any criteria, related to historically underutilized businesses; and
- (b) Consider and apply any existing laws, rules, or applicable municipal charters, including laws applicable to local governments, related to the use of women, minority, small, or disadvantaged businesses.

Sec. 5.10.6.8. Safety Record of Bidder Considered.

In determining who is a responsible bidder, the Board may take into account the safety record of the bidder, of the firm, corporation, partnership, or institution represented by the bidder, or of anyone acting for such a firm, corporation, partnership, or institution.

In determining who is a responsible bidder, the Board may take into account the following definition and criteria for accurately determining the safety record of a bidder.

- (a) “Citations” include notices of violation, notices of enforcement, suspension/revocations of state or federal licenses or registrations, fines assessed pending criminal complaints, indictments, or convictions, administrative orders, draft orders, final orders, and judicial final judgments. A Notice of Violation and Notice of Enforcement received from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”) shall include those classified as major violations and moderate violations under the TCEQ’S regulations for documentation of Compliance History pursuant to Texas Administrative Code, Title 30, §60.2(d)(1) and (d)(2).
- (b) “Environmental Protection Agency” includes, but is not limited to the TCEQ, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Texas Department of Health, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Structural Pest Control Service, agencies of local governments responsible for enforcing environmental protection laws or regulations, and similar regulatory agencies of other states of the United States.
- (c) Based upon the bidder’s response to certain questions, the Board will consider the following criteria and, at its discretion, determine whether to disqualify the bidder.
 - i. The revelation of more than two (2) cases in which final orders have been entered by the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (“OSHRC”) against the bidder for serious violations of Occupational Safety & Health Administration (“OSHA”) regulations within the past five (5) years.
 - ii. The revelation of more than one (1) case in which the bidder has received a citation or for which final orders have been entered from an environmental protection agency for violations within the past five (5) years.
 - iii. The revelation that the bidder has been convicted of a criminal offense within the past ten (10) years or has been subject to a judgment for a negligent act or omission, which resulted in serious bodily harm or death.

Before considering the safety record of the bidder, Life School must give notice to prospective bidders in the bid specifications that the safety record of a bidder may be considered in determining the responsibility of the bidder.

In making determinations concerning the safety records of the bidders, the Board, Superintendent, and Life School employees are prohibited from making the determinations in an arbitrary and capricious manner.

The Superintendent or designee shall prepare and submit to the Board a summary report of the information and the responses provided by the bidder for its consideration and to facilitate its determination of whether to disqualify the bidder based upon its safety record.

Sec. 5.10.6.9. Notification of Contractor’s Criminal History.

If the person or an owner or operator of the business entity has been convicted of a felony, Life School should ensure that the bidder’s response includes an advance notice disclosing this fact. The notice must include a general description of the conduct resulting in the conviction of a felony.

Life School may terminate a contract with a person or business entity if Life School determines that the person or business entity failed to give notice as required by this subsection or misrepresented the conduct resulting in the conviction. Life School must compensate the person or business entity for services performed before the termination of the contract.

This subsection does not apply to a publicly held corporation.

Sec. 5.10.6.10. Contract with Person Indebted to Life School.

The Board may refuse to award a contract to or enter into a transaction with an apparent low bidder or successful proposer that is indebted to Life School.

For purposes of implementing this subsection, “person” includes an individual, sole proprietorship, corporation, nonprofit corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, and any other entity that proposes or otherwise seeks to enter into a contract or other transaction with Life School requiring approval by the Board.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the Board of any debt due by an apparent low bidder or successful proposer. In the notice to the Board, the Superintendent or designee must disclose:

- (a) The amount outstanding;
- (b) The date(s) of when the bidder or proposer became indebted to Life School;
- (c) The cause(s) resulting in the bidder’s or proposer’s indebtedness;
- (d) Any adverse consequence to Life School resulting from the bidder’s or proposer’s indebtedness;
- (e) The date of the last written correspondence to the bidder or proposer requesting the bidder’s or proposer’s satisfactory settlement of the indebtedness; and
- (f) The frequency of requests for settlement of the indebtedness.

Sec. 5.10.6.11. Right to Work.

When procuring goods or services, awarding a contract or overseeing procurement or construction for a public work to which this Policy applies, Life School:

- (a) May not consider whether a person is a member of or has another relationship with any organization; and

- (b) Shall ensure that its bid specifications and any subsequent contract or other agreement do not deny or diminish the right of a person to work because of the person's membership or other relationship status with respect to any organization.

Sec. 5.10.6.12. Contracts to Minority Companies.

Life School will look for opportunities to consummate contracts with a sizeable portion to minority companies.

Sec. 5.10.6.13. Selection of Architect or Engineer.

Unless Life School employs an architect or engineer on a full-time basis to oversee construction projects, Life School shall select the architect or engineer on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications as provided by Government Code §2254.004.

Sec. 5.10.6.14. Other Professional Services.

Life School shall provide or contract for the construction materials engineering, testing, and inspection services and the verification testing services necessary for acceptance of a facility. Life School shall select the services for which it contracts under this subsection in accordance with Government Code §2254.004.

Sec. 5.10.6.15. Suspension of Policy.

If a facility, or a portion of a facility is destroyed, severely damaged, or experiences a major unforeseen operational or structural failure, and the Superintendent determines that the delay posed by the contract methods required by this Policy would prevent or substantially impair the conduct of classes or other essential school activities, then contracts for the replacement or repair of the facility, or portion of the facility may be made by a method other than the methods required by this policy.

Sec. 5.10.6.16. Change Orders.

If a change in plans or specifications is necessary after the performance of a contract is begun or if it is necessary to decrease or increase the quantity of work to be performed or of materials, equipment, or supplies to be furnished, the Superintendent or designee has general authority to approve change orders making the changes.

The total contract price may not be increased because of the changes unless additional money for increased costs is approved for that purpose from available money or is provided for by the authorization of the issuance of time warrants.

A contract with an original contract price of \$1 million or more may not be increased under this subsection by more than 25 percent. If a change order for a contract with an original contract price of less than \$1 million increases the contract amount to \$1 million or more, the total of the subsequent change orders may not increase the revised contract amount by more than 25 percent of the original contract price.

Sec. 5.10.6.17. Monitoring and Oversight.

The Superintendent or designee shall monitor and oversee all construction projects and services. The Superintendent or designee shall document their monitoring and oversight activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board the progress and status of any and all public works procured under this Policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall not make any final payments for public works procured under this Policy until the work has been completed. Upon completion of a public work, the Superintendent or designee shall provide a final report to the Board. Upon accepting the work performed, the Board may authorize the Superintendent or designee to issue final payment(s).

Sec. 5.10.7. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.

The Superintendent or designee shall prepare and formally adopt administrative procedures as reasonably necessary to properly administer this policy and to adhere to applicable law.