

Administration & Finance - Purchasing Division Christopher J. Gagliastro, MCPPO - Purchasing Director 455 Main Street, Room 201, Worcester, MA 01608

P | 508-799-1220 purchasing@worcesterma.gov www.worcesterma.gov

Christopher J. Gagliastro, MCPPO **Purchasing Agent** 

RFP NO. 7985-W3 **ISSUANCE DATE: 3/6/23** 

BUYER: Christopher J. Gagliastro, MCPPO

## AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NOTICE TO PROPOSERS**

RFP TITLE: Program Audit - Special Education / WPS

#### REFER TO PAGE 7 FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION

#### **General Conditions:**

All proposals are subject to the terms, conditions and specifications herein set forth:

- Scope: Provide professional consulting services for a program audit of special 1. education services as per the attached requirements and specifications of the **City of Worcester Public Schools.**
- 2. A certified check or bid bond made payable to the "City Treasurer, City of Worcester" in the amount of N/A\_ must accompany this proposal. This must be submitted under separate sealed cover marked "Proposal Security." In the case of default, the surety shall be forfeited to the City as liquidated damages.
- 3. All terms and conditions are applicable to this proposal except the following section(s) which are hereby deleted from this RFP: 4, 22, 23, 27
- 4. A performance bond in the amount of **not applicable** will be required. If this proposal is accepted by the City and the Proposer shall fail to contract as set forth in these requirements and to give a bond in the aforementioned amount, within ten (10) days, (not including Sundays, Saturdays, or a legal Holiday) from the date of the mailing of a notice from the City to the Proposer, according to the address given herewith, that the contract is ready for signature, the City may by option determine that the proposer has abandoned the contract and thereupon the proposal and acceptance shall be null and void and the proposal security accompanying this proposal shall become the property of the City as liquidated damages. Performance bond shall be on the City's form only (see sample on pages 12-13).

Any prospective proposer requesting a change in or interpretation of existing specifications or terms and conditions must do so within 5 days (Saturdays, Sundays, and Legal Holidays excluded) before scheduled proposal opening date. All requests are to be in writing to the Purchasing Division. No changes will be considered nor will any interpretation issued unless request is in our hands within 5 days (Saturdays, Sundays, and Legal Holidays excluded) before scheduled proposal submission date.

Any inquiries related to technical or contractual matters must be submitted in writing to:

Christopher J. Gagliastro, MCPPO
Purchasing Director
City of Worcester, City Hall
455 Main Street, Room 201
Worcester, MA 01608
gagliastroc@worcesterma.gov

- 5. Nothing herein is intended to exclude any responsible Proposer or in any way restrain competition. All responsible Proposers are encouraged to submit proposals. The City encourages participation by Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE).
- 6. The following meanings are attached to the defined words when used in this RFP.
  - a) The word "City" means The City of Worcester, Massachusetts.
    - b) The word "Proposer" or "Respondent" means the person, firm or corporation submitting proposal on these specifications or any part thereof.
    - c) The word "Contractor" means the person, firm or corporation with whom the contract is made by carrying out the provisions of these specifications and the contract.
    - d) The words "Firm Price" shall mean a guarantee against price increase during the life of the contract.
- 7. All proposals and other documents relating to this RFP are subject to the public records provisions of M.G.L. c.30B and shall remain confidential until the time specified in c.30B section 6 (d).
- 8. All material submitted by vendors becomes the property of the City. The City is under no obligations to return any of the material submitted by a vendor in response to this RFP.
- 9. Each vendor's proposal must remain in effect for at least 120 days from the deadline for its submission. The City will decide upon acceptance within 120 days of submission.
- 10. It is understood and agreed that it shall be a material breach of any contract resulting from this RFP for the Contractor to engage in any practice which shall violate any provision of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 151B, relative to discrimination in hiring, discharge, compensation, or terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of race, color,

- religious creed, national origin, sex, age or ancestry.
- 11. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals submitted and waive informalities and technicalities.
- 12. The City will review and analyze each proposal and reserve the right to interview selected proposers. The City shall select the proposer, which in the City's opinion, has made the proposal best suited to the needs and goals of the City and its operations and deemed to be in compliance with the terms of this RFP.
- 13. The Contractor will be required to indemnify and save harmless the City of Worcester for all damages to life and property that may occur due to his or her negligence or that of his or her employees, subcontractors, etc. during the contract derived from this RFP.
- 14. The Contract Agreement will be drafted by the City's Law Department in compliance with the terms of the RFP and may incorporate the terms of this RFP and of the proposal selected.
- 15. The Proposer must certify that no official or employee of the City of Worcester, Massachusetts, is pecuniarily interested in this proposal or in the contract which the proposer offers to execute or in expected profits to arise therefrom, unless there has been compliance with the provisions of G.L.C. 43 section 27, and that this proposal is made in good faith without fraud or collusion or connection with any other person submitting a proposal.
- Any proposal withdrawn after time and date specified, the proposer shall forfeit deposit on 16. proposal as liquidated damages.
- 17. A vendor conference will be held as follows: n / a
- 18. The Contractor shall not assign, transfer, sublet, convey or otherwise dispose of any contract which results from this RFP, or its right, title or interest therein or its power to execute the same to any other person, firm, partnership, company or corporation without the previous consent in writing of the City. Should the Contractor attempt any of the above without the written consent of the City, the City reserves the right to declare the Contractor in default and terminate the contract for cause.
- 19. The Contractor shall obtain and maintain in force at all times during the term of the contract derived from this RFP, insurance coverage pertaining to Public Liability, Property Damage and Worker's Compensation as outlined in Section IV. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS of this RFP.
- 20. The Contractor shall carry Public Liability Insurance with an insurance company satisfactory to the City so as to save the City harmless from any and all claims for damages arising out of bodily injury to or death of any person or persons, and for all claims for damages arising out of injury to or destruction of property caused by accident resulting from the use of implements, equipment or labor used in the performance of the contract or from any neglect, default or omission, or want of proper care, or misconduct on the part of the Contractor or for anyone in his or her employ during the execution of the contract derived from this RFP.
- 21. Prior to starting on the contract derived from this RFP, the Contractor shall deposit with the Purchasing Division, certificate from the insurer to the effect that the insurance policies PAGE NO.3

- required in the above paragraph have been issued to the Contractor. The certificates must be on a form satisfactory to the City.
- 22. All prices quoted must include inside delivery, and set-up in place F.O.B. destination to predesignated City of Worcester departments.
- 23. No special charges will be allowed for rigging, packing, crating, freight, express, or carriage unless specifically stated and included in the vendor's proposal.
- 24. The award to the successful proposer may be cancelled in the event of vendor nonperformance as may be determined by the City.
- 25. The successful proposer shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, and regulations. The awarded contract shall be governed under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 26. Purchases made by the City are exempt from Federal and Massachusetts state taxes and proposal prices must exclude any such taxes. Tax exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.
- 27. When the contract is executed, a performance bond, in the full amount of the contract, is required. See paragraph 4. The bond will be of a surety company qualified to do business under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The cost of this bond is the vendor's responsibility. Bonds shall remain in force and effect thru the performance of the contract.
- 28. Expenditures by the City and authorization to spend for particular purposes are made on fiscal year basis. The City's fiscal year is the twelve-month period ending June 30 of each year. The obligations of the City under any agreement to be reached are subject to the appropriation or authorization of the necessary funds. The City agrees to make reasonable efforts to obtain funding and all necessary authorization.
- 29. No amendment to the contract shall be effective unless it is in writing and signed by authorized representatives of both parties and is accepted by the City of Worcester.
- 30. The vendor (and its insurers, if any) shall bear all risk of loss or damage to the equipment which occurs in transit to the user site. The risk of loss or damage to purchased equipment shall remain with the vendor until the purchase price has been paid and title has passed. The vendor shall also bear the risk of loss or damage to leased or rented equipment during the City of Worcester's possession and use thereof subject, however to such conditions and limitations as may be stated elsewhere in the contract.
- 31. The vendor shall not assign or in any way transfer any interest in the contract without the prior written consent of the City provided, however, that claims for money due or to become due to vendor from the City may be assigned to a bank, trust company, or other financial institution without such consent so long as notice of such assignment is furnished promptly to the City. Any such assignment shall be expressly made subject to all defenses, setoffs, or counterclaims which would have been available to the City against the vendor in the absence of such assignment.
- 32. None of the services to be provided by the vendor pursuant to the contract shall be

subcontracted or delegated to any other organization, association, individual, corporation, partnership or other such entity without the prior written consent of the City. No subcontract or delegation shall relieve or discharge the vendor from any obligation or liability under the contract except as specifically set forth in the instrument of consent. Any subcontract to which the City has consented shall be attached to the original of the contract on file in the City of Worcester.

- 33. Neither party will be liable to the other or be deemed to be in breach of the contract for any failure or delay in rendering performance arising out of causes beyond its reasonable control and without its fault or negligence. Such causes may include but are not limited to, acts of God or the public enemy, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight, embargoes, and unusually severe weather. If the vendor's failure to perform is caused by the default of the subcontractor, and if such default arises out of causes beyond the reasonable control of both the vendor and the subcontractor, and without the fault or negligence of either of them, the vendor shall not be liable for any excess costs for failure to perform, unless the equipment or services to be furnished by the subcontractor were obtainable from other sources in sufficient time to permit the vendor to meet the required delivery schedule. Dates or times of performance will be extended to the extent of delays excused in this section, provided that the party whose performance is affected notifies the other promptly of the existence and nature of such delay.
- 34. The vendor shall provide to the City of Worcester a warranty and a commitment which clearly states that all equipment and services proposed and supplied by the Vendor, and/or its subcontractors, performs as expected and promised by the Vendor.
- 35. The vendor represents that no person other than bona fide employees working solely for the vendor, have been employed or retained to solicit or secure this agreement upon an arrangement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage fee, gift or any other consideration contingent upon the award or making of this contract. For breach or violation of the representation, the City shall have the right to annul the contract without liability, or in its discretion to deduct from the contract price or consideration, or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage fee or other consideration.
- 36. Any contract made by the City in which the Purchasing Agent or any employee of his/her department, the heads of using agencies or any other officer or employee of the City having a part in the placing of such contract is financially interested, directly or indirectly, shall be void.
- 37. The vendor shall not discriminate against any qualified employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, religion or medical handicap. The vendor agrees to comply with all applicable Federal and State Statutes, rules and regulations prohibiting discrimination in employment including: Title VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964; The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 151B, Section 4 (1) and all relevant administrative orders and executive orders.

If a complaint or claim alleging violation by the vendor of such statutes, rules or regulations is presented to the Massachusetts Commission Against

Discrimination (MCAD), the vendor agrees to cooperate with MCAD in the investigation and disposition of such complaint or claim.

In the event of vendor noncompliance with the provisions of this section, the City shall impose such sanctions as it deems appropriate, including but limited to:

- Withholding of payments due vendor under the contract until vendor 1) complies.
- 2) Termination or suspension of the contract.

# SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

38. Proposals must be submitted in two (2) packages according to the instructions below. The City intends to consider responses in the Technical Proposal evaluation requirements before considering costs. Therefore, no reference to pricing may be made in the Technical Proposal.

A sealed package containing the original, 3 copies, plus 1 PDF copy on USB drive of the proposal **must** be labeled as follows:

**Purchasing Agent, City of Worcester** Program Audit - Special Education / WPS - Technical Proposal 455 Main Street, Room 201 Worcester, MA 01608 Re: RFP No. 7985-W3 A sealed package containing **the original copy** of the proposal **must** be labeled as follows: **Purchasing Agent, City of Worcester** <u>Program Audit – Special Education / WPS – Price Proposal</u> 455 Main Street, Room 201 Worcester, MA 01608 Re: RFP No. 7985-W3

PRICE PROPOSAL PAGE IS LOCATED AT END OF SPECIFICATIONS

Proposals must be delivered no later than Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 10:00 AM LOCAL TIME. Late submissions will be rejected, regardless of *circumstances.* The City is not responsible for submittals not properly marked.

The evaluation and cost proposals will remain confidential until a formal and finalized contract has been executed.

### RFP EVALUATION

- 39. The City of Worcester Purchasing Agent will assign an evaluation team, hereafter referred to as the Selection Committee, to perform a full and complete evaluation of RFP submittals. The Purchasing Agent will ultimately forward a formal recommendation of award to the City Manager who has final award authority.
- 40. RFP evaluation responses will be evaluated by the Selection Committee based directly upon vendor's response to mandatory and comparative evaluation criteria. Vendors must meet or exceed the mandatory criteria requirements or be rejected as non-responsive.

Comparative criteria will be evaluated by use of four (4) rating categories as set forth by M.G.L. Chapter 30B:

- HIGHLY ADVANTAGEOUS Vendor's submittal meets all the stated 1) requirements and offers significant performance above the stated requirements.
- ADVANTAGEOUS Vendor's submittal meets the stated requirements without 2) risk or disadvantage.
- NOT ADVANTAGEOUS Vendor's submittal contains some risk or disadvantage but is not unacceptable.
- UNACCEPTABLE Vendor's submittal fails to meet the standards of the stated requirements.

After proposals have been assigned ratings on the basis of each evaluation criterion, a composite rating will be established by the Selection Committee. Submittals will then be ranked based upon finalized composite rating.

41. The Purchasing Agent will identify the most advantageous proposal based upon the rankings of the Selection Committee and an evaluation of the price proposals received. The Purchasing Agent will forward a recommendation for award to the City Manager based upon the most advantageous proposal received considering evaluation rankings and price proposals received.

# GIVE FULL NAMES AND RESIDENCES OF ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE FOREGOING PROPOSAL.

(NOTICE: Give first and last name in full; in case of corporations, give corporate name and names of President, Treasurer, and Manager; and in case of firms give names of the individual members)

Name	e Address		Zip Code
KINDL	LY FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARD	ING BIDDER:	
(1)	If an Individual or Proprietorship		
	Name of Owner:  Business Address:		
	Email		
	Home Address		
	Zip Code Telephone No.		_
(2)	If a Partnership, Full names and addresses o	f all partners	
	Name Address		Zip Code
Busine	ness Address_	Zip Code	
	Tel. No.		

(3) If a Corporation				
Full Legal Name:				
State of Incorporation:	Qualified in Massachuset	ts? Yes	No	
Principal Place of Business				
	Street		P.O. Box	
	City/Town	State	Zip	
Email:				_
Telep	hone No			
19292				
Place of Business in Massachuse	etts			
	Street		P.O. B	ox
	<del></del>			
	City/Town		State	Zip
Telep	hone No			
CIVE BUE FOLLOWING INFORMATION	DECARRING GURERY COMPANY			
GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION				
Full Legal Name of Surety Compa	any			
State of IncorporationA	dmitted in Massachusetts?		YesN	o
Principal Place of Business				
	Street		P.O. Box	
	City/Town	State	Zip	
	-		_	
Place of Business in Massachuse	Street		P.O. B	ох
	City/Town		State	Zip
	Telephone No.			
	• • • • • •	<del>_</del>		

The Office of the Attorney General, Washington, D.C. requires the following information on all bid proposals amounting to \$1,000.00 or more.	
E.I. Number of bidder	
This number is regularly used by companies when filing their "EMPLOYER'S FEDERAL TAX RETURN, U.S." Treasury Department Form 941.	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE OF BIDDER	

DATE

UNDER MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 30B: SECTION 10, THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATION MUST BE PROVIDED:

NOTE:

TITLE

Section 10. A person submitting a bid or a proposal for the procurementor disposal of supplies, or services to any governmental body shall certify in writing, on the bid or proposal, as follows:

"The undersigned certifies under penalties of perjury that this bid or proposal has been made and submitted in good faith and without collusion or fraud with any other person. As used in this certification, the word "person" shall mean any natural person, business, partnership, corporation, union, committee, club, or other organization, entity, or group of individuals."

Print)	
	Name of Person Signing Bid
	Signature of Person Signing Bid
	Print)

Company

No award will be made without vendor certification of the above.

 Proposers must sign and submit the above form with their proposal submission.

#### PROGRAM AUDIT - SPECIAL EDUCATION / WPS - RFP # 7985-W3

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Worcester Public Schools (WPS) seeks a Special Education Audit. This audit will examine practices and structures within WPS to ensure they are providing its special education population with access and equity to a high-quality education.

## **GOALS**

WPS has two goals. WPS seeks to provide an exceptional continuum of services in special education programs and services, including out of district placements being provided by WPS while placing students in the least restrictive environment (whenever feasible) in an effort to improve educational outcomes and strengthen students' social and emotional competencies. WPS also seeks to enhance, revamp, and/or develop systems, procedures, processes, and structures to ensure compliance and equity.

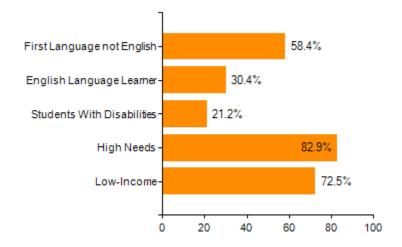
#### COMMUNITY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

WPS serves grades PreK - 12 and is home to nearly 24,000 students in 46 schools in addition to four alternative schools. Following is our enrollment by race/ethnicity, gender, multilingual learners, students with disabilities, socioeconomic status and by specific school.

Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity 2022-2023				
Race	% of District	% of State		
African American	16.7	9.4		
Asian	6.2	7.3		
Hispanic	45.8	24.2		
Native American	0.2	0.2		
White	26.9	54.4		
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1		
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	4.1	4.4		

Enrollment by Gender (2022-23)				
District State				
Female	11,798	442,564		
Male	12,511	469,563		

Non-Binary	9	1,608
Total	24,318	913,735



School	Grades Served	Total Enrollment
Belmont Street Community	Pre-K - 6	585
Burncoat Middle School	7-8	712
Burncoat Senior High	9-12, SP	1,179
Burncoat Street	K-6	240
<u>Canterbury</u>	Pre-K-6	294
Chandler Elementary Community	K-6	426
Chandler Magnet	Pre-K-6	402
<u>City View</u>	Pre-K-6	430
Claremont Academy	7-12, SP	488
Clark St Community	Pre-K-6	268
<u>Columbus Park</u>	Pre-K-6	386
Doherty Memorial High	9-12, SP	1,344
Elm Park Community	K-6	415
Flagg Street	K-6	359

Francis J McGrath Elementary         Pre-K-6         208           Gates Lane         Pre-K-6         544           Goddard School/Science Technical         Pre-K-6         380           Grafton Street         K-6         427           Head Start         Pre-K         407           Heard Street         K-6         246           Jacob Hiatt Magnet         Pre-K-6         372           La Familia Dual Language School         Pre-K-6         172           Lake View         K-6         308           Lincoln Street         K-6         242           May Street         K-6         295           Midland Street         K-6         206           Nelson Place         Pre-K-6         575           Norrback Avenue         Pre-K-6         507           North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         363	Forest Grove Middle	7-8	897
Goddard School/Science Technical         Pre-K-6         380           Grafton Street         K-6         427           Head Start         Pre-K         407           Heard Street         K-6         246           Jacob Hiatt Magnet         Pre-K-6         372           La Familia Dual Language School         Pre-K-6         172           Lake View         K-6         308           Lincoln Street         K-6         242           May Street         K-6         295           Midland Street         K-6         206           Nelson Place         Pre-K-6         575           Norrback Avenue         Pre-K-6         507           North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Francis J McGrath Elementary	Pre-K-6	208
Grafton Street         K-6         427           Head Start         Pre-K         407           Heard Street         K-6         246           Jacob Hiatt Magnet         Pre-K-6         372           La Familia Dual Language School         Pre-K-6         172           Lake View         K-6         308           Lincoln Street         K-6         242           May Street         K-6         295           Midland Street         K-6         206           Nelson Place         Pre-K-6         575           Norrback Avenue         Pre-K-6         507           North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Gates Lane	Pre-K-6	544
Head Start   Pre-K   407     Heard Street   K-6   246     Jacob Hiatt Magnet   Pre-K-6   372     La Familia Dual Language School   Pre-K-6   172     Lake View   K-6   308     Lincoln Street   K-6   242     May Street   K-6   295     Midland Street   K-6   206     Nelson Place   Pre-K-6   575     Norrback Avenue   Pre-K-6   507     North High   9-12, SP   1,377     Quinsigamond   Pre-K-6   713     Rice Square   K-6   458     Roosevelt   Pre-K-6   566     South High Community   9-12, SP   1,667     Sullivan Middle   6-8   827     Tatnuck   Pre-K-6   385     Thorndyke Road   K-6   363     Union Hill School   K-6   390     University Pk Campus School   7-12   224	Goddard School/Science Technical	Pre-K-6	380
Heard Street   K-6   246     Jacob Hiatt Magnet   Pre-K-6   372     La Familia Dual Language School   Pre-K-6   172     Lake View   K-6   308     Lincoln Street   K-6   242     May Street   K-6   295     Midland Street   K-6   206     Nelson Place   Pre-K-6   575     Norrback Avenue   Pre-K-6   507     North High   9-12, SP   1,377     Quinsigamond   Pre-K-6   713     Rice Square   K-6   458     Roosevelt   Pre-K-6   566     South High Community   9-12, SP   1,667     Sullivan Middle   6-8   827     Tatnuck   Pre-K-6   385     Thorndyke Road   K-6   363     Union Hill School   K-6   390     University Pk Campus School   7-12   224	Grafton Street	K-6	427
Jacob Hiatt Magnet         Pre-K-6         372           La Familia Dual Language School         Pre-K-6         172           Lake View         K-6         308           Lincoln Street         K-6         242           May Street         K-6         295           Midland Street         K-6         206           Nelson Place         Pre-K-6         575           Norrback Avenue         Pre-K-6         507           North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Head Start	Pre-K	407
La Familia Dual Language School         Pre-K-6         172           Lake View         K-6         308           Lincoln Street         K-6         242           May Street         K-6         295           Midland Street         K-6         206           Nclson Place         Pre-K-6         575           Norrback Avenue         Pre-K-6         507           North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Heard Street	K-6	246
Lake View         K-6         308           Lincoln Street         K-6         242           May Street         K-6         295           Midland Street         K-6         206           Nelson Place         Pre-K-6         575           Norrback Avenue         Pre-K-6         507           North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Jacob Hiatt Magnet	Pre-K-6	372
Lincoln Street         K-6         242           May Street         K-6         295           Midland Street         K-6         206           Nelson Place         Pre-K-6         575           Norrback Avenue         Pre-K-6         507           North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	La Familia Dual Language School	Pre-K-6	172
May Street         K-6         295           Midland Street         K-6         206           Nelson Place         Pre-K-6         575           Norrback Avenue         Pre-K-6         507           North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	<u>Lake View</u>	K-6	308
Midland Street         K-6         206           Nelson Place         Pre-K-6         575           Norrback Avenue         Pre-K-6         507           North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Lincoln Street	K-6	242
Nelson Place         Pre-K-6         575           Norrback Avenue         Pre-K-6         507           North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	May Street	K-6	295
Norrback Avenue         Pre-K-6         507           North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Midland Street	K-6	206
North High         9-12, SP         1,377           Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Nelson Place	Pre-K-6	575
Quinsigamond         Pre-K-6         713           Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Norrback Avenue	Pre-K-6	507
Rice Square         K-6         458           Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	North High	9-12, SP	1,377
Roosevelt         Pre-K-6         566           South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Quinsigamond	Pre-K-6	713
South High Community         9-12, SP         1,667           Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Rice Square	K-6	458
Sullivan Middle         6-8         827           Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Roosevelt	Pre-K-6	566
Tatnuck         Pre-K-6         385           Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	South High Community	9-12, SP	1,667
Thorndyke Road         K-6         363           Union Hill School         K-6         390           University Pk Campus School         7-12         224	Sullivan Middle	6-8	827
Union Hill SchoolK-6390University Pk Campus School7-12224	<u>Tatnuck</u>	Pre-K-6	385
University Pk Campus School 7-12 224	Thorndyke Road	K-6	363
	Union Hill School	K-6	390
Vernon Hill School Pre-K-6 474	University Pk Campus School	7-12	224
	Vernon Hill School	Pre-K-6	474

Wawecus Road School	K-6	133
West Tatnuck	Pre-K-6	364
Woodland Academy	K-6	487
Worcester Arts Magnet School	Pre-K-6	368
Worcester East Middle	7-8	740
Worcester Technical High	9-12, SP	1,469

#### **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

The special education audit/study for the WPS should focus on:

- the organizational structures of special education, beginning with the early learning program through the continuum of services including out of district placements, and adult education;
- the effectiveness of communication with constituents;
- how resources are allocated;
- the relationship between traditional and special education;
- Recommendations for a robust continuum of services in special education programs and services in the Worcester Public Schools (WPS), including out of district placements being provided by WPS; and
- the program impact on student learning and performance including graduation rates.

#### Minimum / Mandatory Evaluation Criteria

All proposals must satisfy all of the minimum criteria below for further evaluation. Proposals shall include information demonstrating compliance with each of these criteria. Proposals that do not meet the minimum criteria will not be further evaluated.

- Respondents must be an accredited organization that follows evidence-based and/or informed practices for special education.
- 1. Evidence of at least 3 special education audits previously conducted with at least one sample report provided for a Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 institution.
- 2. Provide profile/s of the staff proposed to lead this effort.
- 3. Respondents must provide a minimum of 2 references from other studies they have recently conducted and successfully completed and, if possible, with emphasis on districts similar to WPS.
- 4. Provide a detailed timeline from initiation of study through to successful completion of the final written report. Note: all work must be completed by December 2023.

#### **DELIVERABLES**

- 1. Initial report identifying goals and data collection methods to be used by the Respondent.
- 2. Creation and implementation of surveys and focus groups with students, caregivers, staff and community partners in order to better understand the impact of the District's efforts to ensure that all students have access and equity to a high-quality education.
- 3. Review of policies and practices including the District's Special Education Procedural Manual, and all special education processes to ensure compliance and equity.
- 4. Analysis of special education programs, IEP process and development with particular attention given to the potential overidentification of multilingual students and latino students.
- 5. Assessment of the capacity of the special education leadership team and its staff to engage in meaningful change processes that lead to improved educational outcomes and stronger social and emotional competencies on behalf of our scholars.
- 6. Monthly data progress reports toward the goals.
- 7. Bi-monthly contact by the Respondent to the Chief Academic Support Officer.
- 8. Interim reports (2) summarizing findings from items 1 5 above, with accompanying presentations to the Superintendent's Cabinet, the Academic Support Division, and the School Committee on or around June 15 and September 15.
- 9. A final report in the form of a written submittal, including an executive summary of findings, prioritized strategies for improvement and recommended processes to create meaningful and lasting change. This report is to also be presented to the Superintendent's Cabinet, the Academic Support Division, and the School Committee in November, 2023.

# PROJECT TIMELINE

The work of the Special Education Audit is scheduled to begin in March of 2023, with interim reports due by June 15 and September 15 and a final report completed by November 1. The final presentations are to be completed in December 2023.

#### **PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

The consultant shall be paid monthly after submitting an invoice for services which details work performed. Final payment will not be made until all deliverables outlined above have been satisfied and all final reports submitted.

All invoices must be sent to: wpsacctspayable@worcesterschools.net

## **Comparative Evaluation Criteria**

Each proposal meeting the Minimum Evaluation Criteria shall be further evaluated and rated according to the Comparative Evaluation Criteria in order to determine the relative merits of each proposal. The review will cover the criteria listed below. Within each category, the degree to which the proposal satisfies the stated criteria shall be reviewed and rated on a system of "Highly Advantageous," "Advantageous," and "Not Advantageous."

	Highly Advantageous	Advantageous	Not Advantageous
Experience of the Contractor	Contractor has extensive experience (five or more studies) working in K-12 public education as well as in other sectors, including urban school districts, is well-versed in current research, and demonstrated commitment to promoting compliance, equity and affording all students with access and equity to a high-quality education.	Contractor has experience working in K-12 public Education (at least three studies), but may or may not have experience with urban school districts, is versed in current research, and has demonstrated commitment to promoting compliance, equity and affording all students with access and equity to a high-quality education.	Contractor has limited experience working in K-12 public education (1-2 studies).
Quality of Sample Reports	Four or more sample reports demonstrate detailed data analysis, clear summarization and prioritized, specific recommendations. Communication is clear, direct and concise.	Two or three sample reports demonstrate some data analysis, summarization and recommendations. Communication is clear.	One sample report demonstrates little data analysis, limited summarization and few recommendations. Communication is somewhat clear.

Depth of Data Collection and Data Analysis	Qualitative and quantitative data is collected through multiple varied sources (surveys, focus groups, interviews and public data/document review), analyzed using research-based methodology, outlined in detail and explained to the viewer in clear and comprehensive terms.	Qualitative and quantitative data is collected through multiple sources, analyzed using standardized methodology, outlined in some detail and explained to the viewer in clear terms.	Qualitative and quantitative data is collected through a few sources, analyzed using unknown methodology, outlined and explained to the viewer.
Past Performance and Letters of Recommendation	The proposer demonstrates extensive experience and positive past performance in special education audits. Three or more references are included to support claims to high quality work.	The proposer demonstrates some experience and positive past performance in special education audits. One or two references are included to support claims to high quality work.	The proposer does not demonstrate enough experience or positive past performance in special education audits. References are limited and/or inconsistent.

# PRICING PAGE

# PROGRAM AUDIT – SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT – RFP #: 7985-W3

\$_	* Total Estimated cost of contract includ	ing
	entire scope of services and all deliverables through 12/31/2023	

\*Price to include all fees, charges and items necessary and proper to complete the scope and furnish all deliverables.