

The board is committed to promoting equal opportunity in the school system's building construction contracts.

A. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITMENT

The board:

1. Ensures that information about the school system's formal and informal bidding processes is readily accessible to all interested businesses.
2. Develops and implements outreach plans to inform all businesses about opportunities to participate in building projects.
3. Advertises bids in media outlets that reach a broad audience to ensure wide dissemination.
4. Encourages contractors to attend scheduled pre-bid conferences.
5. Designates a school official to attend pre-bid conferences to explain the school system's commitment to equal opportunity.
6. Provides timely notifications to all interested businesses about bid opportunities, including descriptions of the work, submission deadlines, contact information, and access to bid documents.
7. Ensures that all interested parties have access to necessary bid documents.
8. Maintains documentation of outreach efforts to all business firms.
9. Reviews bids for compliance with all legal requirements prior to recommending contract awards.
10. Encourages businesses facing challenges with bonding, licensing, and bid deposits to utilize resources and assistance offered by local, state, and federal agencies.
11. Provides information to bidders about certification as a Small Business Enterprise ~~programs for historically underutilized businesses.~~

B. NONDISCRIMINATION

The board will award public building contracts without regard to race, religion, color, creed, national origin, biological sex, age, or disability. Nothing in this policy should be

construed to require the board or contractors to award contracts or subcontracts to businesses that do not submit the lowest responsible, responsive bid or bids.

Legal References: *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.*, 488 U.S. 469 (1989); G.S. 143-128,
~~128.2, 128.3, 131(b); 01 N.C.A.C. 301.0101-0310~~

Cross References:

Adopted: December 7, 2021

Revised: March 12, 2024; June 3, 2025