



Request for Bids (RFB) for School Food Lunch Program
Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc.

RFB2026-01

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.

The Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc. (“RNSB”) is a non-profit corporation and a “Tribal Organization” as defined under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (“ISDEA”), Pub. L. 93-638, 25 U.S.C. § 450 *et seq.* RNSB is authorized by the Navajo Nation Council to assume certain federal functions for the Ramah portion of the Navajo Nation under two ISDEA contracts and a grant under the Tribally Controlled Grant Schools Act, P.L. 100-297, with the Indian Health Service (“IHS”), United States Department of Health and Human Services, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (“BIA”) and Bureau of Indian Education (“BIE”), Department of the Interior. RNSB administers a rural health clinic, the Pine Hill School, and Social Services programs for the Ramah Navajo community. RNSB is located on the Ramah Navajo Indian Reservation in the northwestern part of the State of New Mexico, Cibola County (the Ramah Band of the Navajo Nation have been reserved their own Band lands pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 5501(c) (formerly 25 U.S.C. § 459)).

II. RNSB CONTACT PERSONS

Melissa Garica, Education Food Services Supervisor
mgarcia@rnsb.k12.nm.us
(505) 775-3242 Ext# 2200

RNSB, Inc.
BIA Rd. 125 Rt. 140
Pine Hill, New Mexico. 87357

RFB Number: RFB2026-01

Issue Date:

Bid Due Date:

Questions or request for clarification regarding this RFB shall be submitted in **writing via email** to:

Boots@rnsb.k12.nm.us

Questions should be submitted as early as possible to allow sufficient time for review and response in accordance with the Project Timetable.

RNSB will compile and respond to questions and request for clarification **in writing**. Response will be issued on a rolling basis, as reasonably feasible. And distributed to **all Bidders who have submitted a Notice of Intent to Bid** on the date specified in the project Timetable.

All Bidders that submit a Notice of Intent to Bid will receive a consolidated listing of all questions and/or request for clarification received by RNSB, along with RNSB's written response. Verbal responses shall not be binding and shall not be relied upon.

III. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

Section 1- Overview on Request for Bids

A. General Information

1. **Type of Service:** The Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc. (RNSB) invites sealed bids for qualified vendors to supply food products for the Pine Hill Schools (K-12) and RNSB's Department of Head Start Nutrition Programs. RNSB, as a school Food Authority (SFA), operates the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) under federal funding and regulations administered by the **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**.

2. The intent of the solicitation is to obtain competitive pricing for high-quality food Products used in preparing reimbursable meals for student in accordance with federal nutrition standards.

Section II- Scope of Work

B. The successful bidder will provide services to the SFA including, but not limited to:

- Nutritionists to assist with implementation of USDA/NSLP standards and requirements.
- Provide meal production sheets, recipes nutrition/meal components, and Contribution in accordance with NSLP and SBP program regulations.

C. The successful bidder will provide the following types of meals:

- Breakfast
- Lunch

To provide the types of meals identified in Section II (C) of this section, the successful bidder will incorporate in its application the categories of **meal component items** identified in the Meal Pattern Regulatory Tables in **Attachment B: Meal Pattern Standards**.

D. The successful bidder must warrant that all products it provides which are incorporated into meal patterns for the SFA Breakfast and Lunch Program meet USDA nutritional standards for school meals and comply with all federal, state, and Navajo Nation food safety regulations. In accordance with these authorities, products must be delivered in safe and sanitary conditions and meet all packing and labeling requirements required by federal law.

IV. CONTRACT TERM

The contract period will begin **July 01, 2026**, and end **June 30, 2027**, with the possibility of **four (4) one-year renewals** upon mutual agreement and satisfactory performance.

V. DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS

- Successful bidder must have equipment capacity to deliver directly to Pine Hill Schools' multi-Purpose food service/kitchen unloading dock and Pine Hill Head Start kitchen unloading dock.
- Maintain refrigerated and frozen temperature controls throughout storage and transit where applicable.
- Provide delivery schedules to establish the required time or times for delivery

Coordination with the school Nutrition Department.

VI. BID SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Bids Must include:

- Vendor contact information, including primary point of contact/management.
- Provide three professional references with names, addresses and telephone number.
- If applicable, supply a list of any tribally Controlled Grant School that the applicant has previously provided USDA Nutrition Program catering or nutrition services to.
- Current W9
- Complete bid pricing sheet
- Proof of business licenses and insurance
- Food Safety certifications
- Signed non-collusion affidavit
- Applicant may include additional information or supporting materials that applicant believes may strengthen its proposal.

VII. BID EVALUATION CRITERIA

All bids will be evaluated in accordance with evaluation criteria identified in **Attachment A. Scoring Criteria.**

In accordance with RNSB's procurement standards, the bid will be awarded to the vendor whose proposal is most advantageous to RNSB in consideration of the Scoring Criteria and the lowest responsive and responsible bid price.

VIII. FEDERAL PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS

RNSB's receipt of federal funds from the United States Department of Agriculture to operate as a SFA are conditioned on its compliance with federal regulations in retaining vendors for Nutrition Programs. Accordingly, the successful bidder must certify compliance with applicable federal regulations, including:

- **2 C.F.R. Part 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements)**

- **7 C.F.R. Part 210 (National School Lunch Program regulations)**
- **7 C.F.R. 250 (The Buy American Provision)**
- Conformity with all Civil Rights requirements applicable to RNSB as SFA.

IX. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with federal civil rights and USDA policy, the Pine Hill Schools’ does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal in the administration of its nutrition programs.

X. PROJECT TIMETABLE

The following solicitation and project schedule is targeted by RNSB:

Activity	Date
Advertisement of RFB	May 04, 2026
Submission deadline	May 15, 2026
Evaluation of Proposal	May 28, 2026

XI. PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL

- A. Bid proposal must be received by May 15, 2026, at 4:00PM (MST/DLST).
- B. If your company has an Indian Preference- send proposal clearly marked as such in a sealed envelope.
- C. Separate Envelope Containing Cost Proposal. The Bidders shall provide an estimate of costs.
- D. Number of Copies. The Bidder must provide five (5) bound copies and one (1) unbound original (suitable for reproduction) of all submittals in response to this Request for Bids.
- E. Sealed Proposal. All Bid packages shall be sealed, and shall indicate on the outside of the package the Bidder’s Name, and Address, as follows:

“DO NOT OPEN-RFB2026-01-01 SEALED BID”
 (Bidders Name, and Address)
 (MAILED TO or DELIVERY TO) information.

No facsimiled or emailed proposals will be accepted.

Mailing Address:
 Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc.
 Procurement Officer
 P.O. Box 339
 Pine Hill, New Mexico 87357

or

Physical Address:
 Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc.
 Receiving Center/Procurement
 Officer
 BIA Rd. 125 Rt. 140
 Pine Hill, New Mexico 87357

Firms who mail their proposals shall allow sufficient time for mail delivery to ensure receipt of the due date. Proposals received after the closing date and time will not be accepted. These will not be considered.

Attachment A:

SCORING SYSTEM

		Max Points	Applicant Score
1	Vendor Reliability, Staffing & Delivery Capacity	15	
2	Food Safety Compliance	20	
3	Prior Experience in Providing Nutrition Program Catering or Services to Tribally Controlled Schools	15	
4	Compliance with USDA School Authority Nutrition Program Standards	10	
5	Federal Procurement Compliance (2 C.F.R. part 200 Compliance)	20	
6	Buy America Compliance	10	
7	Bid Cost Lowest price per meal/per services that meets provisions in the request for Bids and meets the meal pattern requirements and USDA regulatory provisions for meals served as apart of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.	10	
8	Navajo and/or Indian Preference	5	
	Total Points	105	

The Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any informality or decline irregularities in any proposals or bids. whenever such

rejection or waiver is in the best interest of Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc. Native American Indian preference will apply.

Attachment B:

MEAL PATTERN REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

7 C.F.R. Sec. 210.10 Meal requirements for lunches and requirements for afterschool snacks.

Table 1 to Paragraph (c) Introductory Text—National School Lunch Program Meal Pattern

<u>Meal components</u>	<u>Amount of food ¹ per week (minimum per day)</u>		
	<u>Grades K-5</u>	<u>Grades 6-8</u>	<u>Grades 9-12</u>
<u>Fruits (cups) ²</u>	<u>2½ (½)</u>	<u>2½ (½)</u>	<u>5 (1)</u>
<u>Vegetables (cups) ²</u>	<u>3¾ (¼)</u>	<u>3¾ (¼)</u>	<u>5 (1)</u>
<u>Dark Green Subgroup ³</u>	<u>½</u>	<u>½</u>	<u>½</u>
<u>Red/Orange Subgroup ³</u>	<u>¼</u>	<u>¾</u>	<u>1¼</u>
<u>Beans, Peas, and Lentils Subgroup ³</u>	<u>½</u>	<u>½</u>	<u>½</u>
<u>Starchy Subgroup ³</u>	<u>½</u>	<u>½</u>	<u>½</u>
<u>Other Vegetables Subgroup ^{3,4}</u>	<u>½</u>	<u>½</u>	<u>¾</u>
<u>Additional Vegetables from Any Subgroup to Reach Total</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1½</u>
<u>Grains (oz. eq.) ⁵</u>	<u>8-9 (1)</u>	<u>8-10 (1)</u>	<u>10-12 (2)</u>
<u>Meats/Meat Alternates (oz. eq.) ⁶</u>	<u>8-10 (1)</u>	<u>9-10 (1)</u>	<u>10-12 (2)</u>
<u>Fluid Milk (cups) ⁷</u>	<u>5 (1)</u>	<u>5 (1)</u>	<u>5 (1)</u>
<u>Dietary Specifications: Daily Amount Based on the Average for a 5-Day Week ⁸</u>			
<u>Minimum-Maximum Calories (kcal)</u>	<u>550-650</u>	<u>600-700</u>	<u>750-850</u>
<u>Saturated Fat (% of total calories)</u>	<u><10</u>	<u><10</u>	<u><10</u>
<u>Added Sugars (% of total calories)</u>	<u><10</u>	<u><10</u>	<u><10</u>
<u>Sodium Limit: In place through June 30, 2027</u>	<u>≤1,110 mg</u>	<u>≤1,225 mg</u>	<u>≤1,280 mg</u>
<u>Sodium Limit: Must be implemented by</u>	<u><935 mg</u>	<u>≤1,035 mg</u>	<u><1,080 mg</u>

Table 4 to Paragraph (f)(4)—National School Lunch Program Sodium Limits

<u>Age/grade group</u>	<u>Sodium limit: in place through June 30, 2027 (mg)</u>	<u>Sodium limit: must be implemented by July 1, 2027 (mg)</u>
Grades K-5	≤1,110	≤935
Grades 6-8	≤1,225	≤1,035
Grades 9-12	≤1,280	≤1,080

7 C.F.R. Sec. 220.8 Meal requirements for breakfasts.

Meal Pattern

<u>Meal components</u>	<u>Amount of food ¹ per week (minimum per day)</u>		
	<u>Grades K-5</u>	<u>Grades 6-8</u>	<u>Grades 9-12</u>
<u>Fruits (cups) ²</u>	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)
<u>Vegetables (cups) ²</u>	0	0	0
<u>Dark Green Subgroup</u>	0	0	0
<u>Red/Orange Subgroup</u>	0	0	0
<u>Beans, Peas, and Lentils Subgroup</u>	0	0	0
<u>Starchy Subgroup</u>	0	0	0
<u>Other Vegetables Subgroup</u>	0	0	0
<u>Grains or Meats/Meat Alternates (oz. eq) ³</u>	7-10 (1)	8-10 (1)	9-10 (1)
<u>Fluid Milk (cups) ⁴</u>	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)
<u>Dietary Specifications: Daily Amount Based on the Average for a 5-Day Week ⁵</u>			
<u>Minimum-Maximum Calories (kcal)</u>	350-500	400-550	450-600
<u>Saturated Fat (% of total calories)</u>	<10	<10	<10
<u>Added Sugars (% of total calories)</u>	<10	<10	<10
<u>Sodium Limit: In place through June 30, 2027</u>	≤540 mg	≤600 mg	≤640 mg
<u>Sodium Limit: Must be implemented by July 1, 2027</u>	≤485 mg	≤535 mg	≤570 mg

¹ Food items included in each group and subgroup and amount equivalents.

² Minimum creditable serving is 1/8 cup. Schools must offer 1 cup of fruit daily and 5 cups of fruit weekly. Schools may substitute vegetables for fruit at breakfast as described in paragraphs (c)(2)(i) and (ii) of this section.

³ Minimum creditable serving is 0.25 oz. eq. School may offer grains, meats/meat alternates, or a combination of both to meet the daily and weekly ounce equivalents for this combined component. At least 80 percent of grains offered weekly at breakfast must be whole grain-rich as defined in § 210.2 of this chapter, and the remaining grain items offered must be enriched.

⁴ Minimum creditable serving is 8 fluid ounces. All fluid milk must be fat-free (skim) or low-fat (1 percent fat or less) and must meet the requirements in paragraph (d) of this section.

⁵ By July 1, 2027, schools must meet the dietary specification for added sugars. Schools must meet

Table 1 to Paragraph (c) Introductory Text—National School Lunch Program Meal Pattern

<u>Meal components</u>	<u>Amount of food ¹ per week (minimum per day)</u>		
	<u>Grades K-5</u>	<u>Grades 6-8</u>	<u>Grades 9-12</u>
July 1, 2027			
¹ Food items included in each group and subgroup and amount equivalents.			
² Minimum creditable serving is $\frac{1}{8}$ cup. One quarter-cup of dried fruit counts as $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of fruit; 1 cup of leafy greens counts as $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of vegetables. No more than half of the fruit or vegetable offerings may be in the form of juice. All juice must be 100 percent full-strength.			
³ Larger amounts of these vegetables may be served.			
⁴ This subgroup consists of “Other vegetables” as defined in paragraph (c)(2)(ii)(E) of this section. For the purposes of the NSLP, the “Other vegetables” requirement may be met with any additional amounts from the dark green, red/orange, and bean, peas, and lentils vegetable subgroups as defined in paragraph (c)(2)(ii) of this section.			
⁵ Minimum creditable serving is 0.25 oz. eq. At least 80 percent of grains offered weekly (by ounce equivalents) must be whole grain-rich as defined in § 210.2 and the remaining grains items offered must be enriched.			
⁶ Minimum creditable serving is 0.25 oz. eq.			
⁷ Minimum creditable serving is 8 fluid ounces. All fluid milk must be fat-free (skim) or low-fat (1 percent fat or less) and must meet the requirements in paragraph (d) of this section.			
⁸ By July 1, 2027, schools must meet the dietary specification for added sugars. Schools must meet the sodium limits by the dates specified in this chart. Discretionary sources of calories may be added to the meal pattern if within the dietary specifications.			

Table 2 to Paragraph (d)(2)(ii)—Nutrient Requirements for Fluid Milk Substitutes

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Per cup (8 fl. oz.)</u>
Calcium	276 mg.
Protein	8 g.
Vitamin A	150 mcg. retinol activity equivalents (RAE).
Vitamin D	2.5 mcg.
Magnesium	24 mg.
Phosphorus	222 mg.
Potassium	349 mg.
Riboflavin	0.44 mg.
Vitamin B-12	1.1 mcg.

Table 3 to Paragraph (f)(1)—National School Lunch Program Calorie Ranges

	<u>Grades K-5</u>	<u>Grades 6-8</u>	<u>Grades 9-12</u>
<u>Average Daily Minimum- Maximum Calories (kcal) ¹</u>	550-650	600-700	750-850
¹ The average daily calories must fall within the minimum and maximum levels. Discretionary sources of calories may be added to the meal pattern if within the dietary specifications.			

Meal Pattern

<u>Meal components</u>	<u>Amount of food ¹ per week (minimum per day)</u>		
	<u>Grades K-5</u>	<u>Grades 6-8</u>	<u>Grades 9-12</u>
the sodium limits by the dates specified in this chart. Discretionary sources of calories may be added to the meal pattern if within the dietary specifications.			

Table 2 to Paragraph (f)(1)—School Breakfast Program Calorie Ranges

	<u>Grades K-5</u>	<u>Grades 6-8</u>	<u>Grades 9-12</u>
<u>Average Daily Minimum-Maximum Calories (kcal) ¹</u>	350-500	400-550	450-600

¹ The average daily amount must fall within the minimum and maximum levels. Discretionary sources of calories may be added to the meal pattern if within the dietary specifications.

Table 3 to Paragraph (f)(4)—School Breakfast Program Sodium Limits

<u>Age/grade group</u>	<u>Sodium limit: in place through June 30, 2027 (mg)</u>		<u>Sodium limit: must be implemented by July 1, 2027 (mg)</u>
<u>Grades K-5</u>	<u>≤540</u>	<u>≤485</u>	
<u>Grades 6-8</u>	<u>≤600</u>	<u>≤535</u>	
<u>Grades 9-12</u>	<u>≤640</u>	<u>≤570</u>	