

HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For

Waste Disposal Services

RFP NUMBER 24-031

Questions and Answers

1. Question: Under 4.16 Transition, why is the County going to transition away from 6 yards to 8 yards for all primary and elementary schools? This transition may cause a significant cost increase. Can we submit an alternative for current sizes at the primary and elementary schools to show the difference in cost?

Answer: Our primary and elementary have been the schools most affected by the overage charges from our current waste disposal company. Also, those locations have 2 dumpsters where middle and high schools typically have more than 2. An Offeror may submit more than one Proposal. The Offeror may submit (a) a Main Proposal in accordance with all the requirements of this RFP and (b) one or more "Alternative Proposal". The District welcomes any Alternative Proposal that an Offeror considers appropriate in light of its technical and commercial knowledge. Costs will be reviewed as part of the evaluation scoring process. Attach alternative pricing documentation with the Main Cost Proposal. Cost should not be included in the Technical Proposal.

2. Question: Under 5.2 Experience, County BOE asking for 3 recommendation letters from systems similar in size, nowadays school boards are shy about such letters of recommendation due to liability and other factors, can we just submit a list of references similar in size?

Answer: If letters of recommendation are not available, a list of references will still be necessary. However, each proposal will be assigned points per Section 6.2 on page 10 of the RFP document based upon Company Background and Experience. The District must assure itself that the supplier has the resources to successfully perform under contract.

3. Question: Holiday pick up schedule. Will all sites receiving 1x and 2x a week service remain the same during holiday weeks? I understand the 5x a week pickup will go to 2x a week during holiday weeks.

Answer: During the non-school times as defined as Fall Break, Thanksgiving Week, Christmas Break (2-weeks) and Spring Break. (SEE ACADEMIC CALENDAR on page 21 of RFP document for reference or on <https://www.hcbe.net/calendar>) We expect the 5X per week service sites to drop to 2X per week. The other 1X and 2X sites will remain the same all year. No changes should be made.

4. **Question:** Can you provide us the expected pick-up schedule during the Summer months?

Answer: We expect all sites to remain on the normal 1X, 2X, 5X schedules during the summer. Buildings are not empty due to summer enrichment programs, and it is better to maintain the schedule so that overflow waste issues don't happen.

5. **Question:** Typically, there are built in annual consumer price adjustments in these types of agreements. This is industry standard <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cpi.pdf>
The RFP does not talk about it. Are you asking for a 5-year fixed rate?

Answer: Each year, the cost should remain fixed for the entire fiscal year. The District prefers a 5 year fixed rate. However, if the renewal cost increase exceeds five (5) percent of the current cost, the renewal will be re-bid.

6. **Question:** Can you please tell me when the estimated start date would be for this opportunity?

Answer: The expectation is for the contract to start July 1st. Our current agreement expires June 30th. All potential new service providers should provide a plan for seamless transition of services from our current provider per Section 4.16 of the RFP document on page 9.

7. **Question:** - Will all 6yd containers at elementary and primary schools be transitioned to 8yd containers? There are also some high schools with 6yds. Would we need to quote those as 8yds also?

Answer: The financial proposal should be based upon the size of the containers listed on the EXCEL Cost Proposal 6 and 8 YD Units document. Our primary and elementary have been the schools most affected by the overage charges from our current waste disposal company. Also, those locations currently have 2 dumpsters where middle and high schools typically have more than 2.

8. **Question:** - The way the roll off is priced out in your RFP may also add to your costs. Your roll of cost was Haul, Disposal Cost, and container rental cost. There were 3 pricing categories.

The way you are asking for roll off pricing now is container rental cost and then a combined cost per pull including landfill fees. You are asking for the haul charge to be included with the landfill fee and this will increase your costs since the roll off boxes are heavy. You are better off asking for a separate pull, container rental fee, and disposal charge. Will you consider changing the pricing format asking for separate costs for per pull, container rent, and disposal charges?

Answer: The Offeror may submit (a) a Main Proposal in accordance with all the requirements of this RFP and (b) one or more "Alternative Proposal". The District welcomes any Alternative Proposal that an Offeror considers appropriate in light of its technical and commercial knowledge. Costs will be reviewed as part of the evaluation scoring process. Attach alternative pricing documentation with the Main Cost Proposal. Cost should not be included in the Technical Proposal.

9. **Question:** I would like to request a copy of the current contract, please let me know if I will need to fill out any type of form.

Answer: Open records requests can be made through our Community Relations Department. The information can be found at <https://www.hcbe.net/openrecords>.