

**DETERMINATION AND FINDING  
FOR A SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

**AGENCY:** District of Columbia Public Schools  
Office of Academic Services  
**CAPTION:** PLTW Bio-Medical Sciences Program Supplies  
**PROPOSED CONTRACTOR:** Diversified Educational System (DES)  
**CONTRACT NO.**

**FINDINGS**

**1. AUTHORIZATION:**

D.C. Code 2-354.04.5 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1702.

**2. MINIMUM NEED:**

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Office of Academic Services has an immediate need for Diversified Educational System to provide equipment and supplies to support the Project Lead The Way Bio-medical Sciences program at Wilson and Eastern High Schools for school year 2015.

**3. ESTIMATED COST:**

The estimated cost is \$48,301.66

**3. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:**

The District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of Academic Services recommends the services of Diversified Educational Services for supplying the goods and equipment needed to continue to implement the Project Lead The Way Bio-Medical Sciences Program at DC Public High Schools.

**Background and History:**

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that prepares students to be leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by partnering with middle and high schools to provide a rigorous and relevant STEM education. By providing engaging, hands-on curricula in the fields of engineering and bio-medical sciences PLTW encourages the development of problem-solving skills, critical thinking, creative and innovative reasoning, and a love of learning.

As a member of the PLTW network, DC Public Schools has the right to implement the PLTW curriculum. The PLTW agreement stipulates that in exchange for PLTW curriculum access, each local school must provide the necessary training, supplies, equipment, and classroom space to allow the program to be taught and used effectively. Currently the two (2) Bio-medical Science PLTW programs in DC Public Schools are provided at Eastern and Wilson High Schools.

To assist in the equipment purchase process, PLTW has worked with states and local school district to develop a purchase manual that contains all the items necessary to successfully operate a PLTW program. This manual contains negotiated prices for individual goods from various suppliers, but does not include a bundled pricing schedule. DCPS would prefer bundled pricing from one supplier for all the goods it intends to purchase for the PLTW Bio-Medical program for any given school year.

Diversified Education Systems (DES) is a recognized leader in combining laboratory casework, curriculum and equipment. As a provider of school system furnishing, technical needs, and educational requirements, DES is able to provide bundled goods for the PLTW curriculum. This is more convenient for DCPS to process one purchase order for all the goods rather than numerous purchase orders to various vendors.

Historically, DCPS has endeavored to maintain consistency of equipment for warranty, program, and supply purchasing. Therefore, DCPS would prefer bundled pricing from one supplier for all the bio-medical sciences goods it intends to purchase for the PLTW program for any given school year.

**The Proposed Vendor's Unique Qualifications:**

Diversified Education Systems (DES) is a recognized leader in combining laboratory casework, curriculum and equipment. Focusing on the Mid-Atlantic educational market, DES offers workable solutions for school system furnishing, technical needs, and educational requirements. Their approach is simple. They bring the best minds in the business - expert teams in education, laboratory casework design and installation, curriculum implementation as well as customer service. As a provider of school system furnishing, technical needs, and educational requirements, DES has the capability internally and through external contacts to offer DCPS bundled pricing for the PLTW goods and equipment.

Given that DES has the capability to bundle the goods required to continue to implement PLTW it is both necessary and in the best interest of DCPS to continue to obtain the PLTW equipment/goods from DES.

In light of the above findings a sole source award is in the best interest of the DCPS Office of Academic Services and would be the most efficient and cost-effective procurement method.

**CERTIFICATION BY THE PROGRAM MANAGER:**

I hereby certify that the above findings are correct and the anticipated cost to DCPS is fair and reasonable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Career and Technical Education

**CERTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION**

Based on the above certified findings in accordance cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive bidding process under Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; DC Code 2-354 and 27 DCMR 1304 and 1702.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Procurement Officer