

Descriptor Term:
PARTICIPATION BY HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED
BUSINESSES

Descriptor Code:
6.4020

Legal References: City of Richmond v. J. A. Croson Co., 488 U.S. 469 (1989); G.S. 143-48, 143-128

Cross References: 6.4420 Vendor Lists; 9.1250 Participation by Women and Minority Owned Businesses

The board affirms the State's commitment to encourage participation of historically underutilized businesses in the school system's purchase of goods and services. The board of education prohibits discrimination against any person or business on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, sex, disability or religion.

SCHOOL SYSTEM GOOD FAITH EFFORTS

The board has adopted the following guidelines to ensure that the school system will make good faith efforts to reach diverse suppliers of goods and services and to encourage participation in the school system's purchasing process by such suppliers. The school system will:

- make information about the school system's purchasing procedures and bidding process readily available;
- advertise for bids in media that reaches minority businesses or directly distribute to minority businesses advertisements for bids, whichever is allowed by law;
- ensure access to bidding documents needed for making bids on projects;
- request directory information of businesses owned and controlled by minorities, women, disabled persons and nonprofit work centers for the blind or severely disabled by contacting the Division of Purchase and Contracts at the State Department of Administration;
- sponsor or participate in purchasing seminars for all prospective vendors, or in particular for minority-owned, female-owned, disabled-owned, disabled business enterprises, and non-profit work centers for the blind or severely disabled;
- provide information on HUBs on how to have a company name included on lists maintained by the Division of Purchase and Contracts at the State Department of Administration;
- prepare vendor lists in accordance with policy 6.4420, Vendor Lists; and
- where allowed by law, permit performance guarantees rather than performance bonds for contracts for goods and services if the law requires performance bonds.

DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING

The superintendent or his or her designee will submit all legally required reports on the use of historically underutilized businesses and will document the use of businesses qualifying as historically underutilized businesses as necessary to comply with applicable laws.