

## Austin ISD 20RFP099 Fresh Produce

We seek to purchase more fruit and vegetable products that are grown and harvested within 500 miles of our Warehouse as well as select products that are Certified USDA Organic and Fairtrade.

This document provides some important updates and information about our continued commitment to GFPP and our expectations in this bid cycle. Here is a highlight of the key changes you may see in our bid:

- **The majority of the bid specifications include language indicating our *preference* for USDA Certified Organic products.** *If you are able to supply an organic certified product, please make sure you also include documentation of this certification in your bid response. We will consider bids with these claims only if documentation is provided.*
- **Many of the bid specifications include language indicating our *preference* for products grown and harvested within 500 miles of AISD.** *If you are able to supply products that have been grown and harvested within this distance from AISD, please include a list of the farms your products come from, including their name and location.*
- **Included is a bid specification indicating a *preference* for Fairtrade bananas.** *If you are able to supply Fairtrade bananas, please also include documentation specifying the type of Fairtrade certification you hold. We will consider bids with these claims only if documentation is provided.*

We are requesting that you submit **pricing**, as applicable, for each product in the following categories\*:

- 1) USDA Organic AND Harvested within 500 miles of AISD
- 2) USDA Organic and NOT Harvested within 500 miles of AISD
- 3) Conventional

*\*You are **not** required to submit a price in each column, but **you are encouraged to submit pricing for all qualifying products you are able to supply** to Austin ISD according to the bid specifications, including your ability to provide documentation about any certification claims. All prices and products will be considered.*

*\*\*Conventional Price should be the price for a product that is neither USDA Certified Organic, harvested within 500 miles of Austin ISD, nor Certified Fairtrade.*

There is also a column to add vendor comments about your products. You are encouraged to write as many details here that you think we should know. **Specifically, if you are able to supply Fairtrade bananas, please use this space to indicate which column reflects the Fairtrade price.**

For reference, included is a graphic outlining Austin ISD's values for the products we are prioritizing for purchase in this bid. Priority will be given to products that advance these values, and any claims about third-party certifications must be supported with clear documentation that the certifications are current and valid.



**AUSTIN**  
Independent School District

**Nutrition &  
Food Services**

Our mission is to support the achievement of all students by expanding food access, serving healthy, tasty meals, and providing learning opportunities about nutrition, cultural foodways and the food system.

**AISD will give greater priority to products that advance the following goals:**



### **Support the Local Economy**

Producers or manufacturers who are family owned or cooperatively owned by workers.

AND

Are located within 500 miles of AISD.



### **Protect the Environment**

Products with certifications that highlight sustainable environmental practices.  
Examples include:

- AGA Grassfed (meat/dairy)
- Animal Welfare Approved (meat)
- Certified humane raised and handled (eggs)
- Pesticide free (grain)
- USDA Transitional Organic Standard (produce)
- Salmon Safe/LEAF (produce)
- Food Alliance Certified (grain)
- USDA Organic (except fish)
- Aligns with the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Guide



### **Provide Humane Treatment of Animals**

Products with certifications that demonstrate animals were treated humanely.  
Examples include:

- Certified Humane
- USDA Organic
- Gap Step 1,2,3,4,5, or 5+
- Cage Free
- American Humane Certified Pasture Raised or Certified Humane Pasture Raised
- Certified Humane Free Range
- American Grassfed Association Producer
- Animal Welfare Approved
- Certified Grassfed by a Greener World



### **Ensure Fair Labor**

Producers and manufacturers who provide a safe working environment and fair wages for their workers demonstrated by a documented social responsibility policy, a union contract with employees, or certification from Fair for Life, Fairtrade America (Fairtrade International FLO), or Fairtrade USA.



### **Serve Healthy Food**

Products that promote health and wellness and meet the federal nutrition guidelines for school meals. Priority is also given to food products that are minimally processed and do not contain ingredients that are on the School Food Focus unwanted and watch ingredient lists.

**Austin ISD is a participant in the Good Food Purchasing Program**

**Austin ISD is an equal opportunity provider.**