

I. SUMMARY OF AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

The Austin Independent School District (Austin ISD) seeks to strengthen the economic vitality of the community by ensuring small businesses have fair, transparent, and meaningful opportunities to participate in procurement activities through intentional outreach and capacity-building.

The purpose and objective of the Small Business Program ("SB Program" or the "Program") policy are therefore as follows:

- To ensure small and local business enterprises have meaningful opportunities to participate in District procurements by reducing barriers and promoting fair competition;
- To broaden the District's vendor pool by engaging a wider range of small businesses, fostering healthier competition, improving service quality, and delivering greater value for District resources;
- To provide outreach, education, technical assistance, and partnership opportunities that help small businesses grow, successfully compete for District work, and strengthen their long-term sustainability; and
- To administer the Small Business Program in a manner consistent with applicable federal and state laws.

Shown below are the key features of the Austin ISD's Small Business Program.

- The SB Program is a goal-oriented program, requiring contractors to whom AISD awards prime contracts for design services or construction services to use "Good Faith Effort" to utilize certified small businesses.
- The SB Program applies only to bond-funded eligible contracts, defined as all contracts for architectural design services, engineering design services or construction services valued at \$100,000 or greater, except for sole-source items, federally funded contracts, contracts with other governmental entities, and those contracts that are otherwise prohibited by applicable law or expressly exempted by AISD. The SB Program shall not apply to contracts for non-construction goods and services.
- The SB Program is a race and gender-neutral program.
- The SB Program sets a 20% annual participation goal for eligible construction contracts and a 30% goal for eligible professional services contracts, focusing on subcontracting/subconsultant opportunities, price competitiveness, and increased accessibility. AISD recognizes that individual actual participation may vary based on subcontracting opportunities, availability of small businesses, and price competitiveness. The participation goal may change from year to year based on all relevant factors considered.
- Vendors do not have to be certified to participate in the district's contracting activities. However, only certified small businesses may be counted toward meeting the district's Small Business Enterprise (SBE) goal. To participate, small businesses must be certified by an agency or