

City of Newport, Rhode Island
Purchasing Division
Notice to Bidders

SEALED BID/PROPOSAL
10-054

Sealed Bids/Proposals are requested to provide an **Educational Benefits Assessment Study** of school regionalization models, in accordance with all terms and specifications contained herein, to be received in the Purchasing Office, City Hall, 4 Broadway, Newport, R.I. until:

Two (2) o'clock P.M., Local Time
01 Apr 2010

NO PUBLIC OPENING – PROPOSAL DROP ONLY

Bids/Proposals must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Purchasing Office, City Hall, 43 Broadway, Newport, R.I. 02840, and must be plainly marked in the lower left hand corner, "**Educational Benefits Assessment Study # 10-054**".

It is the bidder's responsibility to see that the bid is delivered within the time and at the place prescribed. Bids received prior to the time of opening will be securely kept, unopened. Bids may be withdrawn on written request (on the letterhead of the bidder and signed by the person signing the bid), which must be received prior to the time fixed for opening. Bids may be modified in the same manner. No bid or modification thereof received after the time set for opening will be considered, even if determined by the City that such non-arrival before the set for opening was due solely to the delay in the mails for which the bidder is not responsible.

Any bidder taking exception to, or questioning any of the provisions, procedures, conditions or specifications herein stated should make such exceptions known to the undersigned, in writing, not less than five (5) days before the bid opening.

Any change or interpretation made as a result thereof will be published in an addendum and mailed to all prospective bidders. Should a bidder still not be satisfied, he may, in the bid, set out and stipulate the exception, with enough explanation to be understood by the City and, within the stipulation, the INCREASE or DECREASE in the bid price because of the exception shall be stated. The City may, at its discretion, accept or reject any or all exceptions.

Federal Excise Taxes and/or Rhode Island Use Taxes are not to be included in the bid. The City will execute exemption certificates if furnished by the bidder when submitting

their invoice.

The bidder will state the approximate delivery date in the bid, or the time requires to make delivery after notification of award.

The right is reserved, as the interest of the City may require, to reject any and all bid proposals, to waive any technical defect or informality in bids received, and to accept or reject any bid or portion thereof.

The City of Newport reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or to accept any proposals deemed to be in the best interest of the City.

The technical point of contact for this package is: **Dr. Charles Shoemaker** at (401) 846-3388 or by email at drshoe@verizon.net

Note: All bidders are responsible for ensuring that no addendums have been made to the original bid package. All bid packages and addendums are located at www.ci.newport.ri.us or www.cityofnewport.com under (Active Bids) within the Purchasing webpage using the above bid/proposal number or you can contact the Purchasing Department.

One copy of these papers is furnished to bidders.

CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Marc P. Agin

Marc P. Agin
Purchasing Agent
(401) 845-5414

CITY OF NEWPORT
Request for Proposal # 10-054

Proposed Work:

The City of Newport, acting on behalf of the Aquidneck Island Study group, a group comprising members of the school committees and municipal councils of Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth, solicits proposals for a comprehensive **Educational Benefits Assessment Study** to assess how an Aquidneck Island regional school system could add value to the education of public school children.

Background:

The Rhode Island Public Expenditures Council (RIPEC) conducted a financial analysis of the feasibility of consolidating the public schools systems on Aquidneck Island, comprised of the City of Newport, the Town of Middletown and the Town of Portsmouth, in Rhode Island. The results of the RIPEC study, reported in the **Aquidneck Island Consolidation Feasibility Study (June 2009)**, provided compelling evidence that significant and substantial cost savings could be achieved by implementing various regionalization models described in the report. But, while the RIPEC study provides extensive evidence of the financial benefits of school regionalization, its scope did not include a comprehensive assessment of the educational benefit of regionalization, a matter of considerable interest to policy makers, parents and residents in the three (3) communities.

Scope:

The scope of work is divided into two phases. Proposals should separately address the feasibility, cost and time needed to complete each phase. The proposed study should be based on regionalization Models FIVE and SIX described in the RIPEC report (a copy of which is provided in this package). The timeframe of regionalization implementation should be 2014. Preparation of the study should include review of the Master Plans of each district and interviews of key stakeholders (e.g., school superintendents and school committee members).

Phase One:

Phase One should explicitly answer the following eight questions, which have been adapted from [Rhode Island General Law \(RIGL\) Title 16-3-3.1](#), as well as address the implementation and outcome issues raised by these questions. This phase of the study should include a survey of school regionalization efforts in comparable communities and include a report on the lessons learned (e.g., advantages, disadvantages, and challenges) during implementation of regionalization in those communities that can be

used to guide regionalization implementation on Aquidneck Island if a decision to do that is made.

- How will regionalization allow the city and towns to offer an enhanced universal pre-K through 12 educational program?
- How will regionalization allow the school systems to offer a more comprehensive and/or diversified program for all students?
- What effect will regionalization have on class size and will that be beneficial to the students' classroom performance, socialization skills and/or participation in school activities?
- Are there opportunities for improvement in the curriculum or programs within districts that can be achieved by regionalization?
- What benefits will regionalization have for at-risk and special populations within the districts?
- How will extra-curricular (sports, drama, debate, etc.), co-curricular (band, chorus, art etc.) and/or student support services be enhanced by regionalization?
- How will regionalization enhance vocational/technology programs?
- What do comparative studies of regionalization in similar districts show with respect to improved academic achievement?

Phase Two: Assess the impact and implications of the following questions.

- What new or diverse facility requirements will be needed if regionalization occurs and what are the projected costs of those facilities? This topic should be addressed within the context of the existing long-range facility plans for the individual districts.
- Based on the enrollment data presented in the RIPEC report (numbers, projections, and distribution of students) and the information available in the master plans of the individual districts, the study will develop recommendations regarding school closings and consolidations (e.g., if a middle school is closed, does the data provide a basis for selecting a specific school to be closed, and if the data indicated that two high schools should be consolidated, does it provide a basis for selecting

one over the other or for construction of a new high school to replace two existing high schools)?

- What effect will regionalization have on transportation costs and transportation time for students?

The issues raised by the following topics are not included in the scope of the study. Bidders, however, should be aware of them and, to the extent that they see benefit in exploring them, are encouraged to address them in their proposals.

- Would the benefits of Aquidneck Island school regionalization have the potential to attract other districts in Newport County to consider merging with such a regionalized district?
- How will regionalization, by its size alone, allow for “economies of scale” savings?
- Do regionalization plans take into effect projected demographic trends?
- Per-student-spending.
- Collective bargaining agreements.
- Structuring “local control” for all districts involved so parents are assured that they will have influence on the education of their children.
- Socio-economic and cultural heritage of the participating city and towns.

Submittal Information:

Bidders/Proposers are requested to provide the following information in their proposals:

- Itemized cost of study (with a break down of the cost for each Phase).
- Time frame to begin, and projected completion, from date of award of Phases One and Two.
- Experience of company in conducting similar studies.
- Experience of key analysts proposed to conduct the study.

- Reference list of municipal clients, with contact information.
- Dates and locations of studies of communities of similar size and other relevant comparable criteria.
- Background information of company, including: size of staff, age of company, location of corporate office, and names of principal company representatives.

Deliverables:

- Report of findings based on Phase One questions (including the results of the survey of regionalization in comparable districts).
- Report of findings based on Phase Two questions.

Vendor Info Sheet # 10-054

Date: _____

I/We _____ the undersigned, do hereby propose to furnish the City of Newport, Rhode Island, an **Educational Benefits Assessment Study** of school regionalization models, in accordance with all terms and specifications contained herein:

1. Please find our proposal attached, detailing the information requested.

_____ NAME OF FIRM	_____ SIGNATURE & TITLE
_____ ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP CODE	
_____ TELEPHONE NUMBER	_____ FAX NUMBER
_____ E-MAIL ADDRESS	

NOTE:

On a separate attachment, or use the one provided, list the OFFICERS of your Corporation or Principals of YOUR LLC. Award cannot be done without this attachment.

Also, please provide any literature you feel may be necessary.

All bidders are responsible for ensuring that no addendums have been made to the original bid package.

All bid packages and addendums are located at www.ci.newport.ri.us or www.cityofnewport.com or you can contact the Purchasing Department.

10-054

List the Officers of your Corporation or Principals of your LLC. Award cannot be done without this attachment.

Complete Company Name

Name Title/Officer/Position

Name Title/Officer/Position

Name Title/Officer/Position

Name Title/Officer/Position

Name Title/Officer/Position

Name Title/Officer/Position

Name Title/Officer/Position