

**(ATTACHMENT 1) ACTION ON THE AWARD OF EXCEPTION-TO-BID CONTRACTS**

*This item initiated by the Administration.*

**ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the following exception-to-bid requests:

**Exception      Authorization to Extend a Contract with Chenhalls Nissen, S.C., (Chenhalls) to Provide Legal Services in Processing H-1B Paperwork for Recruitment of International Teachers**

The Administration is requesting authorization to extend our contract with Chenhalls Nissen, S.C., (Chenhalls) to continue providing legal assistance in processing H-1B paperwork for current employees and new hires. Specifically, Chenhalls will provide counsel and legal advice to the district concerning its Labor Condition Application (LCA) with the U.S. Department of Labor. Additionally, Chenhalls will complete, file, and maintain petitions seeking approval of H-1B classification and status from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for district employees. Chenhalls has provided legal services to the district with regard to employees on H-1B visas since 2017. Jennifer Nissen, the attorney of record on the district’s H-1B visa cases, has provided these services to the district since 2014.

Chenhalls has worked closely with Human Resources on H-1B visa cases and has extensive knowledge of district operations which facilitate efficient processing of H-1B visa cases. Switching law firms would be detrimental to district operations as efficiencies would be diminished which would result in delays in getting international teachers into classrooms.

The exception to bid has been approved on the basis of continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(E)(1)(b)(iv)).

Year 2 of the contract will run from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025. The total cost of the contract for Year 2 will not exceed \$551,000.00.

**Budget Code:**

DTI-0-S-9C3-HR-ECTS.....(Contracted Services)..... \$551,000.00

**Chenhalls Nissen, S.C.**

**HUB PARTICIPATION**

Required .....0%

Proposed .....0%

\$ Value .....NA

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)**

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

**Exception      Authorization to Renew a Virtual Library Services Subscription with Tools for Schools Inc**

The Administration is requesting authorization to purchase a one-year renewal subscription for district-wide virtual library services with Tools for Schools Inc. The current virtual library databases offer continuity in the District’s overall plan to invest in library staffing and technology and continue to be a core resource for the library skills (research and inquiry) curriculum. Digital resources allow students to engage in research/inquiry to investigate topics and provide experiences for self-directed, real-life investigations.

These purchases will be paid for with Common School Funds. The Common School Fund provides annual library aid support to all Wisconsin public school districts. Each district must spend its total Library Aid allocation for appropriate library materials by June 30 of that same year. Digital, video-streamed, or web-based resources are earmarked materials that support the school library media program.

The District's collection of digital resources provides equity to all MPS sites. Additionally, full access to all databases is available from home on a 24/7 basis. On-site and online professional development is available to all MPS educators for all resources. The exception to bid was granted on the basis of Continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(E)(1)(b)(iv)).

The subscription renewal will run from July 29, 2024 - July 29, 2025, will not exceed \$97,500.

**Budget Code:** SLB-0S-CSF-DW-ESWR.... (School Library - Non-Textbooks).....\$97,500.00

**Tools for Schools Inc**

**HUB PARTICIPATION**

Required ..... %

Proposed..... %

\$ Value ..... NA

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)**

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

**Exception Authorization to Issue a Purchase Order with Harvest Technology Group, Inc. and Naviant, Inc. for AP Automation Solution**

The Administration is requesting authorization to issue purchase orders with Harvest Technology Group, Inc. and Naviant, Inc. for accounts payable automation solution and integrating with the current financial system, Business Plus. Vendors will be used to deliver incremental software licenses, related maintenance/support, and professional services for the ABBYY Vantage OCR Solution.

In an effort to automate the accounts payable process as well as guarantee three-way matching, these services are needed. These vendors currently work with PowerSchool-Business Plus, so they are already set up to work with the MPS financial system.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis of unique design (Administrative Policy 3.09 (7)(E)(b)(vi)) because of the compatibility to work with Business Plus.

The purchase order to Harvest Technology Group, Inc. will not exceed \$29,900 and Naviant, Inc. will not exceed \$89,246. The total of both will not exceed \$119,146.

**Budget Code:**

TSV-0-0-PSU-FN-ECTS..... (Contract Services Fiscal)..... \$119,146.00

**Harvest Technology Group, Inc.**

**HUB PARTICIPATION**

Required .....0%

Proposed .....0%  
 \$ Value .....N/A  
**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (Hours per 12-month contract)**  
 Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS  
 Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

**Naviant, Inc.**  
**HUB PARTICIPATION**  
 Required .....0%  
 Proposed .....0%  
 \$ Value .....N/A  
**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (Hours per 12-month contract)**  
 Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS  
 Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

**Exception      Authorization to Enter into a Contract with Employ Milwaukee, Inc., for Camp Rise Youth Early Intervention Summer Program**

The Administration requests authorization to enter into a contract with Employ Milwaukee, Inc., for a Youth Early Intervention Summer Program designed to serve 300 MPS youth ages 10-13 by providing early intervention services through preventive and proactive services--specifically, work-based learning and enrichment activities that are structured and staffed by culturally relatable young adults and senior members of the community.

Truancy, substance abuse, gangs, and fragile life skills are problems that affect many youths. The program will include culturally based youth leadership-development activities to empower the youth and help them avoid delinquent behavior. The program will provide alternate activities, such as skill development and decision making. This summer program offers youth the tools to become community leaders and to contribute to a better society.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis of continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(iv)).

The contract will run from May 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024, and will not exceed \$100,000.

**Budget Code:**  
 DTI-0-S-9Y4-SO-ECTS.....\$100,000.00

**Employ Milwaukee, Inc.**  
**HUB PARTICIPATION**  
 Required .....N/A  
 Proposed .....N/A  
 \$ Value .....N/A  
**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (Hours per 12-month contract)**  
 Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS  
 Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS