

- iv. Failing to complete required work or furnish required materials within a reasonable amount of time;
- v. Failing to make progress in performance of the Contract or giving Region 4 ESC reason to believe Contractor will not or cannot perform the requirements of the Contract; or
- vi. Performing work or providing services under the Contract prior to receiving an authorized purchase order.

Upon receipt of a written deficiency notice, Contractor shall have ten (10) days to provide a satisfactory response to Region 4 ESC. Failure to adequately address all issues of concern may result in Contract cancellation. Upon cancellation under this paragraph, all goods, materials, work, documents, data and reports prepared by Contractor under the Contract shall immediately become the property of Region 4 ESC.

- b) Termination for Cause. If, for any reason, Contractor fails to fulfill its obligation in a timely manner, or Contractor violates any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this Contract Region 4 ESC reserves the right to terminate the Contract immediately and pursue all other applicable remedies afforded by law. Such termination shall be effective by delivery of notice, to the Contractor, specifying the effective date of termination. In such event, all documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models and reports prepared by Contractor will become the property of the Region 4 ESC. If such event does occur, Contractor will be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for the satisfactory work completed on such documents.
- c) Delivery/Service Failures. Failure to deliver goods or services within the time specified, or within a reasonable time period as interpreted by the purchasing agent or failure to make replacements or corrections of rejected articles/services when so requested shall constitute grounds for the Contract to be terminated. In the event Region 4 ESC must purchase in an open market, Contractor agrees to reimburse Region 4 ESC, within a reasonable time period, for all expenses incurred.
- d) Force Majeure. If by reason of Force Majeure, either party hereto shall be rendered unable wholly or in part to carry out its obligations under this Agreement then such party shall give notice and full particulars of Force Majeure in writing to the other party within a reasonable time after occurrence of the event or cause relied upon, and the obligation of the party giving such notice, so far as it is affected by such Force Majeure, shall be suspended during the continuance of the inability then claimed, except as hereinafter provided, but for no longer period, and such party shall endeavor to remove or overcome such inability with all reasonable dispatch.

The term Force Majeure as employed herein, shall mean acts of God, strikes, lockouts, or other industrial disturbances, act of public enemy, orders of any kind of government of the United States or the State of Texas or any civil or military authority; insurrections; riots; epidemics; landslides; lighting; earthquake; fires; hurricanes; storms; floods; washouts; droughts; arrests; restraint of government and people; civil disturbances; explosions, breakage or accidents to machinery, pipelines or canals, or other causes not reasonably within the control of the party claiming such inability. It is understood and agreed that the settlement of strikes and lockouts shall be entirely within the discretion of the party having the difficulty, and that the above requirement that any Force Majeure shall be remedied with all reasonable dispatch shall not require the settlement of strikes and lockouts by acceding to the demands of the opposing party or parties when such settlement is unfavorable in the judgment of the party having the difficulty.

- e) Standard Cancellation. Region 4 ESC may cancel this Contract in whole or in part by providing written notice. The cancellation will take effect 30 business days after the other party receives the notice of cancellation. After the 30th business day all work will cease following completion of final purchase order.

- 12) Licenses. Contractor shall maintain in current status all federal, state and local licenses, bonds and permits required for the operation of the business conducted by Contractor. Contractor shall remain fully informed of and in compliance with all ordinances and regulations pertaining to the lawful provision of services under the Contract. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to stop work and/or cancel the Contract if Contractor's license(s) expire, lapse, are suspended or terminated.
- 13) Survival Clause. All applicable software license agreements, warranties or service agreements that are entered into between Contractor and Region 4 ESC under the terms and conditions of the Contract shall survive the expiration or termination of the Contract. All Purchase Orders issued and accepted by Contractor shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract.
- 14) Delivery. Conforming product shall be shipped within 7 days of receipt of Purchase Order. If delivery is not or cannot be made within this time period, the Contractor must receive authorization for the delayed delivery. The order may be canceled if the estimated shipping time is not acceptable. All deliveries shall be freight prepaid, F.O.B. Destination and shall be included in all pricing offered unless otherwise clearly stated in writing.
- 15) Inspection & Acceptance. If defective or incorrect material is delivered, Region 4 ESC may make the determination to return the material to the Contractor at no cost to Region 4 ESC. The Contractor agrees to pay all shipping costs for the return shipment. Contractor shall be responsible for arranging the return of the defective or incorrect material.
- 16) Payments. Payment shall be made after satisfactory performance, in accordance with all provisions thereof, and upon receipt of a properly completed invoice.
- 17) Price Adjustments. Should it become necessary or proper during the term of this Contract to make any change in design or any alterations that will increase price, Region 4 ESC must be notified immediately. Price increases must be approved by Region 4 ESC and no payment for additional materials or services, beyond the amount stipulated in the Contract shall be paid without prior approval. All price increases must be supported by manufacturer documentation, or a formal cost justification letter. Contractor must honor previous prices for thirty (30) days after approval and written notification from Region 4 ESC. It is the Contractor's responsibility to keep all pricing up to date and on file with Region 4 ESC. All price changes must be provided to Region 4 ESC, using the same format as was provided and accepted in the Contractor's proposal.

Price reductions may be offered at any time during Contract. Special, time-limited reductions are permissible under the following conditions: 1) reduction is available to all users equally; 2) reduction is for a specific period, normally not less than thirty (30) days; and 3) original price is not exceeded after the time-limit. Contractor shall offer Region 4 ESC any published price reduction during the Contract term.

- 18) Audit Rights. Contractor shall, at its sole expense, maintain appropriate due diligence of all purchases made by Region 4 ESC and any entity that utilizes this Contract. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to audit the accounting for a period of three (3) years from the time such purchases are made. This audit right shall survive termination of this Agreement for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of termination. Region 4 ESC shall have the authority to conduct random audits of Contractor's pricing at Region 4 ESC's sole cost and expense. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that Region 4 ESC is made aware of any pricing

being offered that is materially inconsistent with the pricing under this agreement, Region 4 ESC shall have the ability to conduct an extensive audit of Contractor's pricing at Contractor's sole cost and expense. Region 4 ESC may conduct the audit internally or may engage a third-party auditing firm. In the event of an audit, the requested materials shall be provided in the format and at the location designated by Region 4 ESC.

- 19) Discontinued Products. If a product or model is discontinued by the manufacturer, Contractor may substitute a new product or model if the replacement product meets or exceeds the specifications and performance of the discontinued model and if the discount is the same or greater than the discontinued model.
- 20) New Products/Services. New products and/or services that meet the scope of work may be added to the Contract. Pricing shall be equivalent to the percentage discount for other products. Contractor may replace or add product lines if the line is replacing or supplementing products, is equal or superior to the original products, is discounted similarly or greater than the original discount, and if the products meet the requirements of the Contract. No products and/or services may be added to avoid competitive procurement requirements. Region 4 ESC may require additions to be submitted with documentation from Members demonstrating an interest in, or a potential requirement for, the new product or service. Region 4 ESC may reject any additions without cause.
- 21) Options. Optional equipment for products under Contract may be added to the Contract at the time they become available under the following conditions: 1) the option is priced at a discount similar to other options; 2) the option is an enhancement to the unit that improves performance or reliability.
- 22) Warranty Conditions. All supplies, equipment and services shall include manufacturer's minimum standard warranty and one (1) year labor warranty unless otherwise agreed to in writing.
- 23) Site Cleanup. Contractor shall clean up and remove all debris and rubbish resulting from their work as required or directed. Upon completion of the work, the premises shall be left in good repair and an orderly, neat, clean, safe and unobstructed condition.
- 24) Site Preparation. Contractor shall not begin a project for which the site has not been prepared, unless Contractor does the preparation work at no cost, or until Region 4 ESC includes the cost of site preparation in a purchase order. Site preparation includes, but is not limited to: moving furniture, installing wiring for networks or power, and similar pre-installation requirements.
- 25) Registered Sex Offender Restrictions. For work to be performed at schools, Contractor agrees no employee or employee of a subcontractor who has been adjudicated to be a registered sex offender will perform work at any time when students are or are reasonably expected to be present. Contractor agrees a violation of this condition shall be considered a material breach and may result in the cancellation of the purchase order at Region 4 ESC's discretion. Contractor must identify any additional costs associated with compliance of this term. If no costs are specified, compliance with this term will be provided at no additional charge.
- 26) Safety measures. Contractor shall take all reasonable precautions for the safety of employees on the worksite and shall erect and properly maintain all necessary safeguards for protection of workers and the public. Contractor shall post warning signs against all hazards created by

OFFER AND CONTRACT SIGNATURE FORM

The undersigned hereby offers and, if awarded, agrees to furnish goods and/or services in strict compliance with the terms, specifications and conditions at the prices proposed within response unless noted in writing.

Company Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone No. _____

Email Address _____

Printed Name _____

Title _____

Authorized signature _____

Accepted by Region 4 ESC:

Contract No. _____

Initial Contract Term _____ to _____

Region 4 ESC Authorized Board Member

Date

Print Name

Region 4 ESC Authorized Board Member

Date

Print Name

ANTITRUST CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS
(Tex. Government Code § 2155.005)
Attorney General Form

I affirm under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Texas that:

1. I am duly authorized to execute this Contract on my own behalf or on behalf of the company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual (Company) listed below;
2. In connection with this proposal, neither I nor any representative of the Company has violated any provision of the Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act, Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code Chapter 15;
3. In connection with this proposal, neither I nor any representative of the Company has violated any federal antitrust law; and
4. Neither I nor any representative of the Company has directly or indirectly communicated any of the contents of this proposal to a competitor of the Company or any other company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual engaged in the same line of business as the Company.

Company

Contact

Signature

Printed Name

Address

Position with Company

**Official
Authorizing
Proposal**

Signature

Printed Name

Phone

Position with Company

Fax

Implementation of House Bill 1295

Certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295):

In 2015, the Texas Legislature adopted House Bill 1295, which added section 2252.908 of the Government Code. The law states that a governmental entity or state agency may not enter into certain contracts with a business entity unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties to the governmental entity or state agency at the time the business entity submits the signed contract to the governmental entity or state agency. The law applies only to a contract of a governmental entity or state agency that either (1) requires an action or vote by the governing body of the entity or agency before the contract may be signed or (2) has a value of at least \$1 million. The disclosure requirement applies to a contract entered into on or after January 1, 2016.

The Texas Ethics Commission was required to adopt rules necessary to implement that law, prescribe the disclosure of interested parties form, and post a copy of the form on the commission's website. The commission adopted the Certificate of Interested Parties form (Form 1295) on October 5, 2015. The commission also adopted new rules (Chapter 46) on November 30, 2015, to implement the law. The commission does not have any additional authority to enforce or interpret House Bill 1295.

Filing Process:

Starting on January 1, 2016, the commission made available on its website a new filing application that must be used to file Form 1295. A business entity must use the application to enter the required information on Form 1295 and print a copy of the completed form, which will include a certification of filing that will contain a unique certification number. An authorized agent of the business entity must sign the printed copy of the form. The completed Form 1295 with the certification of filing must be filed with the governmental body or state agency with which the business entity is entering into the contract.

The governmental entity or state agency must notify the commission, using the commission's filing application, of the receipt of the filed Form 1295 with the certification of filing not later than the 30th day after the date the contract binds all parties to the contract. This process is known as acknowledging the certificate. The commission will post the acknowledged Form 1295 to its website within seven business days after receiving notice from the governmental entity or state agency. The posted acknowledged form does not contain the declaration of signature information provided by the business.

A certificate will stay in the pending state until it is acknowledged by the governmental agency. Only acknowledged certificates are posted to the commission's website.

Electronic Filing Application:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm

Frequently Asked Questions:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/resources/FAQs/FAQ_Form1295.php

Changes to Form 1295: <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/data/filinginfo/1295Changes.pdf>

Texas Government Code 2270 Verification Form

House Bill 89 (85R Legislative Session), which adds Chapter 2270 to the Texas Government Code, provides that a governmental entity may not enter into a contract with a company without verification that the contracting vendor does not and will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 252 (85R Legislative Session), which amends Chapter 2252 of the Texas Government Code to add Subchapter F, prohibits contracting with a company engaged in business with Iran, Sudan or a foreign terrorist organization identified on a list prepared by the Texas Comptroller.

I, _____, as an authorized representative of

_____, a contractor engaged by

Insert Name of Company

Region 4 Education Service Center, 7145 West Tidwell Road, Houston, TX 77092, verify by this writing that the above-named company affirms that it (1) does not boycott Israel; and (2) will not boycott Israel during the term of this contract, or any contract with the above-named Texas governmental entity in the future.

Also, our company is not listed on and we do not do business with companies that are on the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts list of Designated Foreign Terrorists Organizations found at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/docs/foreign-terrorist.pdf>.

I further affirm that if our company's position on this issue is reversed and this affirmation is no longer valid, that the above-named Texas governmental entity will be notified in writing within one (1) business day and we understand that our company's failure to affirm and comply with the requirements of Texas Government Code 2270 et seq. shall be grounds for immediate contract termination without penalty to the above-named Texas governmental entity.

I swear and affirm that the above is true and correct.

Signature of Named Authorized Company Representative

Date

Appendix D

Questionnaire

Responding companies must have at least five years' experience in automated payable solutions and shall not have had a contract terminated for this type of service due to poor performance or default for not complying to contract terms and conditions.

1. Describe your experience in expense automated payable solutions and management, include the number of years you have been in the business and your experience in educational services centers and government settings.
2. Provide the corporate status (domestic or foreign) and when and where incorporated.
3. Provide the estimated number of merchant locations in the State of Texas and nationally accepting the card your company is proposing.
4. Provide a copy of the company's most recent annual financial report. You may provide an electronic copy of its most recent financial report or you may provide an internet web link to the most current financial report.
- 5.
5. On what platform do you issue commercial payment solutions? (i.e. American Express, Visa, MasterCard, etc.)? What are the prime benefits of this platform?
6. Please provide any White Papers or Case Studies describing payment solutions and the results that your customers have achieved.
7. Include other relevant information about the company that would be useful in the evaluation process.

ACCOUNT MANAGMENT:

1. How is your account management team organized? How does this structure benefit a participating public agency? How will your company dedicate regionally or national account management personnel?
2. Do you provide 24/7/365 customer service? Please describe the services.
3. Is there a formal review process? What is the timing?
4. Do you have a formal quality-improvement program? If so, describe.
5. Do you monitor performance indicators? If so, what key performance measures do you track?
6. Describe the role/responsibilities of a designated program administrator(s).

DATA/TECHNOLOGY:

1. Provide an overview of your technology platforms including supplier and participating public agency facing. Include technology architecture, cloud platform, data migrated, customization, controls, enhancements, file formatting, fraud, etc.
2. Is automated payment process software offered as part of the offering? If not, please explain and include the product and services as a Value Add.
3. Describe your data retrieval and processing network. How do you ensure data consistency and integrity?
4. Describe your accountability to ensure that technology systems function properly. What resources do you provide to support your technology tools?
5. Do you have a disaster recovery plan in place?
6. Does your program require any client-side software? How are upgrades managed?
7. What reconciliation management tools are available?
8. Describe your reporting tools and how they benefit?
9. Does your program offer auditing tools or management?
10. What emphasis is placed on the development of new products/technology and how will this benefit the cooperative participant?
11. Describe new expense/payment data/technology solutions that you have recently introduced. How will they benefit?
12. Please provide information regarding the hardware, software and telecommunication devices required for on-line access to transaction data.

IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT:

1. How quickly can a payment solution be initiated once the contract is signed?
2. Describe your implementation strategy for a new program solution. Also include the implementation plan of switching from one provider to another provider's solution.
3. Provide an outline of your implementation methodology.
4. How long does a typical implementation take?
5. What implementation and technology support/resources will you provide? What resources from the participating public agency will be needed to assist you?
6. Will your implementation staff remain actively engaged after initial program set-up and roll-out? If yes, for how long and to what extent?
7. Define training and include start-up training, materials, support and on-going, in-person and online Web-based, etc.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT:

1. Please provide information regarding your company's customer service program.
2. Explain how your company would assist participants in the following areas and any fees involved:
 - Implementing
 - Developing accounting procedures
 - Developing employee training procedures.
3. Does your program offer online account management for participants and its employees?
Please describe.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS:

1. Is it possible for Participating Public Agency to have on-line access to review daily transactions? Please explain the information that can be accessed on-line and how much descriptive information can be obtained on each transaction. Please include information regarding different types and level of reports and custom reports available, include sample documents.
2. Please explain if the system proposed could post transactions using a department's cost center account number.
3. Explain the tracking of service providing vendors for 1099 reporting purposes and include sample reports.
4. Please explain the monthly billing statement process. If a charge is in dispute, is it necessary for the charge to be paid for prior to resolution?
5. Include other relevant information about the company that would be useful in the evaluation process.

CYBERSECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY:

1. Indicate and provide the security program to prevent unauthorized disclosure of information, misuse, fraud, alteration, disputes, destruction of confidential information, etc.
2. How does your company manage and minimize risk? Explain in detail.

ADDITIONAL:

1. If any of your products and/or services are subcontracted, please explain how you will ensure that such contractors will provide the same quality of service as if your company had provided it.
2. What trends or market changes does the industry forecast for upcoming years?
3. Do you have a Global Program, Infrastructure and Support?
 - i. Describe your ability for global automated payment solutions and services.
 - ii. Provide an overview of your global organizational structure, including account management and implementation teams. Describe the level of experience in managing complex global accounts.
 - iii. How do you encourage best practice sharing among your customers who are of a size and similar scope?
 - iv. Describe your company's approach and philosophy on consulting with clients. Explain the level of consultation that your company is prepared to provide to our organization.
 - v. Describe any benchmarking or analysis tools available.
 - vi. How do your global services provide value?

Provide any additional information relevant to this section.