

NHS Band Uniform Bid January 2016 Bid Question & Answer

All questions should be submitted via email to bids@nsd131.org. All questions and answers will be posted on this form, on the NSD website, in as expedient a time as possible. No answers will be provided directly or solely to any bidder, though the buyer may directly ask for clarification from a questioning bidder.

Individuals who wish to be notified when this page is updated should send such a request to bids@nsd131.org.

12/28/2015 #1

Q: The bid packet does not include design or style specifications—beyond fabrics—that would support a complete and accurate bid. Pricing is based not only on fabric, but coat patterns, coat design, trimmings used, embroidery, buttons, collar and shoulder strap trimmings, etc. Shako/hat requires style, shako covering including upper and lower band, front ornamentations, visor trim, and front straps/chains side buttons. Trousers require striping if applicable, features, amount of inside facing, amount of let out in the seat seam, etc. All accessory items also need the same detail specified information. All this information and (preferably) an illustration are necessary to submit an accurate quotation.

A: Our experience is that manufacturers of these uniforms have unique design surveys that ask for these elements. If your company has such a survey, please submit it as soon as possible to bids@nsd131.org. If your company does not have such a survey already prepared, please forward a listing of specific design questions necessary to formulate your bid, to the same email address. We will return these surveys/requests to the respective bidders as soon as we are able to complete them.

12/28/2015 #2

Q: You request sizing information with the bid. Our experience is that the “typical” physical profile of students varies from region to region, often based on the heritage and background of the community. Size mixes tend to vary greatly from the NW, South, Midwest, and NE. While we have the pattern capabilities to accommodate a uniform of any size, providing an accurate sizing mix with the bid (prior to measuring your students) is not possible. May these size listings be provided subsequent to a bid award, based on actual measurements of students?

A: Our understanding is that companies typically have an algorithm, based on the average-sized student, that provides the sizing mix. If your usual method is to conduct a physical measure of students to arrive at that size mix, please include an explanation of such with your bid; this note may be provided on the sizing pages themselves or in the Deviations section (preferably both, so we are sure to note the intended procedure). The intent of the size mix listings is to ensure we receive a size mix appropriate to our particular students, and measuring would seem to support that end.

1/4/2016¹ #3

Q: What is the budget figure?

¹ Questions 3-6 were submitted during the Christmas holiday break. The date listed here is the date of actual posting to this form, not necessarily the date on which the question was submitted.

A: We have not established a definitive budget figure for the uniform purchase, but do have some targets in mind. Based on internal discussions, prior experience, design discussions with manufacturers, and consultation with other school districts, we expect a per-uniform price between \$350 and \$425. This range is only an expectation on our part, and not a definitive guideline (and thus not included in the specifications). As stated in the bid specifications, price is not the sole determining factor in the award but a piece of the bid evaluation.

1/4/2016 #4

Q: What companies have been contacted?

A: We will not disclose at this time what potential bidders have been contacted. We will confirm, though, that our band director has had prior discussions with a number of band uniform manufacturers regarding design work. Those conversations and meetings span one to two years back in time, and those manufacturers were provided notice that we are bidding uniforms as a courtesy to them for their prior design work and contribution to our process. As required by law, we have publicly posted the bid notice and will accept bids that conform to the specifications as set forth.

1/4/2016 #5

Q: Have other companies made inquiry as to design and your particular specifications?

A: As of this date, we have received design and specification inquiries from three interested bidders.

1/4/2016 #6

As follow-up to Question #5

Q: Have those other companies seen a preferred design, and if not, on what are they planning to base their pricing?

A: We have not provided a specific design or layout to any company. Our assumption is that potential bidders are (a) using a design previously developed as part of prior design discussions mentioned in Question 5, (b) adjusting a prior design based on the bid specifications provided, or (c) developing a unique design to submit, based on the design specifications.

We understand that each bidder may have a unique “vision” for the design and are interested in seeing those ideas and suggestions, thus the lack of an exact layout and the consideration of the design as part of the evaluation.

1/4/2016 #7

General comments regarding design:

Base uniform color should be black—bibs, jacket body, gauntlets, and shakos. Jacket, gauntlets, and hip panel should utilize red, white (or silver), and blue in design elements. Not all of these colors need be included in each design element or on every piece of an individual uniform; the uniform should include all three colors in the complete design, as these are the school colors. The design may also incorporate some degree of the letter “N” but such inclusion is left to the design preferences, capabilities, and sensibilities of individual bidders.