

**DETERMINATION AND FINDING  
FOR A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

**AGENCY:** District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of Equity  
**CAPTION:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Implementation  
**PROPOSED CONTRACTOR:** Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

**FINDINGS**

**1. AUTHORIZATION:**

D.C. Code 2-354 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1702

**2. MINIMUM NEED:**

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) Office of Equity (OE) has an immediate need to procure the services of CASEL to provide support, training and guidance in developing and executing a plan for systemic implementation of Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

**3. ESTIMATED COST:**

The estimated cost is \$312,500.00 for School Year 2018-2019.

- \$62,500 from Date of Award thru September 30, 2018
- \$250,000 from October 1, 2018 thru July 30, 2019

**4. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:**

The DCPS, Office of Equity recommends partnering with CASEL to provide support services for the implementation of the CASEL Framework for social emotional learning in SY 18-19

**Background and history of this vendor with DCPS**

The SEL framework development and implementation is part of the Chancellor's "Educate the Whole Child" initiative in the DCPS 2017-2022 strategic plan. Specifically, The Chief of Equity is charged with the strategic priority to "embed social emotional learning in our classrooms." The Chief has done a significant amount of research regarding SEL models in other urban school districts and is confident that the CASEL model would be the best fit for DCPS.

The Manager of Operations in the Office of Equity performed additional market research to determine if other vendors could provide SEL consultation partnerships. In an internet search, it was determined that CASEL was the only vendor that could provide access to a network of districts implementing SEL, tools to implement SEL at the district level, and exhibited experience implementing SEL frameworks across large urban districts. DCPS believes it is necessary to implement SEL in order to accomplish the following goals:

- Communicate SEL as a priority to stakeholders
- Develop a districtwide vision and plan
- Align financial and human resources
- Build expertise and capacity
- Conduct SEL-related resources and needs assessment
- Design and implement professional development programs
- Integrate SEL with district initiatives, such as academic curriculum and equity efforts
- Adopt and implement evidence-based programming
- Develop K–12 SEL standards
- Establish systems of continuous improvement

**The Proposed Vendor’s Unique Qualifications:**

CASEL was founded in 1994 with the goal of establishing high-quality, evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) as an essential part of preschool through high school education. They have a distinguished national leadership team that identified key issues to advance the science and practice of SEL.

In 2011 CASEL launched the Collaborating Districts Initiative (CDI) — a partnership among CASEL, the American Institutes for Research (AIR), and initially eight large school districts across the country: Anchorage, Austin, Chicago, Cleveland, Nashville, Oakland, Sacramento, and Washoe County, Nev. Through the CDI, CASEL is at the forefront of a movement to create sustainable and systemic reforms in school districts across the nation. DCPS aims to become one of these collaborating partner districts.

Additionally, CASEL has developed unique tools to implement and coach SEL tools in large districts. The District Resource Center (DRC) is a publication of CASEL, the leading organization dedicated to advancing research and evidence-based practice in SEL. The DRC is an outcome of CASEL’s Collaborating Districts Initiative (CDI), established in 2011 to support the promotion and implementation of SEL in school districts across the country. These resources are copyrighted and owned by CASEL.

**CERTIFICATION BY THE DCPS PROGRAM OFFICE:**

I hereby certify that the above findings are correct and the anticipated cost to DCPS is fair and reasonable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bren Elliot  
Chief, Office of Equity

CERTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION

Based on the above certified findings in accordance cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive bidding process under Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; DC Code 2-354 and 27 DCMR 1304 and 1702.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Chief Procurement Officer