

**DETERMINATION AND FINDING
FOR A SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

AGENCY: District of Columbia Public Schools
Office of Specialized Instruction / Office of General Counsel

CAPTION: Legal and Institutional Structure for Delivering Services to Special Education Students as a Result of the Conclusion of the Blackman-Jones Class Action Lawsuits, and Office of General Counsel Transition

PROPOSED CONTRACTOR: Columbia University Center for Public Research

CONTRACT NO. N/A

FINDINGS

1. **AUTHORIZATION:**
D.C. Code 2-354.04.5 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1702

2. **MINIMUM NEED:**

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Office of Specialized Instruction (OSI) has an immediate need to procure the services of the Columbia University Center for Public Research and Leadership (CPLR) to identify the legal and institutional structure for delivering services to special education students as a result of the conclusion of the Blackman-Jones class action lawsuits and transition of OGC from DCPS to the Office of the Attorney General.

3. **ESTIMATED COST:**

The estimated cost is \$70,000.00 for the proposed date of award to September 30, 2015.

4. **FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY A SINGLE AVAILABLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:**

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Office of Specialized Instruction (OSI) will work directly with the Contractor to establish a proposed strategic plan for the organizational structure of OSI and the work of specified teams directly impacted by the absence of OGC. These opportunities developed as a result of legislative changes in the transition of OGC from the District of Columbia Public Schools supervision to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG); conclusion of two long-running, consolidated class action lawsuits (Blackman-Jones); and legislation passed by the District of Columbia Council imposing new requirements for special education.

Based on the Contractor's findings, a detailed proposition of the organizational structure will be provided to ensure that all necessary work streams are effectively performed and that key financial resources and personnel are efficiently and productively deployed.

Background and history of this vendor with DCPS:

The Contractor, CPRL, brings an abundance of management consulting experience to include work specifically in urban education. With an assigned engagement manager, and a team of ambitious graduate students, CPRL implements a unique transformation model to identify areas of need and improvement of works steams. Their experiences include, but are not limited to:

- Strategy development with multiple urban school districts, large and small, using precise methodologies to identify problems and recommendations for improvement.
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of school processes to restore organizational structure and overall performance.
- Advised multiple district leaders on best practices regarding legal and policy implications for reorganizing the District’s workforce and systems.
- Development of evaluation systems to implement legislative and regulatory changes to restructure and maximize the autonomy of schools and its districts.

The Proposed Vendor’s Unique Qualifications:

CPRL’s Director of Program Operations also currently serves as an Engagement Manager. Before joining CPRL, the Director of Program Operations worked at the New Your City Department of Education where she served as Chief Operating Officer of the Division of Academics, Performance, and Support, and later established and led the impartial Hearing Representation Office in the Special Education Office. CPRL’s current Director of Program Operations has worked as a criminal defense attorney in New Your City, on various political campaigns, and began a career in public service at the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

In light of the above findings a sole source award is in the best interest of DCPS and would be the most efficient and cost-effective procurement method.

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

Office of Specialized Instruction

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

Chief Procurement Officer