

Request for Qualifications No. 2024-26

Addendum 01 – Q&A

This document is posted to capture the questions received, and agency answers provided, during the question and answer period of RFP No. 2024-26, issued July 24, 2023.

All amendments, addenda, and notifications related to this procurement will be posted on the [OSPI website](#) (if this was an open procurement) and on the Washington Electronic Business Solution ([WEBS](#)) website. Additional questions concerning this procurement must be submitted to contracts@K12.wa.us. Communication directed to other parties will be considered unofficial and non-binding on OSPI, and may result in disqualification of the Consultant.

- Question:** Do I need to include a Contract Intake Form within my email response as well? It does not mention that is needed in the RFQ announcement, but I did notice it is “required for all proposals” under the Procurement Forms on the Competitive Procurements page of the Washington OSPI website.

Answer: A Contract Intake Form is not required for this procurement.
- Question:** The editable documents that are posted online such as the State Quote Price Summary and the various State Price Quote Specifications are difficult to integrate into a centralized document because of the way they were configured. Do you want them all in one Word document or should they be submitted in separate documents?

Answer: Forms should be attached as individual forms.
- Question:** Might we include any additional, supporting documentation with our proposal, such as our updated warranty information, in our Word attachment with the required letter of submittal?

Answer: OSPI only requires the documents outlined in the RFQ; supplemental documentation is not required.
- Question:** Requirement: “The bus shall be equipped with a heavy-duty, dry-element, or equivalent, air cleaner.” Is this referring to engine air filter or cabin air purification system? If it is referring to a cabin air purification system, is there requirement on location? There is no engine on electric bus.

Answer: Air cleaner refers to the engine air cleaner on combustion engine buses not on electric buses.
- Question:** Requirement: “Type B, C, and D. The battery(ies) shall be securely attached on a slide-out or swing-out tray in a closed, vented compartment in the body skirt whereby the battery may be exposed to the outside for convenient servicing. Battery compartment



door or cover shall be hinged at the front or top and secured by an adequate and conveniently operated latch or other type fastener. The door may be an integral part of the battery slide tray." The battery compartment for our buses is sealed and not vented. Is that acceptable?

Answer: Battery compartment cannot be sealed

6. **Question:** Requirement: "1. Defrosting and defogging equipment shall direct a sufficient flow of heated air onto the windshield, the window to the left of the driver, and the glass in the viewing area directly to the right of the driver to reduce the amount of frost, fog and/or snow. 2. The defrosting and defogging system shall conform to SAE Standards J381 and 382. (See Appendix, Page 70, Item 9.). 3. The defroster and defogging system shall be capable of furnishing heated outside ambient air, except that part of the system furnishing additional air to the windshield, entrance door and stepwell may be of the re-circulating air type." Current design does not have separate vent pointing directly at the driver side window and the entrance door glasses. Does furnishing heated outside ambient air means defroster needs fresh air mode?

Answer: Defroster/defogger must be able to functionally defrost/defog the driver side window. Defrost and defogging systems that focus on the windshield and service door area can use recirculated air.

7. **Question:** Requirement: "Circuits. (a) Wiring shall be arranged in circuits as required, with each circuit protected by a fuse, circuit breaker or field effect transistor. A system of color and/or number coding shall be used and an appropriate identifying wiring diagram of each body as manufactured shall be provided to the end user along with the wiring diagram provided by the chassis manufacturer. A system of color and number coding shall be used on buses manufactured after January 1, 1992. The following body interconnecting circuits shall be color-coded as noted:" Do we have to follow the same color code as mentioned in the regulation? Our company manufactures both the chassis and body manufacturer and we have uniform color code and schematic but just not the same as the regulation.

Answer: Yes, the color code must follow the specification manual.

8. **Question:** Requirement: "All wiring splices shall be done at an accessible location and noted as splices on the wiring diagram." Can the agency please elaborate on the accessible location?

Answer: Splices must be behind a panel with diagram of splices on panel door.

9. **Question:** Requirement: "The body power wire shall be attached to a special terminal on the chassis." Can the agency please elaborate on the special terminal? What does this mean?

Answer: N/A for electric buses.

10. **Question:** Requirement: "Chassis manufacturer shall install a readily accessible terminal strip or connector on the body side of the cowl, or at an accessible location in the engine compartment of vehicles designed without a cowl, that shall contain the following terminals for the body connections." We don't have a terminal strip, [...] we have run the circuits directly without a terminal strip intersection.
Answer: Lack of terminal strip does not meet Washington state specifications.
11. **Question:** Requirement: "Type C and D (Items j. through p.) j. Ammeter and voltmeter with graduated scale. The ammeter and its wiring are to be compatible with generating capacity." We don't have an ammeter for low voltage battery. What exactly does the ammeter checks?
Answer: Ammeters are no longer required on our school buses.
12. **Question:** Requirement: "The High Voltage System should be designed so that when the ignition switch is off, the propulsion motor is positively disconnected. All other accessories powered by the main propulsion battery circuit shall remain operable when the ignition switch is off." All high voltage components will not work with ignition switch off. Does this mean AC, air compressor any other high voltage components should still work when ignition is off, just the propulsion motor should not work? Does this section applies to hybrid drive system but not pure electric bus?
Answer: This section applies to hybrid school buses.
13. **Question:** Requirement: "Steps shall be enclosed to prevent accumulation of ice and snow." Steps are in the door, the bottom of the door is brush, will not prevent the accumulation of snow and ice. The bottom of the door is brush from the top of the step 7.5mm, brush outside the door sealing tape from the step 6.2mm, but the step protrudes from the edge of the door about 20mm, there will be a small amount of snow and ice accumulation. Will the State accept this deviation?
Answer: No, the state will not accept the deviation.
14. **Question:** Requirement: "Both rub rails shall be attached at each body post and all other upright structural members." The [bus] is fixed to the skin as standard. At the column, does it need to be nailed into the column? Also, Due to the limitation of body structure, the anti-scuffing strip cannot be fixed to the side surround pillar and fixed on the skin accumulation. is this acceptable?
Answer: School buses must come equipped with rub rails that are not nailed into the body posts.
15. **Question:** Requirement: "The front axle shall have oil bath hubs." Our front axles are all grease lubricated. Is this acceptable?
Answer: Sealed grease bearings are acceptable.

16. **Question:** Requirement: *“When a fire suppression system is installed, nozzles for fire suppression systems shall be located in the engine compartment, under the bus, in the electrical panel, or under the dash, but shall not be located in the passenger compartment. The system must include a light or buzzer to alert the driver that the system has been activated.”* Is FSS mandatory?

Answer: Optional

17. **Question:** Requirement: *“Each door, cover, or other panel that affords immediate access to any high voltage area shall be plainly marked with a hazard warning label which shall read WARNING—HIGH VOLTAGE or DANGER—HIGH VOLTAGE. This label shall be located in a highly conspicuous place. All high voltage access areas shall be equipped with a lock or otherwise secured to prevent unauthorized access.”* Does charging port compartment door needs to have a lock on it as well?

Answer: Access door does not require a lock.