

"Small Business Opportunities" at Fort Bend ISD

The Small Business Enterprise Program (SBEP) provides increased business opportunities for locally certified small businesses to participate in contracting and procurement with the District.

Key features of the FBISD Small Business Enterprise Program are:

- Goal-oriented program to use certified small businesses
- Race and gender-neutral program
- Annual participation goal set for 25% of the total amount of all SBEP-eligible contracts
- Participants must be small businesses certified by FBISD recognized agency or organization
- Fort Bend ISD will be actively soliciting small business participation in conjunction with the District's 2023 Bond Program approved for **\$1.26 billion** for construction and renovation projects.



Small Business Enterprise Program



Small Business Enterprise Program Fort Bend Independent School District

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Fort Bend ISD Small Business Enterprise Program

The Small Business Enterprise Program provides benefits to small businesses that include:

- Proven assistance to small businesses and contractors by providing information and support, including workshops where certifying agencies will be invited to assist small businesses with the certification process
- Assisting small businesses by offering training and information regarding contractor insurance and surety bonding
- Requiring prospective vendors to provide written assurance of small business participation in their proposals for SBEP-eligible contracts
- Providing workshops and training sessions on issues frequently encountered by small businesses during the proposal process for SBEP-eligible contracts
- Maintaining an updated small business directory and source list(s) to help identify qualified and available small businesses, and providing information on the FBISD website about opportunities to do business with FBISD
- Providing information on the FBISD website about SBEP-eligible procurements

Key features of the FBISD Small Business Enterprise Program (SBEP) designed to include certified small businesses in major construction and renovation projects include:

- The SBEP is a goal-oriented program, requiring contractors to whom the District awards prime contracts for architectural design services, engineering design services, or construction services valued at \$50,000 or greater to use, at a minimum, good faith efforts to utilize certified small business subcontractors, subcontractors, and suppliers.
- Fort Bend ISD is the “owner” and responsible party for the SBE program.
- The program does not apply to contracts for sole-source items, federally funded contracts, contracts with other governmental entities, and those contracts that are otherwise prohibited by applicable law or expressly exempted by FBISD.
- The SBEP is a race and gender-neutral program.
- Board Policy CV (local) contains an annual SBEP participation goal of twenty-five (25%) percent of the dollar amount of all SBEP-eligible architectural design services, engineering design services, or construction services contracts to certified small businesses.
- FBISD recognizes that actual participation may vary based on legal requirements, subcontracting opportunities, availability of small businesses, and price competitiveness.

To participate, small businesses must be certified by an agency or organization whose certification is recognized by FBISD.

- Certification is based on the firm’s gross revenues or number of employees averaged over the past five years, inclusive of any affiliates as defined by 13 C.F.R. §121.103, and does not exceed the size standards as defined pursuant to Section 3 of the Small Business Act and 13 C.F.R. §121.201.
- The team will conduct workshops and meetings where certifying agencies can assist small business representatives with their certification process.

Certifying Agencies/Enrollment:

- The City of Houston Office of Business Opportunity
- Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO)
- Port of Houston Authority (Registration & Enrollment Program)
- Small Business Administration—SBA 8a (if authorized by the District for a particular procurement)

How to Do Business with Fort Bend ISD

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