

**VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM**

**FILE:    DJFC**

**TITLE:        **Veteran Business Enterprise Program****

**POLICY:**

The School Board of Orange County, Florida (“Board”) seeks to rectify the economic disadvantage of service veterans who made extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of the nation, the state, and the public by providing economic opportunities for veteran businesses already certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or by the State of Florida. Accordingly, the Board adopts the relevant portions of the “Florida Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act,” Section 295.187, Florida Statutes, which provides a vendor preference in favor of certified veteran business enterprises.

- (1) For the purpose of this policy, “certified veteran business enterprise” means a business that has been certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, through the Center for Verification and Evaluation (“CVE”), or by the State of Florida’s Department of Management Services.
- (2) Registration.
  - (a) Each veteran business enterprise attempting to make use of this policy shall submit evidence of its certification and such certification renewals with either:
    - i. The CVE; or
    - ii. The State of Florida in accordance with Section 295.187, Florida Statutes.
  - (b) Such evidence shall be current registration and certification with the CVE or the State of Florida and shall be provided prior to the submittal of any responses to competitive solicitations.
  - (c) Failure to obtain and maintain a valid certification will result in the Board’s denial of such veteran business enterprise preference until such time as evidence of the certification or re-certification may be established.
- (3) Vendor Preference.
  - (a) In assessing priorities for award, when considering two or more bids, proposals, or replies for the procurement of commodities or contractual services, at least one of which is from a certified veteran business enterprise, which are equal with respect to all relevant considerations, including price, quality, and services, the award of such procurement or contract shall be made to the certified veteran business enterprise.
  - (b) If a veteran business enterprise entitled to the vendor preference under this policy and one or more businesses entitled to this

preference, or another vendor preference provided by law, submit bids, proposals, or replies for the procurement of commodities and contractual services which are equal with respect to all relevant considerations, including price, quality, and services, the award of such procurement or contract shall be made to the business having the smallest net worth.

(c) In adopting a major tenet of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-50), which applies to federal agencies, the Board sets within this policy certain participation goals for the dollar value of work to be awarded to certified veteran business enterprises. In addition to the annual overall participation levels established by the Board, the Superintendent or designee may set contract participation levels for individual projects for which there are known available certified business enterprises with capabilities consistent with the requirement of the specific contract. The current overall annual participation levels are as follows:

- i. Construction work and Construction Materials – 3%;
- ii. Professional Services of Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architects, Land Surveyors, Attorneys, etc., - 3%;
- iii. Procurement of Goods and Non-Professional Services – 3% (this goal is established considering all purchases of commodities and contractual services except: lease of real property, spaces, use permits, employee benefits, taxes, judgments, agreements for travel dues, pensions, utilities, subscriptions, anti-allegiances, debt service requirements, and postages).

(4) The Office of Business Opportunity and the Procurement Services Department shall establish procedures necessary to implement this policy.

**SPECIFIC AUTHORITY:**

Sections 295.187; 1001.41; 1001.42; and 1001.43;  
Florida Statutes

ADOPTED: 6/23/15