

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**The following questions have been submitted concerning Bid #210602, Fruits & Vegetables – Frozen, Canned & Packaged. All questions received have been answered, and are provided verbatim from what was received:**

BIDDER QUESTION#1: Back in 2019 we had sent in samples of the Bush's Black Beans #1885 and the Vegetarian beans #1638. I know the Black Beans were approved and have been purchased by your district. I am sending the specs for your item #4 Black Beans Bush #1885 and your item #28 Vegetarian beans Bush #1638.

Please let me know that you have approved and a Distributor or Bush's can bid direct on these items. Or what next steps I need to do.

**The black beans were tested and approved on a previous bid. Since Food Services does not have any documentation for the vegetarian beans, we will need a full case sample for evaluation.**

BIDDER QUESTION#2: With C19 our nation is faced and complying with bid opportunity requirements for school districts with supplying full case samples, is it possible Escambia can be flexible about sample cases, especially on frozen case samples to be provided after bid opening for taste sampling?

This practice is more and more being offered to vendors throughout our country on school district bid opportunities. This will help us micro small business women owned business. It seems like we are being pushed out little by little more now than ever. With this effort we will be able to facilitate and provide multiple offers with frozen items.

Also, what items is Escambia is or will be receiving on USDA commodity for this school term? This is a very crucial question again due to C19, the USDA is providing schools massive products & leaving vendors holding the responsibility to finding alternate outlets to offset the loss. We understand products in bid are estimates only and Escambia not required to purchase but as vendors we should be able to understand our position during these tying times.

Can you please advise of the minimums the school district is awarding per line item 1 through 29. Per Escambia website recap/awards it is vague.

**Food Services will review the sample testing requirements for future bids. For Bid #210602, a full case sample is still required.**

**Food Services can provide an estimate of their needs through June 2021 for the USDA commodity items.**