

New Horizons: Small Business Opportunities from the ½ Cent Sales Surtax Referendum

As we welcome 2025, the School District of Palm Beach County is preparing for an exciting new chapter following the passage of our ½ Cent Sales Surtax Referendum. Beginning in 2026, this initiative will generate approximately \$2 billion for critical improvements to our facilities, technology, school buses, and more. These funds, restricted to capital expenses—defined as items lasting five years or more—will create significant opportunities for local small businesses.

Certified small businesses will find direct and subcontracting opportunities in areas such as painting, fencing, signage, furniture, and beyond. We strongly encourage vendors to get certified with the school district and, if appropriate, prequalified with prime contractors. Additionally, understanding the trades that currently lack adequate bid coverage on construction projects will be key to positioning your business for success.

Each school will also receive a dedicated pot of funds, allocated with input from their School Advisory Councils. To supply products and services to individual schools, vendors must first become bid-awarded with the district if there is a contract in place for the commodities offered by your firm.

We are committed to fostering a diverse, thriving business community. This historic investment will not only enhance education for our students but also support the growth of small businesses across Palm Beach County. Let's work together to build a brighter future!