



*In order to maintain the public trust, your local school district Board of Education should consider and adopt a resolution containing at least some, if not all, of the factors listed below.*

*Each factor should be discussed thoroughly by school board members, the architects and construction managers involved in any school construction because of the potential impact they will have on a project.*

*Your construction manager and design professional will then include these factors in the construction bid documents so all bidders know that in addition to price these items will be considered when construction bids are reviewed.*



**EXPERIENCE.** Institutional building projects are expected to last 50-75 years. Therefore school board members should review the past experience of all construction professionals to ensure that they have pertinent experience on similar institutional projects. In so doing, the board members can evaluate whether local contractors should be considered for the project and only if they have the required experience should they be considered.



**REFERENCES.** School board members should investigate the references of their construction professionals from past clients doing similar institutional work. Construction professionals must supply pertinent references from their past clients, including information regarding performance and jobsite cooperation.





**FINANCIAL CONDITION.** A good financial rating means stability on the job and all through the project. Construction professionals must show they are financially prepared to perform the work they are bidding on. School boards must obtain information concerning a bidder's financial capability, any outstanding claims against them and bank references. A poor financial condition can affect the quality of materials, equipment and workers used on the project. It also can result in substantial project delays and unsafe schools.



**SAFETY & ACCIDENTS.** Construction professionals with a good safety and EMR record will be more productive. An employer has an obligation according to the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act (MIOSHA) to provide a place of employment free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm. Every employee has the right to a safe and healthy workplace. An employer must provide training in the recognition and avoidance of hazards and specific training called for in the MIOSHA standards.



**RESUME OF SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL.** Beyond a construction professional's experience with similar institutional projects, it is important for board members to evaluate the resumes of the supervisory personnel of all construction professionals on their project. All supervisory personnel should have pertinent experience and adequate education and training to complete your project.



**INSURANCE & SURETY BONDING.** Construction professionals must show proof of adequate and relevant insurance coverage for a particular project and must prove their compliance with workers' compensation statutes. School boards must set minimum standards for insurance coverage. Construction professionals that cannot provide proper coverage may be unable to fulfill project obligations. A measure of a construction professional's stability is shown in the ability to secure the required bonding.





**USE OF A TRAINED LOCAL WORKFORCE.** Employing local construction professionals and skilled craft workers on a project can be an attractive goal for school boards. Local craft workers, their friends and family, in all probability use those schools. However, it is necessary to determine if the construction professional has ready access to a qualified, experienced workforce to build your project.



**PREVAILING WAGE.** Use of prevailing wage requirements ensures that school boards secure the best qualified construction professionals to perform work on their projects. Construction professionals should compete for projects on the basis of their management practices, not by paying sub-standard wages. Utilization of prevailing wage will allow the construction professional to pay locally determined wages and benefits to attract qualified skilled craft workers.



**EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE & PENSION BENEFITS.** School districts can maintain and promote their community's health care and craft employees by requiring the construction professional to use prevailing wage, which includes health insurance and pension benefits. Construction professionals who provide such benefits to their craft personnel demonstrate a commitment to developing a stable workforce, which is a key component to a quality project and to the health of the community.



**WORKFORCE SOURCE & PROPER EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION.** School boards can ensure that their project will be built by qualified construction professionals by ensuring contractor access to a skilled workforce. School districts should examine carefully the source of building trades craft employees. School districts should ask prospective construction professionals to identify the source of the workforce they intend to use on the project. Construction professionals who staff the project with personnel hired from help-wanted ads or employment agencies might not have sufficient competence and ability to complete a quality project on schedule.





## **REGISTERED UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF**

**APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING PROGRAMS.** School boards know the value of high quality training and education. Responsible contractors know that better training equals better buildings. Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (BAT) approved training programs create more productive craft workers. A construction professional's ability to staff a school construction project with qualified trades' workers is the key to success. Contractors, who bid on school construction projects should maintain, participate in and contribute to bona fide apprentice training programs recognized by the U.S. D.O.L./B.A.T. Trained craft workers promote cost effectiveness, timeliness, safety and quality on school construction work. Companies who employ skilled and trained workers, educated in their trade, deliver exceptional work. Moreover, every registered U.S. D.O.L./B.A.T., program must meet twenty-two standards of apprenticeship regulated and audited by the U.S. D.O.L./B.A.T., as outlined in 29 CFR 29.5.



**LICENSING.** School boards get a better building when highly competent construction professionals and tradespersons build it to code. State law establishes licensing requirements for

electrical, mechanical, plumbing, boiler and elevator contractors, and electrical,

elevator and plumbing craft workers. Proper licensing and certification,

when applicable, show school boards that construction

professionals bidding the job have been tested and are

competent to perform the work. All responsible construction

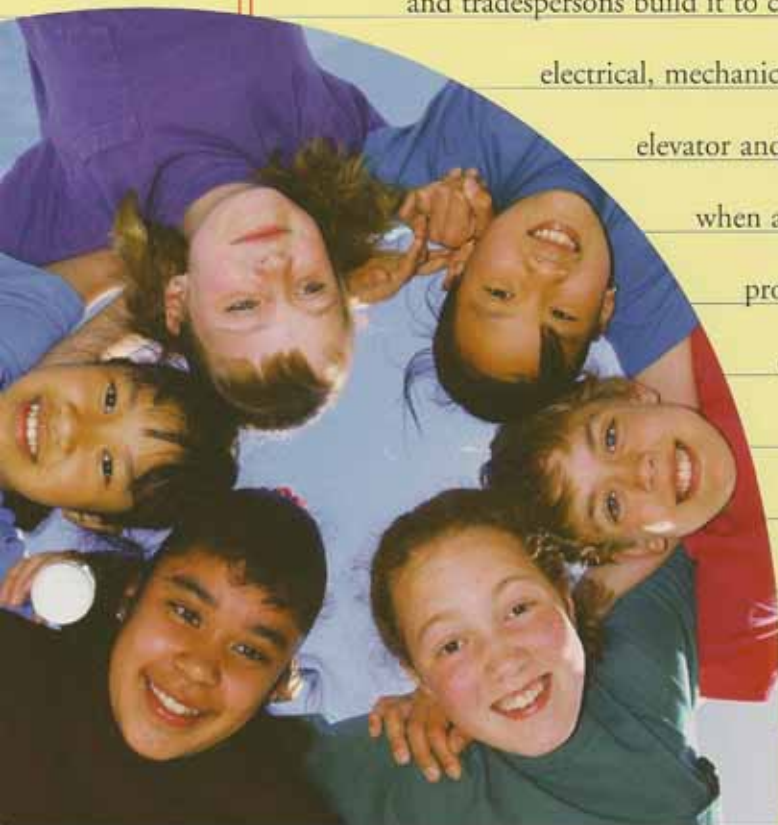
professionals must provide documented proof of licensing

and certification. This will allow school boards to contact

licensing and certification agencies to verify the bidder's

history and determine if any complaints or judgments

have been filed against them.







**COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATORY AGENCIES.** School boards get a higher quality building when local, state and federal regulations are followed. Compliance with the EPA, MIOSHA, OSHA and other agencies helps school boards evaluate the construction professional's willingness to follow rules. It also ensures that the bidding contractors are aware of the policies that affect them. Contractor adherence to wage and hour standards, record keeping guidelines, child labor regulations and other components of the Fair Labor Standards Act are good indicators of a stable workforce. Construction craft workers who are treated fairly and receive proper pay and benefits are more likely to produce high quality work which helps ensure a safe learning environment for Michigan children.



**CIVIL SUITS/ARBITRATION/HISTORY.** A school board will have their building projects completed without costly legal entanglements if they select a responsible contractor with a 'clean' legal history. School boards should contract with construction professionals that build according to contract – not in spite of the contract. School districts should carefully examine a contractor's litigation history and the final disposition of any arbitration claims brought against him/her. A contractor with an unusually high level of adverse claims might indicate that the school board should disqualify the contractor.



**Michigan Association for Responsible Contracting**

**phone: 1-866-YES-MARC • fax: 517-372-0402 • [www.miarc.org](http://www.miarc.org)**