It is the policy of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics to provide businesses owned by minority persons equal access and opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of the School construction program; to prohibit discrimination against businesses on the basis of race, color, national origin, or gender; to promote and encourage full and open competition; and to promote equal access to contracting opportunities among the various contractors and vendors that do business with the School. Minority persons are defined in North Carolina General Statute § 143-128.