

Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	Food Services
Code	808 Vol III 2022
Status	Second Reading

Purpose

The Board recognizes that students require adequate, nourishing food and beverages in order to grow, learn and maintain good health. The Board directs that students shall be provided with adequate space and time to eat meals during the school day.

Authority

The food service program shall be operated in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, as well as federal guidelines established by the Child Nutrition Division of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10]

The district shall ensure that, in the operation of the food service program, no student, staff member or other individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.[11][12]

Food sold by the school may be purchased by students and district employees but only for consumption on school premises. The price charged to students shall be established annually by the district in compliance with state and federal laws.[4][13]

Nonprogram food shall be priced to generate sufficient revenues to cover the cost of such items. A **nonprogram food** shall be defined as a food or beverage, other than a reimbursable meal or snack, that is sold at the school and is purchased using funds from the child nutrition account. **Nonprogram foods** include but are not limited to adult meals and a-la-carte items. All revenue from the sale of nonprogram food shall accrue to the child nutrition program account.[13][14]

Delegation of Responsibility

Operation and supervision of the food service program shall be the responsibility of the

{ } Superintendent.

{ } Business Manager.

{x } Food Services Director.

{ } Cafeteria Supervisor.

The individual responsible for the operation and supervision of the food service program shall present to the Board each month for its approval a statement of receipts and expenditures for cafeteria funds.[4]

Cafeterias shall be operated on a nonprofit basis. A periodic review of the cafeteria accounts shall be made by the [3][4]

{ } Superintendent.

{x } Business Manager.

{x } auditor.

The individual responsible for the operation and supervision of the food service program shall ensure that school meals meet the standards required by the School Breakfast Program, the National School Lunch Program and the Special Milk Program.[2][3][4][6][7][8][9][10]

The Superintendent or designee shall comply with state and federal requirements for conducting cafeteria health and safety inspections and ensuring employee participation in appropriate inspection services and training programs.[15][16][17][18]

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and disseminate administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and employees concerning the contents of this policy and applicable administrative regulations. Notification shall include information related to nondiscrimination.[12]

Guidelines

To reinforce the district's commitment to nutrition and student wellness, foods served in school cafeterias shall:[19]

1. Be carefully selected to contribute to students' nutritional well-being and health.
2. Meet the nutrition standards specified in law and regulations and approved by the Board.
3. Be prepared by methods that will retain nutritive quality, appeal to students and foster lifelong healthy eating habits.
4. Be served in age-appropriate quantities, at reasonable prices.

{x } The district shall use USDA Foods for school menus available under the Child Nutrition USDA Foods Programs.

All funds derived from the operation, maintenance or sponsorship of the food service program shall be deposited in the separate cafeteria fund, in the same manner as other district funds. Such funds shall be expended in the manner approved and directed by the Board, but no amount shall be transferred from the cafeteria fund to any other account or fund; however, district advances to the food service program may be returned to the district's general fund from any surplus resulting from its operation.[4]

Surplus accounts shall be used only for the improvement and maintenance of the cafeteria.[4]

Free/Reduced-Price School Meals and Free Milk

~~The district shall provide free and reduced-price school meals and/or free milk to students in accordance with the terms and conditions of the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program and the Special Milk Program.[20][21]~~

The district shall conduct direct certification three (3) times per year using the Pennsylvania Student Eligibility System (PA-SES) to identify students who are eligible for free school meal benefits without the need for submission of a household application. Direct certification shall be conducted:[20][21]

1. At or around the beginning of the school year.
2. Three (3) months after the initial effort.
3. Six (6) months after the initial effort.

The district may also conduct direct certification on a weekly or monthly basis.

{x } Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) -

~~{ } The district participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which provides an alternative to submission of household applications to identify students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Under the CEP, the district shall serve to all students free lunches and breakfasts for a defined period, in accordance with applicable provisions of law. [22]~~

Wyoming Area School District is approved for the CEP for the 22/23 school year. This approval qualifies each in person student for one reimbursement breakfast order and one reimbursement lunch free of charge when school is in session. A la carte purchase's (ie. a second lunch, milk for a student who has packed their lunch from home, etc.) must be purchased with cash or a debit to their student pos account that is sufficient to cover the purchase price of the food item. Negative student balances will not be permitted.

Accommodating Students With Special Dietary Needs

The district shall make appropriate food service and/or meal accommodations to students with special dietary needs in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.[23][24][25][26]

School Meal Service and Accounts

To ensure the effective operation of the district's food service program and delivery of school food program meals to students, the district shall:

1. Assign individual school meal accounts to each student for the purchase of meals served in school cafeterias, which ensure that the identity of each student is protected.
2. Notify parents/guardians when the student's school meal account reaches a low balance.
3. ~~Notify parents/guardians when the student's school meal account reaches a negative balance. The notice shall include information on payment options.~~
4. ~~Provide a school food program meal to each student who does not have the money to pay for the school food program meal or who has a negative balance in their school meal account, except when the student's parent/guardian has specifically provided written notice to the district to withhold a school food program meal.[3]~~

~~When a student owes money for five (5) or more school food program meals, the district shall make at least two (2) attempts to contact the student's parent/guardian and shall provide the application for free/reduced-price school meal benefits to the parent/guardian to apply for benefits under federal school meal programs. The district shall offer assistance to parents/guardians with applying for free/reduced-price school meal benefits.[3][20][21]~~

Communications regarding a low balance ~~or money owed~~ by a student for school meals shall be made to the student's parent/guardian.[3]

School staff may communicate a low balance ~~or money owed~~ by a student for school meals to a student in grades 9-12; such communication shall be made to the individual student in a discreet manner.[3]

{x } The district shall be permitted to contact the student's parent/guardian by means of a letter addressed to the parent/guardian that is delivered by the student.[3]

District schools shall be prohibited from:[3]

1. Publicly identifying or stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for a school food program meal or who has a negative school meal account balance. It shall not constitute public identification or

stigmatization of a student for a school to restrict privileges and activities of students who owe money for school meals if those same restrictions apply to students who owe money for other school-related purposes.

2. Requiring a student who cannot pay for a school food program meal to perform chores or other work to pay for the meal, unless chores or other work are required of all students regardless of their ability or inability to pay for a school food program meal.
3. Requiring a student **or school staff** to discard a school food program meal after it was served to the student due to the student's inability to pay for the meal ~~or due to a negative school meal account balance.~~

This policy and any applicable procedures or administrative regulations regarding school meal charges and school meal accounts shall be communicated annually to school administrators, school food service personnel, other appropriate school staff and contracted food service personnel.

The district shall provide parents/guardians with a written copy of this policy and any applicable procedures or administrative regulations at the start of each school year, when a student enrolls in school after the start of the school year and when a parent/guardian is notified of a negative school meal account balance.

{x } The district shall annually inform parents/guardians, students and staff about the contents of this policy and any applicable procedures via the district website, student handbooks, newsletters, posted notices and/or other efficient communication methods.

Collection of Unpaid Meal Charges

~~Reasonable efforts shall be made by the district to collect unpaid meal charges from parents/guardians. Efforts taken in the collection shall not have a negative impact on the student involved, but shall focus primarily on the parents/guardians responsible for providing funds for meal purchases.~~

Procurement

Procurement of goods or services for the food service program shall meet the requirements of applicable law, regulations and Board policy and procedures.[27][28][29]

Professional Standards for Food Service Personnel

The district shall comply with the professional standards for school food service personnel who manage and operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. For purposes of this policy, **professional standards** include hiring standards for new food service program directors and annual continuing education/training for all individuals involved in the operation and administration of school meal programs. Such professional standards shall apply to both district-operated food service programs and contracted food service programs.[6][7][18][30]

School Food Safety Inspections

The district shall obtain two (2) safety inspections per year in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations.[16][17][31]

The district shall post the most recent inspection report and release a copy of the report to members of the public, upon request.

School Food Safety Program

The district shall comply with federal requirements in developing a food safety program that enables district schools to take systematic action to prevent or minimize the risk of foodborne illness among students.[8][10][16]

The district shall maintain proper sanitation and health standards in food storage, preparation and service, in accordance with applicable state and local laws and regulations and federal food safety requirements.[17][31][32]

NOTES:

Language related to provisions for alternative meals being served to students if the student is not eligible for free/reduced-price school meals and the student's account reaches a negative balance of more than **seventy-five** dollars (\$75) in a school year **has not been included in the policy guide** based on recent food service audits conducted by PDE stating that the language is in violation of the USDA regulations. Although alternative meal provisions were added to the PA School Code 24 P.S. Sec. 13-1337 under Act 16 of 2019, **and modified under Act 55 of 2022**, PDE's Child Nutrition Programs issued a memo regarding Revised Meals for Students with Insufficient Funds and Local Meal Charge Policies stating that the provision of law regarding alternative meals does not apply to any student in any school that participates in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs whether or not the student qualifies for free and reduced-price school meals. School entities should work with their solicitor if they wish to use the alternative meal provisions from 24 P.S. Sec. 13-1337 under Act 16 of 2019 **and Act 55 of 2022**.

If your school entity participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and provides free school lunches and breakfasts to all students under this provision, please work with your solicitor and food service administrator to determine additional revisions to this policy.

When a district contracts for food services, use master as-is except delete the paragraphs under Guidelines starting with "Surplus accounts..." and "All funds derived..."

Summer Food Service – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1751 et seq
7 CFR Part 225

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Legal

1. 2 CFR Part 200
2. 24 P.S. 1335
3. 24 P.S. 1337
4. 24 P.S. 504
5. 24 P.S. 807.1
6. 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq
7. 42 U.S.C. 1773
8. 7 CFR Part 210
9. 7 CFR Part 215
10. 7 CFR Part 220
11. 7 CFR 210.23
12. FNS Instruction 113-1 (USDA)
13. 42 U.S.C. 1760
14. 7 CFR 210.14
15. 3 Pa. C.S.A. 5713
16. 42 U.S.C. 1758(h)
17. 7 CFR 210.13
18. 7 CFR 210.30
19. Pol. 246
20. 42 U.S.C. 1758
21. 7 CFR Part 245
22. 42 U.S.C. 1759a
23. 7 CFR 15b.40
24. Pol. 103.1
25. Pol. 113
26. Pol. 209.1
27. Pol. 610
28. Pol. 626
29. Pol. 827
30. 7 CFR 210.15
31. 7 CFR 220.7
32. 7 CFR 210.9
- P.L. 111-296
- 7 CFR Part 15
- Pol. 103

Book	Policy Manual
Section	600 Finances
Title	Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
Code	610
Status	Active
Adopted	May 23, 2017
Last Revised	February 22, 2022

Authority

It is the policy of the Board to obtain competitive bids and price quotations for products and services where such bids or quotations are required by law or may result in monetary savings to the school district.[1][2]

Guidelines

The amounts contained in this policy regarding competitive bid and price quotation requirements are subject to adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index.[1][2][3]

Competitive Bids

When seeking competitive bids, the Board shall advertise once a week for three (3) weeks in not less than two (2) newspapers of general circulation.[1][2]

After due public notice advertising for competitive bids, the Board shall be authorized to:

1. Purchase furniture, equipment, school supplies and appliances costing a base amount of \$21,900 or more, unless exempt by law.[2] 22,500
2. Contract for construction, reconstruction, repairs, maintenance or work on any school building or property having a total cost or value of more than ~~\$21,900~~ 22,500, unless exempt by law.[1]

The Board prohibits the practice of splitting purchases to avoid advertising and bidding requirements.[1][2]

With kind, quality and material being equal, the bid of the lowest responsible bidder meeting bid specifications shall be accepted upon resolution of the Board, unless the Board chooses to reject all bids.[1][2]

The Board recognizes that emergencies may occur when imminent danger exists to persons or property or continuance of existing school classes is threatened, and time for bidding cannot be provided because of the need for immediate action. Bidding decisions in the event of such emergencies shall be made in accordance with existing legal requirements.[1]

Electronic Bidding

The Board shall receive bids electronically for competitive contracts, except for construction and design services, in compliance with applicable laws and Board policy.[4][5]

The district shall electronically maintain the confidentiality of the bid until the bid opening.[5]

Competitive Electronic Auction Bidding

The Board shall adopt a resolution approving the use of competitive electronic auction bidding for contracts for supplies or services, but not for construction or design services. [4][6]

An invitation for bids shall be issued and shall include: [6]

1. Procurement description.
2. All contractual terms, when practical.
3. Conditions applicable to procurement, including a notice that bids will be received in an electronic auction manner.

Public notice and advertisement of the invitation for bids shall be given in the manner required for non-electronic bidding.

Bids shall be accepted electronically at the time and in the manner designated in the invitation for bids.

During the auction, bidders shall be able to review their bid rank or the low bid price, and may reduce their bid prices during the auction.

At the conclusion of the auction, the record of the bid prices received and the name of each bidder shall be open to public inspection.

After the auction period has expired, the district shall grant in writing withdrawal of a bid when the bidder requests relief and presents credible evidence of a clerical mistake due to reasons permitted by law, within the time period established by the district.

The contract shall be awarded within sixty (60) days of the auction by written notice to the lowest responsible bidder, or all bids may be rejected. Extensions of the award date may be made by written, mutual consent of both parties.

Price Quotations

Unless exempt by law, at least three (3) written or telephonic price quotations shall be requested by the Board for: [1][2]

1. Furniture, equipment, school supplies and appliances costing a base amount of more than \$11,800 but less than \$21,900. [2] 12,200
22,500
2. All contracts for construction, reconstruction, repairs, maintenance or work on any school building or property, having a total cost or value of more than \$11,800 but less than \$21,900. [1] 22,500
12,200

If it is not possible to obtain three (3) quotations, a memorandum must be kept on file showing that fewer than three (3) qualified vendors exist in the market area. The written price quotations, written records of telephonic price quotations and memoranda shall be kept on file for three (3) years.

Work Performed by District Maintenance Personnel

The Board may authorize district maintenance personnel to perform construction, reconstruction, repairs or work having a total cost or value of less than \$11,800. [1]

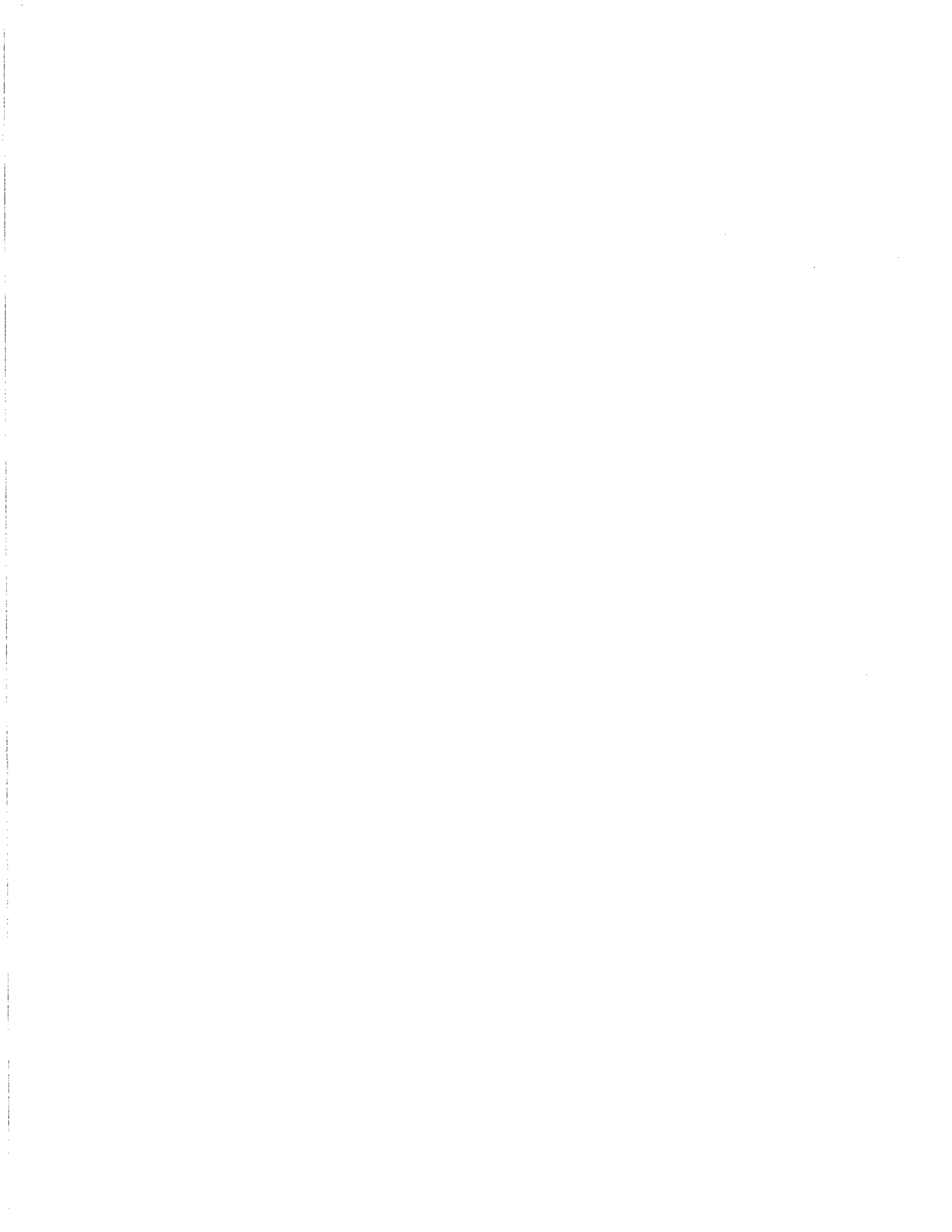
Delegation of Responsibility

12,200

The Board may grant the Board Secretary or Purchasing Agent the authority to purchase supplies and award contracts in the amount and manner designated by applicable law.[1][2]

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 751
2. 24 P.S. 807.1
3. 24 P.S. 120
4. 62 Pa. C.S.A. 4602
5. 62 Pa. C.S.A. 4603
6. 62 Pa. C.S.A. 4604
- 62 Pa. C.S.A. 4601 et seq



Book	Policy Manual
Section	600 Finances
Title	Purchases Budgeted
Code	611
Status	Active
Adopted	May 23, 2017
Last Revised	February 22, 2022

Authority

It is the policy of the Board that when funds are available all purchases contemplated within the current budget and not subject to bid shall be made in a manner that ensures the best interests of the district.
[1][2]

Delegation of Responsibility

All purchases that are within budgetary limits may be made upon authorization of the Purchasing Agent, Business Manager, Board Secretary, and/or Superintendent, unless the contemplated purchase is for more than ~~\$21,900~~ in which case prior approval by the Board is required. [1][2][3]

22,500

All purchase order requests must be referred to the Purchasing Agent who shall check whether the proposed purchase is subject to bid; whether sufficient funds exist in the budget; and whether the material might be available elsewhere in the district. [1][2][3]

Legal	1. 24 P.S. 751
	2. 24 P.S. 807.1
	3. 24 P.S. 609
	24 P.S. 508



Procurement – Federal Programs

This document is intended to integrate standard district purchasing procedures with additional requirements applicable to procurements that are subject to the federal Uniform Guidance regulations, federal guidance of the Office of Management and Budget and/or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations governing school food service programs. The district maintains the following purchasing procedures, in accordance with federal and state laws, regulations and Board policy. (2 CFR 200.102, 200.318-200.325; 7 CFR 210.16, 210.19, 210.21, 215.14a, 220.16; 24 P.S. 120, 24 P.S. 504, 24 P.S. 508, 24 P.S. 521, 24 P.S. 607, 24 P.S. 609, 24 P.S. 751, 24 P.S. 807.1; 62 Pa. C.S.A. 4601 et seq; Pol. 610, 611, 612, 613, 808)

2022 Procurement Thresholds		
PA State Quotation Threshold	\$11,800 12,200	Adjusted based on Consumer Price Index published in PA Bulletin (24 P.S. Sec. 120)
PA State Bid Threshold	\$21,900 22,500	Adjusted based on Consumer Price Index published in PA Bulletin (24 P.S. Sec. 120)
Federal Micro-Purchase Threshold	\$10,000	Adjusted periodically and published in Federal Register (48 CFR Subpart 2.1) or through guidance of the federal Office of Management and Budget
Federal Simplified Acquisition Threshold	\$250,000	Adjusted periodically and published in Federal Register (48 CFR Subpart 2.1) or through guidance of the federal Office of Management and Budget

*Please review this Procurement attachment annually and update amounts accordingly

The district implements exceptions to the Micro-Purchase and Simplified Acquisition Threshold amounts announced by the federal Office of Management and Budget as part of its procurement procedures.

Responsibility for Purchasing

The Board has outlined standard district purchasing responsibility, methods of purchasing, price quotations and bid requirements in the following Board policies and their accompanying administrative regulations or procedures:

- ∨ Policy 610. Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
- ∨ Policy 611. Purchases Budgeted
- ∨ Policy 612. Purchases Not Budgeted
- ∨ Policy 613. Cooperative Purchasing

Purchase Methods

When a request for purchase of equipment, supplies or services has been submitted and approved as outlined below, the procurement method to be used will be determined based on the type of purchase and the total cost of the purchase as further outlined below. This procedure outlines how the cost thresholds for determining when the quote or formal bidding procedures that are required by state law as reflected in Policy 610 must be modified when making purchases for federally funded purposes to which the Uniform Grant Guidance or USDA regulations apply, so as to comply with both state and federal requirements. At each point where requirements for food service-related procurement under USDA regulations differ, a note will refer to the Food Service Program Notes at the end of this procedure. Final determination of which purchasing procedures are to be applied is delegated to the **Superintendent** under the authority of the Board.

Standard Procurement Documents and Purchase Request Process

The district shall use **purchase orders** for purchase requests in accordance with the applicable purchase method.

The district shall use **paper** purchasing records, which are pre-numbered and are accessible to designated purchasing staff in the **district office**.

Purchase requests by an employee must be submitted to the building administrator or immediate supervisor. Purchase of all budgeted items or items approved by an administrator or supervisor must be initiated by use of a purchase order or requisition submitted to the **Superintendent**.

Purchase orders and requisitions shall contain information including, but not limited to:

1. Description of the services to be performed or goods to be delivered.
2. Location of where services will be performed, or goods will be delivered.
3. Appropriate dates of service or delivery.

Documentation on purchase orders and requisitions shall be maintained in accordance with the district's Records Management Policy and records retention schedule. (Pol. 800)

Contracts shall be reviewed by the **Business Manager and Superintendent** prior to submission to the Board for approval.

Contracts to which the Uniform Grant Guidance apply shall contain the clauses specified in Appendix II to 2 CFR Part 200 (Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards), when applicable.

[See Food Service Program Notes below for specific clauses required by USDA regulations to be included in cost reimbursable procurement contracts.]

Micro-Purchases Not Requiring Quotes or Bidding

For purposes of this procedure, **micro-purchase** means a purchase of equipment, supplies or services for use in federally funded programs using simplified acquisition procedures, the aggregate amount of which does not exceed a base amount of \$10,000. The micro-purchase dollar threshold is adjusted periodically by the federal government, and the threshold most recently established and published in the Federal Register or announced as an exception by the federal Office of Management and Budget shall apply if other than \$10,000.(48 CFR Subpart 2.1)

Note: The micro-purchase maximum for federal purposes is lower than the amount below which the School Code allows purchase for nonfederal purposes to be made without obtaining at least three (3) written or telephonic quotes or using formal competitive bidding.

The micro-purchase method is used in order to expedite the completion of its lowest dollar small purchase transactions and minimize the associated administrative burden and cost. Procurement by micro-purchase is the acquisition of equipment, supplies or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed the micro-purchase threshold.

To the extent practicable, the district distributes micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers when the same or materially interchangeable products are identified and such suppliers offer effectively equivalent rates, prices and other terms. The ~~Superintendent and Business Manager~~ will be responsible to determine the equitable distribution of micro-purchases.

Micro-purchases may be awarded without soliciting competitive quotations if the district considers the price to be reasonable. The district will maintain evidence of this reasonableness in the records of all micro-purchases. Reasonable means that sound business practices were followed and the purchase is comparable to market prices for the geographic area. Such determinations of reasonableness may include comparison of the price to previous purchases of the same item or comparison of the price of items similar to the item being purchased.

Even if the cost of a purchase qualifies it as a micro-purchase, bidding or small purchase procedures may be used optionally when those procedures may result in cost savings.

Small Purchase Procedures

For purposes of this procedure, **small purchase procedures** are those relatively simple and informal procurement methods for securing equipment or supplies that cost more than the amount qualifying as a micro-purchase and do not cost \$21,900 or more, or in the case of services other than construction, maintenance or repair on school facilities, where the total cost does not exceed the \$250,000 federal Simplified Acquisition Threshold at which formal competitive bidding or competitive proposals are required. Small purchase procedures cannot be used for purchases of equipment or supplies or for construction, repair or maintenance services costing \$21,900 or more because the School Code requires formal competitive bidding at that level of cost.

22,500

22,500

The base amount at which bidding is required under state law for purchases of equipment, supplies and construction, maintenance or repair services on school facilities is adjusted for inflation annually, and the adjusted amount most recently determined and published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin shall apply if other than **\$21,900**. (24 P.S. Sec. 120)

The federal Simplified Acquisition Threshold at which competitive bidding or competitive proposals are required is adjusted periodically by the federal government, and the threshold most recently established and published in the Federal Register or announced as an exception by the federal Office of Management and Budget shall apply if other than \$250,000. (48 CFR Subpart 2.1, 2 CFR 200.102)

Because state law does not require competitive bidding for the purchase of services other than construction, maintenance or repairs on school facilities regardless of total cost, small purchase procedures, including a request for proposal (RFP) procedure, may be used for procurement of such other services except when the estimated total cost will be at or over the federal threshold at which formal competitive bidding or competitive proposals are required (\$250,000).

[See Food Service Program Notes below for exemption from bidding for purchases of perishable food items costing less than \$250,000.]

If small purchase procedures are used, written or telephonic price or rate quotations are obtained from at least three (3) qualified sources and records of quotes are maintained as provided in Policy 610. (Pol. 610)

Formal Competitive Bidding

Publicly Solicited Sealed Competitive Bids:

For purchases of equipment or supplies, or of services for construction, maintenance or repairs of school facilities, sealed competitive bids are publicly solicited and awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder as provided in Policy 610 when the total cost is estimated to be **\$21,900** or more. (Pol. 610)

Note: The amount at which formal competitive bidding or competitive proposals are required by federal regulations is much higher than the base amount at which the School Code requires competitive bidding. Therefore, the lower base amount specified by the School Code, as annually adjusted, is used to determine when bidding will be used for purchases of equipment or supplies, or for obtaining services for construction, maintenance or repairs on school facilities. (24 P.S. Sec. 120)

State law does not require bidding for the purchase of services other than construction, maintenance or repairs on school facilities regardless of total cost. For procurement of such other services for federally funded purposes to which the Uniform Grant Guidance applies, formal competitive bidding or competitive proposals will be used when the estimated total cost will be at or over the federal threshold of \$250,000.

The federal Simplified Acquisition Threshold at which competitive bidding or competitive proposals are required is adjusted periodically by the federal government, and the threshold most recently established and published in the Federal Register or announced as an exception by the federal Office of Management and Budget shall apply if other than \$250,000. (48 CFR Subpart 2.1, 2 CFR 200.102)

For procurement of services costing at or over the \$250,000 federal threshold other than for construction, maintenance or repairs on school facilities, the use of competitive sealed bidding is considered feasible and appropriate when:

1. A complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;
2. Two (2) or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and
3. The procurement lends itself to a firm fixed-price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price.

Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest. Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of. Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.

[See Food Service Program Notes below for reference to state requirements regarding contracts with food service management companies and contractors of pre-plated meals.]

Competitive Proposals

State law does not require public school entities to solicit competitive bids for services other than construction, repairs or maintenance of school facilities, for which competitive bidding is required if the cost will be a base amount of \$21,900 or more. State law allows competitive proposals relating to work on facilities in lieu of bidding only in the context of guaranteed energy savings contracts.

Federal regulations allow the use of competitive proposals as an alternative to formal competitive bidding when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids.

In the case of services other than for construction, repairs or maintenance of school facilities costing less than that threshold, the district may use small purchase procedures or micro-purchase procedures as applicable based on total cost. A request for proposal (RFP) process can also meet or exceed the small purchase competition requirements under state law and Policy 610 for the acquisition of services other than for construction, repairs or maintenance of school facilities, and can be used if the total cost will be less than \$250,000.

When permitted, the technique of competitive proposals is normally conducted with more than one (1) source submitting an offer, and either a fixed price or cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded. Competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected,

subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The district shall comply with other applicable state and federal law and regulations, Board policy and administrative regulations regarding purchasing; the district may consult with the school solicitor or other qualified counsel in determining the required process for purchasing through competitive proposals when necessary.

If this method is used, the following requirements apply:

1. Requests for proposals must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. Any response to publicized requests for proposals must be considered to the maximum extent practical.
2. Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources.
3. Contracts must be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered.

An alternative form of competitive proposal is permitted only for qualifications-based procurement of architectural and engineering services, in which price is not a selection factor and reasonable compensation is negotiated after source selection. This alternative is not permitted for procurement of other types of services.

Competitive proposals shall be evaluated by the **Superintendent and Business Manager** based on factors including but not limited to:

1. Cost.

Experience of contractor.

Availability.

Personnel qualifications.

Financial stability.

Minority business, women's business enterprise, or labor surplus area firm status.

Project management expertise.

Understanding of district needs.

Evaluations shall be completed in a timely manner, documented and shall be reviewed by the **Federal Programs Coordinator**.

Contract/Price Analysis

The district performs a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of \$250,000, including contract modifications. (2 CFR Sec. 200.323(a)).

A **cost analysis** generally means evaluating the separate cost elements that make up the total price, while a **price analysis** means evaluating the total price, without looking at the individual cost elements.

The method and degree of analysis is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation; however, the **Federal Programs Coordinator** must come to an independent estimate prior to receiving bids or proposals. (2 CFR Sec. 200.323(a)). As part of the analysis, the **Federal Programs Coordinator** will enact established business practices which may include evaluation of similar prior procurements and a review process.

Negotiated Profit

In any procurement in which there has been no price competition, or in which a cost-analysis is performed, profit must be negotiated separately as an element of price. Accordingly, solicitations of bids, proposals or quotes shall require that bids, proposals or quotes be limited to costs other than profit, and exclude profit.

To establish a fair and reasonable profit, consideration is given to the complexity of the work to be performed, the risk borne by the contractor, the contractor's investment, the amount of subcontracting, the quality of its record of past performance, and industry profit rates in the surrounding geographical area for similar work. (2 CFR Sec. 200.323(b)).

When profit must be negotiated as a separate element of the total price, it shall be negotiated by the **Superintendent and Business Manager**.

Noncompetitive Proposals (Sole Sourcing)

Procurement by noncompetitive proposals means procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one (1) source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

1. The item is available only from a single source.
2. The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation. An **emergency** exists whenever the time required for the Board to act in accordance with regular procedures would endanger life or property or threaten continuance of existing school classes.
3. The federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the district.

4. After solicitation of a number of sources, the district determines the competition is inadequate.

In addition to standard procurement policy and procedures, the district will document the grounds for using the noncompetitive method in lieu of an otherwise required competitive method of procurement, which may include written confirmation from the contractor as the sole source of the item. Documentation must be submitted to and maintained by the Business Office.

All noncompetitive proposals will ultimately be approved by the Board. The district may utilize legal advice from the solicitor regarding noncompetitive proposals.

Profit must be negotiated separately for noncompetitive proposals, and a cost or price analysis will also be performed for noncompetitive proposals when the price exceeds \$250,000.

Purchase Cards

The district approves the use of procurement cards for permissible purchases by designated employees to improve the efficiency of purchasing activities, reduce processing expenses, improve controls for small-dollar purchases, and streamline contractor payment.

Procurement cards may be used for purchases under federal programs. The use of procurement cards is governed by Board policy 625 Procurement Cards and established administrative regulations. (Pol. 625)

Full and Open Competition

All procurement transactions must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with 2 CFR Sec. 200.319. In order to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements. Some of the situations considered to be restrictive of competition include but are not limited to:

1. Placing unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business.
2. Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding.
3. Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies.
4. Noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts.
5. Organizational conflicts of interest.
6. Specifying only a "brand name" product instead of allowing "an equal" product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement.
7. Any arbitrary action in the procurement process.

Minority Businesses, Women's Business Enterprises, Labor Surplus Area Firms

The district must take necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible. Affirmative steps must include: (2 CFR Sec. 200.321)

1. Placing qualified small and minority business and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists.
2. Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources.
3. Dividing total purchasing requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority business and women's business enterprises.
4. Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises.
5. Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.
6. Requiring the prime contractor, if subcontracts are let, to take the affirmative steps listed above.

Geographical Preferences Prohibited

The district must conduct procurements in a manner that prohibits the use of statutorily or administratively imposed state, local, or tribal geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals, except in those cases where applicable federal statutes expressly mandate or encourage geographic preference. When contracting for architectural and engineering (A/E) services, geographic location may be a selection criterion provided its application leaves an appropriate number of qualified firms, given the nature and size of the project, to compete for the contract.

[See Food Service Program Notes below for permissibility of geographic preferences and "Buy American" practices in purchasing certain food products]

Prequalified Lists

The district must ensure that all prequalified lists of persons, firms, or products which are used in acquiring goods and services are current and include enough qualified sources to ensure

maximum open and free competition. Also, the district must not preclude potential bidders from qualifying during the solicitation period.

[See Food Service Program Notes below for reference to state requirements regarding contracts with food service management companies and contractors of pre-plated meals.]

Solicitation Language

The district must ensure that all solicitations incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured. Such description must not, in competitive procurements, contain features which unduly restrict competition. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the material, product or service to be procured and, when necessary, must set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it must conform if it is to satisfy its intended use. Detailed product specifications should be avoided if at all possible.

When it is impractical or uneconomical to make a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements, a “brand name or equivalent” description may be used as a means to define the performance or other salient requirements of procurement. The specific features of the named brand which must be met by offers must be clearly stated; and identify all requirements which the offerors must fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

Avoiding Acquisition of Unnecessary or Duplicative Items

The district must avoid the acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items. Additionally, consideration must be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase; and, where appropriate, an analysis must be made of leases versus purchase alternatives, and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach.

These considerations are given as part of the process to determine the allowability of each purchase made with federal funds. Such considerations are accessible in the procedure attached to Policy 626: Allowability of Costs – Federal Programs.

Use of Intergovernmental Agreements and Cooperative Purchasing

To foster greater economy and efficiency, the district enters into state and local intergovernmental agreements where appropriate for cooperative purchasing or use of common or shared goods and services, as permitted by the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, the School Code and the Commonwealth Procurement Code. (Pol. 613; 53 Pa. C.S. Ch. 23; 24 P.S. 521; 62 Pa. C.S. Ch. 19)

When procuring supplies or services for federally funded purposes to which the Uniform Grant Guidance applies, the district shall verify that the organization conducting the procurement pursuant to such agreements complies with the applicable procurement methods, requirements and standards of the Uniform Grant Guidance as outlined in this procedure.

Use of Federal Excess and Surplus Property

The district considers the use of federal excess and surplus property in lieu of purchasing new equipment and property whenever such use is feasible and reduces project costs.

Debarment and Suspension

The district awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

[See Food Service Program Notes below for reference to state requirements regarding contracts with food service management companies and contractors of pre-plated meals.]

The district may not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For all contracts over \$25,000 the district verifies that the contractor with whom the district intends to do business is not excluded or disqualified. (2 CFR Part 200, Appendix II, and 2 CFR Sec. 180.220 and 180.300).

All successful contractors must provide written certification that they have not been suspended or debarred from federal projects. The **Business Manager and Federal Programs Coordinator** will be responsible for verification. Such verification may include accessing the online federal System for Award Management (SAM) to determine whether any relevant party is subject to any suspension or debarment restrictions.

Maintenance of Procurement Records

The district must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.

Maintenance of records of procurement will be governed by Board policy 800 Records Management and the district's established records retention schedule. (Pol. 800)

Time and Materials Contracts

The district may use a time and materials type contract only: (1) after a determination that no other contract is suitable; and (2) if the contract includes a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. **Time and materials type contract** means a contract whose cost to the district is the sum of: the actual costs of materials, and direct labor hours charged at fixed hourly rates that reflect wages, general and administrative expenses, and profit.

Since this formula generates an open-ended contract price, a time-and-materials contract provides no positive profit incentive to the contractor for cost control or labor efficiency. Therefore, each contract must set a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Further, the district must assert a high degree of oversight in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the contractor is using efficient methods and effective cost controls.

Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Procurements

The district alone is responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the district of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

Protest Procedures to Resolve Dispute

The district maintains protest procedures to handle and resolve disputes relating to procurements and, in all instances, discloses information regarding the protest to the awarding agency. Protest procedures will be acted on in accordance with current state law and regulations, established district administrative regulations and the advice of the solicitor. (Pol. 610)

Food Service Program Notes:

Exemption from Bidding for Perishable Food Items -

The School Code exempts purchases of perishable food items from bidding requirements. Bidding for perishable food items is required only if the cost would be at or over the federal threshold at which formal competitive bidding is required (\$250,000). Small purchase procedures may be used for purchases below \$250,000, or micro-purchase procedures for purchases below \$10,000. Use of bidding should be considered as an option if it is feasible and likely to result in cost savings.(24 P.S. Sec. 504(d))

Geographic Preferences -

The district is permitted to apply a geographic preference when procuring unprocessed locally grown or locally raised agricultural products. When a geographic preference is applied, the district has discretion to determine the local area to which the geographic preference option will be applied.

Unprocessed locally grown or locally raised agricultural products means only those agricultural products that retain their inherent character. The effects of the following food handling and preservation techniques shall not be considered as changing an agricultural product into a product of a different kind or character: cooling; refrigerating; freezing; size adjustment made by peeling, slicing, dicing, cutting, chopping, shucking, and grinding; forming ground products into patties without any additives or fillers; drying/dehydration; washing; packaging

(such as placing eggs in cartons), vacuum packing and bagging (such as placing vegetables in bags or combining two (2) or more types of vegetables or fruits in a single package); the addition of ascorbic acid or other preservatives to prevent oxidation of produce; butchering livestock and poultry; cleaning fish; and the pasteurization of milk. (7 CFR Sec. 210.21, 215.14a, 220.16)

Buy American -

The district shall purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products for food service purposes. The term **domestic commodity or product** means: (7 CFR Sec. 210.21, 220.16)

1. An agricultural commodity that is produced in the United States; and
2. A food product that is processed in the United States substantially using agricultural commodities that are produced in the United States.

Mandatory Contract Clauses -

The following provisions shall be included in all cost reimbursable contracts for food services purchases, including contracts with cost reimbursable provisions, and in solicitation documents prepared to obtain offers for such contracts: (7 CFR Sec. 210.21, 215.14a, 220.16)

1. Allowable costs will be paid from the nonprofit school food service account to the contractor net of all discounts, rebates and other applicable credits accruing to or received by the contractor or any assignee under the contract, to the extent those credits are allocable to the allowable portion of the costs billed to the school food authority;
2. (a) The contractor must separately identify for each cost submitted for payment to the school food authority the amount of that cost that is allowable (can be paid from the nonprofit school food service account) and the amount that is unallowable (cannot be paid from the nonprofit school food service account); or

(b) The contractor must exclude all unallowable costs from its billing documents and certify that only allowable costs are submitted for payment and records have been established that maintain the visibility of unallowable costs, including directly associated costs in a manner suitable for contract cost determination and verification;
3. The contractor's determination of its allowable costs must be made in compliance with the applicable departmental and program regulations and Office of Management and Budget cost circulars;
4. The contractor must identify the amount of each discount, rebate and other applicable credit on bills and invoices presented to the school food authority for payment and individually identify the amount as a discount, rebate, or in the case of other applicable credits, the nature of the credit. If approved by the state agency, the school food authority

may permit the contractor to report this information on a less frequent basis than monthly, but no less frequently than annually;

5. The contractor must identify the method by which it will report discounts, rebates and other applicable credits allocable to the contract that are not reported prior to conclusion of the contract; and
6. The contractor must maintain documentation of costs and discounts, rebates and other applicable credits, and must furnish such documentation upon request to the school food authority, the state agency, or the department.

Contracts with Food Service Management Companies -

Procedures for selecting and contracting with a food service management company (FSMC) shall comply with guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Food and Nutrition, including standard forms, procedures and timelines for solicitation, selection and approval of proposals and contracts. (7 CFR Sec. 210.16, 210.19, 210.21, 215.14a, 220.16)

Pre-Plated Meals -

Procedures for selecting and contracting with contractors of pre-plated meals shall comply with guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Food and Nutrition, including standard forms, procedures and timelines for solicitation, selection and approval of proposals and contracts. (7 CFR Sec. 210.16, 210.19, 210.21, 220.16)