

**Bergen County Technical Schools
Paramus, New Jersey 07652**

Bergen County Technical Schools

**PURCHASING MANUAL
QPA Max Threshold \$53,000**

2025-2026

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School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this Purchasing Manual is to assist all school district employees with the proper purchasing practices to be in full compliance with:

- New Jersey Public School Contracts Law--N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.;
- New Jersey Administrative Code--N.J.A.C. 5:34-1 et seq.;
- Board of Education Purchasing Policies;
- Federal Procurement Code--2 CFR 200.317 et seq., when applicable;
- NJQSAC Fiscal Indicator #15;
- Local Finance Notices – NJ Division of Local Government Services; and
- Other laws and administrative codes, when applicable.

The Purchasing Manual is designed to achieve three (3) goals:

1. Compliance with the law, code, and board policy on purchasing;
2. Promote efficiency in purchasing practices; and
3. Achieve savings through proper purchasing practices.

Proper Planning

We ask you, the user of the purchasing system, to help achieve these goals through proper planning. Please allow yourself enough leeway between generating a purchase order and the actual date materials or services are needed. Please consider purchasing in terms of a full year. What items and services do you need on an annual basis? Through proper planning, we can eliminate much of the frustration encountered with all public school purchasing procedures.

Who Should Review This Manual?

This manual should be reviewed by all administrators, directors, department heads, teachers, secretaries, and others involved in the purchasing process. It is imperative that everyone adhere to all purchasing laws and guidelines.

Deliberative Process—Purchases of Goods and Services Take Time!

• Compliance with Law; Code; Board Policy

Public school purchasing is a deliberative process designed to ensure compliance with the Public School Contracts Law, appropriate New Jersey Administrative Code, board of education policy, and, when applicable, the Federal Procurement Code.

• Limit Fraud

The deliberative process also encompasses checks and balances and internal controls designed to limit fraudulent activities.

Public school purchasing is indeed a time-consuming effort; please be patient!

Mandatory Training

All school personnel involved in the requisition and purchasing process shall attend mandatory training sessions concerning proper purchasing procedures. The training will be presented in two (2) sessions:

➤ Session I—Purchasing Procedures

All administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-1.1 (b), shall attend this mandatory training session on purchasing procedures.

➤ Session II—Requisition and Purchase Order Process

All school personnel involved in the preparation of requisitions and purchase orders shall attend this mandatory training session.

Recommending Purchases: Educational/Operational Rationale

Administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals who recommend purchases should be able to explain and justify the need for the purchase, as well as demonstrate why it is essential to the school district. School officials who sign off on requisitions/purchase orders may have to provide an educational or operational rationale for the purchase based on the following:

- How will students learn or benefit from the purchase?
- What educational achievement or program may be linked to the purchase?
- How is the purchase of operational value to your school/office?
- Are the goods/services purchased useful for the long term rather than for immediate need?
- Have inventories been checked to determine whether there is a real need for the purchase?

Administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals may need to justify the purchase and, if required, explain the necessity at a Board of Education meeting.

QPA Certification—Current Bid Threshold--\$53,000

Any thresholds listed are based on the assumption that the School Business Administrator holds a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) Certificate and that the board of education has set the bid threshold at the current maximum of \$53,000.

ETHICS AND CONDUCT IN PURCHASING; VENDOR RELATIONS

All District employees are to practice exemplary ethical behavior in the purchasing process. Employees are to avoid any action that may be considered a conflict with their position with the District and those dealings with vendors who provide goods and services to the District. All District employees should adhere to the following terms and conditions of the board's policy on Ethics and Conduct in Purchasing: Vendor Relations.

Federal Code of Standards of Conduct

The Board of Education, pursuant to **Federal Regulation 2 CFR 200.318 (c) (1)**, hereby acknowledges the Ethics and Conduct in Purchasing section to be applicable to the selection, award, and administration of contracts using federal funds. The code of conduct also applies to all purchases, notwithstanding the source of funding.

A. Financial Interest in any Contract with the Board of Education--Prohibited

No employee or board member may have a direct interest in any contract or agreement for the sale of goods and services to the Board of Education nor receive any benefit, compensation, or reward from any contract for the sale of goods and services to the Board of Education.

Reference—N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.

B. Solicitation/Receipt of Gifts from Vendors -- Prohibited

School board members, school officials, employees, or members of their immediate family are prohibited from soliciting, receiving, or agreeing to receive any compensation, reward, employment, gift, meal, honorarium, travel, reimbursement, favor, loan, service, or **other things of value** from any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or business that is a recipient of a purchase order from The District, or a potential bidder, or an applicant for any contract with The District, based upon an understanding that what is solicited or offered was for the purpose of influencing the board member or school employee in the discharge of their official duties. This policy shall be consistent with the School Ethics Act—N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.

C. School District Responsibility – Favoritism, Family Members, Businesses

School officials and employees who recommend purchases shall not extend any favoritism to any vendor. Each recommended purchase should be based upon the quality of the items, service, price, delivery, and other applicable factors in full compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

School officials and employees are to avoid recommending purchases from members of their families, businesses that employ members of their families, and businesses in which the official, employee, or members of their immediate family have a direct financial interest.

School officials and employees who are authorized to sign off on purchase orders and/or to recommend purchases or business transactions by virtue of their signature on the purchase order certify that their actions are consistent with this policy and all applicable statutes.

D. Vendor Responsibility – Doing Business with the Board of Education

Any vendor doing business or proposing to do business with the Board of Education shall neither pay, offer to pay, either directly or indirectly, any fee, commission, or compensation, nor offer any gift, gratuity, or other things of value of any kind to any official or employee of the Board of Education or any member of the official's or employee's immediate family.

No vendor shall cause to influence or attempt to influence, any official or employee of the Board of Education, in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment of said official or employee.

E. Vendor Certification

Vendors will be asked to certify that no official or employee of the Board of Education or immediate family members are directly or indirectly interested in this request or have any interest in any portions of profits thereof. The vendor participating in this request must be an independent vendor and not an official or employee of the Board of Education.

F. Disciplinary Actions for Violations of the Policy--Sanctions

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8, any District employee who violates the terms of this policy may be subject to withholding of annual increments, suspension, demotion, school ethics complaint, termination, and/or revocation of license to teach or to administer.

Disclosure of Fraudulent Activities

The Board of Education will disclose all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award pursuant to UGG, 2 C.F.R. § 200.113. Such disclosures must occur in a timely manner and be submitted in writing to the United States Department of Education or the New Jersey Department of Education.

Conflict of Interests

No employee, officer, or agent of the Board of Education may participate in the selection, award, or administration of any contract if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization that employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract. Ref. 2 CFR 200.318 (c) (1)

School district employees who are part of an evaluation committee to review responses to Requests for Proposals (RFP) and/or to Competitive Contracting proposals will be required to complete a Conflict of Interest certification in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-4.3 (e) (f).

Possible Conflict of Interest—Contact the School Business Administrator

Any school employee who feels there may be a potential conflict of interest with a recommendation for the award with any vendor doing business with The District is encouraged to contact the School Business Administrator for guidance.

CRIMINAL CODE CITATIONS

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All school employees are reminded of the following New Jersey Criminal Code citations:

2C:27-9 Unlawful Official Business Transaction

“A public servant commits a crime of the fourth degree if, while performing his official functions on behalf of the government entity, the public servant knowingly transacts any business with himself, a member of his immediate family, or a business organization in which the public servant or an immediate family member has an interest.” (N.J.S.A. 2C:27-9)

2C:27-10 -- Acceptance or Receipt of Unlawful Benefit by Public Servant for Official Behavior

“A public servant commits a crime in the fourth degree...if the public servant directly or indirectly, knowingly solicits, accepts or agrees to accept any benefit, whether the benefit inures to the public servant on another person, to influence the performance of an official duty or to commit a violation of an official duty.” (N.J.S.A. 2C:27-10)

REPORTING OF FRAUD

REPORTING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE OF FEDERAL FUNDS

Disclosure of Fraudulent Activities

The Board of Education will disclose all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award according to UGG, 2 C.F.R. § 200.113. Such disclosures will be reported in writing to the United States Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Education, as well as local law enforcement officials.

Fraud Hotline—Display in Public Place

The Board of Education, in compliance with ESEA legislation, posts the following information so that any individual who observes, detects, or suspects improper use of taxpayer funds can easily report such improper use.

The OIG Fraud Hotline—a 24-7 service that accepts tips, complaints, and allegations from all sources about possible theft, fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, public corruption, or whistleblower

reprisals involving ED programs, operations, or funds.

<https://oighotline.ed.gov>

You may also call toll-free or write to the OIG: 1-800-MISUSED (1-800-647-8733)
Inspector General Hotline U.S. Department of Education
Office of Inspector General
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20202

□ **PUBLIC SCHOOL PURCHASING—LEGAL AUTHORITY** □

AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE

Authority to Purchase—School Business Administrator

State statutes, administrative codes, and board policy govern a board of education's purchases of goods and/or services. New Jersey State Law 18A:18A-2 (b) assigns the legal authority to the Purchasing Agent (School Business Administrator) to make purchases for the Board of Education.

The Purchasing Agent is the only individual in the school district with the authority to purchase for the Board of Education. The terms “Purchasing Agent” and “School Business Administrator” will be used interchangeably throughout the manual.

Authorized Purchases

All requests for purchases of goods and/or services must be made through an approved purchase order signed by the School Business Administrator prior to the goods or services being received.

Purchase Order—Defined

A purchase order, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 (v), is a document issued by the School Business Administrator authorizing goods or materials to be ordered for the school district or work/service to begin. No goods or materials may be ordered or work/service may be authorized to begin by any other individual in the school district other than the School Business Administrator.

Unauthorized Purchases

Any school district employee who orders and/or receives any materials, supplies, or services without first going through the approved purchase order process has made an unauthorized purchase.

Unauthorized purchases are a violation of State Law and Board Policy.

The Superintendent of Schools may assign penalties and sanctions for unauthorized purchases, including having the employee pay for the unauthorized purchase.

Corrective Action for Non-compliance

1. Memo to Administrator

If the School Business Administrator has determined that an unauthorized purchase has been made, a memo or email may be sent to the responsible administrator advising them of the unauthorized purchase. The Superintendent of Schools may receive a copy of the memo.

2. Memo to Superintendent

The responsible administrator may be required to prepare a memo explaining the reasons why proper purchasing procedures were not followed.

3. Letter to Vendor

The School Business Administrator may also send a letter to the vendor who provided either

unauthorized services or goods. The letter will advise the vendor that payment may not be made for the unauthorized purchase. The Board Attorney will be copied on the letter.

District Sanctions and Violations

All district employees are reminded that the school district may receive sanctions because of unauthorized (confirming) purchases. Employees are to note the following consequences of such actions:

1. Withholding of State Aid—N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.4

The Commissioner of Education may withhold State funds from any school district that fails to obey the provisions of the Public School Contracts Law—N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

2. NJQSAC Fiscal Indicator #15

The school district is subject to a penalty of four (4) NJQSAC points for not being in compliance with Fiscal Indicator Item #15, which prohibits confirming or unauthorized orders. The purchasing agent (School Business Administrator) signed all purchase orders, and there are no confirming purchase orders in accordance with standard operating procedures.

3. Audit Findings and Recommendations

All financial transactions are subject to audit review. The District may receive an audit finding and recommendation for unauthorized (confirming) purchases. Repeated audit findings may lead to sanctions against the school district.

4. Employee Sanctions

The Superintendent of Schools may recommend to the Board of Education the filing of sanctions against any employee who does not comply with federal and state purchasing laws and codes, board policy, and district purchasing procedures. The sanctions may include, but are not limited to, paying for any unauthorized purchase, withholding of increment, employee suspension, or tenure charges.

Purchasing Prohibitions

Employees Prohibited from Signing Contracts--Prohibition

Board of Education employees are prohibited from signing any contract offered by a vendor.

The power to sign and execute vendor contracts after Board of Education approval lies with the Board President and the Board Secretary.

Personal Liability

Contracts signed by an employee shall be considered non-binding by the Board of Education, with the employee may be required to accept full responsibility for the costs of the contract.

Reimbursements; Employee--Prohibition

The Board of Education only recognizes an employee reimbursement purchase order when it pertains to tuition reimbursement, pre-approved travel, meals, and conferences. The Board may not reimburse employees for items and goods that they personally purchase.

Student Activity Accounts--Prohibition

Purchases made through Student Activity Accounts may not be reimbursed with Board funds.

The School Business Administrator will not sign purchase orders made payable to Student Activity Accounts for the aforementioned purpose.

Private Purchases -- Prohibited

Goods and services procured by the Board of Education are exclusively for the use of the board and, if applicable, other public and non-public schools. These goods and services are purchased through the signed purchase order process.



Employees of the Board of Education are prohibited from privately purchasing goods and/or services from vendors whose bid prices and quotation prices are submitted to the Board.

Purchasing Guidance

Cancellation of Purchase Orders--Guidance

All requests to cancel purchase orders must be made in writing to the Qualified Purchasing Agent. Reasons explaining the need to cancel the purchase order must be outlined. The School Business Administrator/QPA maintains the sole right to cancel purchase orders.

Credit Cards Prohibited

Pursuant to the New Jersey Department of Education Audit Program page I-5.9, a school district is not permitted to use a credit card for the purchase of goods and services. All purchases are to be made through the purchase order process in compliance with the Public School Contracts Law.

Contracts; Purchase Order Required--Guidance

The award of a contract to a vendor approved by the Board of Education at a public meeting does not automatically authorize any employee to use the services of or purchase materials from the vendor.

All contract purchases require the issuance of a purchase order authorizing the purchase of services and/or goods and materials from the vendor. N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 (v).

Preview of Materials--Guidance

All staff members must receive permission from administrators, directors, supervisors, or principals to preview materials. After the preview process has been completed, the item must be returned. If there is a desire to purchase the previewed item, then a purchase order must be prepared for a new item.

☐ METHODS OF PROCUREMENT ☐

A. ADVERTISE FOR BIDS (Purchases in the aggregate that exceed the bid threshold--\$53,000)

This method is used for procuring goods, materials, services, and public work projects that exceed the **aggregate** of the Board of Education's approved bid threshold of \$53,000.

Bid Limit -- \$53,000

The Board of Education is restricted by New Jersey state law on how much money can be spent by the District for the entire year on materials, supplies, and services.

This restriction is called the bid threshold or bid limit. The bid limit is \$53,000. This means that any specific item, class of items, and/or services of a similar nature purchased by the school district, totaling more than \$53,000 in aggregate for the entire year, must be competitively advertised for bid.

School officials cannot circumvent the law by splitting purchases to be under the \$53,000 bid limit. Administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals who have purchases that may exceed the \$53,000 bid limit are to contact the Business Office to begin planning the bid process.

Annual Bids—N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-9

The Board of Education, to be in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-9, requests Administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals to plan and prepare for Annual Bids. The proposed approximate timelines are as follows:

February Administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals prepare technical specifications to be reviewed by the QPA.

February/March The QPA prepares final bid specifications to be drafted in a manner to encourage free, open, and competitive bidding. Bids are advertised pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law.

April/May Annual bids are received, opened, and tabulated by the QPA.

May/June Bid resolutions are prepared for Board approval.

June Purchase orders are generated by administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals for services to begin on July 1st.

June/July Purchase orders are generated for goods and materials to be delivered to the schools for August/September delivery.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 (l). "**Aggregate**" means the sums expended or to be expended for the provision or performance of any goods or services in connection with the same immediate purpose or task, or the furnishing of similar goods or services, during the same contract year through a contract awarded by a purchasing agent.

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Bidding: Time Frame

As stated before, the formal bidding process usually takes about 6-8 weeks from start to finish, once the requisition is approved. Please plan appropriately. An outline of the bidding process is located in the Appendix.

Exceptions to the Bid Limit

New Jersey State Law allows for some exceptions to the bid requirements. There are approximately twenty (20) exceptions where the Board of Education does not have to advertise bids for goods and services. Some of them are:

- Purchasing through New Jersey State Contract, Other State Approved Co-ops.
- Professional services as outlined by New Jersey law;
- Textbooks, student-produced publications, library, and educational goods;
- Legal notices, food supplies(for home economics), milk, utilities, insurance, election expenses, travel, and conferences; and
- Contracts with other government entities, county, and state colleges.

These purchases may be subject to the quotation process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 (a) if practicable.

Award of Contract--Lowest Responsible Bidder

The common thread of all these bids is that the Board of Education has to award the contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4 (a) to the lowest responsible bidder.

B. QUOTATIONS (Purchases that fall between \$7,950 and \$52,999)

This method of procurement is used for contracts for goods, materials, services, and public works projects that, in the aggregate (entire District), are between \$7,950 and \$52,999.

Award of Contract—Price and Other Factors

The Board of Education is obligated to solicit at least two (2) competitive quotations and award the contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 (a) to the vendor whose response is most advantageous, price and other factors included.

Quotations and Purchasing

1. Quotation Limits--\$7,950 through \$52,999

The quotation limit (threshold) presently is \$7,950. This means that any specific item or group of items of a similar nature purchased by the school district, totaling more than \$7,950 and less than \$53,000 for the entire year, must be competitively quoted or advertised for bid at the discretion of the School Business Administrator.

School officials cannot circumvent the law by splitting purchases to be under the quotation threshold.

2. Quotation Process

All quotations shall be in writing and will be coordinated by the Office of the School Business Administrator. When a quotation is deemed necessary, the administrator/supervisor or school principal is asked to contact the Business Office. The QPA will review these quotation specifications to determine whether they are set up to provide open and competitive quotations.

Please note: The formal quotation process could take about 2-4 weeks from start to finish, after receipt of an approved requisition.

There will be no telephone quotations, except in cases of extreme urgency.

3. Receipt of Two (2) Quotations; Prefer Three (3) Quotes

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37(a), the purchasing agent shall solicit at least two (2) quotations, if practicable. Evidence of the quotation process shall be kept on file. A copy of the quotation shall be attached to the purchase order. It is the responsibility of the QPA to solicit formal quotations.

C. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL—RFP -- This method is preferred for the following contracts:

Professional Services

Medical

Auditing, Accounting

Legal

Engineering, Architectural

Special Education Related Services

Academic/Operational Services

(Contracts less than \$53,000)

Instructional Improvement

Educational Consultants

Professional Development

Award of Contract—Evaluative Criteria

The RFP method is designed to award the contract to the vendor based upon a list of criteria, which include, as recommended by the New Jersey State Comptroller’s Office, with the

Best Practices in Awarding Service Contracts (2010)

Technical

- Submission of a narrative of how the firm will provide services, a planned approach; measurable results
- Understanding how services will be provided

Management

- Business organization; staffing
- Experience; and
- Knowledge of the district

Cost

- Fee proposal submission; cost analysis

The contract for an RFP contract does not, I repeat, have to be given to the vendor who submits the lowest price. The evaluative criteria process is designed to award the contract to the vendor whose response will provide the highest quality services at fair and competitive prices.

D. COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING (Certain Contracts over \$53,000)

This procurement method is used for specific contracts over \$53,000.00.

The District can only use this method for contacts that are outlined in NJ State Law 18A:18A-4.1.

Some of the examples that are permitted are

- Proprietary Computer Software for Board Use
 1. Student Data Warehousing
 2. Student Information System
 3. Business Office; Human Resources Software
- Professional Development Services
- Educational Consultant Services
- Instructional Improvement Services

The Competitive Contracting award is similar to the RFP award. It is based upon the same evaluative criteria, which are designed to award the contract to the vendor whose response will provide the highest quality services at fair and competitive prices.

The administrative process of Competitive Contracting, as outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 5:34-4.1 et seq., is rather lengthy and may take 8-10 weeks to complete.

E. STATE CONTRACT—NJ START--PURCHASING

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10 (a), a Board of Education may purchase goods and services through New Jersey START (NJ START) contract vendors. If the purchase exceeds the bid threshold, the Board of Education must adopt a resolution awarding the contract.

The school Business Administrator recommends procuring the following equipment and supplies from New Jersey START contract vendors.

Office Supplies and School Supplies

The School Business Administrator will distribute separate memos highlighting State Contract vendors who sell Office Supplies and School Supplies. Please review these memos with your staff.

If you plan to purchase Office Supplies and School Supplies from the State Contract

vendor, please follow the instructions in the memo.

☐ **Computers**

If you plan to purchase computers, please contact Technology (Help Desk)

- *Contact the Director of Technology*

The Director will be able to assist you with the technical aspects and the State Contract requirements for purchasing computers and will handle all orders.

☐ **Copiers—Approvals Needed—Superintendent, SBA, and Board of Education**

If you plan to purchase a copier, please contact the School Business Administrator and all orders are through Technology.

Other State Contract NJ START Purchasing

The School Business Administrator is required to obtain approval from the Board of Education for all NJ START contract purchases that exceed the bid threshold. All NJ START contract purchases will be verified by the School Business Administrator prior to processing.

Purchase Order Requirements--State Contract

All purchase orders made through NJ START Contract vendors should include the following:

1. State Contract Number;
2. State Contract System Identifier—**1 NJCP**;
3. Notification of Award attached to the purchase order;
4. Approved the State Contract price list and
5. Shipping and Handling are included.

☐ **OTHER PURCHASING PROCEDURES** ☐

A. COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

The school district may use the services of an authorized cooperative purchasing entity to purchase goods and services. Recognized cooperative purchasing groups are, but are not limited to:

- Educational Services Commissions
- Regional Services Commissions
- County Special Services Districts
- NJ Division of Purchase and Property (NJ START State Contract)
- National Cooperative Vendors

Vendors Doing Business with The District

New Vendors

The School Business Administrator must enter new vendor information into the Business Office financial system before using the services or goods of that new vendor. The School Business Administrator also has to receive specific legal documents from vendors before issuing a purchase order. Depending on the amount of the purchase order in the aggregate, the following documents must be in the possession of the School Business Administrator.

- Affirmative Action Evidence—Certificate of Employee Information Report
- Business Registration Certificate from the State of New Jersey
- Chapter 271 Political Contribution Disclosure form
- Iran Financial Disclosure Form
- IRS W-9 Form
- Russia, Belarus Disclosure Form
- Other documents required by the Federal Procurement Code

Vendor Performance--Unsatisfactory

It is hoped that vendors used by the school district provide goods and services in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract. If any school official does not satisfactorily receive goods or services, the School Business Administrator must be informed.

Vendor/Contractor Evaluation & Recommendation

The Public School Contracts Law permits the school district to renew the contract of a vendor or contractor who provides services to the District. School officials administering the contract for those vendors shall, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42, complete the Vendor/Contractor Evaluation and Recommendation form to determine if the vendor has provided services to the District in an “effective and efficient manner.”

Debarment, Suspension or Disqualification– (N.J.A.C. 17:19-1.1 et seq.)

The Board of Education will not enter into a contract for work with any person, company, or business entity that is on the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Prevailing Wage Debarment List, or the State of New Jersey Consolidated Debarment Report, or the Federal System for Award—SAM.gov/exclusions.

Renewal of Contracts—Services

Any vendor contract for services other than professional services may be extended or renewed by the Board of Education pursuant to the terms and conditions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42 (o). The major conditions are as follows:

1. Renewal contract is awarded by board resolution.
2. No contract shall be extended so that it exceeds five (5) consecutive years;
3. Any price increase shall not exceed the quarterly Index Rate and
4. Terms and conditions of the contract remain substantially the same.

The QPA will notify all administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals of any vendor contracts that are eligible for renewals three months before expiration.

Student Activity Account Purchases

Student activity funds should finance the normal legitimate co-curricular activities of the student body organization. Only expenditures relating to student group activities that benefit students may be made from student activity accounts. Student activity funds are monies generated by students’ participation, authorized to be spent by the students, and expended on their behalf.

Signing of Contracts with Vendors--Prohibited

School officials are strictly prohibited from signing any contracts with vendors unless authorized to do so by a board resolution. All contracts with vendors shall be reviewed by the School Business Administrator, who, if satisfied, will affix their signature to the vendor contract.

Purchases—Bids May Be Required—Discretion of School Business Administrator

The School Business Administrator is aware of the following exception to bidding.

Goods and services paid with funds that: are raised by or collected from students to support the purchase of student-oriented items or materials, such as yearbooks, class rings, and a class gift; and are deposited in school or student activity accounts; and require no budget appropriation from the board of education; N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 (a) (21)

The school Business Administrator will determine whether an advertisement for bid will be required for a Student Activities purchase that exceeds the bid threshold of \$53,000 in aggregate.

Purchases—Quotations Required

Goods and services paid with student activity funds and requiring no budget appropriation from the Board of Education are considered an exception to bidding under the New Jersey Public School Contracts Law. It is important to note, however, that purchases less than the bid threshold may be subject to official quotations solicited by the QPA. Please notify the Business Office of any upcoming purchases exceeding \$7,950.

Purchases—Board Resolution Required Exceeding the Bid Threshold

All purchases exceeding the bid threshold, currently \$53,000, require prior Board approval at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Board Resolution -- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 (a) (21), all purchases from the student activity account that exceed the bid threshold must be approved by a board resolution prior to the purchase being made.

Purchases of yearbooks, school rings, and catering halls for proms may fall in this category. Fund-raising contracts that exceed the bid threshold in the aggregate require a board resolution.

□ SELECT PURCHASING TOPICS □

A. Field Trip Transportation

Through the competitive bid process, the District has secured prices for various types of transportation vehicles needed for approved field trips. A special bulletin will be issued to all administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals, if necessary, from Transportation Department. All employees are reminded of the following guidance as it pertains to field trip transportation:

1. Purchase orders must be prepared and processed prior to the date of the field trip.
2. Attached to the field trip transportation purchase order is a copy of the Board of Education resolution approving the destination of the field trip.
3. The approved list of bus companies and corresponding prices is to be used whether the field trip is paid through Board of Education funds (PO) or student activity funds. Contact Transportation Department for more information.
4. All field trips using Board funds (purchase order) shall be part of the instructional program, have an educational value, and shall be reasonable in cost. Field trips solely for student entertainment are prohibited when using public funds. A board resolution approving the field trip must be attached to the purchase order.
5. The cost of field trips may be borne by the pupils' parents, with the exception of pupils in special education classes and pupils with financial hardship. Reference—N.J.S.A. 18A:36-21

B. Meals, Refreshments, and Catering

The State of New Jersey, Department of Education, has provided guidance to school districts through Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8 on District expenditures for meals and refreshments.

The expenditure of public funds for meals and refreshments may be used for the following:

Permitted Activities for Meals, Refreshments, and Catering

- **Student Activities**

Reasonable costs for light meals and refreshments directly related to activities that benefit students and are part of the **instructional program** are permissible. These activities must be part of the instructional program and not solely for student entertainment.

- **Parent Activities**

Reasonable costs for light meals and refreshments for parent activities are permissible. It is expected that expenditures for this purpose will be minimal and infrequent.

- **Dignitaries**

Reasonable costs for light meals and refreshments for dignitaries, as defined in the State code, are permissible.

• **Board Member Meetings -- N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.12 (f)**

Light meals and refreshments are permitted for all board members and for employees who are required to attend a board of education meeting.

Please note that costs for light meals and refreshments are limited as follows:

- Breakfast \$ 7.00 per person
- Lunch \$ 10.00 per person
- Dinner \$ 15.00 per person

(NJ OMB Circular 20-04-OMB Section XI—Letter I)

Documentation Required—Light Meals and Refreshments

Documentation must be provided to support expenditures for light meals and refreshments. The following information is to be provided on the Purchase Order:

- o Description of the activity;
- o Purpose/justification of the activity, goal, and objectives;
- o The make-up of the group receiving the meals, and
- o Names of employees and board members included in the group.

Prohibited Activities for Meals, Refreshments, Catering

• **Athletic Activities—Feeding Guests**

Light meals and refreshments served to *guests* at any athletic event, game, or contest are not permitted.

• **Staff and Employees of the School District**

Light meals and refreshments are not permitted for employees and staff of a school district unless the staff member or employee is essential to *a student activity* where light meals or refreshments are being served. N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.12 (d)

• **Honoring Employees**

Receptions, dinners, or other social functions held for or honoring any employee or group of employees are not permitted when public funds are being used.
Please note: the use of public funds (purchase order) for the purchase of employee recognition awards is permitted. For example—Retirement Plaques!

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Textbooks: Approval and Purchase

Approval of Textbooks

In accordance with state law (N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1), all textbooks must be approved by the Board of Education prior to their use in the educational program. Purchasing textbooks that the Board of Education has not approved is a violation of state law. The District has set up procedures to have textbooks approved by the Board of Education.

Purchase of Textbooks and District Review

New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:23A-9.3 (c) (12) requires the purchase of textbooks to meet one of the following conditions:

- The purchase is in accordance with a textbook replacement plan;
- Textbooks have been identified as stolen or destroyed; or
- A change in curriculum or a new edition requires a new textbook.

All purchase orders for textbooks must withstand any state or district audit review. The following documentation shall be attached to each purchase order for textbooks:

Budget Accounts

As always, only textbooks may be purchased from the “640” object code. All other books and reading material must be purchased from the “600” or “610” series accounts.

Ordering Books: Recommended Purchasing Procedures

Purchases Must Be Planned

All schools/offices buying books and workbooks must now plan appropriately. Administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals are to direct teachers and staff members to have all purchase orders ready before the deadline.

Online Pricing or Price Quotations

School principals are to ensure that purchase orders for books and workbooks are prepared using pricing obtained through the book company representative or online pricing.

Purchase Order Review – Online Pricing or Price Quotations

The Business Office will review each purchase order for books and workbooks. It is expected that the purchase order will have the following attachments.

- Copies of the price quotation received from the sales representative or
- Copies of the online pricing were obtained from the company’s website – with shipping and handling charges.
- The sales representative or the customer service number must confirm shipping and handling costs.

Any book purchase order that does not have either the price quotation from the sales representative or copies of online pricing will be returned.

Travel Reimbursement--Purchase Order—Conferences and Workshops

The State of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, has adopted strict travel guidelines for school districts to follow. All school officials and employees seeking travel reimbursement must adhere to the law and travel administrative code—N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. **At a minimum**, reimbursement purchase orders for travel must meet the following requirements:

- **Written Approval of the Superintendent—prior to a travel event**
The travel shall be approved in writing by the Superintendent prior to the travel event. Documentation shall be provided with the purchase order for reimbursement.
- **Board of Education Approval—prior to a travel event**
The travel shall be approved by resolution at a public board of education meeting, again prior to the travel event. A copy of the board resolution shall be attached to the purchase order.
- **Reimbursement Procedures**
Prior to being reimbursed for approved costs for the travel event, the following must be presented with the purchase order when applicable.
 1. Approvals in writing;
 2. Travel Report;
 3. Receipts for hotel and meals (when applicable);
 4. Mileage Travel Form;
 5. Driver’s License; Vehicle Registration; Insurance Card; and
 6. Other documents when requested.

All public school employees must review all board policies and school administrative procedures with the School Business Administrator prior to planning the travel event. More information can be found under Board policy number 6471.

Additional Rules and Procedures

Additional rules and procedures on travel are available by contacting the School Business Administrator.

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Fixed Assets

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) reporting requires the District to maintain physical accountability over district-owned assets. Fixed assets are property, plant, or equipment, assets that are long-term and have continued use, such as land, buildings, machinery, and equipment.

Cost Determination of Fixed Asset

For this purchasing manual and to be in compliance with law and code, a fixed asset is a single item with a cost of \$2,000 or more.

Recording of Fixed Assets

School officials ordering and receiving a fixed asset item shall properly record the item on the purchase order in accordance with Business Office procedures. The fixed asset item shall also be identified with the District's barcoding system.

Disposal of Fixed Assets

All school district property must be disposed of in a manner prescribed by law as per the Records Retention Schedule prepared by the New Jersey Bureau of Records Management. The Business Office will assist all school officials in the disposal of all school property, especially those identified as fixed assets.

Purchase of Food Supplies Guidance

1. Purchase of Food Supplies – Supermarkets

New Jersey state law and code exclude the purchase of food supplies from the bidding process if the food supplies are for the school cafeteria or home economics classes.

Food supplies purchased from the supermarkets shall be in compliance with state law and code, and only for the approved list of situations. All purchase orders, including student activity account purchases, are subject to review by Department of Education (DOE) officials and auditors.

2. Food Supplies

New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:23A-16.5 (b) clearly notes that food supplies include only supplies that are consumable as food or drink and substances that may enter into the composition of food in the operation of a school cafeteria or in a home economics class. Administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals are to ensure that purchases from the supermarkets have only items listed that follow the code. The Business Office will review the cash register receipts and highlight those items that do not follow the code.

□

Contracted Service Providers—Protecting Our Children

Regular Contact with Students

During the performance of a contract with the Board of Education, a contracted service provider may come in contact with district students. The District fully understands its obligation to provide a safe educational environment for all students and staff members. To this end, if the Board of Education requires all bidders to sign a statement of Assurance of Compliance, to acknowledge their understanding of the below-listed requirements and the bidder's assurance of compliance with these listed requirements.

Anti-Bullying Reporting—Requirement N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.1 et seq.; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7 (c)

When applicable, the contracted service provider shall comply with all applicable provisions of the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act—N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.1 et seq., all applicable code and regulations, and the Anti-Bullying Policy of the Board of Education. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7 (c), a contracted service provider who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student has been subject to harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall immediately report the incident to any school administrator or safe schools resource officer or the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Criminal History Background Checks N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1

When applicable, the contracted service provider shall provide to the school district, prior to commencement of the contract, evidence or proof that each employee assigned to provide services and who comes in regular contact with students has had a criminal history background check and, furthermore, that said background check indicates that no criminal history record information exists on file for that worker. Failure to provide proof of criminal history background check for any employee coming in regular contact with students prior to commencement of contact may be cause for breach of contract. See NJDOE Broadcast 9/9/19

Pre-Employment Requirements P.L. 2018 c.5, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq.

When applicable, all contracted service providers whose employees have regular contact with students shall comply with the Pre-Employment Requirements in accordance with New Jersey P.L. 2018 c.5, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq. Contracted service providers are to review the following New Jersey Department of Education Office of Student Protection—Pre-Employment Resource P.L. 2018 c.5 link below for guidance and compliance procedures.

<https://nj.gov/education/crimhist/preemployment/>

The Requisition and Purchase Order Process

Roles and Responsibilities

A. Responsibilities When Preparing a Requisition

The person who prepares the requisition has certain responsibilities before the order is sent to the administrator, supervisor, or principal for approval. They are to ensure the following:

1. **Requisitions are typed** -- All requisitions are entered in Filemaker.
2. **Vendor's Name** -- All Board checks are made payable to the vendor name (top line) listed on the purchase order/requisition. Please ensure the proper vendor name is printed on the requisition. Vendor search option on Filemaker should be utilized when typed a requisition.

3. **Vendor's Complete Address** -- The purchase order must include the vendor's complete address and phone number (BRC verified address). Post Office Box addresses are not acceptable unless they are from major, well-known companies or if they match their State of NJ Business Registration Certificate (BRC).
4. **Current Budget Year Included** -- The current budget year must be included in the body of the Purchase Order/Requisition.
5. **Description of Items, Services, Costs, and Catalogue Numbers** -- Items and/or services requested are to be described clearly with correct and up-to-date catalog numbers/ISBN and costs. Brand names, model numbers, colors, sizes, and other descriptive items are required.
6. **Shipping Costs**--Shipping and handling costs are to be added to all purchase orders, when applicable. Please read the catalog or contact the vendor to determine the actual shipping and handling costs.

If you are unable to ascertain the actual charges, type:

“10% Estimated Shipping and Handling”

If there are no shipping and handling charges, type on requisition/purchase order:

“Shipping and Handling Included”

7. **Delivery Address--Attention of** -- The delivery address should include the name of a person or a specific department.
8. **Delivery, Types of** --- The Board of Education recognizes two (2) types of delivery.
 - a. **INSIDE DELIVERY**
Items are to be delivered to a Board of Education location, taken off the truck by transportation carrier personnel, and brought to a designated area inside the school or office building.
 - b. **SPOTTED DELIVERY**
Items are to be delivered to a Board of Education location, taken off the truck by transportation carrier personnel, and brought to a designated area inside the school or office building. Transportation carrier personnel or specialized individuals are responsible for then uncrating, setting up, and assembling items to determine good working order and removing all debris to the satisfaction of the Board of Education within five (5) working days. Please ensure that all purchase orders have the correct delivery designation.
9. **Total Cost** -- Please include the words “Total Cost” on the purchase order with the actual amount of the order. Minimum Order -- the minimum order amount for all purchase orders is \$50.00. Please try to plan and combine orders to exceed the \$50.00 limit.
10. **Budget Account Number** -- Please be sure the correct Budget Account Number is typed on the requisition.
11. **State Contract Orders** -- When ordering through NJ START State Contract vendors (minimum order \$100.00), please note the following:
 - a. State Contract Number must be included on the requisition;
 - b. **1NJCP** must be included on all State Contract requisitions and purchase orders;
 - c. Shipping and Handling Included. No tariff charges allowed; and
 - d. Appropriate documentation when required.

Special guidance will be issued as it pertains to State Contract purchases.

As a reminder, the minimum order amount for a State Contract purchase is \$100.00

12. **Quotations** -- If quotations are obtained, please attach to the purchase order a copy of each written quotation received. Please type the quotation date and the quotation number.
13. **Bids** -- If bids are obtained, please include the following on the requisition:
 - a. Bid Date; and
 - b. Bid Number.

14. New Jersey State Sales Tax—School Districts Exempt

The Board of Education is exempt from paying New Jersey Sales Tax.

New Jersey local school districts are political subdivisions of the State. Their purchases are exempt from New Jersey sales and use taxes, and the Board is not exempt from paying out-of-state sales and use taxes.

ST-5 Form Not Required

An exempt organization ST-5 certificate or number is not required for the local school district,

public school, or board of education to make tax-exempt purchases. ST-5 Exempt Organization Certificates are never issued to New Jersey government entities, including public schools. Their official letterhead or official purchase order, signed by a school official, is sufficient proof to the vendor that they are exempt from paying sales taxes. Payment must be made by a school check, including a student activity fund check or a school voucher.

Reference—NJ Division of Taxation Tax Bulletin TB-49

Responsibilities of Administrator/Supervisor or Principal

The person authorized to approve requisitions must ensure the following are reviewed before the requisition is sent to the School Business Administrator.

1. Funds Available

They must verify whether their budget has sufficient funds *to cover the purchase order amount*.

2. Requisition Completion

They must check to determine that items 1-14 previously noted (Responsibilities of the Originator) have been *properly completed*.

3. Operational or Educational Need for Purchase

Administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals who approve requisitions should be able to explain why the purchase is essential to the school district. They should be able to support the purchase as an educational or operational need for the district. Of most importance, they should be able to answer the following:

- How will students learn or benefit from the purchase?
- What educational achievement or program may be linked to the purchase?
- How is the purchase of operational value to your school/office?

Requisitions are to be approved by the appropriate administrators.

4. Approval of Principal

Central office administrators, directors, and supervisors have been notified that whenever they order equipment for the instructional staff of the various schools, the purchase order must be approved by the school principal. The principal must co-sign the purchase order for equipment purchases.

It is the responsibility of the central office administrator/supervisor to obtain the signature of the principal.

5. Originator Copy

When preparing a requisition, please retain a copy for your files.

6. Receiving Copy

Once the purchase order has been posted and mailed to the vendor, the Business Office will send the Receiving Copy of the purchase order back to the school or office. If you do not receive the Receiving Copy within two (2) weeks of signing the purchase order, please contact the Business Office.

Responsibilities of the Assistant Superintendent

The Assistant Superintendent reviews and determines certain purchase order's educational or operational value. If satisfied, the requisition is approved and forwarded to the Accounting Department.

Responsibilities of the Business Office

The Accounting Department reviews each purchase order. Special attention is given to the following:

- **Available Funds**—The Requisition system will not permit a requisition to be finalized if there are insufficient funds in the account. If preparing a PO, be sure to check for funds availability.
- **What is being ordered and the cost**--The Purchasing Agent reviews the technical aspects of the purchase order to ensure compliance with Federal and State Law and Board Policy.

The Business Office checks the cost of each item and determines if it can be purchased from another source at a saving. The Business Office also reviews whether the purchase exceeds:

The Quotation Limit	\$ 7,950.00
The Bid Limit	\$53,000.00

A determination will be made by the Purchasing Agent whether the district has to solicit quotations or advertise for a bid.

Document Check

Pursuant to various State Laws, the Purchasing Agent must ensure the following documents are on file in the Business Office before the purchase order is signed and processed:

- Affirmative Action Evidence – Contracts \$53,000.00 and over (cumulative)
- Business Registration Certificate (BRC) – Purchases \$7,950.00 and over (cumulative)
- Chapter 271 – Political Contribution Disclosure Form (PCD)
 - Purchases over \$17,500.00 (cumulative)
- Iran Financial Disclosure Form
- IRS W-9 Form
- Russia, Belarus Form
- Other Federal Procurement Documents.

Technical Review of Purchase Order -- The purchase order is also reviewed for technical aspects as

- Account number missing or incorrect;
- Shipping charges added;
- Signatures missing;
- State contract numbers incorrect/missing;
- The vendor address is incomplete.

Incomplete or improper purchase orders/requisitions may be returned with a memo explaining deficiencies. See a copy of the memo in the Appendix.

If the Purchasing Agent is satisfied, they sign the purchase order and/or approve the requisition. The Accounting Department will then:

- Issue a purchase order number;
- Enter the purchase order in the computer, and
- Mail the purchase order to the vendor.

Purchase Order Process--Deliberative Process—Five to Ten Days

As explained, the purchase order process may take 5 to 10 days to complete. Public school purchasing takes time, as it is a deliberative process designed to comply with the law and limit fraudulent activities. Please plan accordingly.

Transfer of Funds--The Business Office processes purchase orders only if appropriate funds cover the purchase. Purchase orders lacking sufficient funds are sent back to the originator for a request to transfer funds. All letters requesting a transfer of funds are to be sent to the Accounting Manager.

Accounting Department – Speak to Accounting Manager regarding the transferring of funds.

Responsibility of the Vendor

The Accounting Department sends the vendor the purchase order and the voucher. The vendor is to sign the voucher and return it to the Business Office with an invoice. If you receive a signed voucher, return it to the Business Office. A check is prepared for the vendor once the Business Office has a

Signed Voucher Invoice
All Packing Slips Receiving Copy (Pink) Signed

The award of a contract to a vendor approved by the Board of Education at a public meeting does not automatically authorize any employee to use the services of or purchase materials from the vendor.

All contract purchases require the issuance of a purchase order authorizing the purchase of services and/or goods and materials from the vendor.

□ **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE SECTION** □

□ **Receipt of Goods/Services** □

A. Processing the Requisition/Purchase Order--Design of Purchase Order

The purchase order is made up of up to 4 sheets. Listed below are the names and the purpose of each sheet. (A Requisition becomes a purchase order after all required administrators have approved the requisition in the Business Office Software System).

Copy	Disposition
Vendor Copy	Sent to the vendor to order items/provide services
Voucher Copy	Sent to the vendor for signature
Receiving Copy	Sent to school/office; returned to the Business Office upon receipt of goods/services
File Copy	Remains on file in the Business Office
Authorization Copy	Signatures authorizing purchase remain on file in the Business Office.
Originator Copy	Remains with the office of the administrator or supervisor.

B. Receipt of Goods and Services

The originator of the purchase order should follow the following process when receiving materials, goods, and services.

1. Receipt of Items Ordered

All items received be **immediately** checked. Please note the following:

- a. Obtain a copy of the purchase order and packing slip of the items ordered.
- b. Open boxes and check off items received on the receiving copy and the packing slip.
- c. If all items are enclosed, then sign and attach packing slips to the receiving copy of the purchase order.
- d. The school principal/office supervisor should sign the receiving copy and send it with the packing slip to the

Accounts Payable, c/o Business Office

Receipt of Goods and Services—Responsibilities of Administrators; Directors, Supervisors

Administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals are to ensure that all goods received have been checked in for accuracy. If the goods received match the purchase order and the packing slip, then the administrator should do the following:

- Sign the packing slip to confirm receipt of delivery of goods (or note errors/omissions, etc.;
- Sign the Receiving Copy (pink slip) of the purchase order;
- Sign any invoices that may have been submitted with the order and

Send all items to the Business Office c/o Accounts Payable within seven (7) days of the receipt of goods.

Accounts Payable Procedures—Notification Process—Unreturned Paperwork

There will be instances where the Business Office Accounts Payable Office will send a courtesy reminder to any school or office that has not returned the paperwork in a timely fashion. The School Business Administrator has approved the following procedures.

• Thirty (30) Day Notice—Original

The Accounts Payable Department will send a reminder notice to all schools and offices that have not submitted their paperwork after 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

• Second Notice—Seven (7) Days

The Accounts Payable Office will send a second reminder notice seven (7) days later if no paperwork is received from the school or office.

• Final Notice—Seven (7) Days

The Accounts Payable Office will send a Final Notice reminder seven (7) days later if no paperwork is received from the school or office, the SBA will be notified.

All receiving copies of purchase orders and packing slips should be signed and sent to the Business Office within seven (7) days of receipt of items.

The Board of Education has an excellent reputation for paying its bills in a timely fashion. We ask that all employees assist in maintaining this fine reputation. **Paying Bills in a Timely Fashion—within 30-60 days and Paying Bills Pursuant to State Law—within 90 days N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10.1**

2. Problems Encountered with Receipt of Goods

• Problem: Back Orders

Sometimes items ordered will not be received in the first shipment. This is known as a backorder. The packing slip will have backorder written on those particular items.

Process to Follow: Back Orders

If the order is incomplete because there is a back order, do not wait for the next shipment. Please do the following:

- Mark on your receiving copy of the purchase order those items you did not receive.
- Make and keep a copy of your receiving copy and the packing slip.
- Send the original receiving copy and packing slip to the Business Office.
- Upon receipt of the back order in the next shipment, check off your copies of the receiving copy and the packing slip and send both copies to the Business Office.

• Problem: Items Missing from the Order

Sometimes, items are marked on the packing slip as they were delivered but are missing from your shipment.

Process to Follow: Items Missing

- Call the company and tell them what was missing.
- Mark what items were missing on the receiving copy and packing slip.
- Make and keep a copy of your receiving copy and the packing slip.
- Send the original receiving copy and packing slip to the Business Office.
- Upon receipt of the missing item in the next shipment, check off your copies of the receiving copy and the packing slip and send both copies to the Business Office.

• Problem: Items Damaged; Wrong Item

Sometimes you will receive items that are damaged or the wrong item.

Process to Follow: Items Damaged; Wrong Item

- Call the company and ask them what the procedure is for returning damaged or wrong items.
- Return the item(s) to the company.
- On the receiving copy and the packing slip, mark what items were returned and the reasons for being returned. Please note how the items were returned (UPS/PO/Vendor Pick Up).
- Send the receiving copy and packing slip to the Business Office (include emails and shipping labels).
- Upon receipt of the missing/wrong item in the next shipment, check off your copies of the receiving copy and return them to the Business Office.

• Problem: Discontinued Item

Sometimes the items you requested have been discontinued.

Process to Follow: Discontinued Item

- Mark on the receiving copy (pink) of the purchase order “discontinued.”
- **Do not call the company for a replacement item. You must complete a new purchase order.**



Contracted Services

Role of the School District

Purchase Order Contract Amount—Not To Be Exceeded!

The contracted services vendor/provider (vendor) receives a purchase order from the School Business Administrator notifying the vendor that services may begin.

The purchase order has a total contract amount. This contract amount may not be exceeded unless authorized by the Board of Education in writing.

Monitoring Contract Amount—District Administrator's Responsibility!

The School Business Administrator asks all district administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals to monitor all vendor bills and invoices to ensure they do not exceed the total contract amount. If the total contract amount is close to being exceeded, they are asked to contact the school business administrator forty-five (45) days in advance. The School Business Administrator can then begin a process to exceed the purchase order amount pursuant to the administrative code.

Exceeding Contract Amount—Unauthorized Service!

If any administrator permits a vendor to exceed the contract amount, the administrator has permitted an unauthorized service, which is similar to an unauthorized purchase. Administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals are asked to monitor the dollar amount of services being provided to the District.

Monitoring Contract Amount—Vendor Responsibility!

The District asks all vendors to monitor all bills and invoices to ensure they do not exceed the total contract amount. Vendors are asked to contact the respective administrator forty-five (45) days in advance if the total contract amount is close to being exceeded.

Exceeding Contract Amount- Written Authorization!

Contracted vendors may only exceed the amount on the purchase order when authorized by the School Business Administrator in writing. The authorization will be in the form of a new purchase order being issued to the contractor and signed by the School Business Administrator.

Submission Deadlines

All bills and invoices submitted to the Business Office by the vendor will be sent to the appropriate school district administrator/supervisor for review and approval.

□

End-of-Year Billing/Cancellation of Purchase Orders

Administrators, directors, supervisors, and principals are to work with contracted services vendors so that end-of-the-year invoices are submitted to the Business Office in a timely fashion. This is imperative. In order to comply with the State of New Jersey Department of Education requirements, The District has adopted a policy of canceling open purchase orders at the end of the fiscal year. All invoices must be billed within thirty (30) days of services to meet the State Department of Education deadline. If we are not in receipt of your invoice within the thirty (30) day deadline, we will not be able to process payment in a timely fashion and the corresponding purchase order may be canceled, thereby causing a delay in payment.

□ **APPENDIX** □

- A. Formal Bid Process
- B. Emergency Purchases/Contracts
- C. Memorandum--Return of Purchase Order
- D. Chart—Purchase Order Requirements
- E. Vendor Letter—Unauthorized Purchases
- F. Federal Contracts
 - 1. Federal Programs for School Districts
 - 2. Compliance with 2 CFR 200.317 et seq.
 - 3. Federal Funds Procurement Methods
 - 4. Debarment and Suspension for Federal Contacts
 - 5. Stevens Amendment
- G. Federal Procurement Chart of Thresholds

□ **FORMAL BID PROCESS** □

<u>Process</u>	<u>Time Line</u>
-	
The initial request to bid is made by the Administrator/Supervisor. Certification that funds exist.	One Day
Review of specifications, fully outlining items, materials, or services to be bid	

by the QPA.	One Week
Return reviewed specifications to the Administrator/Supervisor for final approval. The Administrator/Supervisor signs off on final approval.	One Week
The bid package is prepared by the QPA.	One Week
Copies of bids are prepared.	One Day
Legal advertisement to newspaper and District site.	Five Day Advance Notice
Bid Date/Time -- must be at least ten days after the Legal Ad appears in the newspaper. Bids are opened and read publicly.	10-20 Days
Bid results are reviewed by: a. Administrator/Supervisor b. QPA	One Week
The Administrator/Supervisor conducts an analysis to find lowest bidders and recommends the award of the bid. The QPA reviews bids. A resolution is prepared.	One-Two Weeks
Purchase orders are prepared by the Administrator/Supervisor.	One Week

The formal bidding process takes about 6-8 weeks from start to finish.

Please note: Bids for Public Works/Construction Projects take longer as a request for wage determination must be formally made to the State of New Jersey.

(Appendix A)

□ **EMERGENCY CONTRACTS (18A:18A-7)** □

A. Background

An actual emergency must exist. An “emergency” is not to be created as a result of inadequate planning, delay, failure to take into account construction season, or administrative convenience.

B. Definition of Emergency

An emergency is a situation affecting the health or safety of occupants of school property that requires the immediate delivery of the articles or performance of a service to alleviate the emergency. Federal and the State of New Jersey *Declarations of Emergencies* may also apply. The School Business Administrator will contact the board attorney for guidance on such declarations.

C. Process in Declaring an Emergency

1. Superintendent of Schools Notified

The Superintendent of Schools is notified by the employee/supervisor/administrator requesting a declaration of emergency.

2. School Business Administrator Notified

The official in charge of the building or facility wherein the emergency occurred shall notify the Business Administrator of the following:

- a. Nature of the emergency;
- b. Time of the occurrence; and
- c. The need for the performance of a contract.

Such notification shall be prepared in writing and filed with the School Business Administrator as soon as possible.

3. Awarding of Contract by School Business Administrator

If the School Business Administrator is satisfied that an emergency exists, the School Business Administrator is authorized to award the contract by state law.

4. Filing of Documents with the State and County by the School Business Administrator

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-6.1, the following documents must be filed with the County Superintendent within three (3) days after awarding the contract or agreement:

- a. A copy of the contract or agreement; and
- b. A copy of the written requisition.

5. Acknowledgment by the Board of Education

The Board of Education shall review and acknowledge said emergency purchase at its next regular Board of Education Public Meeting. This may be done by board resolution.

□

(Appendix B)

MEMORANDUM

To: _____
 From: _____, School Business Administrator
 Date: _____
 Re: **Return of Purchase Order(s)**

I am returning the attached requisition/purchase order(s) for the reason(s) checked below:

- ___ Account Number Incorrect; Missing--Please use Account Code # _____
- ___ Bid Number, Quotation Number--Not Included
- ___ Board Resolution Needed--Attach to Requisition/Purchase Order
- ___ Conference Request Form--Not Attached; Not Approved
- ___ Description of Item(s), Service Needed
- ___ Funds; Federal/State – Title of Grant Program – Type on Purchase Order/Requisition
- ___ Minimum Order \$50.00 Minimum State Contract Order \$100.00
- ___ Proposal/Contract Missing -- Attach to Purchase Order
- ___ Quotation Needed--Please contact me to discuss the process
- ___ Rationale Form Missing; Unsigned
- ___ Shipping Charges Not Added
- ___ Shipping Charges Not Needed. Type on P.O. "Shipping and Handling Included"
- ___ Signature Missing--Administrator, Supervisor, Principal
- ___ State Contract Number Incorrect, Missing--State Contract Documentation Missing
- ___ Textbook Documentation Missing
- ___ Website Documentation / Board Resolution
- ___ Unauthorized Order--Please contact me to discuss procedures.
- ___ Vendor Address Incomplete--Post Office Box Number Only
- ___ Vendor Check Needed?
- ___ As Per the Attached Memo
- ___ Other _____

Please make the adjustments needed and return the requisition/purchase order with this form to my office.

(Appendix C)

PURCHASE ORDER REQUIREMENTS

CONTRACT/PURCHASE ORDER THRESHOLDS (AGGREGATE)	AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EVIDENCE (AA)	BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (BRC)	CHAPTER 271 PCD (PAY TO PLAY) (271)	RUSSIA BELARUS FORM Goods and Services Only
Up to \$ 7,950	(a)	No	No	\$1,000
\$ 7,950 - \$17,499	(a)	YES	No	YES
\$17,500 - \$52,999	(a)	YES	YES	YES
\$53,000 – and over	YES	YES	YES	YES

Affirmative Action	Business Registration	Chapter 271 (PCD)
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Evidence Exemptions	Certificate Exemptions	Exemptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Units Subject to Title 40A:11 State of New Jersey Contract Purchases Boards of Education including Educational Services Commissions Other contracting units, e.g., County and State Colleges and local authorities, boards, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Units Subject to Title 40A:11 State of New Jersey Contract Purchases Boards of Education including Educational Services Commissions Other contracting units, e.g., County and State Colleges and local authorities, boards, etc. Non-profit Organizations <p><u>Exempt Situations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Purchases – No payment unless BRC is on file. Employee settlements paid to attorneys; Establishments that are out of state & business being conducted in place out of state, e.g., hotels, camps, seminars, theatres, etc. Purchase made entirely through School Student Activity Funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Units Subject to Title 40A:11 State of New Jersey Contract Purchases Boards of Education including Educational Services Commissions Other contracting units, e.g., County and State Colleges and local authorities, boards, etc. Non-profit Organizations New Jersey School Boards Association Contract Renewals Public Utilities, e.g. PSE&G <p><u>Exempt Situations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency purchases; Liability payments to parties through a court order.

(a) It is suggested that Affirmative Action evidence is on file from vendors and contractors. It is further recommended that the District have on file the Iran Disclosure Form from all vendors.

(Appendix D)

ANYTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICIAL VENDOR NOTIFICATION

AUTHORIZED PURCHASES

The Board of Education only recognizes purchases made through the approved purchase order process. All purchases made by the District require:

- Written Official Purchase Order with a Purchase Order Number and
- Authorized Signature (School Business Administrator)

UNAUTHORIZED PURCHASES

School district administrators, employees, and board of education members **are not permitted to contract with vendors on behalf of the district.**

Any Board employee who orders and/or receives any materials, supplies, or services without first going through the approved purchase order process has made an unauthorized purchase.

VENDOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

• Official Purchase Order

Vendors are not to honor or accept requests to provide goods or services unless they receive an official written purchase order with a purchase order number signed by the School Business Administrator.

• Authorized Signature

The Board of Education will only recognize purchase orders signed by the School Business Administrator.

• Contact the Business Office!

If any Board employee attempts to place an order without providing an authorized purchase order, please alert

Name of SBA

You may NOT Get Paid!

The Board of Education will not be held responsible for any unauthorized orders or unauthorized purchases.

(Appendix F)

□ FEDERAL CONTRACTS □

Examples of Federal Funding Sources—Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs
- Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting
- Title III– English Language Acquisition and Language Enhancement
- Title III—Immigrant Education Program
- Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program

Other Examples of Federal Funding Sources

- I.D.E.A. Part B Handicapped
- Perkins Vocational Education
- National School Lunch Program
- National School Breakfast Program
- ESSER Act I, II, III **ESSER ARP**—Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Act
- CARES Act—Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act 2020

Federal Procurement Guidelines—Federal Regulations 2 CFR Part 200.318 et seq.

School districts shall comply with Federal Regulations Procurement Standards 2 CFR 200.318 et seq. and the New Jersey Public School Contracts Law when procuring goods and services using federal funds.

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Methods of Procurement—When Using Federal Funds

All procurement transactions must be conducted in a manner that provides full and open competition (2 CFR 200.319). Here are some examples of procurement methods to be used.

New Jersey Department of Education Guidance on Federal Spending

All school districts must comply with federal regulations and the Public School Contracts Law and should adhere to the guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Education in the publication *Navigating the Uniform Grant Guidance*.

➤ Micro-purchases—Purchases less than \$7,950.00

The Purchasing Agent shall use sound business practices for purchases in the aggregate that do not exceed \$7,950.00. Reference--2 CFR 200.320 (a) (1) and 2 CFR 200.67

➤ **Simplified Acquisition Procedures—\$7,950.00 through \$52,999.00**

The Purchasing Agent shall use the competitive quotation process as outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 (a) or the Request for Proposal process, when applicable, in procuring goods and services in the aggregate of more than \$7,950.00 and less than \$52,999. It is recommended that the district solicit three (3) quotations. Reference--2 CFR 200.320 (a) (2) (i) and 2 CFR 200.88

➤ **Sealed Bids—\$53,000.00 or more---(Public Notice)**

The Purchasing Agent shall use the competitive bid process to procure those contracts that, in the aggregate, exceed the \$53,000 bid threshold. The contract shall be awarded to the vendor who submits the lowest responsible bid for a firm-fixed contract price, lump sum or unit cost. Reference--2 CFR 200.320 (b) (1)

➤ **Proposals—\$53,000.00 or more—(Public Notice)**

The Purchasing Agent shall use the Request for Proposal (RFP) or competitive contracting process when procuring specific contracts that, in the aggregate, exceed the \$53,000 bid threshold. The contracts are to be awarded by an evaluative process rather than a firm-fixed contract price. Reference--2 CFR 200.320 (b) (2) and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.1 et seq.

➤ **Non-competitive Procurement (Single Source)**

Although the Federal government recognizes contracts may be awarded to sole-source vendors through non-competitive proposals, the Purchasing Agent shall use the competitive “proprietary” bid process or the competitive contracting process for sole or single-source contracts. Reference 2 CFR 200.320 (c) and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-15

Debarment and Suspension for Federal Contracts; Confirmation of Vendor on SAM.gov/Exclusions-- Excluded Parties List System (EPLS); *Debarment and Suspension (E.O. 12549 and E.O. 12689).*

A contract award (see 2 CFR 180.220) will not be made to parties listed on the government-wide exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov.) Prior to contracting with a vendor, the School Business Administrator shall use the System for Award Management (SAM) (SAM.gov/Exclusions) to search for the vendor by name, tax identification number, or another characteristic to verify the vendor has not been suspended or debarred from performing federally funded work.

This is part of the Federal Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), which is an electronic directory of individuals and organizations that are not permitted to receive federal contracts or assistance from the United States government. It is recommended that evidence of verification (printout from SAM.gov/content/Exclusions) be maintained in procurement files for each contract awarded.

Federal Programs--Include on Requisitions/Purchase Orders

Purchase orders using Federal Funds shall be included on the document:

- Name of Federal Program
- Quotation, bid number, if applicable
- Name of Cooperative Purchasing Entity; if applicable
- Board approval date; if applicable
- Location(s) of equipment
- Federal funding account numbers can easily be identified if split funding
- Approved CIP Code; if required

Stevens Amendment—Statement on Bid Advertisement

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation as it pertains to the Stevens Amendment, Section 8136 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act (P.L. 104-134, Sec.507), which requires the Board to state clearly the percent (%) of the total cost of this project will be financed through **Name of Federal Grant.** Appendix (H-2)

REPORTING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE OF FEDERAL FUNDS

Disclosure of Fraudulent Activities

The Board of Education will disclose all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award according to UGG, 2 C.F.R. § 200.113. Such disclosures will be reported in writing to the United States Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Education, as well as local law enforcement officials.

Federal Contracts—Chart of Thresholds

<u>Description of Goods/Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Procurement Method</u>
Goods and Services	Less than \$7,950	Sound Business Practice
Goods and Services	\$7,950-\$52,999	Quotation or Bid
Goods and Services	\$53,000 or more	Sealed Bid
Professional Services	Less than \$7,950	Simple Proposal
Professional Services	\$7,950-\$52,999	Request for Proposals (RFP)
Professional Services	\$53,000 or more	Competitive Contracting
Educational Consultant Services	Less than \$7,950	Simple Proposal
Educational Consultant Services	\$7,950 - \$52,999	Request for Proposals (RFP)
Educational Consultant Services	\$53,000 or more	Competitive Contracting
Instructional Improvement Services	Less than \$7,950	Simple Proposal
Instructional Improvement Services	\$7,950 - \$52,999	Request for Proposals (RFP)
Instructional Improvement Services	\$53,000 or more	Competitive Contracting
Professional Development Services	Less than \$7,950	Simple Proposal
Professional Development Services	\$7,950 - \$52,999	Request for Proposals (RFP)
Professional Development Services	\$53,000 or more	Competitive Contracting
Sole Source (Proprietary)	Less than \$7,950	Simple Proposal
Sole Source (Proprietary)	\$7,950 - \$52,999	Proprietary Quotation
Sole Source (Proprietary)	\$53,000 or more	Proprietary Bid
Services Provided by Government Units/Schools	Less than \$7,950	Simple Proposal
Services Provided by Government Units/Schools	\$7,950 - \$52,999	Request for Proposals (RFP)
Services Provided by Government Units/Schools	\$53,000 or more	Competitive Contracting
Construction; Public Works	Less than \$7,950	Written Proposal; PW Documents
Construction; Public Works	\$7,950-\$52,999	Quotation or Bid
Construction; Public Works	\$53,000 or more	Sealed Bid

The District shall issue a public notice when using the Sealed Bid or Competitive Proposal Process.

(Appendix I)

*Textbook ANYTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS Textbook
Purchases Office of the School Business Administrator Purchases*

Textbook Order Rationale Form

Please check the appropriate box(es) that apply to the purchase.

- Purchase is in accordance with the textbook replacement plan;
- Purchase is to replace lost, stolen, or destroyed textbooks.
- Purchase of textbooks reflects a change in curriculum.
- Purchase reflects a new edition of the textbook.

B. Documentation Requirement

The textbook named on this purchase order was approved by the board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1 on the following date:

Meeting Date:

Name of School/Office

Administrator/Supervisor

Signature

Date

Title of Textbook

Curriculum Department Review and Approval

Approved

Denied

Curriculum Director

Signature

Date

Please attach the Textbook Order Rationale Form to the front of the requisition or purchase order.