

3004
General Purchasing and Procurement

I. **Applicability of this policy.**

Purchases made with federal funds, whether those funds are derived directly from the federal government (e.g. award of a federal grant) or are derived by pass-through awards from the Nebraska Department of Education (e.g. special education funds, school lunch funds, Title I funds) are subject to the policy on Purchasing and Procurement with Federal Funds, which are found elsewhere in this section.

This policy applies to all other purchases made by the school district other than construction, remodeling, repair, and site improvements.

II. **General Purchasing Policy**

- A. The school district's budget shall be the guide for all purchases. No employee of the district may make a purchase that is not provided for in the budget without board or administrative approval.
- B. The board intends to purchase competitively, whenever possible, without prejudice and to seek maximum educational value for every dollar expended.
- C. The acquisition of services, equipment and supplies shall be centralized in the administration office under the supervision of the superintendent of schools, who shall be responsible for developing and administering the purchasing program of the school district.
- D. Purchases or commitments of district funds that are not authorized by this policy will be the responsibility of the person making the commitment.

III. **Building-Specific Purchasing**

- A. School buildings are operationally under the control of building principals. Principals have control and responsibility for the building and grounds, for all supplies and equipment housed at the building, for all school-related activities in the building, and for all pupils, teachers, and other employees assigned to the building.
- B. Principals, in consultation with their staff, are responsible for requisitioning, managing, distributing, and utilizing supplies within the building.
- C. The superintendent of schools or their designee is responsible for the requisitioning, managing, distributing, and utilizing of supplies for maintenance and transportation.
- D. The administration is responsible for purchasing of goods, services, supplies, and for providing the necessary forms for establishing efficient procedures to facilitate the process.

IV. **Purchasing Procedures**

- A. School personnel must secure the approval of an authorized administrator before making any purchases.
- B. Employees seeking reimbursement for a purchase made with their personal funds must attach an itemized receipt or invoice to all requests for reimbursement; must sign all purchase receipts or charge slips; and must submit itemized receipts and any purchasing card or credit card receipts to the office of the superintendent no later than 14 (fourteen) days prior to the next regular board meeting. A non-itemized credit card receipt is not sufficient.
- C. Employees making purchases with a school district credit card or purchasing program must comply with the steps set forth in the district's Purchasing (Credit) Card Program.
- D. All purchases of goods and services made with district funds must be made on a properly executed purchase order.
- E. All purchases shall be initiated with a purchase order. Purchase orders are signed by the person responsible for that particular budget and finally by the superintendent.

- F. For purchases of more than \$3,500, authorized staff members must secure written quotes and/or estimates from a reasonable number of vendors. Staff will purchase from a responsible vendor with the lowest price unless the board approves the purchase from the more expensive vendor.

V. **Relations with Vendors**

- A. The board wishes to maintain good working relations with vendors who supply materials, supplies, and services to the school system. The school shall not extend favoritism to any vendors. Each order shall be placed on the basis of quality, price and delivery, with past services being a factor if all other considerations are equal. The administrative team may, in its discretion, use a Nebraska state-wide cooperative purchasing program, in lieu of obtaining quotes or bids under this policy, to the extent such a bid or quote is not otherwise independently required by law.
- B. No purchase shall be made that violates any conflict of interest policy or law.
- C. No employee shall endorse any product of any type or kind in such a manner as will identify him/her in any way as an employee of the school district.
- D. The board believes in patronizing local businesses. Consequently, when proposals are judged to be equal in terms of quality, price, and/or service, the contract or purchase will be awarded to the firm that is located within the district. However, the board will not sacrifice either quality or economy to patronize local businesses.

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