

Weslaco ISD

USING PURCHASING
COOPERATIVES

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

September 2017

What is a Purchasing Cooperative?

A **purchasing cooperative** is a type of cooperative arrangement, often among businesses, to agree to aggregate demand to get lower prices from selected suppliers. Retailers' cooperatives are a form of purchasing cooperative. It is often used by government agencies to reduce costs of procurement. Purchasing Cooperatives are used most frequently by governmental entities, since they are required to follow laws requiring competitive bidding above certain thresholds. Counties, municipalities, schools, colleges and universities in the majority of states can sign an interlocal agreement or contract that allows them to legally use a contract that was procured by another governmental entity.

By becoming a member of a purchasing cooperative, school districts are granted legal access to any of the multitude of competitively bid and legally awarded contracts available through that cooperative.

Legal Aspect of Purchasing Cooperatives

Education Code – Subchapter B, Section 44.031

(a) Except as provided by this subchapter, all school district contracts, except contracts for the purchase of produce or vehicle fuel, valued at \$25,000 or more in the aggregate for each 12-month period shall be made by the method, of the following methods, that provides the best value for the district:

(1) competitive bidding;

(2) competitive sealed proposals;

(3) a request for proposals, for services other than construction services;

(4) an interlocal contract;

(5) a design/build contract;

(6) a contract to construct, rehabilitate, alter, or repair facilities that involves using a construction manager;

(7) a job order contract for the minor construction, repair, rehabilitation, or alteration of a facility;

(8) the reverse auction procedure as defined by Section 2155.062(d), Government Code; or

(9) the formation of a political subdivision corporation under Section 304.001, Local Government Code. –

You can read all of this section at: Texas School Law Bulletin, Section 44.031:

Why do We Use Purchasing Cooperatives?

1. It's Legal
2. Saves Time
3. In most cases we save money
4. Satisfy the Purchasing Requirements

LIST OF PURCHASING COOPERATIVES

1. Region One: (esc1.net)
2. GoodBuy: (esc2.net)
3. BuyBoard: (buyboard.com)
4. TCPN: (tcpn.org)
5. DIR: (dir.texas.com)
6. HGAC (Houston Galveston Area Council)
7. TIPS: (tips-usa.com)
8. TxMAS: (comptroller.texas.gov)
9. US Communities:(uscommunities)

Region One

esc1.net



Region One Education Service Center
Students First

- Bids & Proposals/Purchasing
- Region One Purchasing Cooperative
- Awarded Bids & Proposals
- Click on the correct Proposal
- Review information to see if it corresponds to your purchase
- Links to the proposals become part of your back

GoodBuy

(Goodbuy Purchasing Cooperative)

esc2.net

- Click on Active Contracts
- Click on down arrow of Commodity
- Pick the commodity you are looking for
- Click on vendor/supplier
- Page becomes part of your back up

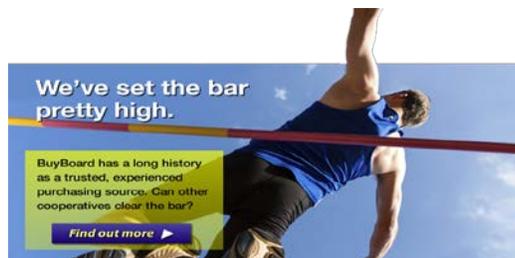
BuyBoard

(The BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative)

buyboard.com

The BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative is a cooperative formed between the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and several state school boards associations to streamline the buying process for schools, municipalities, and other public entities.

Developed to comply with state laws that require governmental entities to make purchases from an approved list of vendors who have gone through a competitive procurement process, BuyBoard gives members the advantage of leveraging the Cooperative's ability to obtain bulk discounts, combined with the ease of online, web-based shopping.



- Sign in with your assigned user id and password
 - Search by vendor
 - Click on the down arrow to show vendors
 - Select vendor
 - Click on search
 - Click on vendor name
 - Review information to see if it correspond to your purchase
 - This page becomes part of your back up
-
- Brower Contracts
 - Pick your Contract

- Click on vendor name
- Review information to see if it corresponds to your purchase
- This page becomes part of your back up

TCPN

(The Cooperative Purchasing Network)

tcpn.org



- Put cursor on contracts
- Click on the down arrow of contract categories
- Pick your categories
- Pick your vendor
- Click on Contract Documents
- Print documents needed for your back up

DIR

(Department Information Resource)

dir.texas.gov

This is a state department that works with cooperative contracts for the specific purpose of purchasing technology specific products.

- Click All Contracts & Services
- Follow All Contracts & Services Tutorial to navigate thru webpage
- Print and attach any forms that will become part of your back up

HGAC

(Houston Galveston Area Council)

hgacbuy.org



- Choose your category
- Choose your section content
- Choose your vendor
- Follow the next step depending on each section

TIPS

(The Interlocal Purchasing System)

tips-usa.com

- Click on Contracts
- Click all vendors
- Click on the first letter of the vendor's name
- Click on Due Diligence
- This page will become part of your back up
- Also Click on Award Letter
- This page will also become part of your back up

TxMAS

(Texas Multiple Awards Schedule)

comptroller.texas.gov

The Texas Procurement and Support Services (TPASS) has established, as an alternative purchasing method, the use of Texas multiple award schedule (TXMAS) contracts that have been developed from contracts awarded by the federal government or any other governmental entity of any state.

As the responsible federal entity, the General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Supply Service awards Federal Supply Schedule contracts by competitive procurement procedures for more than 50 schedules that cover multiple commodities and services.

- Click on State Purchasing
- Click on TxSmartbuy
- Click on Browse Contracts
- Find your Contract Description and click on the contract number
- This page will be part of your back up

US Communities

uscommunities.org

U.S. Communities was founded in 1996 as a partnership between the Association of School Business Officials, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors.

U.S. Communities is the leading national government purchasing cooperative, providing world class government procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education institutions, and nonprofits looking for the best overall supplier government pricing.

HGAC
(Houston Galveston Area Council)

hgacbuy.org



The H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program assists local governments in reducing costs through this government-to-government procurement service available nationwide. This program is available to local government entities and qualifying non-profit corporations.

Weslaco ISD Bids & Proposals

These are contracts that are awarded by the Weslaco ISD School Board after advertising and evaluating them.

All awarded contracts can be located on our website. <http://www.wisd.us/>

Go to the "Bids & Proposals" tab