

Book	Policy Manual
Section	43.1 Policies for the Board
Title	PURCHASING AND BIDDING
Code	po6320
Status	
Adopted	January 28, 2004
Last Revised	October 22, 2019

## 6320 - **PURCHASING AND BIDDING**

### **Price Quotations for Items Not Required to be Competitively Bid**

It is the policy of the Board of Education that the Superintendent/Designee seek at least two (2) price quotations, unless fewer quotations are available, on purchases of any supplies, materials, and/or equipment costing more than \$10,000, except in cases of emergency or when the materials purchased are of such a nature that price negotiations would not result in a savings to the District or when the item is subject to formal bid. Standardized purchasing procedures of the District (AG 6320A) shall be followed when purchasing on the basis of price quotations from vendors.

### **Limitations**

All purchases that are within the amount contained in the fund of the appropriation and were originally contemplated in the budgeting process may be made upon authorization of the Superintendent and/or Treasurer.

The Treasurer is authorized to adjust appropriations within a fund in order to make necessary purchases and shall report such modifications at the following regular Board meeting.

### **Then and Now Certificate**

If the Treasurer can certify that both at the time of the purchase and at the time of certification, sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of the respective fund, properly appropriated and free from previous encumbrance, the expenditure may be authorized. The Board may approve such payment within thirty (30) days from receipt of such certificate.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the Treasurer upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful.

The Superintendent is authorized to make emergency purchases, without prior adjustment, of those goods and/or services needed to keep the schools in operation. Such purchases shall be brought to the Board's attention at the next regular meeting.

### **"Blanket" Certificates**

The Treasurer may issue "blanket" purchase orders (certificates) for a sum not exceeding an amount established by resolution of the Board against any specific line item account over a period of time, not to extend beyond the end of the fiscal year in which it is issued. Only one (1) "blanket" purchase order (certificate) may be outstanding at any one (1) particular time for any one (1) particular line item appropriation.

### **"Super Blanket" Certificates**

The Treasurer may issue "super blanket" purchase orders (certificates) for any amount for expenditures and contracts from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. Such a purchase order (certificate) shall not extend beyond the fiscal year.

## Contracts for Development and Improvement of Facilities

All contemplated contracts for professional design services such as from an architect or for construction management shall be in accordance with R.C. 9.33 - 9.335 and R.C. 153.65 - 153.71 as applicable, as well as any relevant provisions of the Ohio Administrative Code.

### Competitive Bidding

When the Board determines to build, repair, enlarge, improve, or demolish a school building the cost of which will exceed **the amount to be determined and published by the Ohio Director of Commerce [DRAFTING NOTE: The bidding threshold for 2024 is \$75,000, and automatically increases each year by 3% thereafter.]** or for the purchase (or lease-purchase) of school buses, the Superintendent shall obtain competitive bids.

In accordance with statute, the Board may elect to forego the bidding for contracts in any of the following situations if:

- A. the Board elects and declares by resolution to participate in purchase contracts, in accordance with R.C. Chapter 125 and the terms and conditions prescribed by the Department of Administrative Services
- B. the Board determines and declares by resolution adopted by two thirds (2/3's) of its members that any item is available and can be acquired only from a single source
- C. the Board declares by resolution adopted by two-thirds (2/3's) of its members that the installation, modification, and/or remodeling subject to contracting is involved in an energy conservation measure undertaken through an installment payment contract under R.C. 3313.372 or pursuant to R.C. 133.06(G)
- D. the Board finds and determines that an urgent necessity exists (as defined by statute) with respect to a particular improvement'
- E. pursuant to R.C. 9.48, the Board participates in a joint purchasing program, operated by or through a national or State association of political subdivisions in which the Board is eligible for membership or through the Federal government or another political subdivision

The Superintendent shall verify that the specifications for any public improvement project for which bids are solicited do not require any bidder to:

- A. enter into agreements with labor organizations on said public improvement; or
- B. enter into an agreement that requires its employees to become members of or pay fees or dues to a labor organization as a condition of employment or continued employment.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with R.C. 3313.46 and related statutes.

Bids shall be sealed and shall be opened by the Treasurer in the presence of at least one (1) witness.

### Soliciting of Bids

The Board, by resolution, may award a bid to the lowest responsible bidder. For a bidder to be deemed responsible, the Board may request evidence from the bidder concerning:

- A. the bidder's facilities;
- B. management skills;
- C. the ability to execute the contract properly;
- D. a signed affidavit affirming that neither the bidder nor any sub-contractor has entered into an agreement with any labor organization regarding the public improvement project;
- E. financial condition;
- F. the experience (type of product or service being purchased, etc.);
- G. the conduct and performance on previous contracts (with the District or other agencies).

## **Awarding of Bids**

The Board shall approve all contracts resulting from competitive bids prior to being awarded. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

In situations in which the Board has resolved to award a bid to the lowest responsible bidder and the low bidder does not meet the considerations specified above, the Board shall so notify the bidder, in writing, by certified mail.

## **Purchase of School Buses and Certain Other Motor Vehicles**

The Board shall use competitive bidding to enter into an agreement for the purchase or lease-purchase of a school bus unless an exception to bidding applies. The term "school bus" includes any vehicle designed to carry more than nine (9) passengers excluding the driver. Bids shall indicate that prior to delivery the bus must comply with all applicable State laws and regulations, including the Ohio Pupil Transportation Operation and Safety Rules. No bid bonds will be required unless requested by the Board during the competitive bidding process. The Board is not required to use competitive bidding to rent or lease a school bus as long as the agreement does not include a provision for purchase of the bus.

For the purchase of motor vehicles other than school buses, the Board will follow the adopted procedures to obtain price quotations prior to purchase when applicable. Standardized purchasing procedures of the District shall be followed when purchasing a motor vehicle other than a school bus.

## **Lease-Purchase Agreements**

Lease-purchase agreements entered into by the Board shall be in accordance with R.C. 3313.375. Such agreements shall be a series of one-year renewable lease terms totaling not more than thirty (30) years, after which time ownership is transferred to the Board if all obligations of the Board under the agreement have been satisfied.

## **Purchases from the State**

In accordance with State law (R.C. 4115.31 - 4115.35), the Superintendent shall, in accordance with rules of the State committee for the purchase of products and services provided by persons with severe disabilities, procure products or services at the fair market price established by the committee from a qualified nonprofit agency for persons with severe disabilities, if the product or service is on the procurement list and is available within the period required by the District, notwithstanding any law requiring the purchase of products and services on a competitive bid basis.

## **Quantity Purchases**

In order to promote efficiency and economy in the operation of the District, the Board requires that the Superintendent/Designee periodically estimate requirements for standard items or classes of items and make quantity purchases to procure the lowest cost consistent with good quality.

## **Requirement**

Before the Treasurer places a purchase order, s/he shall check as to whether the proposed purchase is subject to bid, whether sufficient funds exist in the budget, and whether the material might be available elsewhere in the District. All purchase orders shall be numbered consecutively.

In the interests of economy, fairness, and efficiency in its business dealings, the Board requires that items commonly used in the various schools or units thereof, be standardized whenever consistency with educational goals can be maintained.

Employees may be held personally responsible for anything purchased without a properly-signed purchase order or authorization.

The Board may acquire equipment as defined in law by lease, by installment payments, by entering into lease-purchase agreements, or by lease with an option to purchase, provided the contract sets forth the terms of such a purchase and the purchase complies with applicable law and Board policy.

## **Reverse Auctions**

It is the policy of the Board to permit the use of a reverse auction to purchase services and supplies whenever it is determined that the reverse auction process will be advantageous to the District (e.g., result in a cost savings to the District). To that end, vendors may submit proposals when competing to sell services and/or supplies in an open environment via the Internet. While the reverse auction process may be used to purchase supplies such as equipment, materials, tangible assets and insurance, the process may not be used to purchase real property or interests in real

property. The process may also be used to purchase services such as the furnishing of labor, time, or effort by a person, provided such services do not involve the delivery of a specific end product other than a report, and are not being furnished in connection with an employment agreement or collective bargaining agreement and/or which are not subject to a competitive selection procedure required by law.

The Board will provide notice of the request for proposals and award contracts in accordance with the Superintendent's administrative guidelines.

### **Procurement - Federal Grants**

The Superintendent shall maintain a procurement and contract administration system in accordance with the USDOE requirements (34 CFR 80.36) for the administration and management of Federal grants and Federally-funded programs. The District shall maintain a compliance system that requires contractors to perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders. Except as otherwise noted, procurement transactions shall conform to the provisions of this policy and administrative guidelines (AG 6320). (See Policy 6325)

Revised 7/12/05

Revised 11/14/06

Revised 6/7/07

Revised 11/13/07

Revised 6/8/10

Revised 5/10/11

Revised 12/10/12

Revised 8/13/13

Revised 4/25/17

Revised 7/23/19

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R.C. 9.25, 9.30, 9.31, 9.311, 9.312, 9.314, 125.04, 153.02, 153.12, 153.54, 2909.33

R.C. 3313.37, 3313.375, 3313.46, 3313.172, 3327.08, 4115.32 et. seq., 4116.02

R.C. 4116.03, 4511.76, 5705.41, 5705.45

A.C. 3301-83