

## **PURCHASING**

The purpose of this policy and any related administrative procedures is to ensure that all purchases of supplies, equipment and services are made in compliance with state and federal law and good business practices. The Board recognizes the importance of a sound fiscal management program and expects district staff to maximize the resources available for the district's educational program and to be good stewards of public funds by exercising fair, competitive purchasing practices. The district will respect its financial obligations and will also require that providers meet their obligations to provide quality products and services in a timely manner to the district. All purchasing will be conducted in a manner that provides full and open competition consistent with the standards of state and federal law.

All funds deposited with the district, regardless of source, are considered district funds and are subject to this policy. All contracts require the approval of the superintendent or designee. Contracts over \$100,000 will require an affirmative vote from the majority of the whole Board. No bill will be paid without proper documentation. No monthly bill exceeding \$300,000 will be paid without an affirmative vote from a majority of the whole Board.

The Board encourages district staff to purchase products manufactured, assembled or produced in the United States.

### **Purchasing Supervision**

The superintendent will serve as the district's purchasing officer or will designate an appropriate administrator to act as purchasing officer(s). The executive director of finance will supervise district purchases of products and services and may authorize purchases on behalf of the district that comply with the Board-adopted budget and this policy. The superintendent, in consultation with the executive director of finance, shall develop procedures to implement this policy in a manner that will meet the district's needs while protecting the district's resources. These procedures will comply with all applicable laws and will centralize and provide oversight of all purchasing decisions.

### **Competitive Purchasing**

District staff will research all purchases and compare prices prior to making decisions regarding the expenditure of district funds, unless a purchase is covered by an exception pursuant to this policy. Employees are expected to contact multiple providers before making a decision regarding purchases under \$3,500. Purchases of \$3,500 or more will be competitively bid, and sealed bids will be required for purchases that may exceed \$15,000.

The district will select the lowest or best bid or the bid that is the most advantageous to the district. The district reserves the right to waive minor technical defects in a bid, reject any and all bids, reject

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any part of a bid, advertise for new bids, or make the purchase on the open market if the product or service can be obtained at a better price.

The district will only award contracts to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions detailed by the district. Among other factors detailed in the bid specifications, consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

When the administrator determines that it is in the best interest of the district, products or services may be purchased by competitive negotiations or proposals rather than competitive bids. Likewise, the superintendent, in consultation with the executive director of finance, is directed to create procedures that allow the district to benefit from cooperative purchasing and address unusual situations such as purchasing when there is a single feasible source for the purchase. The superintendent is also directed to create a process whereby authorized providers are selected for frequent purchases, while still monitoring the competitiveness of these providers.

### **Purchases Involving Federal Funds**

In addition to the requirements of this policy and the accompanying procedure, when federal funds are used the provisions of policy DJFA and related procedures must be followed.

### **Emergency Situations**

Unless competitive bidding is required by law, the superintendent may waive the requirement for competitive bids or proposals when he or she determines that there exists a threat to life, property, public health or public safety or when immediate expenditure is necessary to protect against further loss of or damage to property or prevent or minimize a serious disruption in services. Emergency purchases shall be made with as much competition as is practical under the circumstances and only when necessary to alleviate the emergency.

### **Debarred or Suspended Providers**

The district will not do business with providers who have been suspended or debarred on a state or federal level. District employees are directed to verify that selected providers are in good standing before making a purchasing decision and are on the district's approved vendor list.

### **Confidentiality**

Sealed bids and related documents will be kept confidential until bids are opened. District staff will not disclose offers, bids or price quotations to competitors except as necessary to conduct negotiations beneficial to the district or as required by law. All contract negotiations and related

documents are considered closed until a contract is executed or all proposals are rejected.

### **Credit and Purchasing Cards**

Authorized district employees may use credit cards or purchasing cards issued to the district to make purchases for the district or to pay for reasonable travel expenses incurred when performing job duties. Employees will not use these cards to circumvent the bidding and purchasing requirements established by law and Board policy. All purchases made using district cards must be attributed to the appropriate budget code and must conform to the Board-adopted budget.

The superintendent, in consultation with the executive director of finance, will annually review and revise the list of persons receiving access to district cards and the limitations on those cards. The annual review will ensure that only the employees who appropriately utilize the cards have access to them, and that the limitations on the cards do not exceed the amounts of the projected expenditures to be made with the cards.

Any employee using or having access to a district card shall sign a card usage agreement and will receive training on applicable procedures for card use. District employees issued a card must provide documentation, such as receipts and applicable budget codes, justifying expenditures. The business office will examine all documentation prior to payment and will notify the executive director of finance immediately if any purchase was made in violation of law or district policies or procedures.

All employees issued a district card must take all reasonable measures to protect the cards against damage, loss, theft or misuse. Any damage, loss, theft or misuse of the card must be reported to the business office or executive director of finance immediately. District employees will surrender all cards upon completion of their employment or term with the district or upon demand by the district.

### **Prohibited Activity and Reporting Requirements**

The district expects all staff members to comply with the letter and intent of all district policies and procedures regarding purchasing. Under no circumstances may employees use district funds to make unauthorized or personal purchases. Staff members may not artificially divide purchases to avoid bidding requirements or design bid specifications to favor a particular provider.

All district employees must report suspected fraud, theft or misuse of district funds to the superintendent or executive director of finance immediately. District employees may be disciplined or terminated from employment for failing to follow Board policy or district procedures and for any misuse of district resources, including district credit and purchasing cards.

The superintendent or executive director of finance will contact law enforcement and file a report

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or sign a complaint on behalf of the district in situations where a crime may have occurred.

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***Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.***

Adopted: 12/12/2001

Revised: 12/09/2004; 11/09/2006; 05/13/2010; 07/10/2014; 03/17/2016; 08/18/2016;  
11/09/2017

Cross Refs: ADF, District Wellness Program  
BBFA, Board Member Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure  
EHBC, Data Governance and Security  
FEB, Selection of Architectural, Engineering and Land Surveying Services  
FEC, Selection of Construction Management Services  
FED, Selection of a Construction Manager at Risk  
FEE, Selection of a Design-Build Contractor  
FEF, Construction Contracts Bidding and Awards  
GBCA, Staff Conflict of Interest

Legal Refs: §§ 8.285 - .291, .675 - .687, 34.073 - .080, .350 - .359, .375, 105.458, 162.301,  
170.041, 171.181, 177.082 - .086, 285.530, 292.675, 393.310, 432.070 - .080,  
RSMo.  
5 C.S.R. 30-4.030, 680.010  
2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 - .322  
7 C.F.R. §§ 210.16, .21, .220.16  
40 C.F.R. Part 247  
47 C.F.R. § 54.503  
*Mercantile Bank of Illinois v. School Dist. of Osceola*, 834 S.W.2d 737 (1992)

Nixa Public Schools, Nixa, Missouri