

PURCHASING

The Peru Central School District Board of Education views purchasing as serving the educational program by providing necessary supplies, equipment and related services.

Purchasing will be centralized in the business office under the authority of the Purchasing Agent designated by the Board.

It is the goal of the Board to purchase competitively, without prejudice or favoritism, and to seek the maximum educational value for every dollar expended.

Competitive bids or quotations shall be solicited in connection with purchases pursuant to law. The General Municipal Law required that purchase contracts for materials, equipment and supplies involving an estimated annual expenditure exceeding \$10,000 and public work contracts involving an expenditure of more than \$20,000 will be awarded only after responsible bids have been received in response to a public advertisement soliciting formal bids. Similar procurements to be made in a fiscal year will be grouped together for the purpose of determining whether a particular item must be bid.

Good and services which are not required by law to be procured by the district through competitive bidding will be procured in a manner so as to ensure the prudent and economical use of public monies, in the best interests of the taxpayers, to facilitate the acquisition of goods and services of maximum quality at the lowest possible cost under the circumstances, and to guard against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption.

Alternative proposals or quotation will be secured by requests for proposals, written or verbal quotations or any other appropriate method of procurement, except for procurements:

1. under a county contract;
2. under a state contract;
3. BOCES bid contract;
4. cooperative bid contract with other districts;
5. of articles manufactures in state correctional institutions; or
6. from agencies for the blind and severely disabled.

The district's purchasing activity will strive to meet the following objectives:

- A. to supply all administrative units in the school system with needed materials, supplies, and contracted services, in an effective manner;
- B. to obtain materials, supplies and contracted services at the lowest prices possible consistent with the quality and standards needed as determined by the Purchasing Agent in cooperation with the requisitioning authority.
- C. The educational welfare of the students is the foremost consideration in making any purchase;
- D. to ensure that all purchases fall within the framework of budgetary limitations and that they are consistent with the educational goals and programs of the district;
- E. to maintain an appropriate and comprehensive accounting and reporting system to record and document all purchasing transactions; and
- F. to ensure, through the use of proper internal controls, that loss and/or diversion of district property is prevented.

Opportunities shall be provided to all responsible suppliers to do business with the school district. Suppliers whose place of business is situated within the district may be given preferential consideration only when bids or quotations on an item or service are identical as to price, quality and

other factors. Purchases will be made through available state contract of the Office of General Services, county contracts, or agreements entered into by school districts for joint purchasing whenever such purchases are in the best interests of the district. In addition, the district will make purchases from correctional institutions and severely disabled persons through charitable or non-profit-making agencies, as provided by law.

The district will provide justification and documentation of any contract awarded to an offeror other than the lowest responsible dollar offeror, setting for the reasons why such award is in the best interests of the district and otherwise furthers the purposes of section 104-b of the General Municipal Law.

The Purchasing Agent will not be required to secure alternative proposals or quotations for:

1. emergencies where time is a crucial factor;
2. procurements for which there is no possibility of competition (sole source items); or
3. very small procurements [\$100 or less] when solicitations of competition would not be cost-effective.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, with the assistance of the Purchasing Agent and the Treasurer, to establish and maintain an internal control structure to ensure, to the best of their ability, that the district's assets will be safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, that transactions will be executed in accordance with the law and district policies and regulations, and recorded properly in the financial records of the district.

The Purchasing Agent shall be responsible for the establishment and implementation of the procedures and standard forms for use in all purchasing and related activities in the district. Such procedures shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations of the state and the Commissioner of Education.

No Board member, officer or employee of the school district shall have an interest in any contract entered in to by the Board or the district, as provided in Article 18 of the General Municipal Law.

The Purchasing Agent shall meet with the Board annually to review the district's procurement procedures including this purchasing policy and regulation.

The unintentional failure to fully comply with the provisions of section 104-b of the General Municipal Law or the district's policies regarding procurement will not be grounds to void action taken nor give rise to a cause of action against the district or any officer or employee of the district.

Ref: Education Law §§305(14); 1604(29-a); 1709(4-a)(9)(14)(22); 2503(7-a); 2554(7-a)
General Municipal Law §02; 103; 104-b; 109-a; 800 et seq.

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