

POLICY

LACEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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RESTART AND RECOVERY PLAN (M)

1648 RESTART AND RECOVERY PLAN (M)

On June 26, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) published “The Road Back – Restart and Recovery Plan for Education” (Guidance), a guidance document for reopening New Jersey schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Guidance provided school officials with the information necessary to ensure that schools reopen safely and are prepared to accommodate staff and students’ unique needs during these unprecedented times. The NJDOE required school districts in the State to develop, in collaboration with community stakeholders, a “Restart and Recovery Plan” (Plan) to reopen schools that best fits the district’s local needs.

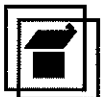
The Guidance requires the Board of Education to adopt certain policies and the Board adopts Policy 1648 to address those policy requirements in the Guidance. Policy 1648 shall only be effective through the current COVID-19 pandemic and will take precedence over any existing Policy on the same or similar subject, unless determined otherwise by the Superintendent.

A. NJDOE Guidance – Key Subject Area 1 – Conditions for Learning

1. Transportation

- a. If the school district is providing transportation services on a school bus, a face covering must be worn by all students upon entering the school bus unless doing so would inhibit the student’s health. It is necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities. Exceptions to the face covering requirements shall be those outlined in A.2.d. below:

- (1) Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face covering should be addressed according to that student's particular need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.



- b. The school district shall use best practices for cleaning and disinfecting district-owned school buses and other transportation vehicles in accordance with A.3. below.
- c. District-employed school bus drivers and aides on district-owned school buses shall practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated for other school staff.
- d. If the school district is using contracted transportation services, the contractor shall ensure all Board of Education safety actions and protocols are followed by the contractor and its employees and/or its agents.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix C for the protocols/procedures for “Transportation” which is also included in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan.]

- 2. Screening, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms
 - a. The school district shall screen students and employees upon arrival to a school building or work location for COVID-19 symptoms and a history of exposure.
 - (1) School staff must visually check students and employees for symptoms upon arrival (which may include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are free of COVID-19 symptoms.
 - (2) Health checks must be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.
 - (3) Results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed.



- (4) The screening protocol will take into account students and employees with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students and employees.
 - (5) Students and employees with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others.
 - (6) If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a school district facility tests positive for COVID-19, district officials must immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.
- b. School staff and visitors are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health or the individual is under two years of age.
 - (1) If a visitor refuses to wear a face covering for non-medical reasons and if such covering cannot be provided to the individual at the point of entry, the visitor's entry to the school/district facility may be denied.
- c. Students are required to wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. It is necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities.
 - (1) Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face covering should be addressed according to that student's need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.



d. Exceptions to the Requirement for Face Coverings

- (1) Doing so would inhibit the individual's health.
- (2) The individual is in extreme heat outdoors.
- (3) The individual is in water.
- (4) A student's documented medical condition, or disability as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP), precludes the use of a face covering.
- (5) The student is under the age of two, due to the risk of suffocation.
- (6) During the period a student is eating or drinking.
- (7) Face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, or anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance (e.g. face coverings should not be worn by Pre-K students during nap time).
- (8) The student is engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities.
- (9) Face coverings may be removed during gym and music classes when individuals are in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet apart.
- (10) When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.



[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix E for the protocols/procedures for “Screening, PPE, and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms” which is also included in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan.]

3. Facilities Cleaning Practices

- a. The school district must continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise.
- b. A procedure manual must be developed to establish cleaning and disinfecting schedules for schools and school equipment, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials to be used.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix G for the protocols/procedures for – “Facilities Cleaning Practices” which is also included in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan.]

4. Wraparound Supports

a. Mental Health Supports

The school district’s approach to student mental health supports will be affected by the learning environment in place at the beginning of the school year. If in-person instruction is not feasible, the district must find other ways to assess and monitor students’ mental health.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix K for the protocols/procedures for “Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports” which is also included in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan.]

5. Contact Tracing



- a. Upon notification that a resident has tested positive for COVID-19, the local health department will call the school district to determine close contacts to whom they may have spread the virus, where close contact is defined as being within six feet for a period of at least ten minutes.
- b. The school district shall assist the local health department in conducting contact tracing activities, including ongoing communication with the identified individual and/or their contacts.
- c. The school district shall ensure adequate information and training is provided to the staff as necessary to enable staff to carry out responsibilities assigned to them.
- d. A staff liaison(s) shall be designated by the Superintendent or designee and shall be responsible for providing notifications and carrying out other components that could help ensure notifications are carried out in a prompt and responsible manner.
- e. School districts shall allow staff, students, and families to self-report symptoms and/or suspected exposure.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix F for the protocols/procedures for “Contact Tracing” which is also included in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan.]

B. NJDOE Guidance – Key Subject Area 2 – Leadership and Planning

1. Scheduling

- a. The school district’s Plan must account for resuming in-person instruction and shall provide steps to shift back to virtual learning models if circumstances change and in-person instruction guidelines can no longer be followed.



- b. The school district's Plan accommodates opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction, while ensuring requirements for a 180-day school year are met.
- c. The school district recognizes special populations will require unique considerations to ensure the continuity of learning as well as the health and safety of students and staff within the least restrictive environment.
 - (1) Special Education and English Language Learners (ELL)
 - (a) The school district shall provide educators with professional development to best utilize the accessibility features and accommodations tools made available through technology-based formats in accordance with this Policy.
 - (b) The school district shall continue to ensure students receive individualized supports that meet the requirements of the IEP and 504 Plans.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix N for the protocols/procedures for “Scheduling of Students” which is also included in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan.]

2. Staffing

- a. The school district shall comply with all applicable employment laws when making staffing and scheduling requirements, including, but not limited to, the Americans Disabilities Act (ADA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), and all applicable State laws.



- b. As the school district adjusts schedules, teaching staff members must maintain quality instruction for students pursuant to the minimum requirements set forth in NJDOE regulation.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix O for the protocols/procedures for “Staffing” which is also included in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan.]

C. NJDOE Guidance – Key Subject Area 3 – Policy and Funding

1. School Funding

a. Purchasing

The school district may likely need to purchase items not needed in the past and may experience increased demand for previously purchased goods and services to implement the Plan. The school district shall continue to comply with the provisions of the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

b. Use of Reserve Accounts, Transfers, and Cashflow

The school district shall apply for the approval from the Commissioner of Education, prior to performing certain budget actions, such as withdrawing from the emergency reserve account or making transfers that cumulatively exceed ten percent of the amount originally budgeted.

c. Costs and Contracting

The school district shall follow all New Jersey State laws and regulations applicable to local school districts for purchasing when procuring devices and connectivity or any technology related item.



D. NJDOE Guidance – Key Subject Area 4 – Continuity of Learning

1. Ensuring the Delivery of Special Education and Related Services to Students with Disabilities

- a. The school district shall continue to meet their obligations to students with disabilities to the greatest extent possible.

2. Professional Learning

- a. The school district shall prepare and support teaching staff members in meeting the social, emotional, health, and academic needs of all students throughout the implementation of the Plan.

(1) Professional Learning

- (a) The school district shall grow each teaching staff member's professional capacity to deliver developmentally appropriate standards-based instruction remotely.

(2) Mentoring and Induction

- (a) The school district shall ensure:

- (i) All novice provisional teachers new to the district be provided induction;
- (ii) One-to-one mentoring is provided to novice provisional teachers by qualified mentors;
- (iii) Mentors can provide sufficient support and guidance to novice provisional teachers working in a remote environment;



- (iv) Mentoring is provided in both hybrid and fully remote learning environments and that mentors and provisional teachers will agree upon scheduling, structure, and communication strategies they will use to maintain the mentoring experience; and
- (v) The use of online collaborative tools for school staff to remain connected to other mentors, new teachers, and administrators to maintain a sense of communal support.

(3) Evaluation

- (a) The school district has considered the requirements and best practices with provisional status teachers, nontenured educators, and those on Corrective Action Plans (including extra observations, extra observers, assuring more frequent feedback and face-to-face).

3. Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- a. The school district shall implement innovative learning models for new learning environments regarding CTE.
- b. Quality CTE Programs

The school district shall ensure students have access to appropriate industry-recognized, high-value credentials.



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c. Work-Based Learning

The school district will ensure students are provided the opportunity to participate in safe work-based learning, either remotely (simulations, virtual tours, etc.) or in-person.

New Jersey Department of Education “The Road Back – Restart and Recovery Plan for Education”
Memorandum – New Jersey Governor and Department of Education –
Conditions for Learning – Health and Safety – August 3, 2020

Adopted:

Revised:

Appendices

The provisions of the attached Appendices C, E, F, G, K, N, and O from the district’s Restart and Recovery Plan are included in Policy 1648.



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RESTART AND RECOVERY PLAN - FULL-TIME REMOTE INSTRUCTION

On June 26, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Education published “The Road Back - Restart and Recovery Plan for Education” (NJDOE Guidance), a guidance document for reopening New Jersey schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Guidance, including revisions, provided school officials with the information necessary to ensure that schools reopen safely and are prepared to accommodate staff and students’ unique needs during these unprecedented times. The NJDOE Guidance required school districts to develop, in collaboration with community stakeholders, a “Restart and Recovery Plan” (Plan) to reopen schools that best fit the district’s local needs.

The NJDOE Guidance requires the Board of Education to adopt certain policies and the Board previously adopted Policies 1648 and 1648.02 to address these policy requirements. Board policies related to Covid-19 shall only be effective through the current COVID-19 pandemic and will take precedence over any existing Policy on the same or similar subject, unless determined otherwise by the Superintendent.

On August 13, 2020, the Governor of New Jersey signed Executive Order 175 indicating public school districts shall resume partial or full-time in-person instruction during the fall of school year 2020-2021. However, Executive Order 175 also indicates public school districts that are or become unable to satisfy the health and safety requirements for in-person instruction delineated in the NJDOE’s “Checklist for Re-Opening of School 2020-2021” and detailed in the “The Road Back - Restart and Recovery Plan for Education” Guidance, may provide full-time remote instruction to all students pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

Public school districts that determine they cannot provide in-person instruction must submit documentation to the Department of Education that identifies:

1. The school building(s) or grade level(s) within the district that will provide full-time remote instruction;
2. The specific health and safety standards delineated in the NJDOE’s “Checklist for Re-Opening of School 2020-2021,” and detailed in the “The Road Back - Restart and Recovery Plan for Education” Guidance, that the school is unable to satisfy;



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3. The school's anticipated efforts to satisfy the identified health and safety standard(s); and
4. A date by which the school anticipates the resumption of in-person instruction.

Such documentation must be submitted to the Department of Education at minimum one week prior to the public school district's first day of school.

The NJDOE, by way of the Executive County Superintendent, shall request periodic updates from the Superintendent of Schools of a public school district offering only remote instruction to demonstrate the school district is actively engaged in good-faith efforts toward the resumption of in-person instruction.

All instruction, whether in-person instruction or remote instruction, for the 2020-2021 year, shall adhere to the following requirements, and any other requirements imposed by Order, statute, or regulation:

1. A school day, whether in-person or remote must consist of at least four (4) hours of active instruction to students by an appropriately certified teacher, except that one continuous session of two and one-half hours may be considered a full day in Kindergarten, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3.
2. District and school policies for attendance and instructional contact time will need to accommodate opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction, while ensuring the requirements for a 180-day school year are met pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.
3. All instructional time shall be provided in accordance with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs).

All public school districts participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, regardless of whether they are required to participate or voluntarily opt-in to the programs, must offer the required meals to all children, regardless of eligibility, when the school day involves at least four hours of in-person or remote instruction.

For the 2020-2021 school year, the use of student growth data based on standardized assessment or student growth percentile shall be waived and shall



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not be used as a measure of educator effectiveness in the overall evaluation of any educator in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123(b)(2) and (4).

Paragraph 8 of Executive Order No. 107 (2020), which prohibits in-person dining at certain establishments that are open to the public, shall not apply to school district cafeterias provided that social distancing can be maintained and access is limited to staff and students and not available to the general public. Such cafeterias must adhere to infection control practices outlined for dining in the applicable reopening documents issued by the Department of Education.

Executive Order 175 – August 13, 2020

First Read: September 21, 2020



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PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M)

8561 PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M)

The Board of Education adopts this Policy to identify their procurement plan for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Nutrition Programs. School Nutrition Programs include, but are not limited to: the National School Lunch Program (NSLP); School Breakfast Program (SBP); Afterschool Snack Program (ASP); Special Milk Program (SMP); Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP); Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP; Summer Food Service Program (SFSP); the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); and the Schools/Child Nutrition USDA Foods Program.

The Board of Education is ultimately responsible for ensuring all procurement procedures for any purchases by the Board of Education and/or a food service management company (FSMC) comply with all Federal regulations, including but not limited to: 7 CFR Parts 210, 220, 225, 226, 245, 250; 2 CFR 200; State procurement statutes and administrative codes and regulations; local Board of Education procurement policies; and any other applicable State and local laws.

The procurement procedures contained in this Policy will be implemented beginning immediately, until amended. All procurements must maximize full and open competition. Source documentation will be maintained by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee and will be available to determine open competition, the reasonableness, the allowability, and the allocation of costs.

The Board of Education intentionally seeks to prohibit conflicts of interest in all procurement of goods and services.

A. General Procurement

The procurement procedures will maximize full and open competition, transparency in transactions, comparability, and documentation of all procurement activities. The school district's plan for procuring items for use in the School Nutrition Programs is as follows:

1. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will ensure all purchases will be in accordance with the Federal Funds Procurement Method Selection Chart – State Agency Form #358 - Appendix. Formal procurement procedures will be used as required by 2 CFR 200.318 through .326 and any State and local procurement code and regulations.



PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M)

Informal procurement procedures (small purchase) will be required for purchases under the most restrictive small purchase threshold.

2. The following procedures will be used for all purchases:

Product/ Services	Procurement Method	Evaluation	Contract Award Type	Contract Duration/ Frequency
Processed Cold	Formal RFP U.S. Foods	Bottom Line	BOE Resolution	3 years
Ice Cream	Small Purchases 3 Quotes	Bottom Line	BOE Resolution	1 year
Bread	Small Purchases	Bottom Line	BOE Resolution	1 year
Dairy	Formal RFP	Bottom Line	BOE Resolution	3 year
Paper Supplies	Formal RFP	Bottom Line	BOE Resolution	3 year
Cleaning Supplies	Small Purchase 3 Quotes	Bottom Line	BOE Resolution	1 year
Produce	Small Purchase 3 Quotes	Bottom Line	BOE Resolution	1 year
Equipment	Formal RFT	Bottom Line	BOE Resolution	As needed
Office Supplies	State Contract	Bottom Line	BOE Resolution	

B. Micro-Purchase Procedures

1. Public/Charter SFAs:

Purchases of supplies or services, as defined by 2 CFR 200.67, will be awarded without soliciting competitive price quotations if the price is reasonable in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18:A:18A-37(a) below thresholds established by the State Treasurer for informal receipt of quotations. Purchases will be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers with reasonable prices. Records will be kept for micro-purchases.

2. Non-Public SFAs:

Purchases of supplies or services, within the federal micro-purchase threshold as defined by 2 CFR 200.67, will be awarded without soliciting competitive price quotations if the price is reasonable. Purchases will be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers with reasonable prices. Records will be kept for micro-purchases.

C. Small Purchase Procedures



PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M)

If the amount of purchases for items is less than the district's small purchase threshold, the following small purchase procedures including quotes will be used. Quotes from a minimum number of three (3) qualified sources will be required.

1. Written specifications will be prepared and provided to all vendors.
2. Each vendor will be contacted and given an opportunity to provide a price quote on the same specifications. A minimum of three vendors must be contacted.
3. The Food Service Director will be responsible for contacting potential vendors when price quotes are needed.
4. The price quotes will receive appropriate confidentiality before award.
5. Quotes/Bids will be awarded by the Business Administrator. Quotes/Bids will be awarded on the following criteria. Quote/Bid price must be the highest weighted criteria. Examples of other possible criteria include quality, service, delivery and availability.
6. The Business Administrator will be responsible for documentation of records to show selection of vendor, reasons for selection, names of all vendors contacted, price quotes from each vendor, and written specifications.
7. The Food Service Director will be responsible for documentation that the actual product specified is received.
8. Any time an accepted item is not available, the Food Service Director will select the acceptable alternate. Full documentation will be made available as to the selection of the acceptable item.
9. The Food Service Director is required to sign all quote tabulations, signifying a review and approval of the selections.

D. Formal Procurement

When a formal procurement method is required, the following competitive sealed bid or an Invitation for Bid (IFB) or competitive proposal in the form of a Request for Proposal (RFP) procedures will apply:

1. An announcement of an IFB or a RFP will be placed in the Board designated official newspaper to publicize the intent of the Board of Education to purchase needed items. The advertisement for bids/proposals



PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M)

or legal notice will be published in the official newspaper for at least one day in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21.

2. An advertisement in the official newspaper for at least one day is required for all purchases over the school district's small purchase threshold as outlined in Appendix – Federal Funds Procurement Method Section Chart. The advertisement will contain the following:
 - a. A general description of items to be purchased;
 - b. The deadline for submission of questions and the date written responses will be provided, including addenda to bid specifications, terms, and conditions as needed;
 - c. The date of the pre-bid meeting, if provided, and if attendance is a requirement for bid award;
 - d. The deadline for submission of sealed bids or proposals; and
 - e. The address of the location where complete specifications and bid forms may be obtained.
3. In an IFB or RFP, each vendor will be given an opportunity to bid on the same specifications.
4. The developer of written specifications or descriptions for procurements will be prohibited from submitting bids or proposals for such products or services.
5. The IFB or RFP will clearly define the purchase conditions. The following list includes requirements, not exclusive, to be addressed in the procurement document:
 - contract period for base year and renewals as permitted;
 - The Board of Education is responsible for all contracts awarded (statement);
 - Date, time, and location of IFB/RFP opening;



PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M)

- How the vendor is to be informed of bid acceptance or rejection;
- Delivery schedule;
- Requirements (terms and conditions) the bidder must fulfill in order for bid to be evaluated;
- Benefits to which the Board of Education will be entitled if the contractor cannot or will not perform as required;
- Statement assuring positive efforts will be made to involve minority and small business, women's business enterprises and labor surplus area firms;
- Statement regarding the return of purchase incentives, discounts, rebates, and credits under a cost reimbursement FSMC contract to the Board of Education's nonprofit school food service account;
- Contract provisions as required in Appendix II to 2 CFR 200;
 - Termination for cause and convenience – contracts in excess of \$10,000;
 - Equal Opportunity Employment – “federally assisted construction contracts”;
 - Davis-Bacon Act – construction contracts in excess of \$2,000;
 - Contract work Hours and Safety Standards – contracts in excess of \$100,000;
 - Right to inventions made under a contract or agreement – if the contract meets the definition of a “funding agreement” under 37 CFR 401.2(a);
 - Clean Air Act – contracts in excess of \$150,000;
 - Debarment and Suspension – all federal awarded contracts, and
 - o Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment – contracts in excess of \$100,000;
 - Contracts must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate
- Contract provisions as required in 7 CFR 210.21(f) for all cost reimbursable contracts;



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- Contract provisions as required in 7 CFR 210.16(a)(1-10) and 7 CFR 250.53 for food service management company contracts;
- Procuring instrument to be used are purchase orders from firm fixed prices after formal bidding;
- Price adjustment clause for renewal of multi-year contracts as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42. The “index rate” means the annual percentage increase rounded to the nearest half percent in the implicit price deflator for State and local government purchases of goods and services computed and published quarterly by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis;
- Method of evaluation and type of contract to be awarded (solicitations using an IFB are awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; solicitations using a RFP are awarded to the most advantageous bidder/offeror with price as the primary factor among factors considered);
- Method of award announcement and effective date (if intent to award is required by State or local procurement requirements);
- Specific bid protest procedures including contact information of person and address and the date by which a written protest must be received;
- Provision requiring access by duly authorized representatives of the Board of Education, New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), or Comptroller General to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor which are directly pertinent to all negotiated contracts;
- Method of shipment or delivery upon contract award;
- Provision requiring contractor to maintain all required records for three years after final payment and all other pending matters (audits) are closed for all negotiated contracts;



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- Description of process for enabling vendors to receive or pick up orders upon contract award;
 - Provision requiring the contractor to recognize mandatory standards/policies related to energy efficiency contained in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (PL 94-163);
 - Signed statement of non-collusion;
 - Signed Debarment/Suspension Certificate, clause in the contract or a copy of search results from the System for Award Management (SAM);
 - Provision requiring “Buy American” as outlined in 7 CFR Part 210.21(d) and USDA Guidance Memo SP 38-2017, including specific instructions for prior approval and documentation of utilization of nondomestic food products only; and
 - Specifications and estimated quantities of products and services prepared by the school district and provided to potential contractors desiring to submit bids/proposals for the products or services requested.
 - the SFA’s Electronic Signature Policy
6. If any potential vendor is in doubt as to the true meaning of specifications or purchase conditions, questions may be sent to the representative listed below. The Board of Education response will be provided in writing to all potential bidders, no later than seven days prior to the date for acceptance of IFB or RFP.
- a. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for providing responses to questions and securing all bids or proposals.
 - b. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible to ensure all Board of Education procurements are conducted in compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local procurement regulations.



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- c. The following criteria will be used in awarding contracts as a result of bids/proposals. Price must be the highest weighted criteria. Examples of other possible criteria include quality, service, delivery, and availability.
- 7. In awarding a RFP, a set of award criteria in the form of a weighted evaluation sheet will be provided to each bidder in the initial bid document materials. Price alone is not the sole basis for award, but remains the primary consideration among all factors when awarding a contract. Following evaluation and negotiations, a firm fixed price or cost reimbursable contract is awarded.
 - a. The contracts will be awarded to the responsible bidder/proposer whose bid or proposal is responsive to the invitation and is most advantageous to the Board of Education, price as the primary, and other factors considered. Any and all bids or proposals may be rejected in accordance with the law.
 - b. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee is required to sign on the bid tabulation of competitive sealed bids or the evaluation criterion score sheet of competitive proposals signifying a review and approval of the selections.
 - c. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall review the procurement system to ensure compliance with applicable laws.
 - d. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for documentation that the actual product specified was received.
 - e. Any time an accepted item is not available, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will select the acceptable alternate. The contractor must inform the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary within one workday if a product is not available. In the event a nondomestic agricultural product is to be provided to the Board of Education, the contractor must obtain, in advance, written approval for the product. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary must comply with the Buy American Provision.



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- f. Full documentation regarding the reason an accepted item was unavailable, and the procedure used in determining acceptable alternates, will be available for audit and review. The person responsible for this documentation is the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.
 - g. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is responsible for maintaining all procurement documentation.
 - 8. Formal bid procedures will be applied on the basis of:
 - a) centralized system;
 - b) multi-school system; and/or
 - c) State contract.
 - 9. Because of the potential for purchasing more than public or non-public informal/small purchase threshold amount, or the Board approved threshold if less, it will be the responsibility of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to document the amounts to be purchased so the correct method of procurement will be followed.
- E. Noncompetitive Proposal Procedures

If items are available only from a single source when the award of a contract is not feasible under small purchase, sealed bid or competitive negotiation, noncompetitive proposal procedures will be used:

 - 1. Written specifications will be prepared and provided to the vendor.
 - 2. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for the documentation of records to fully explain the decision to use the noncompetitive proposal. The records will be available for audit and review.
 - 3. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for documentation that the actual product or service specified was received.



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4. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for reviewing the procedures to be certain all requirements for using single source or noncompetitive proposals are met.
 5. The noncompetitive micro-purchase method shall be used for one-time purchases of a new food item if the amount is less than the applicable Federal or State micro-purchase threshold (2 CFR 200.67) to determine food acceptance by students and provide samples for testing purposes. A record of noncompetitive negotiation purchase shall be maintained by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee. At a minimum, the record of noncompetitive purchases shall include: item name; dollar amount; vendor; and reason for noncompetitive procurement.
 6. A member or representative of the Board of Education will approve, in advance, all procurements that result from noncompetitive negotiations.
- F. Miscellaneous Provisions
1. New product evaluation procedures will include a review of product labels and ingredients; an evaluation of the nutritional value; taste tests and surveys; and any other evaluations to ensure the new product would enhance the program.
 2. The Board of Education agrees the reviewing official of each transaction will be the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.
 3. Payment will be made to the vendor when the contract has been met and verified and has met the Board of Education's procedures for payment. (If prompt payment is made, discounts, etc., are accepted.)
 4. Specifications will be updated as needed.
 5. If the product is not as specified, the following procedure, including, but not limited to, will take place: remove product from service; contact vendor for approved alternate product; or remove product from bid.
- G. Emergency Purchases
1. If it is necessary to make a one-time emergency procurement to continue service or obtain goods, and the public exigency or emergency will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation, the purchase must



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be authorized using a purchase order signed by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. The emergency procedures to be followed for such purchases shall be those procedures used by the school district for other emergency purchases consistent with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-7. All emergency procurements shall be approved by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. At a minimum, the following emergency procurement procedures shall be documented to include, but not be limited to: item name; dollar amount; vendor; and reason for emergency.

H. Purchasing Goods and Services – Cooperative Agreements, Agents, and Third-Party Services (Piggybacking)

1. When participating in intergovernmental and inter-agency agreements the Board of Education will ensure that competitive procurements are conducted in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.318 through .326 and applicable program regulations and guidance.
2. When utilizing the services of a co-op, agent, or third party the Board of Education will ensure that the following conditions have been met and considered as one source of pricing in addition to other prices:
 - a. All procurements were subject to full and open competition and were made in accordance with Federal/State/local procurement requirements;
 - b. The existing contract allows for the inclusion of additional Board of Educations that were not contemplated in the original procurement to purchase the same supplies/equipment through the original award;
 - c. The specifications in the existing contract meets their needs and that the items being ordered are in the contract;
 - d. The awarded contract requires all the Federally required certifications; e.g. Buy American, debarment, restrictions on lobbying, etc.;
 - e. The agency will confirm the addition of their purchasing power (goods or services) to the procurement in scope or services does not create a material change, resulting in the needs to re-bid the contract;



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- f. Administrative costs (fees) for participating in the agreement are adequately defined, necessary and reasonable, and the method of allocating the cost to the participating agencies must be specified;
- g. The Buy American provisions are included in the procurement of food and agricultural products; and
- h. The agreement includes the basis for and method of allocating each discount, rebate, or credit and how they will be returned to each participating agency when utilizing a cost-reimbursable contract.

I. Records Retention

- 1. The Board of Education shall agree to retain all books, records, and other documents relative to the award of the contract for three years after final payment. If there are audit findings that have not been resolved, the records shall be retained beyond the three-year period as long as required for the resolution of the issues raised by the audit. Specifically, the Board of Education shall maintain, at a minimum, the following documents:
 - a. Written rationale for the method of procurement;
 - b. A copy of the original solicitation;
 - c. The selection of contract type;
 - d. The bidding and negotiation history and working papers;
 - e. The basis for contractor selection;
 - f. Approval from the State agency to support a lack of competition when competitive bids or offers are not obtained;
 - g. The basis for award cost or price;
 - h. The terms and conditions of the contract;
 - i. Any changes to the contract and negotiation history;
 - j. Billing and payment records;



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- k. A history of any contractor claims;
- l. A history of any contractor breaches; and
- m. Any other documents as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:18A – Public School Contracts Law.

J. Code of Conduct for Procurement

1. All procurements must ensure there is open and free competition and adhere to the most restrictive Federal, State, and local requirements. The Board of Education seeks to conduct all procurement procedures in compliance with stated regulations and to prohibit conflicts of interest and actions of employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts. All procurements will be in accordance with this Policy and all applicable provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A – Public School Contracts Law.
2. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a Federal, State, or local award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent; any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner; or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.
3. The officers, employees, and agents of the non-Federal entity may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, non-Federal entities may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value.
4. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the non-Federal entity. Based on the severity of the infraction, the penalties could include a written reprimand to their personnel file, a suspension with or without pay, or termination.



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5. All questions and concerns regarding procurement solicitations, contract evaluations, and contract award, shall be directed to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.
- K. Food Service Management Company (FSMC)
1. In the operation of the school district's food service program, the school district shall ensure that a FSMC complies with the requirements of the Program Agreement, the school district's Free and Reduced School Lunch Policy Statement, all applicable USDA program policies and regulations, and applicable State and local laws. In order to operate an a la carte food service program, the FSMC shall agree to offer free, reduced price, and full price reimbursable meals to all eligible children.
 2. The school district shall monitor the FSMC billing invoices to ensure compliance with Federal and State procurement regulations.
 3. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5a.(22), RFPs are required in all solicitations for a FSMC.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A – Public School Contracts Law
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
“Procurement Procedures for School Food
Authorities” Model Policy – September 2018

APPENDIX

FEDERAL FUNDS PROCUREMENT METHOD SELECTION CHART		
THERE ARE TWO (2) PROCUREMENT METHODS, FORMAL AND INFORMAL. THE METHOD THE SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES (SFA) NEEDS TO USE DEPENDS ON TWO (2) FACTORS, THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT AND WHETHER THE SFA IS A PUBLIC/CHARTER OR NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL.		
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC/CHARTER SCHOOLS PURCHASING THRESHOLDS		
AMOUNT	ACTIVITY	PROCUREMENT METHOD
INFORMAL PROCUREMENT		
Below \$4,350 without QPA	N.J.S.A 18A:18A-3	Sound Business Practice *
Below \$6,000 with QPA	APPLIES TO PURCHASES BELOW THE QUOTATION THRESHOLDS	
SMALL PURCHASE QUOTATION PROCEDURES		
	N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37	



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\$4,351 OR \$6,001 up to \$29,000 or \$40,000	ANY PURCHASE EXCEEDING QUOTATION THRESHOLDS REQUIRES A QUOTE UP TO THE APPLICABLE N.J.S.A. BID THRESHOLDS OF \$29,000 (without a QPA*) OR \$40,000 (with a QPA*)	Quotation using SFA Internal Procurement Procedures
NOTE: ANNUAL AGGREGATE AMOUNTS		
FORMAL PROCUREMENT		
\$29,000 or \$40,000 and above	N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 Bid Threshold without a QPA* - \$29,000 Bid Threshold with a QPA* - \$40,000	Bid - Invitation for Bid (IFB) OR Request for Proposal (RFP)
* QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT		
NEW JERSEY NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL PURCHASING THRESHOLDS		
AMOUNT	ACTIVITY	PROCUREMENT METHOD
INFORMAL PROCUREMENT		
Below \$10,000 *	Micro - purchases 2 CFR 200.320(a) Single Transaction aggregate cost less than \$10,000	Sound Business Practice *
* Or LESS than \$10,000 if local SFA Procurement Policies are more restrictive		
\$10,001 - \$249,999	Small purchase procedures 2 CFR 200.320(b)	Quotation using SFA Internal Procurement Procedures
FORMAL PROCUREMENT		
\$250,000 and above	As per Federal requirements in 2 CFR Parts 200.317 - 200.326	Bid - Invitation for Bid (IFB) OR Request for Proposal (RFP)

Note: The Federal Funds Procurement Method Selection Chart is subject to change in accordance with the schedule set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 "Public School Contracts Law". A "Qualified Purchasing Agent" must be qualified in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9. In order to track updates to this Chart, the source document can be located on the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's website under "Forms and Publications" it is titled, "State Agency Form #358."

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