

RSU 16 (Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland)

Policy Code: *DJ* msm

Adopted: *July 2013*

Revised: *December 2017*

BIDDING/PURCHASING REQUIREMENTS

The RSU 16 School Board expects all purchases made by RSU 16 to be consistent with applicable laws and sound business practices. The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing and implementing administrative procedures for bidding and purchasing consistent with this policy.

This policy is intended solely as an internal guide to purchasing by RSU 16. It does not afford any vendor any property or contractual rights against RSU 16. No vendor shall have any enforceable rights against RSU 16 based upon this policy or alleged violations of this policy. No vendor shall have any rights against RSU 16 until such time as a written contract between the vendor and RSU 16 is executed by the vendor and an authorized representative of RSU 16.

I. Bidding/Purchasing Required by Law

A. Maine Law

Maine law requires the Board to competitively bid property and casualty insurance; school bus and transportation contracts in excess of \$4,000; school building construction, alterations and repairs over \$25,000 (except contracts for professional architectural and engineering services); and bond anticipation notes for state-subsidized school construction projects and lease purchase financings of buildings whose lease purchase costs qualify for state subsidy.

B. Procurement Methods for Federally Funded Projects

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for developing, updating as necessary, and implementing a written administrative procedures manual (hereafter, the "Federal Procurement Manual") to govern the procurement and purchase of property, goods, and services using any federal award that is subject to the Uniform Grant Guidance, codified at 2 CFR Part 200 ("UGG Federal Award"). The Federal Procurement Manual shall be consistent with all applicable federal laws and rules.

A "federal award" is any federal financial assistance (including cost-reimbursement contracts) that RSU 16 receives either directly from a federal agency or indirectly from a pass-through entity such as the State education department. *See* 2 CFR § 200.38. Most, but not all, federal awards received by RSU 16 are subject to the Uniform Grant Guidance. To confirm whether a federal award is subject to the Uniform Grant Guidance, review the terms and conditions of the applicable grant agreement or cooperative agreement and the applicability provisions of the Uniform Grant Guidance, codified at 2 CFR § 200.101.

Notwithstanding any policy provision to the contrary, the procurement and purchase of property, goods, and services using a UGG Federal Award, in whole or in part, must comply with the Federal Procurement Manual. Wherever this policy or any of RSU 16's administrative procedures are inconsistent with federal laws or rules, the provisions of the federal laws or rules shall control.

II. Bidding/Purchasing Not Required by Law

Where bidding is not required by law, it shall be the policy of RSU 16 to competitively bid purchases of equipment, supplies, materials or services over \$10,000 provided that it is practical and cost-effective to specify the materials or services with sufficient particularity to allow meaningful comparison of bids. If competitive bidding is not utilized, the Superintendent may seek Requests for Proposals (RFP) for purchases equal to or over \$5,000. An RFP identifies the need RSU 16 intends to meet, but permits the vendor to propose the manner in which the work is to be performed and the materials to be used.

The Superintendent may forego the competitive bid or RFP process for purchases only when he/she determines that quality, expertise, time factors, or other important considerations outweigh the possible benefits of bidding or requesting proposals. In each such case, the Board shall be informed of the Superintendent's decision and the reasons for it in advance of entering into a contract.

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III. Procedures for Bidding and Requesting Proposals

The method of notification that RSU 16 uses to solicit bids and proposals shall be reasonably designed to attract qualified vendors. Depending upon the circumstances, such notification may include public advertising and/or mailing of notices to potential vendors (in the case of RFPs).

Competitive Bid Procedures

Unless other RFP procedures are required by law, RSU 16 shall use the following procedures when soliciting requests for proposals:

- A. **Solicitation.** The solicitation shall specify the deadline for submitting bids and the time and place of bid opening. Bid alternates shall be permitted at the discretion of the Superintendent. The solicitation shall reserve the right of RSU 16 to reject any or all bids, and to waive technical or immaterial non-conformities in bids if in the best interest RSU 16, and to exercise judgment in evaluating bids.
- B. **Written bids.** Bids shall be in writing, sealed with outside envelope or wrapper plainly marked “Bid, not to be opened until (insert appropriate date),” and mailed or filed with the Superintendent.
- C. **Time of opening.** A School Board member or employee of RSU 16 may not open a bid until the appointed time.
- D. **Public opening.** At the time and place stated in the public notice, and open to the public, all bids shall be opened by the Superintendent or, in the Superintendent’s absence or disability, by any School Board member designated for the purpose by the Chair of the School Board.
- E. **Reading.** If any members of the public who are not School Board members or employees of RSU 16 or if any representatives of the press are present, bids shall, at that time, either be made available for examination by them or shall be read aloud in a manner to be heard plainly by those in attendance.
- F. **Awards.** In general, the School Board will award contracts to the lowest, responsible bidder which the Superintendent and School Board deem can satisfactorily fulfill the contract.

RFP Procedures

Unless other RFP procedures are required by law, RSU 16 shall use the following procedures when soliciting requests for proposals:

- A. **Solicitation.** The solicitation shall specify the deadline for submitting responses to the RFP and the time and place of proposal opening. The solicitation shall reserve the right of RSU 16 to reject any or all proposals, and to waive technical or immaterial non-conformities in proposals if in the best interest of RSU 16, and to exercise judgment in evaluating proposals.
- B. **Written Proposals.** Proposals should be submitted in plain envelopes clearly marked “Proposal, not to be opened until (state time and date).” The RFP shall state the time and date that proposals shall be opened, and no proposals shall be opened before that time. Public opening is not required.
- C. **Evaluation and Awards.** Proposals are to be evaluated based on criteria appropriate for the project in question, and the contract will be awarded to the vendor whom the Superintendent and/or School Board deem best able to meet the requirements of RSU 16.

Legal Reference: 5 MRSA § 1743-A (ALL)
20-A MRSA §§ 1001(14), 5401(13)(D); 5402 (ALL)
20-A MRSA § 1314 (MSAD)
20-A MRSA § 1492 (RSU)
Me. DOE Rule Ch. 61 (Rules for Major Capital School Improvement Projects)
Me. DOE Rule Ch. 64 (Rules for Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund Program)

Cross Reference: DJH – Purchasing and Contracting; Procurement Staff Code of Conduct

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DJH-R – Federal Procurement Manual

SIGNATURE BLOCK:

RSU #16 School Board

Mary Martin, Chair

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Joe Parent, Vice Chair

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Jennifer Boenig

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Tina Love

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Norm Davis

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Ed Rabasco, Jr.

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Melissa Hodgkin

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Steve Holbrook

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Julie Rioux

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