

**ARIZONA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE  
TITLE 7. EDUCATION  
CHAPTER 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**ARTICLE 10. SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCUREMENT  
IN GENERAL**

**R7-2-1001. Definitions**

In Articles 10 and 11, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Acceptance period" means the period of time specified in the solicitation that a bid or proposal is irrevocable, except as specified in R7-2-1030.
2. "Actual energy production" means the actual amount of energy that flows from the energy production measure on an annual basis as measured by a meter in kilowatt hours alternating current.
3. "Advantageous to the school district" means in the best interest of the school district, but does not necessarily mean lowest bid/cost.
4. "Affiliate" means any person whose governing instruments require it to be bound by the decision of another person or whose governing board includes enough voting representatives of the other person to cause or prevent action, whether or not the power is exercised. It also may include persons doing business under a variety of names, or where there is a parent-subsidary relationship between persons.
5. "Alternative project delivery methods for construction" means construction-manager-at-risk, design-build, and job-order-contracting construction services.
6. "Architect services," "engineer services," "land surveying services," "assayer services," "geologist services" and "landscape architect services" means those professional services within the scope of the practice of those services as provided in A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 1, Article 1.
7. "Award" means a determination by the school district that it is entering into a contract with one or more bidders or offerors.
8. "Bid" means a response to an invitation for bids and includes an offer to contract with the school district.
9. "Bidder" means a person submitting a bid in response to an invitation for bids.
10. "Brand name or equal specification" means a written description that uses one or more manufacturers' names or catalog numbers to describe the standard of quality, performance, and other characteristics needed to meet the school district's requirements, and that provides for the submission of equivalent products.
11. "Brand name specification" means a written description limited to one or more items by manufacturers' names or catalog numbers.
12. "Business" means any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint stock company, joint venture or any other private legal entity.
13. "Change order" means a written order that is approved by the governing board and that directs the contractor to make changes that the changes clause of the contract authorizes the governing board to order.
14. "Clergy" means a minister of a religion.
15. "Coefficient" means the contractor's price adjustment to the unit price in a job order contract. Several coefficients may apply to the unit price book.

16. "Construction":
  - a. Means the process of building, altering, repairing, improving or demolishing any school district structure or building, or other public improvements of any kind to any public real property.
  - b. Construction does not include:
    - i. The routine operation, routine repair or routine maintenance of existing facilities, structures, buildings or real property.
    - ii. The investigation, characterization, restoration or remediation due to an environmental issue of existing facilities, structures, buildings or real property.
17. "Construction-manager-at-risk" means a project delivery method in which:
  - a. There is a separate contract for design services and a separate contract for construction services, except that instead of a single contract for construction services, the school district may elect separate contracts for preconstruction services during the design phase, for construction during the construction phase and for any other construction services.
  - b. The contract for construction services may be entered into at the same time as the contract for design services or at a later time.
  - c. Design and construction of the project may be either:
    - i. Sequential with the entire design complete before construction commences.
    - ii. Concurrent with the design produced in two or more phases and construction of some phases commencing before the entire design is complete.
  - d. Finance services, maintenance services, operations services, preconstruction services and other related services may be included.
18. "Construction services" means either of the following for construction-manager-at-risk, design-build and job-order-contracting project delivery methods:
  - a. Construction, excluding services, through the construction-manager-at-risk or job-order-contracting project delivery methods.
  - b. A combination of construction and, as elected by the school district, one or more related services, such as finance services, maintenance services, operations services, design services and preconstruction services, as those services are authorized in the definitions of construction-manager-at-risk, design-build or job-order-contracting in this Section.
19. "Contract" means all types of agreements, including purchase orders, regardless of what they may be called, for the procurement of materials, services, construction or construction services, or the disposal of materials.
20. "Contract modification" means any written alteration in the terms and conditions of any contract accomplished by mutual action of the parties to the contract.
21. "Contractor" means any person who has a contract with a school district.
22. "Cooperative purchasing" means procurement conducted by, or on behalf of, more than one public procurement unit.

23. "Cost" means the aggregate cost of all materials and services, including labor performed by school district employees.
24. "Cost data" means information concerning the actual or estimated cost of labor, material, overhead and other cost elements that have been actually incurred or that are expected to be incurred by the offeror or contractor in performing the contract.
25. "Cost-plus-a-percentage-of-cost contract" means a contract that, prior to completion of the work, the parties agree that the fee will be a predetermined percentage of the cost of the work.
26. "Data" means documented information, regardless of form or characteristic.
27. "Days" means calendar days and shall be computed pursuant to A.R.S. § 1-243.
28. "Defective data" means data that is inaccurate, incomplete or outdated.
29. "Dentist" means a person licensed pursuant to A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 11.
30. "Descriptive literature" means information available in the ordinary course of business that shows the characteristics, construction or operation of an item offered in a bid or proposal.
31. "Design-bid-build" means a project delivery method in which:
  - a. There is a sequential award of two separate contracts.
  - b. The first contract is for design services.
  - c. The second contract is for construction.
  - d. Design and construction of the project are in sequential phases.
  - e. Finance services, maintenance services and operations services are not included.
32. "Design-build" means a project delivery method in which:
  - a. There is a single contract for design services and construction services, except that instead of a single contract for design services and construction services, the school district may elect separate contracts for preconstruction services and design services during the design phase, for construction and design services during the construction phase and for any other construction services.
  - b. Design and construction of the project may be either:
    - i. Sequential with the entire design complete before construction commences.
    - ii. Concurrent with the design produced in two or more phases and construction of some phases commencing before the entire design is complete.
  - c. Finance services, maintenance services, operations services, preconstruction services and other related services may be included.
33. "Design professional" means an individual or firm that is registered by the state board of technical registration pursuant to A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 1 to practice architecture, engineering, geology, landscape architecture or land surveying or any combination of those professions and any person employed by the registered

individual or firm.

34. "Design requirements" means at a minimum:
- a. The school district's written description of the project or service to be procured, including:
    - i. The required features, functions, characteristics, qualities and properties.
    - ii. The anticipated schedule, including start, duration and completion.
    - iii. The estimated budgets applicable to the specific procurement for design and construction and, if applicable, for operation and maintenance.
  - b. May include:
    - (i) Drawings and other documents illustrating the scale and relationship of the features, functions and characteristics of the project, which shall all be prepared by a design professional who is registered pursuant to A.R.S § 32-121.
    - (ii) Additional design information or documents that the school district elects to include.
35. "Design services" means architect services, engineer services or landscape architect services.
36. "Designee" means the governing board member or school district employee who has been delegated procurement authority by the governing board as specified by board action.
37. "Detailed record" means minutes, that shall include the date, time, place, persons in attendance and a summary of what was said by whom and the decisions made. The minutes may be made either in writing or by a recording.
38. "Discussions" means an exchange or series of exchanges between the school district and a person who has submitted an unpriced technical offer or a proposal, resulting in an opportunity for the person to revise the unpriced technical offer or proposal prior to final evaluation by the school district.
39. "District representative" means a district employee or the governing board acting within the limits of the district representative's authority. There may be more than one appointed for different purposes and different procurements.
40. "Earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment" means a track-type tractor, motor grader, excavator, landfill compactor, wheel tractor scraper, off-highway truck, wheel loader or track loader, having a published manufacturer's minimum unit list price of \$50,000 or more and a minimum expected life cycle of three years.
41. "Effective utility rate" means the average price per kilowatt hour that a school district paid to its utility provider for electricity service to the facility that is the subject of the guaranteed energy production contract over the previous twelve months.
42. "Eligible procurement unit" means a public procurement unit, a nonprofit corporation, or an external procurement activity.
43. "Employee" means an individual drawing a salary from a school district and any noncompensated individual performing personal services for any school district.



44. "Energy baseline" means a calculation of the amount of energy used in an existing facility before the installation or implementation of the energy cost savings measures.
45. "Energy cost savings measure" means a training program or facility alteration designed to reduce energy consumption, which may include one or more of the measures authorized in A.R.S. § 15-213.01(R)(3), and any related meters or other measuring devices.
46. "Energy production measure" means renewable and alternative energy projects or renewable energy power service agreements.
47. "Established catalog price" means the price included in a catalog, price list, schedule or other form that:
  - a. Is regularly maintained by a manufacturer, distributor or contractor.
  - b. Is either published or otherwise available for inspection by customers.
  - c. States prices at which sales are currently or were last made to a significant number of any category of buyers or buyers constituting the general buying public for the materials or services involved.
48. "Excess materials" means any materials which have a remaining useful life but which are no longer required by the using school district in possession of the materials.
49. "External procurement activity" means any buying organization not located in this state that would qualify as a public procurement unit.
50. "Fair market value" means the price at which sales have been consummated for materials of like type, quality, and quantity in a particular market at the time of acquisition.
51. "Filed" means delivery to the district representative, school district or its hearing officer, whichever is applicable. A time/date stamp affixed to a document by the school district shall be determinative of the time or delivery for purposes of filing.
52. "Finance services" means financing for a construction services project.
53. "General Services Administration contract" means contracts awarded by the United States government General Services Administration.
54. "Governing board" has the meaning defined in A.R.S. § 15-101(13).
55. "Governing instruments" means legal documents that establish the existence of an organization and define its powers, including articles of incorporation or association, constitution, charter, by-laws, or similar documents.
56. "Guaranteed energy cost savings contract" means a contract for implementing one or more energy cost savings measures.
57. "Guaranteed energy price" means the agreed on price to be charged to the school district for each kilowatt hour alternating current of actual energy production as such may change on an annual basis as set forth in the guaranteed energy production contract.
58. "Guaranteed energy production" means the amount of energy, measured in kilowatt hours alternating current, that the qualified provider guarantees for each year of the guaranteed energy production contract.

59. "Guaranteed energy production contract" means a contract for implementing one or more energy production measures between one or more qualified providers and a school district.
60. "Guaranteed energy production shortfall" means the amount, if any, that the actual energy production is less than the guaranteed energy production in any given year.
61. "Incremental award" means an award of portions of a definite quantity requirement to more than 1 contractor. Each portion is for a definite quantity and the sum of the portions is the total definite quantity required.
62. "Interested party" means an actual or prospective bidder or offeror whose economic interest may be affected substantially and directly by the issuance of a solicitation, the award of a contract or by the failure to award a contract. Whether an actual or prospective bidder or offeror has an economic interest will depend upon the circumstances of each case.
63. "Internet" means the international computer network of both federal and nonfederal interoperable packet switched data networks, including the graphical subnetwork called the world wide web.
64. "Invitation for bids" means all documents, whether attached or incorporated by reference, which are used for soliciting bids in accordance with the procedures prescribed in R7-2-1024.
65. "In writing" has the same meaning as "written" or "writing" in A.R.S. § 47-1201(43), which includes printing, typewriting, electronic transmission, facsimile, or any other intentional reduction to tangible form.
66. "Job-order-contracting" means a project delivery method in which:
  - a. The contract is a requirements contract for indefinite quantities of construction.
  - b. The construction to be performed is specified in job orders issued during the contract.
  - c. Finance services, maintenance services, operations services, preconstruction services, design services and other related services may be included.
67. "Legal counsel" means a person licensed as an attorney by the Arizona Supreme Court.
68. "Life cycle" means the useful life of the earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment to the original using school district.
69. "Local public procurement unit" means any political subdivision, any agency, board, department or other instrumentality of such political subdivision, and any nonprofit corporation created solely for the purpose of administering a cooperative purchase under Articles 10 and 11.
70. "Maintenance services" means routine maintenance, repair and replacement of existing facilities, structures, buildings or real property.
71. "Materials" means all property, including equipment, supplies, printing, insurance and leases of property, but does not include land, a permanent interest in land or real property or leasing space.
72. "May" denotes the permissive.

73. "Minor informalities" means mistakes, excluding judgmental errors, that have negligible effect on price, quantity, quality, delivery or other contractual terms and the waiver or correction of such mistake does not prejudice other bidders or offerors.
74. "Multiple award" means award of multiple contracts for identical or similar materials or services to more than one bidder or offeror.
75. "Multistep sealed bidding" means a 2-phase process consisting of a technical first phase composed of one or more steps in which bidders submit unpriced technical offers to be evaluated by the school district and a second phase in which those bidders whose technical offers are determined to be acceptable during the first phase have their price bids considered.
76. "Negotiation" means an exchange or series of exchanges between the school district and a person with a goal of establishing the terms, conditions and prices in a contract between the school district and the person, where such negotiation is authorized in Articles 10 and 11.
77. "Nonexpendable materials" means all tangible materials which have an original acquisition cost over an amount set by regulation and a probable useful life of more than one year.
78. "Nonprofit corporation" means any nonprofit corporation as designated by the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3) through 501(c)(6) or under section 115, if created by two or more local public procurement units, and includes certified nonprofit agencies that serve individuals with disabilities as defined in A.R.S. § 41-2636.
79. "Offeror" means a person submitting a proposal in response to a request for proposals.
80. "Operations services" means routine operation of existing facilities, structures, buildings or real property.
81. "Outright purchase" means the initial cost to the school district for the earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment, including all vendor charges and financing costs.
82. "Owner" means the school district.
83. "Paper" means newspaper, high-grade office paper, fine paper, bond paper, offset paper, xerographic paper, duplicator paper and related types of cellulosic material containing not more than ten percent by weight or volume of noncellulosic material such as laminates, binders, coatings or saturants.
84. "Paper product" means paper items or commodities, including paper napkins, towels, corrugated paper and related types of cellulosic products containing not more than ten percent by weight or volume of noncellulosic material such as laminates, binders, coatings or saturates.
85. "Person" means any corporation, business, individual, union, committee, club, other organization or group of individuals.
86. "Physician" means a person licensed pursuant to A.R.S. Title 32, Chapters 7, 8, 13, 14, 15.1, 16, or 17.

87. "Post-consumer material" means a discard generated by a business or residence that has fulfilled its useful life. Post-consumer material does not include discards from industrial or manufacturing processes.
88. "Posted prices" means the sale price determined by the school district to be fair market value.
89. "Preconstruction services" means services and other activities during the design phase.
90. "Pricing data" means information concerning prices, including profit, for materials, services or construction substantially similar to those being procured under a contract or subcontract. In this definition, "prices" refers to offered selling prices, historical selling prices or current selling prices of the items being purchased.
91. "Prime contractor" means a general contractor, who contracts with a property owner and, in turn, employs a subcontractor, or subcontractors, to perform some or all of the work.
92. "Procurement" means buying, purchasing, renting, leasing or otherwise acquiring any materials, services, construction or construction services. Procurement also includes all functions that pertain to the obtaining of any material, service, construction, or construction services, including description of requirements, selection and solicitation of sources, preparation and award of contract, and all phases of contract administration.
93. "Procurement file" means the official procurement records of the school district.
94. "Proposal" means a response to a request for proposals and includes an offer to contract with the school district.
95. "Proprietary specification" means a specification that describes a material made and marketed by a person having the exclusive right to manufacture and sell such material and excludes other material with similar quality, performance or functional characteristics from being responsive to the solicitation.
96. "Public procurement unit" means either a local public procurement unit, the Arizona Department of Administration, any other state or an agency of the United States.
97. "Public service corporation" means all corporations other than municipal engaged in furnishing gas, electricity, or water and subject to regulation as a utility by the Arizona Corporation Commission.
98. "Purchase description" means the words used in a solicitation to describe the materials, services or construction for purchase and includes specifications attached to, or made a part of, the solicitation.
99. "Purchase requisition" means that document, or electronic transmission, whereby a school district requests that a contract be entered into for a specific need, and may include, but is not limited to, the description of the requested item, delivery schedule, transportation data, criteria for evaluation, suggested source of supply and information supplied for the making of any written determination required by Articles 10 and 11.
100. "Qualified products list" means an approved list of materials or construction items described by model or catalog numbers that, prior to competitive solicitation, the governing board has determined will meet the applicable specification requirement.

101. "Qualified select bidders list" means a selection process for establishing a list of best-qualified prime contractors or construction material suppliers for a specific, single project. The selection process is based upon listed evaluation criteria and conducted through a request for qualifications. Once the selection process is complete, the qualified bidders are invited to submit a sealed competitive bid based upon architectural/engineering plans and specifications or material specifications.
102. "Reasonably susceptible of being awarded a contract" means those proposals that the school district determines are subject to award after the initial review of all original proposals.
103. "Recycled paper" means paper products which have been manufactured from materials otherwise destined for the waste stream and which contain at least forty percent recovered wastepaper with ten percent of that being post-consumer material.
104. "Regional award" means an award of portions of the total requirement by geographic region.
105. "Request for information" means all documents issued to vendors for the sole purpose of seeking information about the availability in the commercial marketplace of materials or services.
106. "Request for proposals" means all documents, whether attached or incorporated by reference, which are used for soliciting proposals in accordance with procedures prescribed in R7-2-1042.
107. "Request for qualifications" means all documents, whether attached or incorporated by reference, which are used for soliciting statements of qualifications in accordance with procedures prescribed in R7-2-1101, R7-2-1106, R7-2-1108 or R7-2-1117.
108. "Residual value" means the guaranteed minimum market value of the earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment at the end of the life cycle of the equipment being procured, as determined by a guaranteed minimum value offered by the vendor or other parties in its bid.
109. "Responsible bidder or offeror" means a person who at the time of contract award has the capability to perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance.
110. "Responsive bidder or offeror" means a person who submits a bid or proposal which conforms in all material respects to the invitation for bids or request for proposals.
111. "Reverse auction" means a procurement method in which bidders are invited to bid on supplying specified materials over the Internet in a real-time competitive bidding event.
112. "School district" has the meaning defined in A.R.S. § 15-101(21), whose authority is exercised by the governing board or its designee.
113. "Services" means the furnishing of labor, time or effort by a contractor or subcontractor that does not involve the delivery of a specific end product other than required reports and performance. Services does not include employment agreements or collective bargaining agreements.

114. "Shall" denotes the imperative.
115. "Solicitation" means an invitation for bids, an invitation to submit technical offers, a request for proposals, a request for qualification, or any other invitation or request by which the school district invites a person to participate in a procurement.
116. "Specification" means any description of the physical or functional characteristics, or of the nature of a material, service or construction item. Specification may include a description of any requirement for inspecting, testing or preparing a material, service or construction item for delivery.
117. "Specified professional services" means services of an architect, engineer, land surveyor, assayer, geologist and landscape architect and any combination of those services.
118. "Standard commercial material" means material that, in the normal course of business, is customarily maintained in stock or readily available by a manufacturer, distributor or dealer for the marketing of such material.
119. "Statement of qualifications" means a response to a request for qualifications issued pursuant to R7-2-1101, R7-2-1106, R7-2-1108 or R7-2-1117, or unsolicited qualifications submitted pursuant to R7-2-1062 or R7-2-1122, and does not include an offer to contract with the school district.
120. "Subcontractor" means a person who contracts to perform work or render service to a contractor or to another subcontractor as a part of a contract with a school district.
85121. "Surplus materials" means any materials that no longer have any use to the school district or materials acquired from the United States government. This includes obsolete materials, scrap materials and nonexpendable materials that have completed their useful life.
122. "Suspension" means an action taken by the governing board under R7-2-1168 temporarily disqualifying a person from participating in school district procurements.
123. "Technical offer" means unpriced written information from a prospective contractor stating the manner in which the prospective contractor intends to perform certain work, its qualifications and its terms and conditions.
124. "Total life cycle cost" means total school district costs and financing costs throughout the life cycle of the earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment being purchased less residual value.
125. "Total school district costs" means costs to the school district for the earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment, including repair costs, present value of monies, vendor charges, and all other identifiable school district costs that may be incurred.
126. "Unit price" means the price published in the unit price book for a specific construction or construction related task. Each unit price is comprised of labor, equipment, or material costs to accomplish a specific task, and shall be defined in the contract.
127. "Unit price book" means a comprehensive listing of specific construction related tasks together with a specific unit of measurement and a unit price.

128. "Vendor charges" means the costs of all vendor support, materials, transportation, and all other identifiable costs associated with the vendor's proposal or bid.
129. "Vendor support" means services provided by the vendor for items such as consulting, education and training.
130. "Wastepaper" means recyclable paper and paperboard, including high-grade office paper, computer paper, fine paper, bond paper, offset paper, xerographic paper, duplicator paper and corrugated paper.

#### **R7-2-1002. Applicability**

- A. Articles 10 and 11 apply to every expenditure of public monies, including federal assistance monies and grants, by a school district as specified in A.R.S. § 15-213(A) for the procurement of all construction, materials and services when the total procurement cost exceeds the aggregate dollar amount specified in A.R.S. § 41-2535(A). If procurement involves the expenditure of federal assistance or contract monies, the school district shall comply with federal law and authorized regulations which are mandatorily applicable and which are not presently reflected in Articles 10 and 11.
- B. Articles 10 and 11 apply to the disposal of school district materials regardless of value. C. Nothing in Articles 10 and 11 shall prevent any governing board from complying with the terms and conditions of any grant, gift, bequest or cooperative agreement.
- D. Articles 10 and 11 do not apply to:
  1. Agreements for providing career and technological education and vocational education pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-789;
  2. Contracts between a school district and other governments, including intergovernmental agreements and contracts pursuant to A.R.S. § 11-952, except as provided by R7-2-1191 through R7-2-1196;
  3. Purchases for amounts not exceeding the aggregate dollar amount specified in A.R.S. § 41-2535(A). Such procurements shall comply with the guidelines prescribed by the Auditor General in the Uniform System of Financial Records pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-271(C);
  4. Contracts for professional witnesses if the purpose of such contracts is to provide for professional services or testimony relating to an existing or probable judicial or administrative proceeding in which the school district is or may become a party;
  5. Agreements negotiated by legal counsel representing the school district in settlement of litigation or threatened litigation;
  6. Expenditures from student activity monies as defined in A.R.S. § 15-1121, if no district funds are involved;
  7. Expenditures for common school textbooks as defined in A.R.S. § 15-721(G);
  8. The placement of a pupil in a private school that provides special education services if such placement is prescribed in the pupil's individualized education program and the private school has been approved by the Department of Education Division of Special Education pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-765(D);

9. Purchases of any products, materials and services directly from Arizona Industries for the Blind, certified nonprofit agencies that serve individuals with disabilities as defined in A.R.S. § 41-2636(G), and Arizona Correctional Industries if the delivery and quality of the products, materials or services meet the school district's reasonable requirements;
  10. The decision to participate in programs pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-382. A program authorized by A.R.S. § 15-382 is not required to engage in competitive bidding for the services necessary to administer the program or for the purchase of insurance or reinsurance;
  11. The purchase of water, gas or electric utilities from a public service corporation. This exemption expressly does not apply to guaranteed energy cost savings contracts and guaranteed energy production contracts subject to A.R.S. § 15-213.01 and A.R.S. § 15-213.03; and
  12. Purchases of professional certifications, professional memberships and conference registrations.
- E. Unless displaced by the particular provisions of Articles 10 and 11, the principles of law and equity, including the Uniform Commercial Code of this state, the common law of contracts as applied in this state and law relative to agency, fraud, misrepresentation, duress, coercion, and mistake supplement the provisions of Articles 10 and 11.

#### **R7-2-1003. General provisions**

- A. The school district shall not award a contract or incur an obligation on behalf of the school district unless it is reasonable to believe sufficient funds will be available for the procurement. If sufficient funds are not available when a solicitation is issued, the solicitation shall include a statement that funds are not currently available and that any contract awarded will be conditioned upon the availability of funds.
- B. Any bid or proposal that is conditioned upon award to the bidder or offeror of both the particular contract being solicited and another school district contract shall be deemed nonresponsive or unacceptable.
- C. Except by mutual consent of the parties to the contract, no rule in Articles 10 and 11 may change any commitment, right or obligation of a school district or of a contractor under a contract in existence on the effective date of the rule.
- D. Rights and duties arising from a school district contract may only be transferred, waived or assigned upon the express written consent of both parties.
- E. School district employees and public officers shall not purchase construction, materials or services for their own personal or business use from contracts entered into by the school district.
- F. If a contractor requests to change the name in which it holds a school district contract, the school district may, upon receipt of a document indicating the name change, enter into a contract modification with the contractor to effect the name change. The contract modification shall provide that no other terms and conditions of the contract are changed.
- G. The school district may allow electronic media transactions, including an electronic record or electronic signature, if consistent with state law and advantageous to the school district.



- H. A person who serves on an evaluation committee for a procurement is subject to A.R.S. § 41-2616(C).
- I. No project or purchase may be divided or sequenced into separate projects or purchases in order to avoid the limits prescribed in Articles 10 and 11.

**R7-2-1004. Written determinations**

- A. Written determinations required by Articles 10 and 11 shall specify the reasons for the determination.
- B. The school district is authorized to prescribe methods and operational procedures to be used in preparing written determinations.
- C. The school district shall place the written determination into the school district's procurement file.

**R7-2-1005. Change orders and contract modifications**

Any change order or contract modification that exceeds \$100,000 or five percent, whichever is greater, may be executed only if the governing board determines in writing that the change order or contract modification is advantageous to the school district and the price is determined to be fair and reasonable.

**R7-2-1006. Confidential information**

- A. If a person believes that a bid, proposal, response to a request for information, technical offer, statement of qualifications, specification, or protest contains confidential trade secrets or other proprietary data not to be disclosed as otherwise required by A.R.S. § 39-121, a statement advising the school district of this fact shall accompany the submission and the information shall be so identified wherever it appears. Contract terms and conditions, pricing, and information generally available to the public are not considered confidential information under this Section.
- B. Until a determination is made under subsection (C), the school district shall not disclose information designated as confidential under subsection (A) except to school district personnel having a legitimate interest in, or persons assisting the school district in evaluation of, the bid, proposal, response to a request for information, technical offer, statement of qualifications, specification, or protest.
- C. Upon receipt of a submission designating information as confidential, the school district shall make one of the following written determinations:
  - 1. The designated information is confidential and the school district shall not disclose the information except to school district personnel having a legitimate interest in, or persons assisting the school district in evaluation of, the bid, proposal, response to a request for information, technical offer, statement of qualifications, specification, or protest.
  - 2. The designated information is not confidential.
- D. The school district may request additional information, if necessary to make the determination required by subsection (C).
- E. If the school district determines that information submitted is not confidential, the person who made the submission shall be notified in writing. The notice shall specify that a request for review of the district representative's determination may be filed within 10 days of the date of the district representative's determination.

- F. A request for review of the district representative's determination shall be filed in writing with the district representative. The request for review shall state the precise legal or factual errors in the district representative's decision. If a request for review is received:
1. The district representative shall consider the alleged legal or factual errors in the request for review of the district representative's determination and issue a final written determination to the person filing the request.
  2. Until the final determination is made under subsection (C)(2), the school district shall not disclose information designated as confidential under subsection (A) except to school district personnel having a legitimate interest in, or persons assisting the school district in evaluation of, the bid, proposal, response to a request for information, technical offer, statement of qualifications, specification, or protest.
- G. The school district may release information determined to not be confidential under subsection (C)(2) if:
1. A request for review is not received by the district representative within the time period specified in the notice; or
  2. The district representative issues a final written determination under subsection (F)(1) that the designated information is not confidential.

**R7-2-1007. Delegation of procurement authority**

- A. The governing board may, in a public meeting held in conformity with A.R.S. Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 3.1, delegate procurement authority to a designee. Any delegation shall be accomplished by adopting a governing board policy for this purpose.
1. Delegated procurement authority may include, but is not limited to the following:
    - a. Authority to make determinations required by Articles 10 and 11;
    - b. Authority to award contracts;
    - c. Authority to make sole source and emergency procurements; and
    - d. Authority to approve change orders and contract modifications.
  2. Delegated activities and functions shall be adequately separated among individuals so that one individual does not have complete authority over an entire procurement.
- B. Any delegation shall specify:
1. The title of the school district employee or employees to whom authority is delegated;
  2. The activity or function authorized;
  3. Any limits or restrictions on the exercise of the delegated authority, including the maximum cost of any procurement;
  4. Whether the authority may be further delegated;
  5. The duration of the delegation; and
  6. The conditions and procedures for revocation and modification of the delegation.

- C. No person delegated such authority may participate in any aspect of a specific procurement if the person would receive any benefit directly or indirectly from a contract for such procurement. Violation of this prohibition may result in termination or other disciplinary action.
- D. Delegation of procurement authority does not abrogate the responsibility of the governing board to ensure compliance with Articles 10 and 11 notwithstanding the fact that school district personnel were authorized to make procurement decisions.

**R7-2-1008. Procurement consultants and procurement advisory groups**

- A. The school district may contract with a procurement consultant to assist in drafting specifications, in the development of solicitations, or in the management of the procurement process. A procurement consultant may provide guidance or advice to a procurement evaluation committee, but shall not serve as a voting member of such committee. For the purposes of this Section, a school district employee or a contracted business manager or purchasing director for the school district is not a procurement consultant.
- B. The school district may appoint procurement advisory groups or evaluation committees to assist with respect to specifications, solicitation evaluations or procurement in specific areas. Members of such procurement advisory groups or evaluation committees are not procurement consultants as set forth in this Section. Non-school district employees serving on such procurement advisory groups or evaluation committees are not eligible to receive compensation but are eligible for reimbursement of expenses consistent with the school district's travel policy adopted pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-342(5).
- C. A procurement consultant, a member of a procurement advisory group, or a member of an evaluation committee who participates in any aspect of a specific procurement shall be prohibited from receiving any benefit directly or indirectly from a contract for such procurement, and shall sign a statement that the person has no interest in the procurement other than that of a disclosed remote interest, as defined in A.R.S. § 38-502, and will have no contact with any representative of a competing vendor related to the particular procurement except those contacts specifically authorized by these rules.
- D. Specifications prepared by a procurement consultant or a procurement advisory group shall comply with R7-2-1010 through R7-2-1016.
- E. The school district shall not delegate to a procurement consultant, a procurement advisory group, or an evaluation committee the authority for the award or administration of any particular contract, or over any dispute, claim or litigation pertaining thereto, and a procurement consultant or a procurement advisory group shall not be authorized to obligate the school district in any manner.

**R7-2-1009. REPEALED**

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**R7-2-1010. Preparation of specifications**

- A. Specifications shall be prepared only by the school district or by contract pursuant to R7-2-1014 and R7-2-1015. Regardless of who prepares the specifications, the governing board retains the authority to disapprove all specifications.

- B. In an emergency under R7-2-1055, any necessary specifications may be utilized by the person designated in R7-2-1055 (C) without regard to the provisions of this Section.
- C. Content of specifications.
  - 1. A specification may provide alternate descriptions of materials, services, or construction items where two or more design, functional, or performance criteria will satisfactorily meet the school district's requirements.
  - 2. To the extent practicable, a specification shall not include any solicitation term or condition or any contract term or condition.
  - 3. If a specification for a common or general use item has been developed in accordance with R7-2-1011(A) or a qualified products list has been developed in accordance with R7-2-1011(D) for a particular material, service, or construction item, it shall be used unless the school district makes a written determination that its use is not advantageous to the school district and that another specification shall be used.
  - 4. To the extent practicable, specifications shall emphasize functional or performance criteria. To facilitate the use of such criteria, the school district shall use reasonable efforts to include the principle functional or performance requirements as a part of their purchase requisitions.
  - 5. All procurement solicitations for volatile organic compound containing commodities shall include a request for substitute commodities with lower or no volatile organic content. Substitute products shall not have increased toxicity compared to the original commodity.

**R7-2-1011. Types of specifications**

- A. Specification for common or general use items. To the extent practicable, a specification for common or general use item shall be prepared and utilized when:
  - 1. A material, service or construction item is used repeatedly by the school district, and the characteristics of the material, service, or construction item, as commercially produced or provided, remain relatively stable while the frequency or volume of procurements is significant;
  - 2. The school district's recurring needs require uniquely designed or specially produced items; or
  - 3. The school district finds it to be advantageous to the school district.
- B. Brand name or equal specification. A brand name or equal specification may be used when the school district determines that use of a brand name or equal specification is advantageous to the school district.
- C. Brand name specification. A brand name specification may be prepared and utilized only if the school district makes a determination that only the identified brand name item will satisfy the school district's needs. If only one source can supply the requirement, the procurement shall be made pursuant to R7-2-1053.
- D. Qualified products list. A qualified products list may be prepared and utilized when:

1. The school district determines that testing or examination of the materials or construction items prior to issuance of the solicitation is desirable or necessary in order to best satisfy the school district's requirements.
2. The school district shall solicit as many potential suppliers as practicable to submit products for testing and examination to determine acceptability for inclusion on a qualified products list. Any potential supplier, even though not solicited, may offer its products for consideration in accordance with the schedule or procedure established for this purpose. The qualified products list shall not be modified after the solicitation is issued.
3. Inclusion on a qualified products list shall be based on results of tests or examinations conducted in accordance with requirements established by the school district.

**R7-2-1012. Proprietary specifications**

The school district shall not use specifications in any way proprietary to one supplier unless the specification includes a statement of the reasons why no other specification is practicable, a description of the essential characteristics of the specified product and a statement specifically permitting an acceptable alternative product to be supplied.

**R7-2-1013. Recycled products use**

- A. If the price of a recycled paper product that conforms to specifications is within five percent of a low bid product that is not recycled and the recycled product bidder is otherwise the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, the award shall be made to the bidder offering the recycled product. The governing board may adopt rules requiring a five percent preference for other products made from recycled materials.
- B. Specifications shall emphasize functional or performance criteria which, to the extent practicable, do not discriminate against the use of recycled materials.

**R7-2-1014. Maximum practicable competition**

- A. All specifications, including those prepared by architects, engineers, consultants and others for public contracts, shall seek to promote overall economy for the purposes intended and encourage competition in satisfying the school district's needs and shall not be unduly restrictive.
- B. Unless otherwise permitted by R7-2-1010 through R7-2-1016, all specifications shall describe the school district's requirements in a manner that does not unreasonably exclude a material, service, or construction item. Proprietary specifications shall be used only as provided in R7-2-1012.
- C. To the extent practicable, the school district shall use accepted commercial specifications and shall procure standard commercial materials.
- D. Contracts for the preparation of specifications by persons other than the school district shall require the specification writer to adhere to R7-2-1010 through R7-2-1016.

**R7-2-1015. Conflict of interest**

- A. No person preparing specifications pursuant to R7-2-1014 shall receive any direct or indirect benefit from the utilization of such specifications.

- B. The governing board may contract for the preparation of specifications with persons, including, but not limited to, consultants, architects, engineers, designers, and other draftsmen of specifications.
- C. If a person prepares a specification pursuant to subsection (B) of this Section, such person shall comply with the requirements of R7-2-1010 through R7-2-1016.

#### **R7-2-1016. Confidentiality**

- A. Specifications and any written determination or other document generated or used in the development of a specification shall be available for public inspection pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121, except to the extent that the withholding of such information is permitted or required by law.
- B. If the supplier believes that the specifications contain confidential trade secrets, test data, or similar information, a statement advising the school district of this fact shall accompany the specification in accordance with R7-2-1006.
- C. Qualified products lists test results shall be made available in a manner to protect the identity of the supplier.

#### **REVERSE AUCTIONS**

##### **R7-2-1018. Reverse Auctions**

- A. Using reverse auctions
  - 1. If a governing board determines in writing that use of reverse auctions is more advantageous to the school district than other procurement methods prescribed by Articles 10 and 11, the school district may use reverse auctions for the purchase of materials.
  - 2. The written determination shall include, but is not limited to the following information:
    - a. An estimate of the number of prospective bidders;
    - b. An explanation of how reverse auctions will foster competition;
    - c. An explanation of why reverse auctions is more advantageous to the school district than other prescribed procurement methods; and
    - d. The scope and estimated total dollar value of the proposed procurement.
- B. Reverse auction procedures
  - 1. The school district shall develop and implement procedures prior to conducting procurement via reverse auctions. The procedures shall include:
    - a. The method or methods to ensure the integrity and security of the reverse auctions;
    - b. The method or methods for registering bidders for reverse auctions;
    - c. The method or methods for notifying vendors of reverse auction opportunities;
    - d. The method or methods for receiving reverse auction bids; and
    - e. The school district official or officials authorized to conduct reverse auctions.
  - 2. School districts may require bidders to register before the date and time for opening the reverse auction for submission of bids and, as part of that

registration, require bidders to agree to any terms, conditions or other requirements of the invitation for bids.

3. Notice of a reverse auction shall be issued at least 14 days before the date and time for opening the reverse auction for submission of bids, unless a shorter time is determined necessary by the school district. If a shorter time is necessary, the school district shall document the specific reasons in the procurement file. The reverse auction notice shall include:
  - a. The school district's requirements for registering prior to the opening date and time, if any;
  - b. The designated site on the Internet for bidder registration and bid submission;
  - c. A link to the designated site on the Internet;
  - d. The scheduled date and time for opening the reverse auction for bid submission; and
  - e. The scheduled date and time for closing the reverse auction for bid submission.
4. The school district shall issue the notice of reverse auction as follows:
  - a. Mail or otherwise furnish the notice of reverse auctions to all prospective bidders registered with the school district for the specific material being solicited.
  - b. In the event there are four or fewer prospective bidders on the bidders list, publish the notice in the official newspaper of the county as defined in A.R.S. § 11-255 within which the school district is located for two publications which are not less than six nor more than 10 days apart. The second publication shall not be less than two weeks before the date and time for closing the reverse auction for bid submission. The time of publication may be altered if determined necessary by the school district. The school district shall document the basis for the altered time of publication.
  - c. In addition to the notice provided in subsections (a) and (b), the school district may give such additional notice as the school district deems appropriate, including posting on a designated site on the Internet.
5. The school district shall prepare an invitation for bids that includes:
  - a. Notice that all information submitted by bidders will be made available for public inspection following the award of the contract, except for bid prices which will be made available to other bidders and the public when submitted by the bidder;
  - b. Information for submitting bids, including:
    - i. The date and time for opening the reverse auction for bid submission;
    - ii. The date and time for closing the reverse auction for bid submission;
    - iii. The provisions for extending the period for bid submission, if any;
    - iv. Instructions for submitting bids and other required information, including the designated site on the Internet for submitting bids;
    - v. Notice that bids shall be accepted electronically at the time and in the

- manner designated in the invitation for bids;
- vi. Notice that bidders' prices shall be disclosed electronically to other bidders and the public on a real time basis;
  - vii. Notice that bidders may submit multiple prices and may reduce their bid prices until the reverse auction bidding is closed;
  - viii. Notice that the lowest price offered shall become the official bid price;
  - ix. Notice that the bidder is required to certify that submission of the bid did not involve collusion or other anticompetitive practices;
  - x. Notice that the bidder is required to declare whether the bidder has been debarred, suspended, or otherwise lawfully prohibited from participating in any public procurement activity, including, but not limited to, being disapproved as a subcontractor of any public procurement unit or other governmental body;
- c. The purchase description, specifications, delivery or performance schedule, and inspection and acceptance requirements, as applicable. If a brand name or equal specification is used, instructions that use of a brand name is for the purpose of describing the standard of quality, performance, and characteristics needed to meet the school district's requirements and is not intended to limit or restrict competition. The invitation for bids shall state that products substantially equivalent to the brands designated qualify for consideration;
  - d. The factors to be used in bid evaluations, including criteria to determine acceptability such as inspection, testing, quality, workmanship, delivery and suitability for a particular purpose. Only objectively measurable evaluation criteria shall be included in the invitation for bids. Examples of such criteria include, but are not limited to, transportation cost, energy cost, ownership cost and other identifiable costs. Evaluation factors need not be precise predictors, but to the extent possible the evaluation factors shall be reasonable estimates based upon information the school district has available concerning future use.
    - e. The contract terms and conditions, including:
      - i. Warranty and bonding or other security requirements, as applicable;
      - ii. The length of the contract and whether the contract will include an option for extension; and
      - iii. Any other contract terms and conditions;
  - f. The name of the district representative or district representatives;
  - g. The manner by which the bidder is required to acknowledge amendments;
  - h. The minimum required information in the bid;
  - i. The specific requirements for designating trade secrets and other proprietary data as confidential;
  - j. Any specific responsibility criteria;
  - k. A statement specifying where documents incorporated by reference may be obtained;



- l. A statement that the school district may cancel the solicitation or reject a bid in whole or in part if deemed advantageous to the school district;
  - m. The date, time and location of bid opening;
  - n. A description of all information that will be recorded and available for public inspection at bid opening; and
  - o. Procurement of earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment shall include as price evaluation criteria the total life cycle cost including residual value of the earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment and, to the extent practicable, outright purchase.
6. Amendments to invitations for bids shall be made in accordance with R7-2-1026.
- C. The school district shall accept reverse auction bids as follows:
- 1. At the date and time for opening the reverse auction for bid submission, the school district shall begin accepting on-line bids and shall continue accepting bids until the reverse auction is officially closed.
  - 2. Bids shall be accepted electronically in the manner designated in the invitation for bids.
  - 3. All reverse auction on-line bids shall be posted electronically and updated on a real-time basis. Bidders' prices shall be disclosed to other bidders and the public.
  - 4. The identity of competing bidders shall not be disclosed until the reverse auction bidding is closed.
  - 5. Bidders shall have the opportunity to submit multiple prices and to reduce their bid prices.
  - 6. The lowest price offered shall become the official bid price.
- D. Bids made through a reverse auction are considered to be opened when a computer generated record of the information contained in all bids that were received by the designated site on the Internet not later than the scheduled or final closing date and time are reviewed publicly by the school district in the presence of one or more witnesses at the time and place designated in the invitation for bids. Bid opening shall not be later than 24 hours after the scheduled or final closing date and time.
- E. The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder whose bid conforms in all material respects to the requirements and evaluation criteria set forth in the invitation for bids. No criteria may be used in bid evaluation that are not set forth in the invitation for bids. The amount of any applicable transaction privilege or use tax of a political subdivision of this state is not a factor in determining the lowest bidder.
- F. The school district shall not modify evaluation criteria after the closing date and time.
- G. In the event that multiple bidders submit identical prices for the same materials, bids will be considered in the order received with the first being considered to be the lowest bid.
- H. If only one bid is received in response to an invitation for bids, the school district shall proceed according to R7-2-1032.
- I. The date and time for closing a reverse auction for bid submission may be fixed or

remain open depending on the materials being bid.

- J. After the reverse auction bidding has closed, a bidder may withdraw a bid or correct a mistake in accordance with R7-2-1030. Withdrawal of bids shall also be permitted as provided in R7-2-1028.
- K. The school district shall notify all bidders of an award.
- L. A copy of the invitation for bids shall be made available for public inspection at the school district office.
- M. A record of the bid prices received and the name of each bidder shall be open to public inspection following bid opening.
- N. A record of the reverse auction shall be maintained by the school district that will include all prices offered by all bidders. This record will become part of the procurement file.
- O. Within 10 days after a contract is awarded, the school district shall make the procurement file, including all bids, available for public inspection.
  - 1. If the procurement file contains information that is confidential under R7-2-1006, a copy of the applicable documents with the confidential information redacted shall be placed in the procurement file for the purpose of public inspection.
  - 2. The unredacted original copy of the confidential information shall be placed in a sealed envelope or other appropriate container, identified as confidential information, and maintained in the procurement file.

### **COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDDING**

#### **R7-2-1021. Method of source selection**

- A. Unless otherwise authorized by law, all school district contracts shall be awarded by competitive sealed bidding as provided in R7-2-1021 through R7-2-1032, except as provided in R7-2-1018, R7-2-1033 through R7-2-1068, R7-2-1100 through R7-2-1123, and R7-2-1196.
- B. A school district may conduct competitive sealed bidding electronically, provided that the electronic competitive sealed bidding process complies with the requirements of R7-2-1021 through R7-2-1032. A determination that conducting competitive sealed bidding electronically is advantageous to the school district shall be in writing and retained in the procurement file.
- C. When using electronic competitive sealed bidding, the school district shall determine whether electronic submission of bids is required or optional and state the electronic submission requirements in the public notice and the invitation for bids.

#### **R7-2-1022. Notice of competitive sealed bidding**

- A. Adequate public notice of the invitation for bids shall be given as provided in subsection (B) of this Section or in R7-2-1024(C). If notice is given pursuant to R7-2-1024(C), notice also may be given as provided in subsection (B). In the event there are four or fewer prospective bidders on the bidders list, then notice also shall be given as provided in subsection (B). If the invitation for bids is for the procurement of services other than those described in R7-2-1061 through R7-2-1068 and R7-2-1117 through R7-2-1123, notice also shall be given as provided in subsection (B).

- B. In the event there are four or fewer prospective bidders on the bidders list, the notice shall include publication in the official newspaper of the county as defined in A.R.S. § 11-255 within which the school district is located for two publications which are not less than six nor more than ten days apart. The second publication shall not be less than two weeks before bid opening. The time of publication may be altered if deemed necessary pursuant to R7-2-1024(A).
- C. In addition to the notice provided in subsections (A) and (B), the school district may give such additional notice as the school district deems appropriate, including posting on a designated site on the Internet.

**R7-2-1023. Prospective bidders lists**

- A. The school district shall compile and maintain a prospective bidders list. Inclusion of the name of a person shall not indicate whether the person is responsible concerning a particular procurement or otherwise capable of successfully performing a school district contract.
- B. Persons desiring to be included on the prospective bidders list shall notify the school district. Upon notification, the school district shall mail or otherwise provide the person with the school district procedures for inclusion on the bidders list. Within 30 days after receiving the required information, the school district shall add the person to the prospective bidders list unless the school district makes a determination that inclusion is not advantageous to the school district.
- C. Persons who fail to respond to invitations for bids for two consecutive procurements of similar items may be removed from the applicable bidders list after notifying the person in writing. This notice shall not be required if the two invitations for bids which were not responded to both contained the notice that bidders' names may be removed from the bidders list if they fail to respond to invitations for bids for two consecutive procurements of similar items. Persons may be reinstated upon request.
- D. Prospective bidders lists shall be available for public inspection, unless the school district makes a written determination that it is advantageous to the school district that they be kept confidential or private and should not be open for inspection pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121.

**R7-2-1024. Invitation for bids**

- A. Invitation for bids shall be issued at least 14 days before the due date and time in the invitation for bids unless a shorter time is deemed necessary for a particular procurement as determined by the school district. If a shorter time is necessary, the school district shall document the specific reasons in the procurement file.
- B. Content.
  - 1. The invitation for bids shall include the following:
    - a. Notice that all information and bids submitted by bidders will be made available for public inspection following the award of the contract;
    - b. Instructions and information to bidders concerning bid submission requirements, including the means for bid submission such as, hand delivery, U.S. mail, electronic mail, facsimile, or other acceptable means, the bid due date and time, the address of the office at which bids or other documents are to be received, the bid acceptance period, and any other special information or requirements;

- c. Whether the school district will consider partial bids for award of a contract;
- d. Notification of whether the school district may award multiple contracts and the school district's basis for determining whether to award multiple contracts. If multiple contracts may be awarded, the invitation for bids shall include the criteria the school district will use for selecting vendors for each contract under the multiple award, including whether contracts will be awarded by individual line items or groups of line items, whether contracts will be awarded incrementally, or whether contracts will be awarded by designated regions or locations;
- e. The basis for determining the lowest bidder or bidders;
- f. Procurement of earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment shall include as price evaluation criteria the total life cycle cost including residual value of the earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment and, to the extent practicable, the cost of outright purchase;
- g. The purchase description, specifications, delivery or performance schedule, and inspection and acceptance requirements, as applicable. If a brand name or equal specification is used, instructions that use of a brand name is for the purpose of describing the standard of quality, performance, and other characteristics needed to meet the school district's requirements and is not intended to limit or restrict competition. The invitation for bids shall state that products substantially equivalent to the brands designated qualify for consideration;
- h. The factors to be used in bid evaluations, including criteria to determine acceptability such as inspection, testing, quality, workmanship, delivery and suitability for a particular purpose. Only objectively measurable evaluation criteria shall be included in the invitation for bids. Examples of such criteria include, but are not limited to, transportation cost, energy cost, ownership cost and other identifiable costs. Evaluation factors need not be precise predictors, but to the extent possible the evaluation factors shall be reasonable estimates based upon information the school district has available concerning future use;
  - i. The contract terms and conditions, including:
    - i. Warranty and bonding or other security requirements, as applicable;
    - ii. The length of the contract and whether the contract will include an option for extension; and
    - iii. Any other contract terms and conditions;
- j. The name of the district representative or district representatives.;
- k. The manner by which the bidder is required to acknowledge amendments;
- l. The minimum information required in the bid;
- m. The specific requirements for designating trade secrets and other proprietary data as confidential;
- n. Any specific responsibility criteria;

- o. A statement specifying where documents incorporated by reference may be obtained;
  - p. A statement that the school district may cancel the solicitation or reject a bid in whole or in part if deemed advantageous to the school district;
  - q. Notice that the bidder is required to certify that submission of the bid did not involve collusion or other anticompetitive practices;
  - r. Notice that the bidder is required to declare whether the bidder has been debarred, suspended, or otherwise lawfully prohibited from participating in any public procurement activity, including, but not limited to, being disapproved as a subcontractor of any public procurement unit or other governmental body;
  - s. Any bid security required;
  - t. A description of all information that will be recorded and available for public inspection at bid opening; and
  - u. The date, time and location of any pre-bid conference.
2. When using electronic competitive sealed bidding, the invitation for bids shall specify whether electronic submission of bids is required or optional, the electronic submission requirements, and the electronic signature requirements.
- C. The school district shall mail or otherwise furnish invitation for bids or notices of the availability of invitation for bids to all prospective bidders registered with the school district for the specific material, service or construction being bid.
- D. A copy of the invitation for bids shall be made available for public inspection at the school district office.

**R7-2-1025. Pre-bid conferences**

- A. The school district may conduct a pre-bid conference to explain the procurement requirements .B. If a pre-bid conference is conducted, it shall be not less than seven days before the bid due date and time, unless the school district makes a written determination that the specific needs of the procurement justify a shorter time. Statements made during a pre-bid conference are not amendments to the solicitation.

**R7-2-1026. Amendments to invitation for bids**

- A. An amendment to an invitation for bids shall be issued if necessary to:
- 1. Make changes in the invitation for bids;
  - 2. Correct defects or ambiguities;
  - 3. Furnish to other bidders information given to one bidder if the information will assist the other bidders in submitting bids or if the lack of the information will prejudice the other bidders;
  - 4. Provide additional information or instructions; or
  - 5. Set a later bid due date and time if the school district determines that an extension is advantageous to the school district.
- B. Amendments to an invitation for bids shall be so identified and the school district shall ensure that the amendments are distributed or made available to all persons to

whom the original invitation for bids was distributed or made available. The school district shall make a copy of the amendments to an invitation for bids available for public inspection at the school district office. If the school district posted the invitation for bids or a notice of the availability of an invitation for bids on a designated site on the Internet, then the school district shall post any amendments to the invitation for bids on the same designated site on the Internet. The school district shall also do one or more of the following:

1. Distribute the amendment, by any method reasonably calculated to ensure delivery, to all prospective bidders to whom the invitation for bids was distributed;
  2. Make the amendment available and issue a notice of amendment which contains instructions for obtaining copies of the amendment. The notice of amendment shall be distributed, by any method reasonably calculated to ensure delivery, to all prospective bidders to whom the invitation for bids was distributed. Upon receipt of such notice of amendment, it is the responsibility of the prospective bidder to obtain the amendment.
- C. Amendments to invitation for bids shall be issued within a reasonable time before bid opening to allow prospective bidders to consider them in preparing their bids. If the school district determines that the bid due date and time does not permit sufficient time for bid preparation, the bid due date and time shall be extended in the amendment or, if necessary, by telephone, facsimile, email, or other communications methods, and confirmed in the amendment.
- D. A bidder shall acknowledge receipt of an amendment in the manner specified in the invitation for bids or the amendment on or before the bid due date and time.

**R7-2-1027. Pre-opening modification or withdrawal of bids**

- A. A bidder may modify or withdraw a bid in writing at any time before bid opening if the modification or withdrawal is received before the bid due date and time at the location designated in the invitation for bids for receipt of bids.
- B. All documents concerning a modification or withdrawal of a bid shall be retained in the procurement file.

**R7-2-1028. Late bids, late withdrawals and late modifications**

- A. A bid, modification or withdrawal is late if it is received at the location designated in the invitation for bids for receipt of bids after the bid due date and time.
- B. A late bid, late modification, or late withdrawal shall be rejected, unless the late bid, late modification, or late withdrawal would have been timely received but for the action or inaction of school district personnel and is received before contract award.
- C. Upon receiving a late bid, late modification, or late withdrawal, the school district shall record the time and date of receipt and promptly send written notice of late receipt to the bidder. The school district may discard the document 30 days after the date on the notice unless the bidder requests the document be returned.
- D. All documents concerning acceptance of a late bid, late modification, or late withdrawal shall be retained in the procurement file.

**R7-2-1029. Receipt, opening and recording of bids**

- A. A school district shall maintain a record of bids and modifications received for each invitation for bids, shall record the time and date when each bid or modification is

received, and shall store each unopened bid or modification in a secure place until the bid due date and time.

1. If required to confirm a vendor's inquiry regarding receipt of its bid prior to the due date and time, a school district may open a bid to identify the vendor. If this occurs, the school district shall record the reason for opening the bid, the date and time the bid was opened, and the solicitation number. The school district shall secure the bid and retain it for public opening.
  2. One or more witnesses shall be present for the opening of a bid under subsection (A)(1).
- B. Bids and modifications shall be opened publicly at the date, time and place designated in the invitation for bids in the presence of one or more witnesses. The name of each bidder, the amount of each bid, and other relevant information deemed appropriate by the school district shall be recorded. The person opening the bids and all witnesses shall sign the record.
1. The record created in subsection (B) shall be available for public inspection.
  2. The bids shall not be open for public inspection until after a contract is awarded.

### **R7-2-1030. Mistakes in bids**

- A. If an apparent mistake in a bid, relevant to the award determination, is discovered after opening and before award, a school district shall contact the bidder for written confirmation of the bid. If the bidder fails to act, the bidder is considered nonresponsive and the school district shall place a written determination that the bidder is nonresponsive in the procurement file. The school district shall designate a time-frame within which the bidder shall either:
1. Confirm that no mistake was made and assert that the bid stands as submitted; or
  2. Acknowledge that a mistake was made and include all of the following in a written response:
    - a. An explanation of the mistake and any other relevant information;
    - b. A request for correction including the corrected bid or a request for withdrawal; and
    - c. The reasons why correction or withdrawal is consistent with fair competition and advantageous to the school district.
- B. A bidder who discovers a mistake in its bid after bid opening and before award, may request correction or withdrawal in writing and shall include all of the following in the written request:
1. An explanation of the mistake and any other relevant information;
  2. A request for correction including the corrected bid or a request for withdrawal; and
  3. The reasons why correction or withdrawal is consistent with fair competition and advantageous to the school district.
- C. After bid opening and before award, a bid mistake based on an error in judgment may not be corrected or withdrawn. Other bid mistakes may be corrected or withdrawn pursuant to subsections (D) through (F).

- D. After bid opening and before award, the school district shall either waive minor informalities in a bid or allow the bidder to correct them if correction is advantageous to the school district.
- E. After bid opening and before award, the bid may not be withdrawn and shall be corrected to the intended bid if a bid mistake and the intended bid are evident on the face of the bid.
- F. After bid opening and before award, the school district may permit a bidder to withdraw a bid if:
  - 1. A nonjudgmental mistake is evident on the face of the bid but the intended bid is not evident; or
  - 2. The bidder establishes by clear and convincing evidence that a nonjudgmental mistake was made.
- G. If correction or withdrawal of a bid after bid opening is permitted or denied under subsections (D), (F) and (J), the school district shall prepare a written determination showing that the relief was permitted or denied under this Section.
- H. Notwithstanding other provisions of this Section, after bid opening and before award, no corrections in bid prices or other provisions of bids prejudicial to the interest of the school district or fair competition shall be permitted.
- I. If a mistake in the bid is discovered after the award, the bidder may request withdrawal or correction in writing and shall include all of the following in the written request:
  - 1. An explanation of the mistake and any other relevant information;
  - 2. A request for correction including the corrected bid or a request for withdrawal; and
  - 3. The reasons why correction or withdrawal is consistent with fair competition and advantageous to the school district.
- J. Based on the considerations of fair competition and the best interest of the school district, the school district may take one of the following actions regarding a bid mistake discovered after the award:
  - 1. Allow correction of the mistake, if the corrected bid amount is less than the next lowest bid;
  - 2. Cancel all or part of the award; or
  - 3. Deny correction or withdrawal.
- K. After cancellation of all or part of an award in accordance with subsection (J)(2), if the bid acceptance period has not expired, the school district may award all or part of the contract to the next lowest responsible and responsive bidder, based on the considerations of fair competition and the best interest of the school district.

#### **R7-2-1031. Bid evaluation and award**

- A. As provided in subsection (C), the contract or contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder or bidders whose bid or bids conform in all material respects to the requirements and evaluation criteria set forth in the invitation for bids. No criteria may be used in bid evaluation that are not set forth in the



invitation for bids. The amount of any applicable transaction privilege or use tax of a political subdivision of this state is not a factor in determining the lowest bidder.

- B. A product acceptability evaluation shall be conducted solely to determine whether a bidder's product is acceptable as set forth in the invitation for bids and not whether one bidder's product is superior to another bidder's product. Any bidder's offering that does not meet the acceptability requirements shall be rejected as nonresponsive.
- C. The school district shall award the contract to the single lowest responsible and responsive bidder for all materials or services, except that the school district may make a multiple award if the invitation for bids included notification that multiple contracts may be awarded, the school district's basis for determining whether to award multiple contracts, and the criteria for selecting vendors for the multiple contracts.
- D. Before making a multiple award, the school district shall determine in writing that a multiple award is necessary and is advantageous to the school district and shall establish procedures for the use of the multiple awarded contracts to ensure that purchases are made from the contracts determined by the school district to offer the lowest cost in satisfying the school district's requirements. A multiple award shall be limited to the least number of suppliers the school district determines in writing to be necessary to meet the school district's requirements, and may include the following types of awards:
  - 1. Awards to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder for individual line items or groups of line items.
  - 2. Awards to the lowest responsible and responsive bidders for similar or identical line items or groups of line items only if the school district determines in writing that such awards are necessary to obtain the required quantity or delivery, and the awards are limited to the least number of bidders necessary to meet the school district's requirements.
  - 3. An incremental award only if the school district determines in writing that such an award is necessary to obtain the required quantity or delivery. The award shall be made to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, then the next lowest responsible and responsive bidder or bidders until the total definite quantity required is awarded.
  - 4. A regional award to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder in designated regions or locations only if the school district determines in writing that such an award is necessary to obtain the required quantity or delivery over widely scattered locations or a particular requirement is of a local nature.
- E. The procurement file shall contain the basis on which the award or awards are made.
- F. The school district shall not modify evaluation criteria after the bid due date and time.
- G. A school district may appoint an evaluation committee to assist in the evaluation of bids. If bids are evaluated by an evaluation committee, the evaluation committee shall prepare an evaluation report for the school district. The school district may:
  - 1. Accept the findings of the evaluation committee;

2. Request additional information from the evaluation committee; or
  3. Reject the findings of the evaluation committee, in which case the school district shall appoint a new evaluation committee to evaluate the existing bids or cancel the solicitation.
- H. The school district may contact a bidder to confirm the school district's understanding of the bid. Such contact shall be prior to award. The school district shall obtain written confirmation from the bidder and shall retain the confirmation in the procurement file.
- I. The contract or contracts shall be awarded during the bid acceptance period. If the bid acceptance period expires prior to award of the contract or contracts, the procurement shall be canceled, unless the bid acceptance period is extended in accordance with subsection (J).
- J. To extend the bid acceptance period, a school district shall notify all bidders in writing of an extension and request written concurrence from each bidder. To be eligible for a contract award, a bidder shall submit a written concurrence to the extension. The school district shall reject a bid as nonresponsive if written concurrence is not provided as requested.
- K. A contract may not be awarded to a bidder submitting a higher quality item than that designated in the invitation for bids unless the bidder is also the lowest bidder as determined under subsection (A). This Section does not permit negotiations with any bidder, except as provided in subsection (L).
- L. If all bids for a construction project exceed available monies as certified by the school district, and the lowest responsive bid from a responsible bidder does not exceed such monies by more than five percent, the school district may in situations in which time or economic considerations preclude resolicitation of work of a reduced scope, negotiate an adjustment of the bid price, including changes in the bid requirements, with the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, to bring the bid within the amount of available monies.
- M. If there are two or more low responsive bids from responsible bidders that are identical in price and that meet all the requirements and criteria set forth in the invitation for bids, award shall be made by drawing lots in the presence of one or more witnesses.
- N. A record showing the basis for determining the successful bidder shall be retained in the procurement file.
- O. The school district shall notify all bidders of an award.
- P. After a contract is awarded, the school district shall return any bid security provided by unsuccessful bidders.
- Q. Upon execution of the contract, if performance and payment bonds were not required, or upon receipt of the specified bonds, if performance and payment bonds were required, the school district shall return any bid security provided by the successful bidder.
- R. Within 10 days after a contract is awarded, the school district shall make the procurement file, including all bids, available for public inspection.

1. If the procurement file contains information that is confidential under R7-2-1006, a copy of the applicable documents with the confidential information redacted shall be placed in the procurement file for the purpose of public inspection.
2. The unredacted original copy of the confidential information shall be placed in a sealed envelope or other appropriate container, identified as confidential information, and maintained in the procurement file.

### **R7-2-1032. Only one bid received**

If only one responsive bid is received in response to an invitation for bids, an award may be made to the single bidder if the school district determines in writing that the bidder is responsible, that the price submitted is fair and reasonable, and that either other prospective bidders had reasonable opportunity to respond, or there is not adequate time for resolicitation. Otherwise the bid may be rejected in whole or in part as may be specified in the invitation for bids if it is advantageous to the school district. The reasons for cancellation or rejection shall be made part of the procurement file and:

1. New bids may be solicited;
2. The proposed procurement may be canceled; or
3. If the school district determines that the need for the material or service continues and the acceptance of the one bid is not advantageous to the school district, the procurement may then be conducted as follows:
  - a. The school district may follow the sole source procurement procedure if R7-2-1053 applies.
  - b. Notwithstanding any other provision of Articles 10 and 11, the school district may make emergency procurements pursuant to R7-2-1055 and R7-2-1056 if an emergency condition exists pursuant to R7-2-1055.

### **R7-2-1033. Simplified school construction procurement program**

- A. The simplified school construction procurement program is applicable to construction projects which do not exceed the maximum amount specified in A.R.S. § 15-213(A)(2).
- B. To participate in the simplified school construction procurement program:
  1. Each county school superintendent shall maintain a prospective bidders list of persons who desire to receive solicitations to bid on school district construction projects within that county. The prospective bidders list shall be maintained in accordance with R7-2-1023;
  2. The prospective bidders list maintained pursuant to subsection (B)(1) shall be available for public inspection;
  3. A performance bond and a payment bond, as required by A.R.S. § 34-222, shall be provided for contracts for construction by contractors;
  4. All bids for construction shall be opened at a public opening and the bids shall remain confidential until the public opening;
  5. All persons desiring to submit bids shall be treated equitably and the information related to each project shall be available to all eligible persons; and
  6. Competition for construction projects under the simplified school construction procurement program shall be encouraged to the maximum extent possible.

School districts shall submit information on each project to all persons listed on the prospective bidders list maintained by the county school superintendent pursuant to subsection (B)(1).

### **MULTISTEP SEALED BIDDING**

#### **R7-2-1035. Multistep sealed bidding**

- A. The multistep sealed bidding method may be used if:
1. Available specifications or purchase descriptions are not sufficiently complete to permit full competition without technical evaluations and discussions to ensure mutual understanding between each bidder and the school district;
  2. Definite criteria exist for evaluation of technical offers;
  3. More than one technically qualified source is expected to be available; and
  4. A fixed-price contract will be used.
- B. The multistep sealed bidding method may not be used for construction contracts.

#### **R7-2-1036. Phase 1 of multistep sealed bidding**

- A. Multistep sealed bidding shall be initiated by the issuance of an invitation to submit technical offers. The invitation to submit technical offers shall be issued according to R7-2-1022 and R7-2-1024(A).
- B. The invitation to submit technical offers shall include the following information:
1. Notice that the procurement shall be conducted in two phases;
  2. The best description of the material or services desired;
  3. A statement that unpriced technical offers only shall be considered in phase 1;
  4. The requirements for the technical offers, such as drawings and descriptive literature;
  5. The criteria for evaluating technical offers;
  6. The due date and time for receipt of technical offers and the location where technical offers shall be delivered or mailed;
  7. A statement that discussions may be held;
  8. A statement that only bids based on technical offers determined to be acceptable in phase 1 shall be considered for award;
  9. The name of the district representative or district representatives;
  10. Notice that all technical offers submitted will be made available for public inspection following the award of the contract; and
  11. The date, time and location of any pre-technical offer conference.
- C. A school district may conduct a pre-technical offer conference open to all persons. If a pre-technical offer conference is conducted, it shall be not less than seven days before the technical offer due date and time, unless the school district makes a written determination that the specific needs of the procurement justify a shorter time. Statements made during the pre-technical offer conference shall not be considered modifications to the invitation to submit technical offers.

- D. The invitation to submit technical offers may be amended before or after the submission of the unpriced technical offers.
1. Amendments to an invitation to submit technical offers shall be so identified and the school district shall ensure that the amendments are distributed or made available to all persons to whom the original invitation to submit technical offers was distributed or made available. The school district shall make a copy of the amendments to an invitation to submit technical offers available for public inspection at the school district office. If the school district posted the invitation to submit technical offers or a notice of the availability of an invitation to submit technical offers on a designated site on the Internet, then the school district shall post any amendments to the invitation to submit technical offers on the same designated site on the Internet. The school district shall also do one or more of the following:
    - a. Distribute the amendment, by any method reasonably calculated to ensure delivery, to all persons to whom the invitation to submit technical offers was distributed;
    - b. Make the amendment available and issue a notice of amendment which contains instructions for obtaining copies of the amendment. The notice of amendment shall be distributed, by any method reasonably calculated to ensure delivery, to all persons to whom the invitation to submit technical offers was distributed. Upon receipt of such notice of amendment, it is the responsibility of the person to obtain the amendment.
  2. Amendments shall be issued within a reasonable time before technical offer opening to allow persons to consider them in preparing their technical offers. If the school district determines that the technical offer due date and time does not permit sufficient time for technical offer preparation, the technical offer due date and time shall be extended in the amendment or, if necessary, telephone, facsimile, email, or other communications methods, and confirmed in the amendment.
  3. A person shall acknowledge receipt of an amendment in the manner specified in the invitation to submit technical offers or the amendment on or before the technical offer due date and time.
- E. Unpriced technical offers shall not be opened publicly, but shall be opened in the presence of two or more district officials designated by the school district. The contents of unpriced technical offers shall not be disclosed to unauthorized persons. Late technical offers shall not be considered except under the circumstances set forth in R7-2-1028(B).
- F. Unpriced technical offers shall be evaluated solely in accordance with the criteria set forth in the invitation to submit technical offers and shall be determined to be either acceptable for further consideration or unacceptable. A determination that an unpriced technical offer is unacceptable shall be in writing, state the basis for the determination and be retained in the procurement file. If the school district determines a person's unpriced technical offer is unacceptable, the school district shall notify that person of the determination and that the person shall not be afforded an opportunity to amend the technical offer.
- G. The school district may conduct discussions with any person who submits an acceptable or potentially acceptable technical offer. During discussions, the school

district shall not disclose any information derived from one unpriced technical offer to any other person. After discussions, the school district shall establish a due date and time for receipt of final technical offers and shall notify, in writing, persons submitting acceptable or potentially acceptable technical offers of the due date and time. The school district shall keep a detailed record of all discussions.

- H. At any time during phase 1, technical offers may be withdrawn.
- I. A copy of the invitation to submit technical offers shall be made available for public inspection at the school district office.

**R7-2-1037. Phase 2 of multistep sealed bidding**

- A. Upon completion of phase 1, the school district shall issue an invitation for bids and conduct phase 2 under R7-2-1024 through R7-2-1032 as a competitive sealed bidding procurement, except that the invitation for bids shall be issued only to persons whose technical offers were determined to be acceptable in phase 1.
- B. Unpriced technical offers of unsuccessful persons shall be open to public inspection after contract award, except to the extent set forth in R7-2-1006.

**COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS**

**R7-2-1041. Competitive sealed proposals**

- A. This Section does not apply to procurement of services of clergy, certified public accountants, physicians, dentists, and legal counsel, construction, construction services, or specified professional services. Services of clergy, certified public accountants, physicians, dentists and legal counsel shall be procured pursuant to R7-2-1061 through R7-2-1068. Construction and construction services shall be procured as provided in R7-2-1100. Specified professional services shall be procured pursuant to R7-2-1117 through R7-2-1123.
- B. As an alternative to competitive sealed bidding, competitive sealed proposals may be used in order to:
  - 1. Use a contract other than a fixed-price type;
  - 2. Conduct oral or written discussions with offerors concerning technical and price aspects of their proposals;
  - 3. Afford offerors an opportunity to revise their proposals;
  - 4. Compare the different price, quality, and contractual factors of the proposals submitted; or
  - 5. Award a contract in which price is not the determining factor.
- C. A school district may conduct competitive sealed proposals electronically, provided that the electronic competitive sealed proposals process complies with the requirements of R7-2-1041 through R7-2-1050. A determination that conducting competitive sealed proposals electronically is advantageous to the school district shall be in writing and retained in the procurement file.
- D. When using electronic competitive sealed proposals, the school district shall determine whether electronic submission of proposals is required or optional and state the electronic submission requirements in the public notice and the request for proposals.

## **R7-2-1042. Request for proposals**

- A. Competitive sealed proposals shall be solicited through a request for proposals. A request for proposals shall include the following:
1. Instructions to offerors, including:
    - a. Instructions and information to offerors concerning proposal submission requirements, including the means for proposal submission such as, hand delivery, U.S. mail, electronic mail, facsimile, or other acceptable means, the proposal due date and time, the address of the office at which proposals or other documents are to be received, the proposal acceptance period, and any other special information or requirements;
    - b. The manner by which the offeror is required to acknowledge amendments;
    - c. Notification of whether the school district may award multiple contracts and the school district's basis for determining whether to award multiple contracts. If multiple contracts may be awarded, the request for proposals shall include the criteria the school district will use for selecting vendors for each contract under the multiple award, including whether contracts will be awarded by individual line items or groups of line items, whether contracts will be awarded incrementally, or whether contracts will be awarded by designated regions or locations;
    - d. The minimum information required in the proposal;
    - e. The specific requirements for designating trade secrets and other proprietary data as confidential;
    - f. Any specific responsibility criteria;
    - g. Whether the offeror is required to submit samples, descriptive literature, and technical data with the proposal;
    - h. Evaluation factors and the relative importance of price and other evaluation factors. Specific numerical weighting is not required;
    - i. Procurement of earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment shall include as evaluation factors the total life cycle cost including residual value of the earth-moving, material-handling, road maintenance and construction equipment and, to the extent practicable, the cost of outright purchase;
    - j. A statement specifying where documents incorporated by reference may be obtained;
    - k. A statement that the school district may cancel the solicitation or reject a proposal in whole or in part if deemed advantageous to the school district;
    - l. Notice that the offeror is required to certify that submission of the proposal did not involve collusion or other anticompetitive practices;
    - m. Notice that the offeror is required to declare whether the offeror has been debarred, suspended, or otherwise lawfully prohibited from participating in any public procurement activity, including, but not limited to, being disapproved as a subcontractor of any public procurement unit or other governmental body;

- n. Any bid security required;
  - o. Any cost or pricing data required;
  - p. The type of contract to be used;
  - q. A statement that discussions may be conducted with offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being awarded a contract;
  - r. The date, time and location of any pre-proposal conference;
  - s. The name of the district representative or district representatives;
  - t. A description of all information that will be recorded and available for public inspection at proposal opening;
  - u. Notice that all information and proposals submitted by offerors will be made available for public inspection following the award of the contract; and
  - v. Whether the school district will consider partial proposals for award of a contract.
2. Specifications, including:
- a. The purchase description, delivery or performance schedule, and inspection and acceptance requirements, as applicable;
  - b. If a brand name or equal specification is used, instructions that the use of a brand name is for the purpose of describing the standard of quality, performance, and other characteristics needed to meet the school district's requirements and is not intended to limit or restrict competition. The solicitation shall state that products substantially equivalent to those brands designated shall qualify for consideration; and
  - c. Any other specification requirements specific to the solicitation.
3. Contract terms and conditions, including:
- a. Warranty and bonding or other security requirements, as applicable;
  - b. The length of the contract and whether the contract will include an option for extension; and
  - c. Any other contract terms and conditions.
4. When using electronic competitive sealed proposals, the request for proposals shall specify whether electronic submission of proposals is required or optional, the electronic submission requirements, and the electronic signature requirements.
- B. A request for proposals shall be issued at least 14 days before the due date and time for receipt of proposals unless a shorter time is determined necessary by the school district. If a shorter time is necessary, the school district shall document the specific reasons in the procurement file.
- C. Notice of the request for proposals shall be given by the school district pursuant to R7-2-1022 and R7-2-1024(C).



- D. Before submission of initial proposals, amendments to requests for proposals shall be made in accordance with R7-2-1026. After submission of proposals, amendments may be made in accordance with R7-2-1036(D).
- E. A copy of the request for proposals shall be made available for public inspection at the school district office.

#### **R7-2-1043. Pre-proposal conferences**

Pre-proposal conferences may be convened in accordance with R7-2-1025.

#### **R7-2-1044. Late proposals, modifications or withdrawals**

- A. An offeror may modify or withdraw a proposal in writing at any time before proposal opening if the modification or withdrawal is received before the proposal due date and time at the location designated in the request for proposals for receipt of proposals.
- B. Withdrawal of a proposal after proposal opening is permissible only in accordance with R7-2-1049.
- C. A proposal received after the due date and time for receipt of proposals is late and shall not be considered except under the circumstances set forth in R7-2-1028(B). A best and final offer received after the due date and time for receipt of best and final offers is late and shall not be considered except under the circumstances set forth in R7-2-1028(B).
- D. A modification of a proposal received after the due date and time for receipt of proposals is late and shall not be considered except under the circumstances set forth in R7-2-1028(B).
- E. A modification of a proposal resulting from an amendment issued after the due date and time for receipt of proposals or a modification of a proposal resulting from discussions shall be considered if received by the due date and time set forth in the amendment or by the due date and time for submission of best and final offers, whichever is applicable. If the modifications described in this subsection are received after the respective date and time described in this subsection, the modifications are late and shall not be considered except under the circumstances set forth in R7-2-1028(B).
- F. Upon receiving a late proposal, late modification, or late withdrawal, the school district shall record the time and date of receipt and promptly send written notice of late receipt to the offeror. The school district may discard the document 30 days after the date on the notice unless the offeror requests the document be returned.
- G. All documents concerning acceptance of a late proposal, late modification, or late withdrawal shall be retained in the procurement file.

#### **R7-2-1045. Receipt, opening and recording of proposals**

- A. A school district shall maintain a record of proposals and modifications received for each solicitation, shall record the time and date when each proposal or modification is received, and shall store each unopened proposal or modification in a secure place until the proposal due date and time.
  - 1. If required to confirm a vendor's inquiry regarding receipt of its proposal prior to the due date and time, a school district may open a proposal to identify the vendor. If this occurs, the school district shall record the reason for opening the

proposal, the date and time the proposal was opened, and the solicitation number. The school district shall secure the proposal and retain it for public opening.

2. One or more witnesses shall be present for the opening of a proposal under subsection (A)(1).
- B. Proposals and modifications shall be opened publicly at the date, time and place designated in the request for proposals in the presence of one or more witnesses. The name of each offeror and other relevant information deemed appropriate by the school district shall be recorded. The person opening the proposals and all witnesses shall sign the record. All other information contained in the proposals shall be confidential so as to avoid disclosure of contents prejudicial to competing offerors during the evaluation of proposals. Proposals and modifications shall be shown only to school district personnel having a legitimate interest in them or persons assisting the school district in evaluation.
1. The record created in subsection (B) shall be available for public inspection.
  2. The proposals shall not be open for public inspection until after a contract is awarded.

#### **R7-2-1046. Evaluation of proposals**

- A. Evaluation of proposals and best and final offers shall be based on the evaluation factors set forth in the request for proposals. Specific numerical weighting may be used.
1. If only one proposal is received in response to a request for proposals, the school district shall proceed according to R7-2-1032.
  2. The school district shall not modify evaluation factors or the relative importance of price and other evaluation factors after the proposal due date and time.
  3. A school district may appoint an evaluation committee to assist in the evaluation of proposals. If proposals are evaluated by an evaluation committee, the evaluation committee shall prepare an evaluation report for the school district. The school district may:
    - a. Accept the findings of the evaluation committee;
    - b. Request additional information from the evaluation committee; or
    - c. Reject the findings of the evaluation committee, in which case the school district shall appoint a new evaluation committee to evaluate the existing proposals or cancel the solicitation.
- B. As part of its initial evaluation, the school district may contact an offeror to confirm the school district's understanding of the proposal. Such contact shall be prior to the determination that a proposal is acceptable for further consideration. The school district shall obtain written confirmation from the offeror and shall retain the confirmation in the procurement file.
- C. The contract or contracts shall be awarded during the proposal acceptance period. If the proposal acceptance period expires prior to award of the contract or contracts, the procurement shall be canceled, unless the proposal acceptance period is extended in accordance with subsection (D).

- D. To extend the proposal acceptance period, a school district shall notify all offerors in writing of an extension and request written concurrence from each offeror. To be eligible for a contract award, an offeror shall submit a written concurrence to the extension. The school district shall reject a proposal as nonresponsive if written concurrence is not provided as requested.
- E. For the purpose of conducting discussions, the school district shall determine that proposals are either acceptable for further consideration or unacceptable.
- F. A proposal is acceptable if it is determined to be reasonably susceptible of being awarded a contract in accordance with the evaluation criteria and a comparison and ranking of original proposals. Proposals to be considered reasonably susceptible of being awarded a contract shall, at a minimum, demonstrate the following:
  - 1. Affirmative compliance with mandatory requirements designated in the solicitation.
  - 2. An ability to deliver goods or services on terms advantageous to the school district sufficient to be entitled to continue in the competition.
  - 3. That the proposal is technically acceptable as submitted.
- G. A proposal is unacceptable if it is determined to not be reasonably susceptible of being awarded a contract. Those proposals that have no reasonable chance for award when compared on a relative basis with more highly ranked proposals will not be reasonably susceptible of being awarded a contract. The determination shall be in writing, state the basis for the determination and be retained in the procurement file. When there is doubt as to whether a proposal is reasonably susceptible of being awarded a contract, the proposal shall be considered acceptable.
- H. If the school district determines an offeror's proposal is unacceptable, the school district shall notify that offeror of the determination and that the offeror shall not be afforded an opportunity to amend its proposal.

**R7-2-1047. Discussions with individual offerors**

- A. Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be acceptable for further consideration. Discussions may be conducted to assure full understanding of the proposal in order to obtain the most advantageous contract for the school district based upon the requirements and evaluation factors in the request for proposals. Offerors shall be afforded fair treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals.
- B. A school district shall establish procedures and schedules for conducting discussions. The school district shall ensure there is no disclosure of one offeror's price or any information derived from competing proposals to another offeror.
- C. Discussions may be conducted orally or in writing. If oral discussions are conducted, the offeror shall confirm the discussions in writing.
- D. If discussions are conducted, they shall be conducted with all offerors who submit proposals determined to be acceptable for further consideration. Proposals may not be revised during discussions.
- E. The school district shall keep a detailed record of all discussions in the procurement file.

### **R7-2-1048. Best and final offers**

- A. Only if discussions are conducted pursuant to R7-2-1047, the school district shall issue a written request for best and final offers to all offerors who submitted proposals determined to be acceptable pursuant to R7-2-1046(E). The request shall set forth the date, time and place for the submission of best and final offers.
- B. Best and final offers shall be requested only once, unless the school district makes a determination that it is advantageous to the school district to conduct further discussions or change the school district's requirements.
- C. The request for best and final offers shall inform offerors that, if they do not submit a notice of withdrawal or a best and final offer, their immediate previous offer will be construed as their best and final offer.

### **R7-2-1049. Mistakes in proposals**

- A. Prior to the due date and time for receipt of best and final offers, any offeror may withdraw a proposal in writing or correct any mistake by modifying the proposal.
- B. After receipt of best and final offers, an offeror may withdraw a proposal or correct a mistake in accordance with R7-2-1030.
- C. The offeror shall withdraw or correct its proposal in writing. The school district shall retain the written withdrawal or correction in the procurement file.

### **R7-2-1050. Contract award**

- A. As provided in subsection (B), the school district shall award a contract or contracts to the responsible offeror or offerors whose proposal or proposals are determined in writing to be most advantageous to the school district based on the factors set forth in the request for proposals. No factors or criteria may be used in proposal evaluation that are not set forth in the request for proposals. The amount of any applicable transaction privilege or use tax of a political subdivision of this state is not a factor in determining the most advantageous proposal .
- B. The school district shall award the contract to the offeror whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the school district for all materials or services, except that the school district may make a multiple award if the request for proposals included notification that multiple contracts may be awarded, the school district's basis for determining whether to award multiple contracts, and the criteria for selecting vendors for the multiple contracts.
- C. Before making a multiple award, the school district shall determine in writing that a multiple award is necessary and is advantageous to the school district and shall establish procedures for the use of the multiple awarded contracts to ensure that purchases are made from the contracts determined by the school district to be most advantageous to the school district in satisfying the school district's requirements. A multiple award shall be limited to the least number of contracts the school district determines in writing to be necessary to meet the school district's requirements, and may include the following types of awards:
  - 1. Awards to the offerors most advantageous to the school district for individual line items or groups of line items.
  - 2. Awards to the offerors most advantageous to the school district for similar or identical line items or groups of line items only if the school district determines in

writing that such awards are necessary to obtain the required quantity or delivery, and the awards are limited to the least number of offerors necessary to meet the school district's requirements.

3. An incremental award only if the school district determines in writing that such an award is necessary to obtain the required quantity or delivery. The award shall be made to the offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the school district, then to the offeror with the next most advantageous proposal, etc., until the total definite quantity required is reached.
  4. Regional awards to the offerors most advantageous to the school district in designated regions or locations only if the school district determines in writing that such awards are necessary to obtain the required quantity or delivery over widely scattered locations or a particular requirement is of a local nature.
- D. The school district shall notify all offerors of an award.
- E. The procurement file shall contain the basis on which the award or awards are made.
- F. After a contract is awarded, the school district shall return any bid security provided by the unsuccessful offerors.
- G. Upon execution of the contract, if performance and payment bonds were not required, or upon receipt of the specified bonds, if performance and payment bonds were required, the school district shall return any bid security provided by the successful offeror.
- H. Within 10 days after a contract is awarded, the school district shall make the procurement file, including all proposals, available for public inspection.
1. If the procurement file contains information that is confidential under R7-2-1006, a copy of the applicable documents with the confidential information redacted shall be placed in the procurement file for the purpose of public inspection.
  2. The unredacted original copy of the confidential information shall be placed in a sealed envelope or other appropriate container, identified as confidential information, and maintained in the procurement file.

## **SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENTS**

### **R7-2-1053. Sole source procurements**

- A. A contract may be awarded for a material, service or construction item without competition if the governing board determines in writing that there is only one source for the required material, service or construction item. The school district may require the submission of cost or pricing data in connection with an award under this Section. Sole source procurement shall be avoided, except when no reasonable alternative source exists. B. The governing board's determination shall be made before entering the contract and shall include the following information:
1. A description of the procurement need and the reason why there is only a single source available or why no reasonable alternative exists;
  2. The name of the proposed supplier;
  3. The duration and estimated total dollar value of the proposed procurement;
  4. Documentation that the price submitted is fair and reasonable; and

5. A description of efforts made to seek other sources.
- C. The school district shall, to the extent practicable, negotiate with the single supplier a contract advantageous to the school district.
- D. A copy of the written determination of the basis for the sole source procurement and any cost or pricing data shall be retained in the procurement file by the school district. The school district shall keep a record of all sole source procurements pursuant to R7-2-1086.

## **EMERGENCY PROCUREMENTS**

### **R7-2-1055. Emergency procurement procedure**

- A. An emergency condition creates an immediate and serious need for materials, services, or construction that cannot be met through normal procurement methods and seriously threatens the functioning of the school district, the preservation or protection of property or the public health, welfare or safety. Some examples of emergency conditions are floods, epidemics, or other natural disasters, riots, fire or equipment failures.
- B. An emergency procurement shall be limited to the materials, services, or construction necessary to satisfy the emergency need.
- C. The governing board shall designate a board member or members or school district official or officials authorized to make emergency procurements, and may prescribe limiting factors including maximum spending limits with regard to emergency procurements.
- D. The designated board member or district official shall:
  1. Select the contractor to perform the emergency work with as much competition as practicable under the circumstances;
  2. Obtain a price that is fair and reasonable under the circumstances;
  3. Prepare a written statement documenting the basis for the emergency, the basis for the selection of the particular contractor, and why the price paid was fair and reasonable. The statement shall be signed by the designated governing board member or district official authorized to initiate emergency procurements; and
  4. Convene a meeting of the governing board to approve the emergency procurement, unless the nature of the emergency requires that the procurement be made prior to governing board approval.

### **R7-2-1056. Emergency procurement reporting**

- A. If the nature of the emergency does not permit convening a meeting of the governing board to approve the emergency procurement, the designated board member or district official who makes an emergency procurement shall, at the first scheduled governing board meeting following the procurement, provide to the governing board a report concerning the emergency procurement including the following information:
  1. The written statement documenting the basis for the emergency, the basis for the selection of the particular contractor, and why the price paid was fair and reasonable; and
  2. Why it was impracticable to convene a meeting of the governing board.

- B. The information and documentation required in this Section shall be included in the procurement file.
- C. The school district shall keep a record of all emergency procurements pursuant to R7-2-1086.

**R7-2-1057. REPEALED**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**R7-2-1058. Request for information**

- A. The school district may issue a request for information to obtain data about services or materials available to meet a specific need. Notice of the request for information shall be issued in accordance with R7-2-1022 and R7-2-1024(C).
- B. Responses to a request for information are not offers and cannot be accepted to form a binding contract.
- C. Information contained in a response to a request for information may be withheld from public inspection until the subsequent procurement is awarded or terminated, two years from the date of the vendor's response, or upon commencement of a new procurement, whichever occurs first.
- D. There is no required format to be used for requests for information.

**SERVICES OF CLERGY, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS AND LEGAL COUNSEL**

**R7-2-1061. Competitive selection procedures for clergy, certified public accountants, physicians, dentists and legal counsel**

- A. The services of clergy, certified public accountants, physicians, dentists, or legal counsel shall be procured in accordance with R7-2-1061 through R7-2-1068, except as authorized pursuant to R7-2-1002, R7-2-1053, or R7-2-1055.
- B. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-914, contracts for financial and compliance audits and completed audits shall be approved by the Auditor General as provided in A.R.S. § 41-1279.21.

**R7-2-1062. Statement of qualifications**

- A. If the services specified in R7-2-1061(A) are needed, persons may submit and the school district may solicit persons engaged in providing the services to submit statements of qualifications on a prescribed form that shall include the following information:
  - 1. Technical education and training;
  - 2. General or special experience, certifications, licenses, and memberships in professional associations, societies, or boards;
  - 3. An expression of interest in providing a particular service; and
  - 4. Any other pertinent information requested by the school district.
- B. Persons who have submitted statements of qualifications may amend those statements at any time by filing a new statement.

**R7-2-1063. Request for proposals**

- A. Adequate notice of the need for services specified in R7-2-1061(A) shall be given by the school district through a request for proposals. The request for proposals shall be in accordance with R7-2-1042.
- B. In addition to providing notice of the request for proposals pursuant to R7-2-1022 and R7-2-1024(C), the school district shall provide notice to all persons who submitted statements of qualifications for the particular services solicited.
- C. If required to evaluate proposals, the request for proposals shall require all offerors who have not already done so to submit a statement of qualifications pursuant to R7-2-1062.
- D. Pre-proposal conferences may be convened in accordance with R7-2-1025.

**R7-2-1064. Receipt of proposals**

Proposals shall be received and opened in accordance with R7-2-1045. Late proposals, modifications, or withdrawals shall be considered in accordance with R7-2-1044.

**R7-2-1065. Evaluation of proposals**

Proposals shall be evaluated in accordance with R7-2-1046.

**R7-2-1066. Discussions with individual offerors**

- A. As part of its initial evaluation, the school district may contact an offeror to confirm the school district's understanding of the proposal. Such contact shall be prior to the determination that a proposal is acceptable for further consideration. The school district shall obtain written confirmation from the offeror and shall retain the confirmation in the procurement file.
- B. The school district may conduct discussions with any offeror in accordance with R7-2-1047. If such discussions are conducted, the school shall issue a request for best and final offers pursuant to R7-2-1048.

**R7-2-1067. Mistakes in proposals**

Mistakes in proposals shall be addressed pursuant to R7-2-1049.

**R7-2-1068. Contract award**

- A. As provided in subsection (B), the school district shall award a contract or contracts to the responsible offeror or offerors best qualified based on the evaluation factors set forth in the request for proposal and after making a written determination that the price is fair and reasonable. The school district shall not award a contract based solely on price. No factors or criteria may be used in proposal evaluation that are not set forth in the request for proposals.
- B. The school district shall award the contract to the best qualified offeror whose price is determined to be fair and reasonable for all services, except that the school district may make a multiple award if the request for proposals included notification that multiple contracts may be awarded, the school district's basis for determining whether to award multiple contracts, and the criteria for selecting vendors for the multiple contracts.
- C. Before making a multiple award, the school district shall determine in writing that a multiple award is necessary and is advantageous to the school district and shall establish procedures for the use of the multiple awarded contracts to ensure that



purchases are made from the contracts determined by the school district to be most advantageous to the school district in satisfying the school district's requirements. A multiple award shall be limited to the least number of contracts the school district determines in writing to be necessary to meet the school district's requirements, and may include the following types of awards:

1. Award to the best qualified offeror whose price is determined to be fair and reasonable for individual line items or groups of line items.
  2. Awards to the best qualified offerors whose prices are determined to be fair and reasonable for similar or identical line items or groups of line items only if the school district determines in writing that such awards are necessary to obtain the required quantity or delivery, and the awards are limited to the least number of offerors necessary to meet the school district's requirements.
  3. An incremental award only if the school district determines in writing that such an award is necessary to obtain the required quantity or delivery. The award shall be made to the best qualified person whose price is determined to be fair and reasonable, then to the next best qualified person whose price is determined to be fair and reasonable, etc., until the total definite quantity required is reached.
  4. Regional awards to the best qualified offerors whose prices are determined to be fair and reasonable in designated regions or locations only if the school district determines in writing that such an award is necessary to obtain the required quantity or delivery over widely scattered locations or a particular requirement is of a local nature.
- C. The school district shall notify all offerors of an award.
- D. The procurement file shall contain the basis on which the award or awards are made.
- E. Within 10 days after a contract is awarded, the school district shall make the procurement file, including all proposals, available for public inspection.
1. If the procurement file contains information that is confidential under R7-2-1006, a copy of the applicable documents with the confidential information redacted shall be placed in the procurement file for the purpose of public inspection.
  2. The unredacted original copy of the confidential information shall be placed in a sealed envelope or other appropriate container, identified as confidential information, and maintained in the procurement file.

## **GUARANTEED ENERGY CONTRACTS**

### **R7-2-1069. Guaranteed energy cost savings contracts**

- A. A school district may procure a guaranteed energy cost savings contract with a qualified provider through competitive sealed proposals in accordance with R7-2-1041 through R7-2-1050.
1. The request for proposal evaluation factors required by R7-2-1042(A)(1)(h) shall include objective criteria for selecting the qualified provider, including the cost of the contract, the energy cost savings, the net projected energy savings, the quality of the technical approach, the quality of the project management plan, the financial solvency of the qualified provider and the experience of the qualified provider with projects of similar size and scope.

2. Notwithstanding R7-2-1042(A)(1)(h), the request for proposals shall set forth the respective numerical weighting for each evaluation criterion.
  3. At the qualified provider's expense, the proposal shall include an independent third-party validation of cost savings calculations associated with each proposed energy cost savings measure by a licensed, registered professional engineer, with credentials from the national association of energy engineers, who has demonstrated experience in energy analysis. The school district shall approve the selection of the independent third party.
  4. A school district may enter into a guaranteed energy cost savings contract with a qualified provider if the school district determines that the energy savings project will pay for itself within the expected life of the energy cost savings measures implemented (according to the manufacturer's equipment standards), the term of the financial agreement or twenty-five years, whichever is shortest, if the recommendations in the proposal are followed. The school district shall retain the cost savings achieved by a guaranteed energy cost saving contract, and these cost savings may be used to pay for the contract and project implementation.
  5. A qualified provider is a person that is experienced in designing, implementing or installing energy cost savings measures, that has a record of established projects or measures of similar size and scope, that has demonstrated technical, operational, financial and managerial capabilities to design and operate cost savings measures and projects and that has the financial ability to satisfy guarantees for energy cost savings.
- B. In selecting a contractor to perform any construction work related to performing the guaranteed energy cost savings contract, the qualified provider may:
1. Develop and use a prequalification process for contractors.
  2. Require the contractor to demonstrate that the contractor is adequately bonded to perform the work and that the contractor has not failed to perform on a prior job.
- C. At the selected qualified provider's expense, a study shall be performed by the selected qualified provider in order to establish the exact scope of the guaranteed energy cost savings contract, the fixed cost savings guarantee amount and the methodology for determining actual savings. The selected qualified provider will provide the school district with a final study report which validates that the fixed cost savings guarantee amount will meet or exceed the cost savings calculations contained within the original proposal. The study report shall be reviewed and approved by the school district before the actual installation of any equipment. The qualified provider shall transmit a copy of the approved study report to the school facilities board and the governor's office of energy policy.
- D. The information to develop the energy baseline shall be derived from historical energy costs or actual energy measurements or shall be calculated from energy measurements at the facility where energy cost savings measures are to be installed or implemented. The baseline shall be established before the installation or implementation of energy cost savings measures.
- E. One or more school districts may enter into a financing agreement with a qualified provider or a financial institution, trustee or paying agent for the purchase and installation or implementation of energy cost savings measures. Any required

financing may be obtained as part of the original competitive sealed proposal process from the qualified provider, or from a third-party financing institution that is procured separately in accordance with Articles 10 and 11.

- F. The selected qualified provider shall provide a performance bond in accordance with R7-2-1103 (A)(1)(c).
- G. The selected qualified provider shall make public information in the subcontractor's bids.
- H. The guaranteed energy cost savings contract shall include the following:
  - 1. A requirement that, in determining whether the projected energy savings calculations have been met, the energy savings shall be computed by comparing the energy baseline before installation or implementation of the energy cost savings measures with the energy consumed after installation or implementation of the energy cost savings measures. The qualified provider and the school district may agree to make modifications to the energy baseline only for any of the following:
    - a. Changes in utility rates.
    - b. Changes in the number of days in the utility billing cycle.
    - c. Changes in the square footage of the facility.
    - d. Changes in the operational schedule of the facility.
    - e. Changes in facility temperature.
    - f. Significant changes in the weather.
    - g. Significant changes in the amount of equipment or lighting utilized in the facility.
    - h. Significant changes in the nature or intensity of energy use such as the change of classroom space to laboratory space.
  - 2. A payment schedule, with payments over a period of not more than the expected life of the energy cost savings measures implemented (according to the manufacturer's equipment standards), the term of the financial agreement or twenty-five years, whichever is shortest.
  - 3. A requirement that all payments, except obligations on termination of the contract before its expiration, be made pursuant to the terms of the financing agreement.
  - 4. A written guarantee from the qualified provider that the energy savings will meet or exceed the costs of the energy cost savings measures over the expected life of the energy cost savings measures implemented (according to the manufacturer's equipment standards), the term of the financial agreement or twenty-five years, whichever is shortest. The school district shall ensure that the contractor:
    - a. For the term of the guaranteed energy savings contract, prepares a measurement and verification report on an annual basis in addition to an annual reconciliation of savings.
    - b. Reimburses the school district for any shortfall of guaranteed energy cost savings on an annual basis.

- c. Uses the international performance and measurement and verification protocol standards or the federal energy management program standards to validate the savings guarantee.
- I. A school district may utilize a simplified energy performance contract for projects less than \$500,000. Simplified energy performance contracts are not required to include an energy savings guarantee and shall comply with all requirements in this Section except for subsections (D), (H)(1)(a) through (h) and H(4)(a) through (c).
- J. This Section does not apply to the construction of new buildings.
- K. For all projects under this Section, the school district shall report to the governor's office of energy policy and the school facilities board:
  - 1. The name of the project.
  - 2. The qualified provider.
  - 3. The total cost of the project.
  - 4. The expected energy cost savings and relevant escalators.
  - 5. The agreed on baseline in the measurement and verification agreement in both kilowatt hours and dollars.
- L. For all projects under this Section, the school district shall annually report the actual energy cost savings to the school facilities board no later than October 15.

#### **R7-2-1070. Guaranteed energy production contracts**

- A. A school district may procure a guaranteed energy production contract with a qualified provider through competitive sealed proposals in accordance with R7-2-1041 through R7-2-1050.
  - 1. The request for proposals evaluation factors required by R7-2-1042(A)(1)(h) shall include objective criteria for selecting the qualified provider, including the guaranteed energy price, the guaranteed energy production, the quality of the technical approach, the quality of the project management plan, the financial solvency of the qualified provider and the experience of the qualified provider with projects of similar size and scope.
  - 2. Notwithstanding R7-2-1042(A)(1)(h), the request for proposals shall set forth the respective numerical weighting for each evaluation criterion.
  - 3. The school district may obtain any required financing as part of the original competitive sealed proposal process from the qualified provider, or from a third-party financing institution procured separately in accordance with Articles 10 and 11.
  - 4. When submitting a proposal for the installation of equipment, the qualified provider shall include information containing the guaranteed energy production associated with each proposed energy production measure. The school district shall review and approve this guarantee before the actual installation of any equipment. The qualified provider shall transmit a copy of the approved guarantee to the school facilities board and the governor's office of energy policy.
  - 5. A qualified provider is a person that is experienced in designing, implementing or installing energy cost savings measures, that has demonstrated technical, operational, financial and managerial capabilities to design and operate cost

savings measures and projects and that has the financial ability to satisfy guarantees for guaranteed energy production, financial solvency and experience for projects of similar size and scope.

- B. In selecting a contractor to perform any construction work related to performing the guaranteed energy production contract, the qualified provider may:
  - 1. Develop and use a prequalification process for contractors.
  - 2. Require the contractor to demonstrate that the contractor is adequately bonded to perform the work and that the contractor has not failed to perform on a prior job.
- C. A guaranteed energy production contract shall include a guaranteed energy price, and a written guaranteed energy production as measured on an annual basis over the expected life of the energy production measures implemented or within twenty-five years, whichever is shorter. The school district shall ensure that the contractor:
  - 1. Prepares a measurement and verification report on an annual basis in addition to an annual reconciliation of any guaranteed energy production shortfall.
  - 2. Reimburses the school district for any guaranteed energy production shortfall on an annual basis by multiplying any energy production shortfall by either the difference between the guaranteed energy price and the effective utility rate, or an alternative method as mutually agreed on by the school district and the provider.
- D. The selected qualified provider shall provide a performance bond in accordance with R7-2-1103(A)(1)(c).
- E. The selected qualified provider shall make public information in the subcontractor's bids.
- F. For all projects under this Section, the school district shall report to the governor's office of energy policy and the school facilities board:
  - 1. The name of the project.
  - 2. The qualified provider.
  - 3. The total cost of the project.
  - 4. The expected guaranteed energy production and guaranteed energy price, including relevant escalators, if applicable, over the term of the guaranteed energy production contract.
- G. For all projects under this Section, the school district shall annually report the actual energy production and guaranteed energy price to the school facilities board no later than October 15.

## **GENERAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS**

**R7-2-1071. Reserved**

**R7-2-1072. Cancellation of solicitations; rejection of bids and proposals**

Each solicitation issued by the school district shall state that the solicitation may be canceled or bids or proposals rejected if it is advantageous to the school district.

**R7-2-1073. Cancellation of solicitation before the due date and time**

- A. Before the due date and time, a solicitation may be canceled in whole or in part if the school district determines that cancellation is advantageous to the school district. The reasons for the cancellation shall be made part of the procurement file.
- B. The school district shall notify in writing all persons to whom the original notice or solicitation was distributed by the school district. Notice shall be in the same manner as the original notice or solicitation, including posting on a designated site on the Internet, as applicable.
- C. The school district shall not open bids or proposals after cancellation. The school district may discard the bid or proposal 30 days after notice is given in accordance with subsection (B), unless the bidder or offeror requests the bid or proposal be returned.

**R7-2-1074. Cancellation of solicitation after bid or proposal opening and before award**

- A. After opening of bids or proposals but before award, a solicitation may be canceled in whole or in part if the school district determines that cancellation is advantageous to the school district. The reasons for the cancellation shall be made part of the procurement file.
- B. The school district shall notify bidders or offerors of the cancellation in writing.
- C. The school district shall retain bids or proposals received under the canceled solicitation in the procurement file. If the school district intends to issue another solicitation within six months after cancellation of the procurement, the school district shall withhold the bids or proposals from public inspection. After award of a contract under the subsequent solicitation, the school district shall make bids or proposals submitted in response to the canceled solicitation available for public inspection except for information determined to be confidential pursuant to R7-2-1006.
- D. In the event of cancellation, the school district shall promptly return any bid security provided by a bidder or offeror.

**R7-2-1075. Rejection of individual bids and proposals**

- A. A bid or proposal may be rejected in whole or in part if:
  - 1. The person responding to the solicitation is determined to be nonresponsible pursuant to R7-2-1076;
  - 2. It is nonresponsive or unacceptable;
  - 3. The proposed price is unreasonable; or
  - 4. It is otherwise not advantageous to the school district.
- B. Bidders or offerors whose bids or proposals are rejected shall be notified. A record of the rejection shall be retained in the procurement file.

**R7-2-1076. Responsibility of bidders and offerors**

- A. The school district shall make a written determination that a bidder or offeror is responsible before awarding a contract to that bidder or offeror.
- B. If the school district determines a bidder or offeror is nonresponsible, the school district shall promptly send a determination to the bidder or offeror stating the basis

for the determination. The school district shall file a copy of the determination in the procurement file.

- C. A finding of nonresponsibility shall not be construed as a violation of the rights of any person.
- D. If the school district included specific responsibility criteria in the solicitation, such criteria shall be considered in determining if a bidder or offeror is responsible.
- E. Factors to be considered in determining if a bidder or offeror is responsible may include:
  - 1. The bidder or offeror's financial, material, personnel or other resources, including subcontracts;
  - 2. The bidder or offeror's record of performance and integrity;
  - 3. Whether the bidder or offeror has been debarred or suspended; and
  - 4. Whether the bidder or offeror is qualified legally to contract with the school district.
- F. The unreasonable failure of a bidder or offeror to promptly supply information in connection with an inquiry with respect to responsibility shall be grounds for a determination of nonresponsibility with respect to the bidder or offeror.
- G. As required by A.R.S. § 41-2540(B), information furnished by a bidder or offeror pursuant to this Section shall not be disclosed outside of the school district without prior written consent by the bidder or offeror except to law enforcement agencies.

**R7-2-1077. Prequalification of contractors for materials, services and construction**

- A. Prospective contractors may be prequalified for particular types of materials, services and construction. Prospective contractors have a continuing duty to provide the school district with information on any material change affecting the basis of prequalification. Solicitation mailing lists of prospective contractors shall include the prequalified contractors.
- B. A prospective contractor need not be prequalified to be awarded a contract. Prequalification does not represent a determination of responsibility.
- C. The existence of a qualified product list pursuant to R7-2-1011(D) does not constitute prequalification of any prospective supplier of that product.

**R7-2-1078. Bid and contract security**

- A. Bid and performance bonds or other security may be required for material or service contracts to guarantee faithful bid and contract performance if the governing board determines that such requirement is advantageous to the school district. In determining the amount and type of security required for each contract, the governing board shall consider the nature of the performance and the need for future protection to the school district. The requirement for bonds or other security shall be included in the solicitation.
- B. Bid or performance bonds shall not be used as a substitute for a determination of bidder or offeror responsibility.
- C. If a bid or proposal is withdrawn at any time before bid or proposal opening, any bid security shall be returned to the bidder or offeror.

- D. After the contract is awarded, any bid security shall be returned to the unsuccessful bidders or offerors. Upon execution of the contract, if performance bonds or other security were not required, or upon receipt of the specified bonds, if performance bonds or other security were required, the school district shall return any bid security provided by the successful bidder or offeror.

**R7-2-1079. Cost or pricing data**

- A. The submission of current cost or pricing data may be required in connection with an award in situations in which analysis of the proposed price is essential to determine that the price is fair and reasonable . A contractor shall, except as provided in subsection (C), submit current cost or pricing data and shall certify that, to the best of the contractor's knowledge and belief, the cost or pricing data submitted is accurate, complete and current as of a mutually determined specified date before the date of either:
1. The pricing of any contract awarded by competitive sealed proposals or pursuant to the sole source procurement authority, if the total contract price is expected to exceed \$100,000.
  2. The pricing of any change order or contract modification which is expected to increase the total contract price which will then exceed \$100,000.
- B. Any contract, change order or contract modification for which certified cost or pricing data is required shall contain a provision that the price to the school district shall be adjusted to exclude any significant amounts by which the school district finds that the price was increased because the contractor-furnished cost or pricing data was inaccurate, incomplete or not current as of the date agreed on between the parties. Such adjustment by the school district may include profit or fee. The school district may reduce the contract price pursuant to R7-2-1081.
- C. The requirements of this Section may be waived if any of the following apply:
1. The contract price is based on adequate price competition.
  2. The contract price is based on established catalog prices or market prices.
  3. Contract prices are set by law or regulation.
  4. It is determined in writing by the school district that the waiver is advantageous to the school district. The determination shall include the reasons why the waiver is advantageous to the school district.
- D. When applicable, the solicitation shall include a notice that certified cost or pricing data shall be submitted.
- E. In an emergency, cost or pricing data may be submitted at a reasonable time after the contract is awarded.
- F. A copy of all determinations by the school district that pertain to the submission of cost or pricing data shall be retained in the procurement file.

**R7-2-1080. Refusal to submit cost or pricing data**

- A. If the offeror fails to submit cost or pricing data in the required form, the school district may reject the proposal.
- B. If a contractor fails to submit data to support a price adjustment in the form required, the school district may:



1. Reject the price adjustment; or
2. Set the amount of the price adjustment subject to the contractor's rights under R7-2-1141 through R7-2-1185.

**R7-2-1081. Defective cost or pricing data**

- A. The school district may reduce the contract price if, upon determination, the cost or pricing data are defective.
- B. The contract price shall be reduced in the amount of the defect plus related overhead and profit or fee if the school district relied upon the defective data in awarding the contract.
- C. Any dispute as to the existence of defective cost or pricing data or the amount of an adjustment due to defective cost or pricing data may be appealed as a contract controversy under R7-2-1141 through R7-2-1185. Pending appeal, the adjusted contract price shall remain in effect.
- D. If certification of either current cost or pricing data is required, the awarded contract shall include notice of the right of the school district to a reduction in price if certified cost or pricing data are subsequently determined to be defective.

**R7-2-1082. Right to inspect plant**

The school district may at reasonable times inspect the part of the plant or place of business of a contractor or any subcontractor which is related to the performance of any contract awarded or to be awarded by the school district.

**R7-2-1083. Right to audit records**

- A. The school district may, at reasonable times and places, audit the books and records of any person who submits cost or pricing data as provided in R7-2-1079 to the extent that the books and records relate to the cost or pricing data. Any person who receives a contract, change order or contract modification for which cost or pricing data is required shall maintain the books and records that relate to the cost or pricing data for five years after completion of the contract.
- B. The school district is entitled to audit the books and records of a contractor or any subcontractor under any contract or subcontract to the extent that the books and records relate to the performance of the contract or subcontract. The books and records shall be maintained by the contractor for a period of five years after completion of the contract and by the subcontractor for a period of five years after completion of the subcontract.

**R7-2-1084. Anticompetitive practices**

- A. If for any reason collusion or other anticompetitive practices are suspected among any bidders or offerors, a notice of the relevant facts shall be transmitted to the governing board and the attorney general. This Section does not require a law enforcement agency conducting an investigation into such practices to convey such notice to the school district.
- B. Upon submitting a bid or proposal, the bidder or offeror shall certify on a form prescribed by the school district that the submission of the bid or proposal did not involve collusion or other anticompetitive practices.

### **R7-2-1085. Retention of procurement records**

All procurement records shall be retained and disposed of in accordance with records retention guidelines and schedules approved by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records.

### **R7-2-1086. Record of procurement actions**

- A. The school district shall maintain a record listing all contracts made under R7-2-1053, Sole source procurements, or R7-2-1055, Emergency procurements, for a minimum of five years. The record shall contain:
  - 1. Each contractor's name.
  - 2. The amount and type of each contract.
  - 3. A listing of the materials, services or construction procured under each contract.
- B. The record shall be available for public inspection.

### **R7-2-1087. Contract clauses**

- A. The school district shall include in solicitations and contracts all contract clauses necessary to ensure the school district's interests are addressed. The school district may modify clauses for inclusion in any particular school district contract, provided that any variations are supported by a written determination that states the circumstances justifying the variation and provided that notice of any material variation is stated in the solicitation.
- B. All contract clauses shall be consistent with the provisions of Articles 10 and 11.
- C. The school district may permit or require the inclusion of clauses providing for appropriate remedies, adjustments in prices, time of performance or other contract provisions.
- D. A contract for the procurement of construction or construction services shall include a provision for the recovery of damages related to expenses incurred by the contractor for a delay for which the school district is responsible, that is unreasonable under the circumstances and that was not within the contemplation of the parties to the contract. This subsection shall not be construed to void any provision in the contract that requires notice of delays, provides for arbitration or any other procedure for settlement or provides for liquidated damages.
- E. A provision, covenant, clause or understanding in, collateral to or affecting a construction contract that makes the contract subject to the laws of another state or that requires any litigation, arbitration or other dispute resolution proceeding arising from the contract to be conducted in another state is against the public policy of this state and is void and unenforceable.
- F. A covenant, clause or understanding in, collateral to or affecting a construction contract or subcontract or a design professional services contract or subcontract that purports to indemnify, to hold harmless or to defend the promisee of, from or against liability for loss or damage resulting from the negligence of the promisee or the promisee's agents, employees or indemnitee is against the public policy of this state and is void.
- G. If a design professional provides work, services, studies, planning, surveys or other preparatory work in connection with a public building or improvement, the school

district or property owner may require that the design professional services contract or subcontract require the design professional to indemnify and hold harmless the school district or property owner, and its officers and employees, from liabilities, damages, losses and costs, including reasonable attorney fees and court costs, but only to the extent caused by the negligence, recklessness or intentional wrongful conduct of such design professional or other persons employed or used by such design professional in the performance of the contract or subcontract.

- H. A design professional services subcontract entered into in connection with a public building or improvement may also require any design professional to indemnify and hold harmless the school district or property owner and the indemnified design professional who executed the subcontract, and their respective owners, officers and employees, from liabilities, damages, losses and costs, including reasonable attorney fees and court costs, but only to the extent caused by the negligence, recklessness or intentional wrongful conduct of such design professional, or persons employed or used by the indemnifying design professional in connection with the subcontract.
- I. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the requirement of insurance coverage that complies with this Section, including the designation of the school district or property owner as an additional insured on a general liability insurance policy or as a designated insured on an automobile liability policy provided in connection with a construction contract or subcontract or design professional services contract or subcontract.
- J. Notwithstanding subsection (F), a contractor who is responsible for the performance of a construction contract or subcontract may fully indemnify a person, firm, corporation, state or other agency for whose account the construction contract or subcontract is not being performed and that, as an accommodation, enters into an agreement with the contractor that permits the contractor to enter on or adjacent to its property to perform the construction contract or subcontract for others.
- K. Except as provided in subsections (G), (H) and (I), a design professional services contract or subcontract entered into in connection with a public building or improvement shall not require that a design professional defend, indemnify, insure or hold harmless the school district or property owner or its employees, officers, directors, agents, contractors or subcontractors from any liability, damage, loss, claim, action or proceeding, and any contract provision that is not permitted by subsections (G), (H) and (I) is against the public policy of this state and is void.
- L. If any provision or condition contained in this Section conflicts with any provision of a contract between the school district and the federal government, such provision shall not apply to any construction contract or subcontract, or design professional services contract or subcontract to the extent such conflict exists, but all provisions of this Section with which there is no such conflict, shall apply.
- M. In this Section:
  - 1. "Construction contract or subcontract" means a written or oral agreement relating to the construction, alteration, repair, maintenance, relocation, moving, demolition or excavation of a structure, street or roadway, appurtenance, facility, development, or other improvement to land.
  - 2. "Design professional services" means architect services, engineer services, land surveying services, geologist services or landscape architect services or any

combination of those services performed by or under the supervision of a design professional or any person employed by the design professional.

3. "Design professional services contract or subcontract" means a written or oral agreement relating to the planning, design, construction administration, study, evaluation, consulting, inspection, surveying, mapping, material sampling, testing or other professional, scientific or technical services furnished in connection with any actual or proposed study, planning, survey, environmental remediation, construction, improvement, alteration, repair, maintenance, relocation, moving, demolition or excavation of a structure, street or roadway, appurtenance, facility, development or other improvement to land.
4. "Other persons employed or used" means a subcontractor to a contractor or design professional in any tier, or any other person or entity who performs work or design professional services, or provides labor, services, materials or equipment in connection with a construction contract or subcontract or design professional service contract or subcontract subject to this Section.

## **CONTRACT TYPES**

### **R7-2-1091. REPEALED**

### **R7-2-1092. Authority to use contract types**

Subject to the limitations of this Section, any type of contract that would be advantageous to the school district may be used, except that the use of a cost-plus-a-percentage-of-cost contract is prohibited.

### **R7-2-1093. Multiterm contracts**

- A. Unless otherwise provided by law, multiterm contracts for materials or services and contracts for job-order-contracting construction services may be entered into if the duration of the contract and the conditions of renewal or extension, if any, are included in the invitation for bids or the request for proposals and if monies are available for the first fiscal period at the time the contract is executed. The duration of contracts for materials or services and contracts for job-order-contracting construction services shall be limited to no more than five years unless the governing board determines in writing before the procurement solicitation is issued that a contract of longer duration would be advantageous to the school district. Payment and performance obligations for succeeding fiscal periods are subject to the availability and appropriation of monies.
- B. Before the use of a multiterm contract, it shall be determined in writing by the governing board that:
  1. Estimated requirements cover the period of the contract and are reasonable and continuing.
  2. Such a contract will be advantageous to the school district by encouraging effective competition or otherwise promoting economies in school district procurement.
- C. The school district shall include in all multiterm contracts a clause specifying that the contract shall be canceled if monies are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support the continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal year.

- D. If monies are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be canceled and the contractor may only be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any nonrecurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the materials or services delivered under the contract or which are otherwise not recoverable. The cost of cancellation may be paid from any appropriations available for such purposes.
- E. A contract for specified professional services shall have a term not exceeding five years after the date of contract award by the school district of the first contract under the procurement, except that the contract may continue in effect after the five year term for projects on which the rendering of specified professional services commences within the five year term.

**ARTICLE 11. SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCUREMENT (CONTINUED)**

**PROCUREMENT OF CONSTRUCTION**

**R7-2-1100. Construction project delivery methods**

- A. For the design-bid-build project delivery method, the school district shall procure:
  - 1. Design services pursuant to R7-2-1117 through R7-2-1123, except as authorized by R7-2-1053 and R7-2-1055.
  - 2. Construction by competitive sealed bidding pursuant to R7-2-1021 through R7-2-1032 and R7-2-1102 through R7-2-1105, except as authorized by R7-2-1033, R7-2-1053, R7-2-1055, and R7-2-1101.
- B. For construction-manager-at-risk, design-build and job-order-contracting project delivery methods, the school district shall procure construction services pursuant to R7-2-1102 through R7-2-1115.
- C. For construction-manager-at-risk project delivery method, the school district shall purchase design services pursuant to R7-2-1117 through R7-2-1123.
- D. For job-order-contracting project delivery method, the school district may include design services in the job-order-contracting construction services contract, but if the school district does not include design services in the contract, the school district shall procure any design services relating to construction services projects under the contract pursuant to R7-2-1117 through R7-2-1123.

**R7-2-1101. Qualified select bidders list**

- A. The school district may use the qualified select bidders list method to determine the vendors who receive the notice of competitive sealed bidding for a construction contract. The qualified select bidders list shall be determined in accordance with this Section.
- B. Sealed prime contractor or construction materials supplier statements of qualifications shall be solicited through requests for qualifications.
  - 1. Notice of the request for qualifications shall be given by the school district pursuant to R7-2-1022 and R7-2-1024(C).
  - 2. Requests for qualifications shall be issued at least 21 days before the due date and time for submission.
  - 3. Use of the qualified select bidders list shall be restricted to the specific projects

identified in the request for qualifications.

4. The qualified select bidders list shall consist of at least three prime contractors when a contractor is solicited or three construction material suppliers when material suppliers are solicited.
5. The qualified select bidders list for any specific project is valid for one year but may be extended for an additional year, at the option of the school district.

C. The request for qualifications shall include the following:

1. Notice that all information and statements of qualifications submitted by persons will be made available for public inspection following the establishment of a qualified select bidders list.
2. Instructions and information to persons concerning the statement of qualifications submission requirements, including the due date and time for submission, the address of the office at which the statements of qualifications are to be received, and any other special information.
3. The anticipated evaluation period and selection of a qualified select bidders list.
4. General information on the project site or sites, scope of work, schedule, evaluation criteria, project design and construction budget, or life cycle budget for a procurement that includes maintenance, operations, and finance services.
5. The weight prescribed by the school district for each of the criteria to be used in making the evaluation.
6. The criteria to be used in making the evaluation, which shall include at a minimum:
  - a. Person's capabilities and qualifications for performing the scope of work;
  - b. Person's project team, and key members' education, training and qualifications;
  - c. Method of approach, including subcontractor plan, safety plan;
  - d. Safety record and worker's compensation rate;
  - e. Projected construction schedule;
  - f. Current workload;
  - g. Five most recent representative examples of similar work along with references for each example;
  - h. Current bonding availability and capacity;
  - i. Any judgment or liens against the person within the last three years;
  - j. Any current unresolved bond claims against the person;
  - k. Any deficiency orders issued against the prime contractor by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors within the last three years; and
  - l. Any filing under the United States Bankruptcy Code, assignments for the benefit of creditors, or other measures taken for the protection against creditors during the last three years.
7. The type of contract to be used.

8. The name of the district representative or district representatives.
  9. The expiration date of the qualified select bidders list if less than one year.
  10. A statement that the school district reserves the right to conduct interviews as part of the evaluation process.
  11. The date, time and location of any pre-submittal conference.
- D. The school district may conduct a pre-submittal conference not less than 14 days prior to the statement of qualifications due date and time for the purposes of explaining the requirements of the request for qualifications.
- E. Amendments to request for qualifications
1. An amendment to a request for qualifications shall be issued if necessary to do any of the following:
    - a. Make changes in the request for qualifications;
    - b. Correct defects or ambiguities;
    - c. Furnish to persons information given to any other person, if the information will assist the persons in submitting their statements of qualifications or if the lack of the information will prejudice the persons;
    - d. Provide additional information or instructions; or
    - e. Extend the due date and time if the school district determines that an extension is advantageous to the school district.
  2. Amendments to a request for qualifications shall be so identified and the school district shall ensure that the amendments are distributed or made available to all persons to whom the original request for qualifications was distributed or made available. The school district shall make a copy of the amendments to a request for qualifications available for public inspection at the school district office. If the school district posted the request for qualifications or a notice of the availability of a request for qualifications on a designated site on the Internet, then the school district shall post any amendments to the request for qualifications on the same designated site on the Internet. The school district shall also do one or more of the following:
    - a. Distribute the amendment, by any method reasonably calculated to ensure delivery, to all persons to whom the request for qualifications was distributed;
    - b. Make the amendment available and issue a notice of amendment which contains instructions for obtaining copies of the amendment. The notice of amendment shall be distributed, by any method reasonably calculated to ensure delivery, to all persons to whom the request for qualifications was distributed. Upon receipt of such notice of amendment, it is the responsibility of the person to obtain the amendment.
  3. Amendments to request for qualifications shall be issued within a reasonable time before the due date and time to allow persons to consider them in preparing their statements of qualifications. If the school district determines that the due date and time in the request for qualifications does not permit sufficient time for statement of qualifications preparation, the due date and time shall be extended in the amendment or, if necessary, by telephone, facsimile, email, or other

communications methods, and confirmed in the amendment.

4. A person shall acknowledge receipt of an amendment in the manner specified in the request for qualifications or the amendment on or before the due date and time.

F. Pre-submittal modification or withdrawal of statements of qualifications

1. A person may modify or withdraw a statement of qualifications in writing at any time before the prescribed due date and time if the modification or withdrawal is received before the due date and time at the location designated in the request for qualifications for receipt of statements of qualifications.
2. All documents concerning a modification or withdrawal of a statement of qualifications shall be retained in the procurement file.

G. Late statements of qualifications, late withdrawals and late modifications

1. A statement of qualifications, modification or withdrawal is late if it is received at the location designated in the request for qualifications for receipt of statements of qualifications after the due date and time.
2. A late statement of qualifications, late modification, or late withdrawal shall be rejected, unless the statement of qualifications, modification or withdrawal would have been timely received but for the action or inaction of school district personnel and is received before the qualified select bidders list is established.
3. Upon receiving a late statement of qualifications, late modification, or late withdrawal, the school district shall record the time and date of receipt and promptly send notice of late receipt to the person. The school district may discard the document 30 days after the date on the notice unless the person requests the document be returned.
4. All documents concerning acceptance of a late statement of qualifications, late modification, or late withdrawal shall be retained in the procurement file.

H. Receipt, opening and recording statements of qualifications

1. A school district shall maintain a record of statements of qualifications and modifications received for each solicitation, shall record the time and date when each statement of qualifications or modification is received, and shall store each unopened statement of qualifications or modification in a secure place until the due date and time.
  - a. If required to confirm a vendor's inquiry regarding receipt of its statement of qualifications prior to the due date and time, a school district may open a statement of qualifications to identify the vendor. If this occurs, the school district shall record the reason for opening the statement of qualifications, the date and time the statement of qualifications was opened, and the solicitation number. The school district shall secure the statement of qualifications and retain it for public opening.
  - b. One or more witnesses shall be present for the opening of a statement of qualifications under subsection (H)(1)(a).
2. Statements of qualifications and modifications shall be opened publicly at the date, time and location designated in the request for qualifications in the presence of one or more witnesses. The name of each person and any other



relevant information deemed appropriate by the school district shall be recorded. The person opening the statements of qualifications and all witnesses shall sign the record.

- a. The record created in subsection (H)(2) shall be available for public inspection.
- b. The statements of qualifications shall not be open for public inspection until after the qualified select bidders list has been established.

I. Establishing the qualified select bidders list

1. The qualified select bidders list shall be established by determining the highest rated persons from the statements of qualifications received. This will be a minimum of three and a maximum of five.
2. For each qualified select bidders list process there will be established by the school district an evaluation committee composed of five members. These members shall include the project designer or construction material specifier, one member from the prime contracting or construction material supplier community that performs commensurate level work and is disinterested in this project, a school district facilities representative and two other members as designated by the school district.
3. The evaluation committee shall review and score each statement of qualifications received according to the established evaluation criteria. The committee shall rank the statements of qualifications in accordance with the scores.
4. The committee may conduct interviews before making the final determination of the qualified select bidders list. The committee shall document the interviews in writing.
5. The committee shall select at least three and not more than five of the highest scoring persons for the qualified select bidders list.
6. The district representative shall review the committee's qualified select bidders list. The district representative shall:
  - a. Accept the list as submitted;
  - b. Return the list for additional committee review;
  - c. Reject the list and terminate the process.
7. A one-year eligibility period for the qualified select bidders list shall begin on the date the district representative accepts it. The qualified select bidders list may be extended one year at the option of the school district.
8. Once the qualified select bidders list is established, a written notice of the selected persons shall be sent to all the persons that submitted statements of qualifications.
9. After the establishment of the qualified select bidders list, a written record showing the basis for determining the qualified select bidders list shall be prepared by the district representative and retained in the procurement file. Within 10 days after the qualified select bidders list has been established, the school district shall make the procurement file, including all statements of qualifications, available for public inspection.

- a. If the procurement file contains information that is confidential under R7-2-1006, a copy of the applicable documents with the confidential information redacted shall be placed in the procurement file for the purpose of public inspection.
  - b. The unredacted original copy of the confidential information shall be placed in a sealed envelope or other appropriate container, identified as confidential information, and maintained in the procurement file.
10. The qualified select bidders shall be provided an invitation for bids in accordance with R7-2-1024 to R7-2-1032. For any projects not identified in the request for qualifications, the school district may not solicit bids on those projects under the qualified select bidders list either in the initial one-year period or the one-year extension period.
  11. Projects identified in the request for qualifications shall have invitation for bids issued within the initial one-year period, or in the one-year extension period, to be awarded a contract under that qualified select bidders list.
- J. Terminating the process for insufficient response or selection
1. In the event that less than three statements of qualifications are received, this procurement process shall cease and the school district may elect to reissue the request for qualifications or pursue other procurement methods.
  2. In the event that less than three persons are identified by the selection committee as being the most highly qualified, this procurement process shall cease and the school district may elect to reissue the request for qualifications or pursue other procurement methods.
- K. A copy of the request for qualifications shall be made available for public inspection at the school district office.

#### **R7-2-1102. Bid security**

- A. Bid security shall be required for all competitive sealed bidding for construction contracts, and for all competitive sealed proposals for design-build construction services or job-order-contracting construction services procured pursuant to R7-2-1111, if the price, excluding the cost of any finance services, maintenance services, operations services, design services, preconstruction services, or other related services included in the contract, is estimated by the school district to exceed the amount established by R7-2-1002(A).
- B. Invitations for bid on school district construction contracts and requests for proposals for design-build construction services or job-order-contracting construction services, shall require submission of bid security as follows:
1. For design-bid-build construction services, ten percent of the contractor's bid.
  2. For design-build construction services awarded by competitive sealed proposals pursuant to R7-2-1111, ten percent of the school district's construction budget for the project as stated in the request for proposals, excluding finance services, maintenance services, operations services, design services, preconstruction services or any other related services included in the contract.
  3. For job-order-contracting construction services awarded by competitive sealed proposals pursuant to R7-2-1111, the amount prescribed by the school district in

the request for proposals, but not more than ten percent of the school district's reasonably estimated budget for construction that the school district believes is likely to actually be done during the first year under the contract, excluding any finance services, maintenance services, operations services, design services, preconstruction services or other related services included in the contract.

C. Acceptable bid security shall be limited to:

1. An annual or one-time bid bond executed and furnished as required by A.R.S. Title 34, Chapter 2 or 6, as applicable; or
2. A certified or cashier's check.

D. The school district may issue a written determination to accept the bid security if the bid security fails to comply in a nonsubstantial manner when:

1. Only one bid or proposal is received and there is not sufficient time to rebid or resolicit proposals;
2. The amount of the bid security submitted, although less than the amount required by the invitation for bids or request for proposals, is equal to or greater than the difference between the apparent low bid or highest scoring proposal and the next higher acceptable bid or next highest scoring proposal; or
3. The bid security is inadequate as a result of modifying or correcting a bid in accordance with R7-2-1027 or R7-2-1030, if the bidder increases the amount of security to required limits within two days after notification.

E. After the bids and proposals are opened, they are irrevocable for the period specified in the invitation for bids or request for proposals, except as provided in R7-2-1030. If a bidder or offeror is permitted to withdraw its bid before award, no action may be had against the bidder or offeror or the bid security.

### **R7-2-1103. Contract performance and payment bonds**

A. The following bonds or security is required and is binding on the parties to the contract if the value of a construction or construction services award exceeds the amount established by R7-2-1002(A):

1. A performance bond that is executed and furnished as required under Arizona Revised Statutes Title 34, Chapter 2, Article 2 or Chapter 6, as applicable, in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the price specified in the contract conditioned on the faithful performance of the contract in accordance with the plans, specifications and conditions of the contract, except that:
  - a. For job-order-contracting construction services, the performance bond shall cover the full amount of construction under the job-order-contracting construction services contract, shall not include any design services, preconstruction services, finance services, maintenance services, operations services or other related services included in the contract, may be a single bond for the full term of the contract, a separate bond for each year of a multiyear contract or a separate bond for each job order, as determined by the school district, and, if a single bond for the full term of the contract or a separate bond for each year of a multiyear contract, shall initially be based on the school district's reasonable estimate of the amount of construction that the school district believes is likely to actually be done during the full term of the contract or during the particular year of a multiyear contract, as applicable.

- b. For construction-manager-at-risk construction services and design-build construction services, the amount of the performance bond shall be the price of construction and shall not include the cost of any design services, preconstruction services, finance services, maintenance services, operations services and other related services included in the contract. This bond is solely for the protection of the school district. The conditions and provisions of the performance bond regarding the surety's obligations shall follow the form required under A.R.S. § 34-222(G) or A.R.S. § 34-610(G), as applicable.
    - c. For guaranteed energy cost savings contracts and guaranteed energy production contracts, the amount of the performance bond shall be one hundred percent of the project amount to the school district for its faithful performance of the equipment installment.
  - 2. A payment bond that is executed and furnished as required by Arizona Revised Statutes Title 34, Chapter 2, Article 2 or Chapter 6, as applicable, in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the price specified in the contract for the protection of all persons supplying labor or material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the construction provided for in the contract, except that:
    - a. For job-order-contracting construction services, the payment bond shall cover the full amount of construction under the job-order-contracting construction services contract, shall not include any design services, preconstruction services, finance services, maintenance services, operations services or other related services included in the contract, may be a single bond for the full term of the contract, a separate bond for each year of a multiyear contract or a separate bond for each job order, as determined by the school district, and, if a single bond for the full term of the contract or a separate bond for each year of a multiyear contract, shall initially be based on the school district's reasonable estimate of the amount of construction that the school district believes is likely to actually be done during the full term of the contract or during the particular year of a multiyear contract, as applicable.
    - b. For construction-manager-at-risk construction services and design-build construction services, the amount of the payment bond shall be the price of construction and shall not include the cost of any design services, preconstruction services, finance services, maintenance services, operations services or other related services included in the contract. The conditions and provisions of the payment bond regarding the surety's obligations shall follow the form required under A.R.S. § 34-222(F) or A.R.S. § 34-610(F), as applicable.
- B. For design-bid-build construction, the bonds prescribed in subsection (A) shall be provided on and at the same time as execution of the construction contract. For construction-manager-at-risk, design-build and job-order-contracting construction services, the bonds prescribed in subsection (A) shall be provided only on and at the same time as execution of a contract or contract modification that commits the contractor to provide construction for a fixed price, guaranteed maximum price or other fixed amount within a designated time frame.
- C. If the prime contract or specifications require any persons supplying labor or materials in the prosecution of the work to furnish payment or performance bonds,

these bonds shall be executed solely by a surety company or companies holding a certificate of authority to transact surety business in this state issued by the director of the Department of Insurance pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes Title 20, Chapter 2, Article 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other statute, the bonds shall not be executed by an individual surety or sureties, even if the requirements of A.R.S. § 7-101 are satisfied.

- D. If a contractor fails to deliver the required performance bond or payment bond, the contractor's bid shall be rejected, its bid security shall be enforced, and award of the contract shall be made pursuant to Articles 10 and 11.
- E. This Section shall not be construed to limit the authority of the school district to require a performance bond or other security in addition to those bonds or in circumstances other than specified in subsection (A).
- F. Any person who furnishes labor or material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the work provided in the contract, in respect of which a payment bond is furnished under this Section, and who has not been paid in full within 90 days from the date on which the last of the labor was performed or material was supplied by the person for whom the claim is made has the right to sue on the payment bond for any amount unpaid at the time the suit is instituted and to prosecute the action for the amount due the person. However, any person who has a contract with a subcontractor of the contractor, but no express or implied contract with the contractor furnishing the payment bond, has a right of action on the payment bond on giving the contractor, only, a written preliminary 20-day notice as provided for in A.R.S. § 33-992.01, subsection (C)(1), (2), (3), and (4) and subsections (D), (E), and (H), and upon giving written notice to the contractor within 90 days from the date on which the last of the labor was performed or material was supplied by the person for whom the claim is made. The person shall state in the notice the amount claimed and the name of the party for whom the labor was performed or to whom the material was supplied. The notice shall be personally served or sent by registered mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the contractor at any place the contractor maintains an office or conducts business.

#### **R7-2-1104. Contract payment retention and substitute security**

- A. Ten percent of all construction contract payments shall be retained by the school district as insurance of proper performance of the contract or, at the option of the contractor, a substitute security may be provided by the contractor pursuant to this Section. The contractor is entitled to all interest from any such substitute security. When the contract is fifty percent completed, one-half of the amount retained or securities substituted pursuant to this Section shall be paid to the contractor upon the contractor's request provided the contractor is making satisfactory progress on the contract and there is no specific cause or claim requiring a greater amount to be retained. After the contract is fifty percent completed, no more than five percent of the amount of any subsequent progress payments made under the contract shall be retained providing the contractor is making satisfactory progress on the project, except if at any time the governing board determines satisfactory progress is not being made, ten percent retention shall be reinstated for all progress payments made under the contract subsequent to the determination.
- B. Notwithstanding subsection (A), there shall be no retention for job-order-contracting construction services contracts. The school district may elect to have no retention for

construction-manager-at-risk and design-build construction services contracts. If the school district elects to have retention, then payment retention for construction-manager-at-risk and design-build contracts shall be in accordance with this Section.

- C. Retention applies only to amounts payable for construction and does not apply to amounts payable for design services, preconstruction services, finance services, maintenance services, operations services, or any other related services included in the contract.
- D. The form of substitute security is limited to the following:
  - 1. An assignment of time certificates of deposit by financial institutions licensed by this state;
  - 2. Share certificate of a financial institution or credit union authorized to transact business in this state; or
  - 3. Security issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by:
    - a. The United States;
    - b. The state;
    - c. Counties, municipalities and school districts within this state.
- E. Conditions for use of substitute security.
  - 1. A contractor may submit substitute security to replace contract payment retention if:
    - a. The use of substitute security is requested of the school district or designee for work performed under the contract. The contractor shall have the option of submitting the substitute security:
      - i. Prior to each progress payment in an amount of no less than five percent of each progress payment; or
      - ii. Once, prior to the first progress payment in an amount no less than five percent of the total contract amount.
    - b. The interest earned on such security shall accrue to the benefit of the contractor, but shall be retained until the school district has approved completion and acceptance of all work to be performed under the contract;
    - c. The term of such security shall not mature until after the estimated contract completion date; and
    - d. The security shall mature no later than one year after the estimated contract completion date.
  - 2. The substitute security shall not be released without written approval by the school district.
  - 3. A contractor may submit a single substitute security for more than one project provided that:
    - a. The amount of such security is sufficient to cover the aggregate retention amount;
    - b. The school district determines that such single substitute security is advantageous to the school district; and

- c. Such security complies with the requirements of subsection (E)(1).
- F. Any retention shall be paid or substitute security shall be returned to the contractor within 60 days after final completion and acceptance of work under the contract. Retention of payments by a school district longer than 60 days after final completion and acceptance requires a specific written finding by the governing board of the reasons justifying the delay in payment. No school district may retain any monies after 60 days which are in excess of the amount necessary to pay the expenses the governing board reasonably expects to incur in order to pay or discharge the expenses determined in the finding justifying the retention of monies.
- G. The school district shall not accept any substitute security unless accompanied by a signed and acknowledged waiver of any right or power of the obligor to set off any claim against either the school district or the contractor in relationship to the security assigned. In any instance in which the school district accepts substitute security as provided in this Section, any subcontractor undertaking to perform any part of the contract is entitled to provide such security to the contractor.

### **R7-2-1105. Progress payments**

- A. Progress payments may be made by the school district to the contractor on the basis of a duly certified and approved estimate of the work performed during the preceding month if the contractor agrees to adhere to the provisions of A.R.S. § 41-2577(B), (D), and (F). Payment shall be made within 14 days after the estimate of the work is certified and approved, except that a percentage of all estimates shall be retained as provided in R7-2-1104. The estimate of the work shall be deemed received by the school district on submission of the estimate of the work to the school district or a person designated by the school district for the submission, review or approval of the estimate of the work. An estimate of the work submitted under this Section shall be considered approved and certified after seven days from the date of submission unless before that time the school district or designee prepares and issues a specific written finding detailing those items in the estimate of the work that are not approved and certified under the contract. The school district may withhold an amount from the progress payment sufficient to pay the expenses the school district reasonably expects to incur in correcting the deficiency set forth in the written finding. No contract for construction may materially alter the rights of any contractor, subcontractor or material supplier to receive prompt and timely payment as provided under this Section. On completion and acceptance of separate divisions of the contract on which the price is stated separately in the contract, payment may be made in full including retained percentages, less deductions, unless a substitute security has been provided pursuant to R7-2-1104.
- B. Progress payments pursuant to subsection (A) are authorized for construction services contracts. The requirements of subsection (A) apply only to amounts payable in a construction services contract for construction and do not apply to amounts payable in a construction services contract for design services, preconstruction services, finance services, maintenance services, operations services or any other related services included in the contract.
- C. A subcontractor may notify the school district, in writing, requesting that the subcontractor be notified by the school district in writing within five days from payment of each progress payment made to the contractor. The subcontractor's request remains in effect for the duration of the subcontractor's work on the project.

- D. If any payment to a contractor is delayed after the date due, interest shall be paid at the rate of one percent per month, or a fraction of a month, on such unpaid balance as may be due.

**R7-2-1106. Procurement of construction using alternative project delivery methods**

- A. A school district may use an alternative project delivery method if it determines in writing that such alternative project delivery method is advantageous to the school district. The following factors may be used for such determination:
1. Cost and cost control method;
  2. Value engineering;
  3. Market conditions;
  4. Schedule;
  5. Required specialized expertise;
  6. Technical complexity of the project; or
  7. Project management.
- B. Use of alternative project delivery methods
1. Alternative project delivery methods for construction services shall be procured as provided in R7-2-1100.
  2. For design-build construction services and construction-manager-at-risk construction services, the school district is limited to one contract per procurement.
    - a. Alternatively, for construction-manager-at-risk construction services, a school district may elect separate contracts for preconstruction services during the design phase, for construction during the construction phase and for any other construction services.
    - b. Alternatively, for design-build construction services, a school district may elect separate contracts for preconstruction services and design services during the design phase, for construction and design services during the construction phase and for any other construction services.
    - c. If the school district enters into the first contract for preconstruction services or construction services the procurement ends. After execution of that first contract the school district may not use the procurement or the existing final list in the procurement as the basis for entering into a contract with any other person that participated in the procurement.
  3. For job-order-contracting construction services, the school district may award a single contract, or multiple contracts for similar job-order-contracting construction services to be awarded to separate persons. If the school district enters into the number of contracts specified under the request for qualifications, the procurement ends. After that time the school district may not use the procurement or any existing final list in the procurement as the basis for entering into a contract with any other person that participated in the procurement.
  4. All construction-manager-at-risk construction services or design-build construction services included in a procurement shall be limited to construction



services to be performed at a single location, a common location or, if the construction services are all for a similar purpose, multiple locations. For construction-manager-at-risk construction services and design-build construction services to be performed at multiple locations:

- a. At the time the request for qualifications is issued, the school district shall intend to commence all construction at each location within thirty months after execution of the first contract for preconstruction services or other construction services at any of the locations.
  - b. The request for qualifications shall include the information described in R7-2-1108(B)(2).
5. The school district and the selection committee shall not request or consider fees, price, man-hours or any other cost information at any point in the selection process under this Section and R7-2-1107, R7-2-1108, R7-2-1110, and R7-2-1111, including the selection of persons to be interviewed, the selection of persons to be on the final list, in determining the order of preference of persons on the final list or for any other purpose in the selection process, except as provided in R7-2-1110(D) and R7-2-1111.
6. In determining the persons to participate in any interviews, in determining the persons to be on the final list, and in determining the order on the final list, the selection committee shall use and consider only the criteria and weighting of criteria in the request for qualifications. No other factors or criteria may be used in the evaluation, determinations and other actions.
7. Notwithstanding any other provision specifying the number of persons to be interviewed, the number of persons to be on a final list, or any other numerical specification in R7-2-1106 through R7-2-1115:
- a. If a smaller number of persons respond to the request for qualifications or if one or more persons drop out of the procurement so there is a smaller number of persons participating in the procurement, the school district, as the school district determines necessary and appropriate, may elect to proceed with the participating persons if there are at least two participating responsive and responsible persons. Alternatively, the school district may elect to terminate the procurement.
  - b. As to a request for qualifications to be negotiated pursuant to R7-2-1110(D), if only one responsive and responsible person responds to the request for qualifications or if one or more persons drop out of the procurement so that only one responsive and responsible person remains in the procurement, the school district may elect to proceed with the procurement with only one person if the governing board determines in writing that the negotiated fee is fair and reasonable and that either other prospective persons had reasonable opportunity to respond or there is not adequate time for a resolicitation.
  - c. If a person on the final list withdraws or is removed from the procurement and the selection committee determines that it is advantageous to the school district, the selection committee may replace that person on the final list with another person that submitted qualifications in the procurement and that is selected as the next most qualified.

### **R7-2-1107. Selection committee**

- A. The school district shall initiate an appropriately qualified selection committee for each request for qualifications. The school district shall ensure that selection committee members are competent to serve on the selection committee.
- B. Each selection committee shall include at least one school district representative appointed by the school district.
- C. The selection committee shall not have more than seven members and shall include at least one person who is a senior management employee of a licensed contractor and one person who is an architect or an engineer who is registered pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-121.
- D. Non-school district employees serving on a selection committee shall not receive compensation from the school district for performing this service, but the school district may elect to reimburse non-school district members for travel, lodging and other expenses incurred in connection with service on a selection committee.
- E. A person who is a member of a selection committee shall not be a contractor or subcontractor under a contract awarded under the procurement or provide any specified professional services, construction, construction services, materials or other services under the contract.
- F. For the procurement of multiple contracts for job-order-contracting, the same selection committee shall be used for all contracts in the procurement.

### **R7-2-1108. Request for qualifications**

- A. Notice of the need for construction services shall be given by the school district pursuant to R7-2-1022 and R7-2-1024(C). Such notice shall be issued not less than 14 days in advance of when responses shall be received. The notice shall:
  - 1. Contain a statement of the construction services required that adequately describes the procurement and specifies how a request for qualifications containing specific information on the procurement may be obtained;
  - 2. Specify whether the procurement is for a single contract or, for job-order-contracting construction services only, for multiple contracts; and
  - 3. If the procurement is for multiple job-order-contracting construction services contracts:
    - a. Specify that multiple contracts may or will be awarded;
    - b. Specify the number of contracts that may or will be awarded; and
    - c. Describe the construction services to be performed under each contract.
- B. The request for qualifications shall include the following:
  - 1. Instructions and information to persons concerning the statement of qualifications submission requirements, including the due date and time for receipt of statements of qualifications, the address of the office at which the statements of qualifications are to be received, and any other special information.
  - 2. In a procurement of construction-manager-at-risk construction services or design-build construction services to be performed at multiple locations, include:
    - a. A brief description of the construction services to be performed at each

- location;
- b. The estimated budget for the construction services to be performed at each location; and
  - c. A schedule for the construction services to be performed at each location that shows the school district's intent to commence all construction at each location within thirty months after execution of the first contract for preconstruction services or other construction services at any of the locations.
3. General information on the project site, scope of work, schedule, selection criteria, project design and construction budget, or life cycle budget for a procurement that includes maintenance, operations, and finance services.
  4. The criteria and the weight prescribed by the school district for each of the criteria to be used in making the evaluation.
    - a. All selection criteria shall be factors that demonstrate competence and qualifications for the type of construction services included in the procurement.
    - b. One of the criteria shall be the person's subcontractor selection plan or procedures to implement the school district's subcontractor selection plan.
    - c. If interviews will be held, state the selection criteria and relative weights to be used in selecting the persons to be interviewed. The request for qualifications may state the selection criteria and relative weights to be used in selecting the persons on the final list and in determining their order on the final list. The final list selection criteria and relative weights may be different than the selection criteria and relative weights used to determine the persons to be interviewed. The request for qualifications also shall state whether the school district will select the persons on the final list and their order on the final list solely through the results of the interview process or through the combined results of both the interview process and the evaluation of statements of qualifications and performance data submitted in response to the school district's request for qualifications.
    - d. If interviews will not be held, state the selection criteria and relative weights to be used in selecting the persons on the final list and in determining their order on the final list.
  5. Whether one contract or multiple contracts may or will be awarded.
    - a. For design-build construction services, construction-manager-at-risk construction services, and a single contract for job-order-contracting construction services, state that one person may or will be awarded the contract.
    - b. For multiple contracts for similar job-order-contracting construction services, state the number of contracts that may or will be awarded, the job-order-contracting construction services to be performed under each of the contracts, and that each of the multiple contracts will be awarded to a separate person.
  6. In a procurement where the contract is to be negotiated under R7-2-1110(D):
    - a. State that there will be a single final list of at least three and not more than

- five persons for a design-build, construction-manager-at-risk, or single job-order-contracting construction services award.
- b. State that there will be a single final list equal to the number of contracts that may or will be awarded and a number determined by the school district not to exceed five for a procurement for multiple contracts for similar job-order-contracting construction services to be awarded to separate persons.
7. In a procurement in which the contract will be awarded under R7-2-1111:
    - a. State that there will be a single final list and that the number of persons on the final list will be three for a design-build or single job-order-contracting construction services award.
    - b. State that there will be a single final list equal to the number of contracts that may or will be awarded and a number determined by the school district not to exceed five for a procurement for multiple contracts for similar job-order-contracting construction services to be awarded to separate persons.
  8. The type of contract to be used.
  9. The name of the district representative or district representatives and the publicly available location of the school district's protest policy and procedures.
  10. If the school district will hold interviews as part of the selection process:
    - a. State that interviews will be held and that the interviews will be with at least three and not more than five persons for a design-build, construction-manager-at-risk, or single job-order-contracting construction services procurement.
    - b. State that interviews will be held and that the interviews will be with a specified number of persons in a procurement of multiple contracts for similar job-order-contracting construction services to be awarded to separate persons. The specified number shall be the sum of the number of contracts that may or will be awarded and a number that is determined by the school district and that is not more than five.
  11. The manner in which subcontractors shall be selected, either:
    - a. A requirement that each person submit a proposed subcontractor selection plan and a requirement that the proposed subcontractor selection plan shall select subcontractors based on qualifications alone or on a combination of qualifications and price and shall not select subcontractors based on price alone; or
    - b. A subcontractor selection plan adopted by the school district that applies to the person that is selected to perform the construction services and that requires subcontractors to be selected based on qualifications alone or on a combination of qualifications and price and not based on price alone and a requirement that each person shall submit a description of the procedures it proposes to use to implement the school district's subcontractor selection plan.
  12. Notice that all information and statements of qualifications submitted by persons will be made available for public inspection after the school district has entered into a single contract or all of the multiple contracts.

- C. A copy of the request for qualifications shall be made available for public inspection at the school district office.

**R7-2-1109 Receipt and opening of statements of qualifications, technical proposals and price proposals for design-build and job-order-contracting**

- A. Statements of qualifications, technical proposals and price proposals shall be received and opened in accordance with R7-2-1045. Late statements of qualifications, proposals, modifications, or withdrawals shall be considered in accordance with R7-2-1044 and R7-2-1049.
- B. A school district may cancel a request for qualifications or a request for proposals, reject in whole or in part any or all statements of qualifications or proposals or determine not to enter into a contract as specified in the solicitation if it is advantageous to the school district. The school district shall make the reasons for cancellation, rejection or determination not to enter into a contract part of the procurement file.

**R7-2-1110 Committee evaluation and contract award**

- A. If interviews are specified in the request for qualifications:
  - 1. The selection committee shall determine the persons to be interviewed by evaluating the statements of qualifications and performance data submitted based solely on the selection criteria and relative weights in the request for qualifications to be used to determine the persons to be interviewed.
  - 2. If the selection criteria and relative weights to be used by the selection committee to select the persons on the final list and to determine their order on the final list are not included in the request for qualifications:
    - a. Before the interviews are held the school district shall distribute to the persons to be interviewed the selection criteria and relative weights to be used to select the persons on the final list and to determine their order on the final list.
    - b. These selection criteria and relative weights may be different than the selection criteria and relative weight used to determine the persons to be interviewed.
  - 3. The selection committee shall conduct interviews with the number of persons specified in the request for qualifications.
- B. Based solely on the selection criteria and relative weights for selection of the persons on the final list and their order on the final list, the selection committee shall select the persons for the final list and, in the case of a final list for a contract that will be negotiated under subsection (D), rank the persons in order of preference.
- C. The school district shall make the following notifications regarding the final lists:
  - 1. If the contract will be negotiated under subsection (D) before or at the same time as the school district notifies the highest ranking person on the final list that it is the highest ranking person, the school district shall send actual notice to each of the following that it is not the highest ranking person or that another person is the highest ranking person:
    - a. If interviews were held, the other persons interviewed.

- b. If interviews were not held, the other persons that made submittals.
  2. If the contract will be awarded under R7-2-1111, before or at the same time as the school district notifies the persons on the final list that they are on the final list, the school district shall send actual notice to each of the following persons that they are not on the final list or that other persons are on the final list:
    - a. If interviews were held, the other persons interviewed.
    - b. If interviews were not held, the other persons that made submittals.
- D. The school district shall conduct negotiations with persons on the final list as follows:
  1. The negotiations shall include consideration of compensation and other contract terms that the school district determines to be fair and reasonable to the school district. In making this decision, the school district shall take into account the estimated value, the scope, the complexity and the nature of the construction services to be rendered.
  2. If the procurement is for a single contract, there is one final list and the school district shall enter into negotiations with the highest qualified person on the final list. If the school district is not able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the highest qualified person on the final list, at compensation and on other contract terms the school district determines to be fair and reasonable, the school district shall formally terminate negotiations with that person. The school district shall then undertake negotiations with the next most qualified person on the final list in sequence until an agreement is reached or a determination is made to reject all persons on the final list.
  3. If the procurement is for multiple contracts for similar job-order-contracting construction services to be awarded to separate persons, there is one final list and the school district shall enter into separate negotiations for contracts with the number of the highest qualified persons on the final list equal to the number of contracts to be awarded. If the school district is not able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with a person with whom the school district has commenced negotiations, the school district shall formally terminate negotiations with that person. The school district shall then undertake negotiations for a contract with the next most qualified person on the final list with whom the school district is not then negotiating and with whom the school district has not previously negotiated in sequence until an agreement is reached for some or all of the multiple contracts included in the request for qualifications or a determination is made to reject all persons on the final list.
  4. If the school district terminates negotiations with a person and commences negotiations with another person on the final list, the school district shall not recommence negotiations or enter into a contract for the construction services covered by the final list with any person with whom the school district terminated negotiations.

**R7-2-1111. Alternative procedure for design-build or job-order-contracting construction services**

- A. As an alternative to R7-2-1110(D), the school district may award a single contract for design-build construction services or a single or multiple contracts for similar job-

order-contracting construction services pursuant to this Section.

- B. The school district shall use the selection committee appointed for the request for qualifications pursuant to R7-2-1107.
- C. The school district shall issue a request for proposals to the persons on the final list developed pursuant to R7-2-1110(A) through (C). The request for proposals shall be issued at least 14 days before the due date and time for receipt of proposals unless a shorter time is determined necessary by the school district.
- D. The request for proposals shall include the following:
  - 1. A statement that the procurement is for a single contract or, for similar job-order-contracting construction services only, for multiple contracts.
  - 2. If the procurement is for multiple contracts for similar job-order-contracting construction services, the notice shall specify that multiple contracts will be awarded, shall specify the number of contracts that will be awarded, shall specify the number of offerors to whom contracts will be awarded which shall be the number of contracts in the procurement, and shall describe the job-order-contracting services to be performed under each contract.
  - 3. Instructions and information to persons concerning the proposal submission requirements, including the due date and time for receipt of proposals, the address of the office at which proposals are to be received, the proposal acceptance period, and any other special information.
  - 4. The school district's project schedule and project final budget for design and construction or life cycle budget for a procurement that includes maintenance services or operations services.
  - 5. If a single contract will be awarded, a statement that the contract will be awarded to the person whose proposal receives the highest number of points under a scoring method. If multiple contracts for similar job-order-contracting services will be awarded, a statement that the multiple contracts will be awarded to a specified number of offerors whose proposals receive the highest number of points under a scoring method. The specified number of offerors will be the number of contracts included in the procurement.
  - 6. A description of the scoring method, including a list of the factors in the scoring method and the number of points allocated to each factor.
  - 7. For design-build constructions services only, the design requirements, including the required features, functions, characteristics, qualities and properties, the anticipated schedule, including start, duration and completion, and the estimated budgets applicable to the specific procurement for design and construction and, if applicable, for operation and maintenance. Drawings and other documents illustrating the scale and relationship of the features, functions and characteristics of the project, which shall all be prepared by an architect or engineer, as appropriate, and additional design information or documents specified by the school district, may also be included.
  - 8. A requirement that each offeror submit separately a technical proposal and a price proposal and that the offeror's entire proposal is responsive to the requirements in the request for proposals. For design-build construction services, the price in the price proposal shall be a fixed price or a guaranteed maximum

price.

9. A statement that in applying the scoring method, the selection committee will separately evaluate and score the technical proposal before opening, evaluating, and scoring the price proposal.
  10. If the school district desires to conduct discussions with offerors, a statement that discussions may be held and a requirement that each offeror submit a preliminary technical proposal before the discussions are held.
  11. Type of contract to be used.
  12. That offerors may designate as proprietary portions of the proposal.
  13. Notice that all information and proposals submitted by offerors, except as stated in subsection (D)(12), will be made available for public inspection after the school district has entered into a single contract or all of the multiple contracts.
  14. The contract terms and conditions, including warranty and bonding or other security requirements, as applicable.
  15. The name of the district representative or district representatives.
  16. If the request for proposals incorporates documents by reference, the request for proposals shall specify where such documents may be obtained.
- E. The factors in the scoring method described in the request for proposals may include:
1. For design-build construction services only, demonstrated compliance with the design requirements.
  2. Offeror qualifications.
  3. Offeror financial capacity.
  4. Compliance with the school district's project schedule.
  5. For design-build construction services only, if the request for proposals specifies that the school district will spend its project budget and not more than its project budget and is seeking the best proposal for the project budget, compliance of the offeror's price or life cycle price for procurements that include maintenance services, operations services or finance services with the school district's budget as prescribed in the request for proposals.
  6. For design-build construction services if the request for proposals does not contain the specifications prescribed in subsection (E)(5) and for job-order-contracting construction services, the price or life cycle price for procurements that include maintenance services, operations services or finance services.
  7. An offeror quality management plan.
  8. Other evaluation factors that demonstrate competence and qualifications for the type of construction services in the request for proposals as determined by the school district, if any.
- F. If determined by the school district and included in the request for proposals, the selection committee shall conduct discussions with all offerors that submit preliminary technical proposals. Discussions shall be for the purpose of clarification to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, the solicitation requirements.



Offerors shall be accorded fair treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and for clarification by the school district. Revision of preliminary technical proposals shall be permitted after submission of preliminary technical proposals and before award for the purpose of obtaining best and final proposals. In conducting any discussions, information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors shall not be disclosed to other competing offerors.

- G. After completion of any discussions pursuant to subsection (F) or if no discussions are held, each offeror shall submit separately its final technical proposal and its price proposal.
- H. Before opening any price proposal, the selection committee shall open and evaluate the final technical proposals and score the final technical proposals using the scoring method in the request for proposals. No other factors or criteria may be used in evaluation and scoring.
- I. After completion of the evaluation and scoring of all final technical proposals, the selection committee shall open, evaluate and score the price proposals, and complete scoring of the entire proposals using the scoring method in the request for proposals. No other factors or criteria may be used in evaluation and scoring.
- J. The school district shall award the contract to the responsive and responsible offeror whose proposal receives the highest score under the method of scoring in the request for proposals. No other factors or criteria may be used in evaluation and award.
- K. For procurements of multiple contracts for similar job-order-contracting construction services, the school district may award up to the number of contracts specified in the request for proposals.
- L. Before or at the same time as the school district notifies the selected offeror of contract award, the school district shall notify all other offerors of the award.
- M. For design-build construction services only, the school district shall award a stipulated fee equal to a percentage of the school district's project final budget for design and construction, as prescribed in the request for proposals, but not less than two-tenths of one percent of the project final budget for design and construction to each final list offeror who provides a responsive, but unsuccessful, proposal. If the school district does not award a contract, all responsive final list offerors shall receive the stipulated fee based on the school district's project final budget for design and construction as included in the request for proposals. The school district shall pay the stipulated fee to each offeror within 90 days after the award of the initial contract or the decision not to award a contract. In consideration for paying the stipulated fee, the school district may use any ideas or information contained in the proposals in connection with any contract awarded for the project, or in connection with a subsequent procurement, without any obligation to pay any additional compensation to the offerors. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this subsection, an offeror may elect to waive the stipulated fee. If an offeror elects to waive the stipulated fee, the school district may not use ideas and information contained in the offeror's proposal, except that this restriction does not prevent the school district from using any idea or information if the idea or information is also included in a proposal of an offeror that accepts the stipulated fee.
- N. The procurement file shall contain the basis on which the award is made, including at a minimum the information and documents required under R7-2-1115.

O. A copy of the request for proposals shall be made available for public inspection at the school district office.

**R7-2-1112. Contractor licenses, contract and performance requirements**

A. Notwithstanding any other rule:

1. The contractor for design-build or job-order-contracting construction services is not required to be registered to perform design services pursuant to A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 1 if the person actually performing the design services on behalf of the contractor is appropriately registered.
2. The contractor for construction-manager-at-risk, design-build or job-order-contracting construction services shall be licensed to perform construction pursuant to A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 10.

B. In a procurement for construction-manager-at-risk construction services or design-build construction services, except for design-build contracts awarded pursuant to R7-2-1111, the school district shall enter into a written contract with the contractor for preconstruction services under which the school district shall pay the contractor a fee for preconstruction services in an amount agreed by the school district and the contractor, and the school district shall not request or obtain a fixed price or a guaranteed maximum price for the construction from the contractor or enter into a construction contract with the contractor until after the school district has entered into the written contract for preconstruction services and a preconstruction services fee.

C. Construction shall not commence under a construction services contract until the school district and contractor agree in writing on either a fixed price that the school district will pay or a guaranteed maximum price for the construction to be commenced. The construction to be commenced may be the entire project or may be one or more phased parts of the project.

D. For negotiated construction-manager-at-risk and design-build contracts, preconstruction services, general conditions, schedules, construction contingency, and construction fees shall be part of the contract. For design-build contracts awarded pursuant to a request for proposals, the fees shall be included in the vendor's proposal and shall become part of the awarded contract.

E. For job-order-contracting construction services only:

1. The maximum dollar amount of an individual job order for job-order-contracting construction services shall be one million dollars or a higher or lower amount prescribed by the governing board in a policy adopted in a public meeting held pursuant to A.R.S. Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 3.1. Requirements shall not be artificially divided or fragmented in order to constitute a job order that satisfies the requirements of this subsection.
2. If the contractor subcontracts or intends to subcontract part or all of the work under a job order and if the job-order-contracting construction services contract includes descriptions of standard individual tasks, standard unit prices for standard individual tasks and pricing of job orders based on the number of units of standard individual tasks in the job order:
  - a. The contractor has a duty to deliver promptly to each subcontractor invited to bid a coefficient to the contractor to do all or part of the work under one or

more job orders a copy of the descriptions of all standard individual tasks on which the subcontractor is invited to bid and a copy of the standard unit prices for the individual tasks on which the subcontractor is invited to bid.

- b. If not previously delivered to the subcontractor, the contractor has a duty to promptly deliver to each subcontractor invited to or that has agreed to do any of the work included in any job order a copy of the description of each standard individual task that is included in the job order and that the subcontractor is invited to perform, the number of units of each standard individual task that is included in the job order and that the subcontractor is invited to perform, and the standard unit price for each standard individual task that is included in the job order and that the subcontractor is invited to perform.
- F. For all construction services contracts, the contractor performing the construction services is permitted to self-perform part of the construction work, if and to the extent agreed in writing by the school district and the contractor. The school district may use methods other than competitive bidding to assure itself that the price the school district pays to the contractor for self-performed work is fair and reasonable. Permitted methods to evaluate fairness and reasonableness of the price of self-performed work include evaluation of the contractor's proposed scope of work and price for self-performed work by an estimator who is hired and paid by the school district, who is independent of the contractor and who may be an employee of the school district. Although the school district may elect to so require, nothing in Articles 10 and 11 shall be construed or interpreted to require the school district to require a contractor desiring to self-perform part of the construction work to competitively bid that part of the construction work against other contractors in a bid competition.
- G. For all construction services contracts, the following requirements apply to the construction work to be performed by subcontractors and do not apply to construction work that the school district and the contractor agree in writing will be self-performed by the contractor:
1. The person selected to perform the construction services shall select subcontractors based on qualifications alone or on a combination of qualifications and price and shall not select subcontractors based on price alone. A qualifications and price selection may be a single-step selection based on a combination of qualifications and price or a two-step selection. In a two-step selection, the first step shall be based on qualifications alone and the second step may be based on a combination of qualifications and price or on price alone.
  2. The school district shall include in each contract:
    - a. If the school district included its subcontractor selection plan in the request for qualifications, the school district's subcontractor selection plan and the procedures to implement the school district's subcontractor selection plan proposed by the awarded contractor in submitting its qualifications with those modifications to the procedures as the school district and the contractor agree.
    - b. If the school district did not include its subcontractor selection plan in the request for qualifications, the subcontractor selection plan proposed by the awarded contractor in submitting its qualifications with those modifications as the school district and the contractor agree.

3. In making the selection of subcontractors, the contractor shall use the subcontractor selection plan and any procedures included in its contract.
- H. The school district shall include in each contract for construction services the full street or physical address of each separate location at which the construction will be performed and a requirement that the contractor and each subcontractor at any level include in each of its subcontracts the same address information. The contractor and each subcontractor at any level shall include in each subcontract the full street or physical address of each separate location at which construction work will be performed.

#### **R7-2-1113. Prohibitions**

- A. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of Articles 10 and 11, a school district shall not enter into a contract to provide construction-manager-at-risk construction services, design-build construction services or job-order-contracting construction services.
- B. The prohibitions prescribed in subsection (A) do not prohibit a school district from providing construction for itself as provided by law.

#### **R7-2-1114. Bid security, contract performance and payment bonds, and payment and retention**

- A. Bid security shall be provided pursuant to R7-2-1102.
- B. Contract performance and payment bonds shall be provided pursuant to R7-2-1103.
- C. Contract payment retention and substitute security shall be in accordance with R7-2-1104.
- D. Progress payments shall be in accordance with R7-2-1105.

#### **R7-2-1115. Procurement file contents and review**

- A. At a minimum, the school district shall retain the following for each procurement under R7-2-1106 through R7-2-1114:
  1. For each request for qualifications procurement process:
    - a. If interviews were not held:
      - i. The submittal of the person listed first on the final list and the submittal of each person with whom the school district enters into a contract.
      - ii. The final list.
      - iii. A list of the selection criteria and relative weight of selection criteria used to select the persons for the final list and to determine their order on the final list.
      - iv. A list that contains the name of each person that submitted qualifications and that shows the person's final overall rank or score.
      - v. Documents that show the final score or rank on each selection criteria of each person that submitted qualifications and that support the final overall rankings and scores of the persons that submitted qualifications. The school district shall retain the individual scoring sheets for individual selection committee members.

- b. If interviews were held:
    - i. All submittals of the person listed first on the final list and the submittal of each person with whom the school district enters into a contract.
    - ii. The final list.
    - iii. A list of the selection criteria and relative weight of selection criteria used to select the persons for the final list and to determine their order on the final list.
    - iv. A list that contains the name of each person that was interviewed and that shows the person's final overall rank or score.
    - v. Documents that show the final score or rank on each selection criteria of each person that was interviewed and that support the final overall rankings and scores of the persons that were interviewed. The school district shall retain the individual scoring sheets for individual selection committee members.
    - vi. A list of the selection criteria and relative weight of the selection criteria used to select the persons for the short list to be interviewed.
    - vii. A list that contains the name of each person that submitted qualifications and that shows the person's final overall rank or score in the selection of the persons to be on the short list to be interviewed.
    - viii. Documents that show the final score or rank on each selection criteria of each person that submitted qualifications and that support the final overall rankings and scores of the persons that submitted qualifications. The school district shall retain the individual scoring sheets for individual selection committee members.
2. For each request for proposals procurement process under R7-2-1111:
- a. The entire proposal submitted by the person that received the highest score in the scoring method in the request for proposals and the entire proposal submitted by each person with whom the school district enters into a contract.
  - b. The description of the scoring method, the list of factors in the scoring method and the number of points allocated to each factor, all as included in the request for proposals.
  - c. A list that contains the name of each offeror that submitted a proposal and that shows the offeror's final overall score.
  - d. Documents that show the final score or rank on each factor in the scoring method in the request for proposals of each offeror that submitted a proposal and that support the final overall scores of the offerors that submitted proposals. The school district shall retain the individual scoring sheets for individual selection committee members.
- B. Information relating to each procurement under R7-2-1106 through R7-2-1114 shall be made available to the public as follows:
- 1. Until the school district awards a single contract or all of the multiple contracts or terminates the procurement, only the name of each person on the final list may be made available to the public. All other information received by the school

district in response to the request for qualifications shall be confidential in order to avoid disclosure of the contents that may be prejudicial to competing respondents during the selection process.

2. After the school district awards a single contract or all of the multiple contracts or terminates the procurement, the school district shall make the contents of the procurement file, except the proposals and statements of qualifications submitted in response to a solicitation and the documents described in subsections (A)(1)(a)(v), (A)(1)(b)(v), (A)(1)(b)(viii), and (A)(2)(d), available to the public.
3. After the school district has entered into a single contract or all of the multiple contracts or has terminated the procurement, the school district shall make the proposals and statements of qualifications and the documents described in subsections (A)(1)(a)(v), (A)(1)(b)(v), (A)(1)(b)(viii), and (A)(2)(d) available to the public.
4. To the extent that an offeror designates and the school district concurs, trade secrets and other proprietary data contained in a proposal or statement of qualifications shall remain confidential.
5. If the procurement file contains information that is confidential under R7-2-1006, a copy of the applicable documents with the confidential information redacted shall be placed in the procurement file for the purpose of public inspection. The unredacted original copy of the confidential information shall be placed in a sealed envelope or other appropriate container, identified as confidential information, and maintained in the procurement file.

C. The school district shall retain the records of a procurement under R7-2-1106 through R7-2-1114 in accordance with R7-2-1085.

#### **R7-2-1116. REPEALED**

#### **PROCUREMENT OF SPECIFIED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

##### **R7-2-1117. Procurement of specified professional services**

- A. Specified professional services, which is defined in R7-2-1001(117), as services of an architect, engineer, land surveyor, assayer, geologist and landscape architect, shall be procured as provided in R7-2-1117 through R7-2-1123, except as authorized in R7-2-1033, R7-2-1053, R7-2-1055, and R7-2-1122.
- B. Prior to public notice of the need for specified professional services, the school district shall determine that the services to be acquired are specified professional services.
- C. In the procurement of specified professional services:
  1. The school district shall specify whether the procurement is for a single contract or for multiple contracts. Multiple contracts may be awarded to separate persons or may be awarded to a single person as specified in the request for qualifications.
  2. The school district and the selection committee shall not request or consider fees, price, man-hours or any other cost information at any point in the selection process under this Section and R7-2-1120 or R7-2-1121, including the selection of persons to be interviewed, the selection of persons to be on the final list, in

determining the order of preference of persons on a final list or for any other purpose in the selection process except as provided in R7-2-1121.

3. In determining the persons to participate in any interviews, in determining the persons to be on the final list, and in determining the order on the final list, the selection committee shall use and consider only the criteria and weighting of criteria in the request for qualifications. No other factors or criteria may be used in the evaluation, determinations and other actions.
4. If the school district enters into the number of contracts specified in the request for qualifications, the procurement ends. After that time the school district may not use the procurement or any final list in the procurement as the basis for entering into a contract with any other person that participated in the procurement.
5. Notwithstanding any other provision specifying the number of persons to be interviewed, the number of persons to be on a final list, or any other numerical specification in this Section or R7-2-1121:
  - a. If a smaller number of persons respond to the request for qualifications or if one or more persons drop out of the procurement so that there is a smaller number of persons participating in the procurement, the school district, as the school district determines necessary and appropriate, may elect to proceed with the participating persons if there are at least two participating responsive and responsible persons. Alternatively, the school district may elect to terminate the procurement.
  - b. As to a request for qualifications to be negotiated pursuant to R7-2-1121(D), if only one responsive and responsible person responds to the request for qualifications, or if one or more persons drop out of the procurement so that only one responsive and responsible person remains in the procurement, the school district may elect to proceed with the procurement with only one person if the governing board determines in writing that the negotiated fee is fair and reasonable and that either other prospective persons had reasonable opportunity to respond or there is not adequate time for a resolicitation.
  - c. If a person on the final list withdraws or is removed from the procurement and the selection committee determines that it is advantageous to the school district, the selection committee may replace that person on the final list with another person that submitted qualifications in the procurement and that is selected as the next most qualified.

D. The request for qualifications shall:

1. Provide instructions and information to persons concerning the statement of qualifications submission requirements, including the due date and time for receipt of statements of qualifications, the address of the office at which the statements of qualifications are to be received, and any other special information.
2. State whether one contract or multiple contracts may or will be awarded.
  - a. If one contract will be awarded, state that one contract may or will be awarded, describe the services to be performed under the contract and state that one person may or will be awarded the contract.
  - b. If multiple contracts may or will be awarded, state the number of contracts

that may or will be awarded, the services to be performed under each of the multiple contracts, and either that each contract will be awarded to a separate person or that all of the contracts will be awarded to the same person.

3. State the number of persons to be included on the final list.
  - a. If a single contract will be awarded, state that there will be a single final list of at least three and not more than five persons.
  - b. If multiple contracts will be awarded to a single person, state that there will be a single final list of at least three and not more than five persons.
  - c. If multiple contracts for similar specified professional services will be awarded to separate persons, state that there will be a single final list equal to the number of contracts that may or will be awarded and a number determined by the school district not to exceed five.
  - d. If multiple contracts for different specified professional services will be awarded to separate persons, state that there will be a separate final list for each type of specified professional services and that the number of persons on each final list will be equal to the number of contracts that may or will be awarded for each type of specified professional services and a number determined by the school district not to exceed five.
4. State the selection criteria and relative weight to be used. All selection criteria shall be factors that demonstrate competence and qualifications for the type of specified professional services included in the procurement.
  - a. If interviews will be held, state the selection criteria and relative weights to be used in selecting the persons to be interviewed. The request for qualifications may state the selection criteria and relative weights to be used in selecting the persons on the final list and in determining their order on the final list. The final list selection criteria and relative weights may be different than the selection criteria and relative weights used to determine the persons to be interviewed. The request for qualifications also shall state whether the school district will select the persons on the final list and their order on the final list solely through the results of the interview process or through the combined results of both the interview process and the evaluation of statements of qualifications and performance data submitted in response to the request for qualifications.
  - b. If interviews will not be held, state the selection criteria and relative weights to be used in selecting the persons on the final list and in determining their order on the final list.
5. State whether interviews will be held.
  - a. If a single contract will be awarded, state that there will be interviews with at least three and not more than five persons.
  - b. If multiple contracts will be awarded to a single person, state that there will be interviews with at least three and not more than five persons.
  - c. If multiple contracts for similar specified professional services will be awarded to separate persons, state that there will be interviews with a number of persons equal to the number of contracts that may or will be awarded and a number determined by the school district not to exceed five.



- d. If multiple contracts for different specified professional services will be awarded to separate persons, state that interviews will be held and that the interviews will be with a specified number of persons. The specified number shall be stated in the request for qualifications, shall be determined by the school district, shall be at least three times the number of contracts that may or will be awarded and shall not be more than five times the number of contracts that may or will be awarded.
  6. The name of the district representative or district representatives and the publicly available location of the school district's protest policy or procedure.
  7. Notice that all information and statements of qualifications submitted by persons will be made available for public inspection after the school district has entered into a single contract or all of the multiple contracts.
- E. Statements of qualifications shall be received and opened in accordance with R7-2-1045. Late statements of qualifications, late modifications, or late withdrawals shall be considered in accordance with R7-2-1044 and R7-2-1049.
- F. A copy of the request for qualifications shall be made available for public inspection at the school district office.

**R7-2-1118. Public notice of specified professional services**

- A. Notice of the need for specified professional services shall be given by the school district pursuant to R7-2-1022 and R7-2-1024(C). Such notice shall be issued not less than 14 days in advance of when responses shall be received.
- B. The notice shall:
1. Contain a statement of the services required that adequately describes the procurement and specifies how a request for qualifications containing specific information on the procurement may be obtained.
  2. Specify whether the procurement is for a single contract or for multiple contracts; and
  3. If the procurement is for multiple contracts:
    - a. Specify that multiple contracts may or will be awarded;
    - b. Specify the number of contracts that may or will be awarded; and
    - c. Describe the specified professional services to be performed under each contract.

**R7-2-1119. Cancellation or rejection of the solicitation**

A school district may cancel a request for qualifications, reject in whole or in part any or all statements of qualifications or determine not to enter into a contract as specified in the solicitation if it is advantageous to the school district. The school district shall make the reasons for cancellation, rejection or determination not to enter into a contract part of the procurement file.

**R7-2-1120. Specified professional services selection committee**

- A. The school district shall initiate an appropriately qualified selection committee for each request for qualifications. The school district shall ensure that selection committee members are competent to serve on the selection committee.

- B. Each selection committee shall include at least one school district representative appointed by the school district.
- C. The school district shall determine the number and qualifications of the selection committee members. These members may be employees of the school district or non-school district appointees.
- D. Non-school district employees serving on a selection committee shall not receive compensation from the school district for performing this service, but the school district may elect to reimburse non-school district members for travel, lodging and other expenses incurred in connection with service on a selection committee.
- E. A person who is a member of a selection committee shall not be a contractor or subcontractor under a contract awarded under the procurement or provide any specified professional services or other services under the contract.
- F. For the procurement of multiple contracts for specified professional services, the same selection committee shall be used for all contracts in the procurement.

**R7-2-1121. Committee evaluation and selection**

- A. If interviews are specified in the request for qualifications:
  - 1. The selection committee shall determine the persons to be interviewed by evaluating the statements of qualifications and performance data submitted based solely on the selection criteria and relative weights in the request for qualifications to be used to determine the persons to be interviewed.
  - 2. If the selection criteria and relative weights to be used by the selection committee to select the persons on the final list or final lists and to determine their order on the final list or final lists are not included in the request for qualifications:
    - a. Before the interviews are held the school district shall distribute to the persons to be interviewed the selection criteria and relative weights to be used to select the persons on the final list and to determine their order on the final list.
    - b. These selection criteria and relative weight may be different than the selection criteria and relative weight used to determine the persons to be interviewed.
  - 3. The selection committee shall conduct interviews with the number of persons specified in the request for qualifications.
- B. Based solely on the selection criteria and relative weights for selection of the persons on the final list or final lists and their order on the final list or final lists, the selection committee shall select the persons for the final list or final lists and rank the persons on the final list or final lists in order of preference. If the procurement is for multiple contracts for different specified professional services to be awarded to separate persons, and if a person submitted qualifications for more than one type of specified professional services, the person may be on more than one final list.
- C. Before or at the same time as the school district notifies the highest ranking person on the final list or final lists that it is the highest ranking person, the school district shall send actual notice to each of the following that it is not the highest ranking person or that another person is the highest ranking person:
  - 1. If interviews were held, the other persons interviewed.

2. If interviews were not held, the other persons that made submittals.
- D. The school district shall conduct negotiations with persons on the final list or final lists as follows:
1. The school district shall negotiate a contract with the highest qualified person for the required specified professional services at compensation determined in writing to be fair and reasonable to the school district. Contract negotiations shall be directed toward:
    - a. Making certain that the person has a clear understanding of the scope of the work, specifically, the essential requirements involved in providing the required services;
    - b. Determining that the person will make available the necessary personnel and facilities to perform the services within the required time; and
    - c. Agreeing upon compensation that is fair and reasonable.
  2. The negotiations shall include consideration of compensation and other contract terms that the school district determines to be fair and reasonable to the school district. In making this decision, the school district shall take into account the estimated value, the scope, the complexity and the nature of the specified professional services to be rendered.
  3. If the procurement is for a single contract, there is one final list and the school district shall enter into negotiations with the highest qualified person on the final list. If the school district is not able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the highest qualified person on the final list, at compensation and on other contract terms the school district determines to be fair and reasonable, the school district shall formally terminate negotiations with that person. The school district shall then undertake negotiations with the next most qualified person on the final list in sequence until an agreement is reached or a determination is made to reject all persons on the final list.
  4. If the procurement is for multiple contracts for specified professional services to be awarded to a single person on the final list, there is one final list and the school district shall enter into negotiations with the highest qualified person on the final list. If the school district is not able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the highest qualified person on the final list, at compensation and on other contract terms the school district determines to be fair and reasonable, the school district shall formally terminate negotiations with that person. The school district shall then undertake negotiations with the next most qualified person on the final list in sequence until an agreement is reached or a determination is made to reject all persons on the final list.
  5. If the procurement is for multiple contracts for similar specified professional services to be awarded to separate persons, there is one final list and the school district shall enter into separate negotiations for contracts with the number of the highest qualified persons on the final list equal to the number of contracts to be awarded. If the school district is not able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with a person with whom the school district has commenced negotiations, the school district shall formally terminate negotiations with that person. The school district shall then undertake negotiations for a contract with the next most qualified person on the final list with whom the school district is not then negotiating and

with whom the school district has not previously negotiated in sequence until an agreement is reached for some or all of the multiple contracts included in the request for qualifications or a determination is made to reject all persons on the final list.

6. If the procurement is for multiple contracts for different specified professional services to be awarded to separate persons, there is a separate final list for each type of specified professional services and the school district shall enter into separate negotiations for contracts with the number of the highest qualified persons on each final list equal to the number of contracts to be awarded. If the school district is not able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with a person with whom the school district has commenced negotiations, the school district shall formally terminate negotiations with that person. The school district shall then undertake negotiations for a contract with the next most qualified person on the applicable final list with whom the school district is not then negotiating and with whom the school district has not previously negotiated in sequence until an agreement is reached for some or all of the multiple contracts included in the request for qualifications or a determination is made to reject all persons on the final list.
7. If the school district terminates negotiations with a person and commences negotiations with another person on the final list, the school district shall not recommence negotiations or enter into a contract for the specified professional services covered by the final list with any person with whom the school district terminated negotiations.

**R7-2-1122. Specified professional services contracts not exceeding certain amounts**

- A. A school district may procure a single contract or multiple contracts for specified professional services under this Section if the contract is for specified professional services by an architect or architect firm and the contract amount is \$250,000 or less or if the contract is for specified professional services by a person other than an architect and the contract amount is \$500,000 or less. For such procurements, the school district shall encourage persons engaged in the lawful practice of the profession to submit annually a statement of qualifications and experience.
- B. For each procurement of specified professional services under this Section, the school district shall establish a selection committee pursuant to R7-2-1120.
- C. The selection committee shall evaluate current statements of qualifications and experience on file with the school district, together with those that may be submitted by other persons regarding the procurement.
- D. The school district and the selection committee shall not request or consider fees, price, man-hours or any other cost information at any point in the selection process under this Section, including the selection of the persons to be interviewed, the selection of persons to be on a final list, in determining the order of preference of persons on a final list or for any other purpose in the selection process, except as provided in subsection (F).
- E. If possible and practicable, the selection committee shall conduct interviews regarding the procurement and the relative methods of furnishing the required specified professional services and, if possible, shall select, in order of preference and based on criteria established and published by the selection committee, one or

more final lists of the persons deemed to be the most qualified to provide the specified professional services required. The selection committee shall base the selection of each final list and the order of preference on demonstrated competence and qualifications only.

1. If the procurement is for a single contract or if the procurement is for multiple contracts to be awarded to a single person, there shall be one final list of three persons.
  2. If the procurement is for multiple contracts for different specified professional services to be awarded to separate persons, there shall be a separate final list of three persons for each contract.
  3. If the procurement is for multiple contracts for the same specified professional services to be awarded to separate persons, there shall be one final list equal to the number of contracts that may or will be awarded and a number determined by the school district not to exceed five.
- F. The school district shall enter into negotiations with the highest qualified person on each final list or, in the case of a single final list for multiple contracts for the same specified professional services to be awarded to separate persons, the school district shall enter into negotiations with a number of the highest qualified persons on the final list equal to the number of contracts that may or will be awarded.
1. Negotiations shall include consideration of compensation and other contract terms that the school district determines to be fair and reasonable to the school district. In making this determination, the school district shall take into account the estimated value, the scope, the complexity and the nature of the specified professional services to be rendered.
  2. If the school district is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with a person with whom the school district is negotiating at a price and on other contract terms the school district determines to be fair and reasonable to the school district, the school district shall formally terminate negotiations with that person.
  3. The school district may undertake negotiations with the next most qualified person on the final list in sequence until an agreement is reached or a determination is made to reject all persons on the final list.
  4. If the school district terminates negotiations with a person on a final list and commences negotiations with another person on the final list, the school district shall not in that procurement recommence negotiations or enter into a contract or contracts with any person with whom the school district has terminated negotiations.

**R7-2-1123. Procurement file contents and review for procurements conducted under R7-2-1117 through R7-2-1121**

- A. At a minimum, the school district shall retain the following for each procurement under R7-2-1117 through R7-2-1121:
1. If interviews were not held:
    - a. The submittal of the person listed first on the final list and the submittal of each person with whom the school district enters into a contract. If the procurement has multiple final lists, the school district shall retain the submittal of the person listed first on the final list and the submittal of each

person with whom the school district enters into a contract, for each final list.

- b. The final list or final lists.
- c. A list of the selection criteria and relative weight of selection criteria used to select the persons for the final list or final lists and to determine their order on the final list or final lists.
- d. A list that contains the name of each person that submitted qualifications and that shows the person's final overall rank or score.
- e. Documents that show the final score or rank on each selection criteria of each person that submitted qualifications and that support the final overall rankings and scores of the persons that submitted qualifications. The school district shall retain the individual scoring sheets for individual selection committee members.

2. If interviews were held:

- a. All submittals of the person listed first on the final list and the submittal of each person with whom the school district enters into a contract. If the procurement has multiple final lists, the school district shall retain the submittal of the person listed first on the final list and the submittal of each person with whom the school district enters into a contract, for each final list.
- b. The final list or final lists.
- c. A list of the selection criteria and relative weight of selection criteria used to select the persons for the final list or final lists and to determine their order on the final list or final lists.
- d. A list that contains the name of each person that was interviewed and that shows the person's final overall rank or score.
- e. Documents that show the final score or rank on each selection criteria of each person that was interviewed and that support the final overall rankings and scores of the persons that were interviewed. The school district shall retain the individual scoring sheets for individual selection committee members.
- f. A list of the selection criteria and relative weight of the selection criteria used to select the persons for the short list or short lists to be interviewed.
- g. A list that contains the name of each person that submitted qualifications and that shows the person's final overall rank or score in the selection of the persons to be on the short list or short lists to be interviewed.
- h. Documents that show the final score or rank on each selection criteria of each person that submitted qualifications and that support the final overall rankings and scores of the persons that submitted qualifications. The school district shall retain the individual scoring sheets for individual selection committee members.

B. Information relating to each procurement under R7-2-1117 through R7-2-1121 shall be made available to the public as follows:

1. Until the school district awards a single contract or all of the multiple contracts or terminates the procurement, only the name of each person on the final list may be made available to the public. All other information received by the school

district in response to the request for qualifications shall be confidential in order to avoid disclosure of the contents that may be prejudicial to competing respondents during the selection process.

2. After the school district awards a single contract or all of the multiple contracts or terminates the procurement, the school district shall make the contents of the procurement file, except the statements of qualifications and the documents described in subsections (A)(1)(e), (A)(2)(e), and (A)(2)(h), available to the public.
  3. After the school district has entered into a single contract or all of the multiple contracts or has terminated the procurement, the school district shall make the statements of qualifications and the documents described in subsections (A)(1)(e), (A)(2)(e), and (A)(2)(h) available to the public.
  4. To the extent that a person designates and the school district concurs, trade secrets and other proprietary data contained in a statement of qualifications shall remain confidential.
  5. If the procurement file contains information that is confidential under R7-2-1006, a copy of the applicable documents with the confidential information redacted shall be placed in the procurement file for the purpose of public inspection. The unredacted original copy of the confidential information shall be placed in a sealed envelope or other appropriate container, identified as confidential information, and maintained in the procurement file.
- C. The school district shall retain the records of a procurement under R7-2-1117 through R7-2-1121 in accordance with R7-2-1085.

## **COST PRINCIPLES**

### **R7-2-1125. Cost principles**

The cost principles adopted by the director of the Department of Administration pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2591 shall be used to determine the allowability of incurred costs for the purpose of reimbursing costs under contract provisions that provide for the reimbursement of costs.

## **MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

### **R7-2-1131. Material management and disposition**

- A. The school district shall ascertain or verify that materials, services, or construction items procured by the school district conform to specifications as set forth in the solicitation.
- B. The school district shall determine the fair market value of excess and surplus material.
- C. Disposition of surplus materials.
  1. Except as provided in A.R.S. § 15-342(7) related to sales or leases to the state, a county, a city, another school district, or a tribal government agency, and A.R.S. § 15-342(18) related to the disposition of surplus or outdated learning materials, educational equipment and furnishings, surplus materials, regardless of value, shall be offered through competitive sealed bids, public auction, on-line sales, established markets, trade in, posted prices or state surplus property. If unusual circumstances render the above methods impractical, the school district may

employ other disposition methods, including appraisal or barter, provided the school district makes a written determination that such procedure is advantageous to the school district. Only United States Postal Money Orders, certified checks, cashiers' checks or cash shall be accepted for sales of surplus material unless otherwise approved by the school district.

2. Competitive sealed bidding.

a. Notice for sale bids shall be publicly available from the school district at least 10 days before the due date set for bids. Notice of the sale bids shall be provided to prospective bidders, including those bidders on lists maintained by the school district pursuant to R7-2-1023. The notice for sale bids shall list the materials offered for sale, their location, availability for inspection, the terms and conditions of sale and instructions to bidders including the bid due date and time. Bids shall be opened publicly pursuant to the requirements of R7-2-1029.

b. The award shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the notice for sale bids to the highest responsive and responsible bidder, provided that the price offered by such bidder is acceptable to the school district. If the school district determines that the bid is not advantageous to the school district, the school district may reject the bids in whole or in part and may resolicit bids or the school district may negotiate the sale, provided that the negotiated sale price is higher than the highest responsive and responsible bidder's price.

3. Auctions shall be advertised at least two times prior to the auction date in a newspaper of the county as defined in A.R.S. § 11-255. Advertisements shall be at least seven days apart. The second publication shall not be less than seven days before the auction date. All the terms and conditions of any sale shall be available to the public at least 24 hours prior to the auction date. The school district or any agent acting on the school district's behalf may also advertise the auction in any other manner determined advantageous to the school district.

4. Internet-based on-line sales shall not be subject to the advertisement requirements in subsection (C)(3). For such disposal services, the school district shall post and maintain a notice explaining the use of Internet-based on-line sales on a designated site on the Internet. The notice shall include:

a. The name of the on-line sales provider and the designated site on the Internet where potential buyers may obtain information or participate in the on-line auctions;

b. A link to the Internet-based on-line sales service;

c. A link to the terms and conditions of sale;

d. Instructions for bidding on the Internet-based on-line sales site; and

e. A period of not less than 14 days for each Internet-based on-line sale during which persons may submit offers to purchase the specified materials.

5. Before surplus materials are disposed of by trade-in to a vendor for credit on an acquisition, the school district shall approve such disposal. The school district shall base this determination on whether the trade-in value is expected to exceed the value realized through the sale or other disposition of such materials.



6. An employee of the school district or a governing board member, or an employee of a school district's agent conducting an auction on behalf of the school district, shall not directly or indirectly purchase or agree with another person to purchase surplus property if said employee or board member is, or has been, directly or indirectly involved in the purchase, disposal, maintenance, or preparation for sale of the surplus material.
7. State surplus property manager. The school district may enter into an agreement with the State Surplus Property Manager for the disposition of materials pursuant to Article 8 of the Arizona Procurement Code (A.R.S. § 41-2601 et seq.) and the rules adopted thereunder.
8. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-342(35), a school district may offer to sell outdated learning materials, educational equipment or furnishings at a posted price commensurate with the value of the items to pupils who are currently enrolled in that school district before those materials are offered for public sale.

#### **R7-2-1132. State and federal surplus materials program**

- A. The governing board may acquire surplus materials from the state and the United States government.
- B. The governing board may enter into an agreement with the State Surplus Property Manager for the purpose of acquiring surplus materials from the United States government pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2603 and the rules adopted thereunder.

#### **R7-2-1133. Authority for transfer of material**

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the governing board may secure the transfer of surplus materials and obligate its monies to the extent necessary to comply with the laws and conditions of such transfers.

### **BID PROTESTS**

#### **R7-2-1141. Resolution of bid protests**

- A. Informal resolution of bid protests. Nothing in Articles 10 and 11 are intended to eliminate the informal resolution of problems by school district personnel.
- B. Formal resolution of bid protests. The governing board pursuant to R7-2-1007 shall designate a district representative, as defined in R7-2-1001(39), to resolve bid protests. All solicitations issued by the school district shall include the name of the district representative and shall indicate that any bid protest shall be filed with the district representative. Appeal from the decision of the district representative may be made to the hearing officer pursuant to R7-2-1147 and R7-2-1181.

#### **R7-2-1142. Filing of a protest**

- A. Any interested party may protest a solicitation issued by the school district, a determination that a proposal is unacceptable, or the proposed award or the award of a school district contract. Protests shall be filed with the district representative.
- B. Content of protest. The protest shall be in writing and shall include the following information:
  1. The name, address and telephone number of the interested party;
  2. The signature of the interested party or the interested party's representative;
  3. Identification of the solicitation or contract number;

4. A detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the protest including copies of relevant documents; and
  5. The form of relief requested.
- C. The interested party shall supply promptly any other information requested by the district representative.

**R7-2-1143. Time for filing protests**

- A. Protests based upon alleged improprieties in a solicitation that are apparent before the due date and time for responses to the solicitation, shall be filed before the due date and time for responses to the solicitation.
- B. In cases other than those covered in subsection (A), the interested party shall file the protest within 10 days after the school district makes the procurement file available for public inspection.
- C. The interested party may file a written request with the district representative for an extension of the time limit for protest filing set forth in subsection (B). The written request shall be filed before the expiration of the time limit set forth in subsection (B) and shall set forth good cause as to the specific action or inaction of the school district that resulted in the interested party being unable to file the protest within the 10 days. The district representative shall approve or deny the request in writing, state the reasons for the determination, and, if an extension is granted, set forth a new date for submission of the filing.
- D. If the interested party shows good cause and it is advantageous to the school district, the district representative may consider any protest that is not filed timely.
- E. The district representative shall immediately give notice of the protest to the successful contractor if award has been made or, if no award has been made, to all interested parties.
- F. At any time the district representative or hearing officer may refer the protest to the governing board for resolution in accordance with R7-2-1152.

**R7-2-1144. Stay of procurements during the protest**

The district representative may stay all or part of the procurement or contract if it is determined that there is a reasonable probability the protest will be upheld or that a stay is advantageous to the school district. The district representative shall notify the successful contractor if award has been made or, if no award has been made, all interested parties of the stay in writing.

**R7-2-1145. Decision by the district representative**

- A. The district representative shall have the authority granted to the district representative by the governing board to settle and resolve a protest.
- B. The district representative shall issue a written decision within 42 days after a protest has been filed pursuant to R7-2-1142. The decision shall include:
  1. A statement of the decision of the district representative with supporting rationale; and
  2. A paragraph substantially as follows:

"This is the decision of the district representative of the \_\_\_\_\_ School District. The decision may be appealed to a hearing officer. If you appeal, you

must file a written notice of appeal with the district representative within 14 days from the date of the decision."

- C. The district representative shall furnish a copy of the decision to the interested party by any method that provides evidence of receipt.
- D. On agreement of all interested parties, the time limit for decisions set forth in subsection (B) may be extended by the district representative for good cause for a reasonable time not to exceed 14 days. The district representative shall notify the interested party in writing that the time for the issuance of a decision has been extended and the date by which a decision will be issued.
- E. If the district representative fails to issue a decision within the time limits set forth in subsections (B) or (D), the interested party may proceed as if the district representative had issued an adverse decision.

#### **R7-2-1146. Remedies**

- A. If the district representative sustains the protest in whole or part and determines that a solicitation, a determination that a proposal is unacceptable, proposed contract award, or contract award does not comply with Articles 10 and 11, the school district shall implement an appropriate remedy.
- B. In determining an appropriate remedy, the district representative shall consider all the circumstances surrounding the procurement or proposed procurement including, but not limited to, the seriousness of the procurement deficiency, the degree of prejudice to other interested parties or to the integrity of the procurement system, the good faith of the parties, the extent of performance, costs to the school district, the urgency of the procurement, the impact of the relief on the mission of the school district, and other relevant issues.
- C. An appropriate remedy may include one or more of the following:
  - 1. Decline to exercise an option to renew under the contract;
  - 2. Terminate the contract;
  - 3. Amend the solicitation;
  - 4. Issue a new solicitation;
  - 5. Award a contract consistent with procurement statutes and regulations; or
  - 6. Such other relief as is determined necessary to ensure compliance with Articles 10 and 11.

#### **R7-2-1147. Appeals to a hearing officer**

- A. An appeal to a hearing officer from a decision entered or deemed to be entered by the district representative shall be filed with the district representative within 14 days from the date of decision.
- B. Content of appeal. The appeal shall contain:
  - 1. The information set forth in R7-2-1142(B); and
  - 2. The precise factual or legal error in the decision of the district representative from which an appeal is taken.
- C. All costs associated with conducting a hearing, including the costs of the hearing officer, shall be paid by the school district. If the hearing officer decides in favor of

the school district, the other party shall reimburse the school district for the costs of the hearing.

- D. The Executive Director of the State Board of Education ("Executive Director") shall prepare and maintain a list of individuals who meet the qualifications specified in R7-2-1185 to serve as hearing officers.
- E. A hearing officer may be selected by mutual agreement of both parties. If the parties are unable to mutually agree on a hearing officer, three hearing officers shall be selected randomly by the Executive Director and shall be screened to determine availability and possible bias. Once the Executive Director has selected three hearing officers who are available and show no evidence of bias, the three names shall be provided to both parties. Both parties have the opportunity to strike one name from the list provided, but shall do so within 14 calendar days from the date on which the Executive Director provided the list to the parties. If after the time period for striking a hearing officer has passed and more than one person remains on the list, the Executive Director shall select one of the remaining individuals on the list as the hearing officer unless either party objects for cause and provides such reason in writing to the Executive Director. If after the time period for striking a hearing officer has passed and there is only one person remaining on the list, the remaining individual shall be named as the hearing officer unless either party objects for cause and provides such reason in writing to the Executive Director. Objections for cause shall require specific evidence that the individual does not meet the criteria specified in R7-2-1185. The Executive Director shall review the evidence submitted and determine the qualifications of the individual. If the Executive Director determines that the individual is not qualified to serve as the hearing officer, the Executive Director shall repeat the process and select three additional hearing officers to be provided to the parties.

#### **R7-2-1148. Notice of appeal**

The district representative shall within three working days give notice of the filing of the appeal to the governing board and the successful contractor if award has been made.

#### **R7-2-1149. Stay of procurement during appeal**

If an appeal is filed and the procurement or contract was stayed by the district representative pursuant to R7-2-1144, the filing of an appeal shall automatically continue the stay unless the hearing officer makes a written determination that the award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect substantial interests of the school district.

#### **R7-2-1150. District representative's response**

- A. The district representative shall prepare a complete response to the appeal within 14 days from the date the appeal is filed or within five days after the hearing officer has been selected, whichever is later. The district representative's response shall be filed with the hearing officer within five days after the hearing officer is selected. At the same time, the district representative shall furnish a copy of the response to the appellant and to any interested party.
- B. The interested party shall file comments on the district representative's response with the hearing officer within 10 days after receipt of the response. The interested party shall provide copies of the comments to the district representative and other interested parties.

- C. The interested party may submit a written request to the hearing officer for an extension of the period for submission of comments, identifying the reasons for the extension. The hearing officer shall approve or deny the request in writing, state the reasons for the determination, and, if an extension is granted, set forth a new date for the submission of filing comments. The hearing officer shall notify the district representative of any extension.

#### **R7-2-1151. Dismissal before hearing**

- A. The hearing officer shall dismiss, upon a written determination, an appeal before scheduling a hearing if:
1. The appeal does not state a valid basis for protest;
  2. The appeal is untimely pursuant to R7-2-1147(A); or
  3. The appeal attempts to raise issues not raised in the protest.
- B. The hearing officer shall notify the interested party and the district representative in writing of a determination to dismiss an appeal before hearing.

#### **R7-2-1152. Hearing**

Hearings on appeals of bid protest decisions shall be conducted pursuant to R7-2-1181 and A.R.S. § 41-1092.07 as contested cases.

#### **R7-2-1153. Remedies**

If the hearing officer sustains the appeal in whole or part and determines that a solicitation, a determination that a proposal is unacceptable, proposed award, or award does not comply with Articles 10 and 11, remedies shall be implemented pursuant to R7-2-1146.

### **CONTRACT CLAIMS AND CONTROVERSIES**

#### **R7-2-1155. Resolution of contract claims and controversies**

- A. The district representative shall have the authority granted to the district representative by the governing board to settle and resolve contract claims and controversies including claims relating to assignees of the contractor.
- B. The district representative shall receive prior written approval of the governing board for the settlement or resolution of a claim of \$50,000 or greater.
- C. Appeals from decisions of the district representative may be made to the hearing officer pursuant to R7-2-1158.
- D. A claimant shall file a contract claim with the district representative within 180 days after the claim arises. The claim shall include the following:
1. The name, address, and telephone number of the claimant;
  2. The signature of the claimant or claimant's representative;
  3. Identification of the solicitation or contract number;
  4. A detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the claim including copies of the relevant documents; and
  5. The form and dollar amount of the relief requested.

### **R7-2-1156. District representative's decision**

- A. If a controversy cannot be resolved by mutual agreement, the district representative shall issue a written decision within no more than 42 days from receipt of the contractor's written request for a decision. Before issuing a written decision, the district representative shall review the facts pertinent to the claim and secure any necessary assistance from legal, fiscal, and other advisors.
- B. Decision of the district representative. The district representative shall furnish a copy of the decision to the contractor by any method that provides evidence of receipt. The decision shall include:
  - 1. A description of the claim;
  - 2. A reference to the pertinent contract provision;
  - 3. A statement of the factual areas of agreement or disagreement;
  - 4. A statement of the district representative's decision, with supporting rationale; and
  - 5. A paragraph substantially as follows:

"This is the decision of the district representative of the \_\_\_\_\_ School District. This decision may be appealed to a hearing officer. If you appeal, you must file a written notice of appeal with the district representative within 14 days from the date of decision."

### **R7-2-1157. Issuance of a timely decision**

- A. On agreement of all interested parties, the time limit for decisions set forth in R7-2-1156(A) may be extended for good cause for a reasonable time not to exceed 14 days. The district representative shall notify the contractor in writing that the time for the issuance of a decision has been extended and the date by which a decision shall be issued.
- B. If the district representative fails to issue a decision within 42 days after the request is filed or within the time prescribed under subsection (A), the contractor may proceed as if the district representative had issued an adverse decision.

### **R7-2-1158. Appeals to a hearing officer**

- A. An appeal from a decision entered or deemed to be entered by the district representative on a contract claim or controversy shall be filed with the district representative within 14 days from the date of decision.
- B. The appeal shall contain the basis for the precise factual or legal error in the decision of the district representative from which an appeal is taken.
- C. The district representative shall prepare a complete response to the appeal within 14 days from the date the appeal is filed or within five days after the hearing officer has been selected, whichever is later. The district representative's response shall be filed with the hearing officer within five days after the hearing officer is selected. At the same time, the district representative shall furnish a copy of the response to the appellant and to any interested party.
- D. All costs associated with conducting a hearing, including the costs of the hearing officer, shall be paid by the school district. If the hearing officer decides in favor of

the school district, the other party shall reimburse the school district for the costs of the hearing.

- E. The Executive Director of the State Board of Education ("Executive Director") shall prepare and maintain a list of individuals who meet the qualifications specified in R7-2-1185 to serve as hearing officers.
- F. A hearing officer may be selected by mutual agreement of both parties. If the parties are unable to mutually agree on a hearing officer, three hearing officers shall be selected randomly by the Executive Director and shall be screened to determine availability and possible bias. Once the Executive Director has selected three hearing officers who are available and show no evidence of bias, the three names shall be provided to both parties. Both parties have the opportunity to strike one name from the list provided, but shall do so within 14 calendar days from the date on which the Executive Director provided the list to the parties. If after the time period for striking a hearing officer has passed and more than one person remains on the list, the Executive Director shall select one of the remaining individuals on the list as the hearing officer unless either party objects for cause and provides such reason in writing to the Executive Director. If after the time period for striking a hearing officer has passed and there is only one person remaining on the list, the remaining individual shall be named as the hearing officer unless either party objects for cause and provides such reason in writing to the Executive Director. Objections for cause shall require specific evidence that the individual does not meet the criteria specified in R7-2-1185. The Executive Director shall review the evidence submitted and determine the qualifications of the individual. If the Executive Director determines that the individual is not qualified to serve as the hearing officer, the Executive Director shall repeat the process and select three additional hearing officers to be provided to the parties.

### **R7-2-1159. Hearing**

Hearings on appeals of contract claim and controversy decisions shall be conducted pursuant to R7-2-1181 and A.R.S. § 41-1092.07 as contested cases.

### **DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION**

#### **R7-2-1161. Authority to debar or suspend**

- A. Except as provided in A.R.S. § 41-1279.21(B), the governing board has the sole authority to debar or suspend a person from participating in school district procurements.
- B. The causes for debarment or suspension include the following:
  - 1. Conviction of any person or any subsidiary or affiliate of any person for commission of a criminal offense arising out of obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract or subcontract, or in the performance of such contract or subcontract.
  - 2. Conviction of any person or any subsidiary or affiliate of any person under any statute of the federal government, this state or any other state for embezzlement, theft, fraudulent schemes and artifices, fraudulent schemes and practices, bid rigging, perjury, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property or any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty which affects responsibility as a school district contractor.

3. Conviction or civil judgment finding a violation by any person or any subsidiary or affiliate of any person under state or federal antitrust statutes.
4. Violations of contract provisions of a character which are deemed to be so serious as to justify debarment action, such as either of the following:
  - a. Knowingly fails without good cause to perform in accordance with the specification or within the time limit provided in the contract.
  - b. Failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance in accordance with the terms of one or more contracts, except that failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance caused by acts beyond the control of the contractor shall not be considered to be a basis for debarment.
5. Any other cause deemed to affect responsibility as a school district contractor, including suspension or debarment of such person or any subsidiary or affiliate of such person by another governmental entity for any cause.

**R7-2-1162. Initiation of debarment**

Upon receipt of information concerning a possible cause for debarment, the school district shall investigate the possible cause. If the school district has a reasonable basis to believe that a cause for debarment exists, the school district may propose debarment under R7-2-1164.

**R7-2-1163. Period of debarment**

- A. The period of time for a debarment shall not exceed three years from the date of the debarment determination.
- B. If debarment is based solely upon debarment by another governmental agency including another school district, the period of debarment may run concurrently with the period established by that other debarring agency.

**R7-2-1164. Notice**

- A. If the school district proposes debarment, the school district shall notify the person and affected affiliates in writing within seven days of the proposed debarment by any means evidencing receipt, which notice shall indicate that a hearing shall be scheduled, if requested, in accordance with R7-2-1181 as contested cases.
- B. The notice of debarment shall state:
  1. The basis for debarment;
  2. The period, including dates, of the debarment;
  3. That bids or proposals shall not be solicited or accepted from the person and, if received, will not be considered; and
  4. That the person is entitled to a hearing on the suspension if the person files a written request for a hearing with a designated district representative within 10 days after receipt of the notice.

**R7-2-1165. Notice to affiliates**

- A. If the school district proposes to debar an affiliate, the affiliate shall have a right to appear in any hearing on the proposed debarment to show mitigating circumstances.
- B. The affiliate shall in writing advise the school district within 10 days of receipt of the notice under R7-2-1164 of its intention to appear under subsection (A). Failure to



provide written notice of appearance within the 10-day period shall be a waiver of the right to appear in the hearing.

**R7-2-1166. Imputed knowledge**

- A. Improper conduct may be imputed to an affiliate for purposes of debarment where the impropriety occurred in connection with the affiliate's duties for or on behalf of, or with the knowledge, approval, or acquiescence of, the contractor.
- B. The improper conduct of a person or its affiliate having a contract with a contractor may be imputed to the contractor for purposes of debarment where the impropriety occurred in connection with the person's duties for or on behalf of, or with the actual or constructive knowledge, approval, or acquiescence of, the contractor.

**R7-2-1167. Reinstatement**

- A. The governing board may at any time reinstate a debarred person or rescind the debarment upon a determination that the cause upon which the debarment is based no longer exists or upon a determination that such reinstatement or rescission is advantageous to the school district. The governing board's determination shall include any limitations on the debarred person's ability to contract with the school district.
- B. Any debarred person may request reinstatement by submitting a petition to the school district supported by documentary evidence showing that the cause for debarment no longer exists or has been substantially mitigated.
- C. The school district may require a hearing on the request for reinstatement.
- D. The school district shall make a written decision on reinstatement within 30 days after the request is filed and specify the factors on which it is based.

**R7-2-1168. Suspension**

- A. If adequate grounds for debarment exist, the governing board may suspend a person from participating in any procurement or receiving any award in accordance with the procedures in R7-2-1170.
- B. The governing board shall not suspend a person pending debarment unless compelling reasons require suspension to protect school district interests.

**R7-2-1169. Period and scope of suspension**

- A. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the period of suspension shall not exceed 35 days without satisfying the notice requirements of R7-2-1170. If the notice requirements are satisfied the period of suspension shall not exceed six months.
- B. For purpose of suspension, a person's conduct may be imputed to an affiliate or another person in accordance with R7-2-1166.

**R7-2-1170. Notice and hearing**

- A. The school district shall notify the person suspended by any means evidencing receipt.
- B. The notice of suspension shall state:
  - 1. The basis for suspension;
  - 2. The period, including dates, of the suspension;

3. That bids or proposals shall not be solicited or accepted from the person and, if received, will not be considered; and
4. That the person is entitled to a hearing on the suspension if the person files a written request for a hearing, including the basis for the request, with a designated district representative within 10 days after receipt of the notice.

C. A hearing requested under this Section shall be conducted pursuant to R7-2-1181.

**R7-2-1171. List of debarments, suspensions and voluntary exclusions**

The school district shall maintain a list of debarment, suspensions, and voluntary exclusions. It is recommended that the school district provide notice of any debarments, suspensions and voluntary exclusions to the state purchasing office.

**HEARING PROCEDURES**

**R7-2-1181. Hearing procedures**

- A. If a hearing is required or permitted under Articles 10 and 11, this Section shall apply. Hearing officers shall be selected pursuant to R7-2-1147(D) and (E) or R7-2-1158(E) and (F).
- B. The Arizona Administrative Procedure Act (A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6) shall apply where the Act is not inconsistent with Articles 10 and 11.
- C. The hearing officer shall arrange for a prompt hearing and notify the parties in writing of the time and place of the hearing.
- D. The hearing officer may:
  1. Hold pre-hearing conferences to settle, simplify, or identify the issues in a proceeding, or to consider other matters that may aid in the expeditious disposition of the proceeding;
  2. Require parties to state their positions concerning the various issues in the proceeding;
  3. Require parties to produce for examination those relevant witnesses and documents under their control;
  4. Rule on motions and other procedural items on matters pending before such officer;
  5. Regulate the course of the hearing and conduct of participants;
  6. Establish time limits for submission of motions or memoranda;
  7. Impose appropriate sanctions against any person failing to obey an order under these procedures, which may include:
    - a. Refusing to allow the person to assert or oppose designated claims or defenses, or prohibiting that person from introducing designated matters in evidence;
    - b. Excluding all testimony of an unresponsive or evasive witness; and
    - c. Expelling person from further participation in the hearing;
  8. Take official notice of any material fact not appearing in evidence in the record, if the fact is among the traditional matters of judicial notice; and

9. Administer oaths or affirmations.
- E. A transcribed record of the hearing shall be made available at cost to any requesting party.
- F. Decision by the hearing officer. A decision by the hearing officer shall be sent within 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing to all parties by any means evidencing receipt. A decision shall contain:
  1. A statement of facts;
  2. A statement of the decision with supporting rationale; and
  3. A statement that the parties may file a motion for rehearing within 15 days from the date a copy of this decision is served upon the party.

#### **R7-2-1182. Rehearing of decisions**

- A. Procedure; grounds. A decision of the hearing officer may be vacated and new hearing granted on motion of the aggrieved party for any of the following causes materially affecting the party's rights:
  1. Irregularity in the proceedings of the hearing officer or prevailing party, or any order or abuse of discretion, whereby the moving party was deprived of a fair hearing.
  2. Misconduct of the prevailing party.
  3. Accident or surprise not preventable by ordinary prudence.
  4. Material evidence, newly discovered, which despite reasonable diligence was not discovered and produced at the hearing.
  5. Excessive or insufficient damages or penalties.
  6. Error of law occurring at the hearing or during the progress of the proceeding.
  7. That the findings of fact or decision is not justified by the evidence or is contrary to law.
- B. Scope. A rehearing may be granted to all or any of the parties and on all or part of the issues in the proceeding for any of the reasons for which rehearings are authorized by law or rule of court. On a motion for a rehearing, the hearing officer may open the decision, take additional testimony, amend findings of fact and conclusions of law or make new findings and conclusions, and direct the entry of a new decision.
- C. Contents of motion; amendment; rulings reviewable.
  1. The motion for rehearing shall be in writing, shall specify generally the grounds upon which the motion is based, and may be amended at any time before it is ruled upon by the hearing officer.
  2. Upon the general ground that the hearing officer erred in admitting or rejecting evidence, the hearing officer shall review all rulings during the hearing upon objections to evidence.
  3. Upon the general ground that the findings of fact or decision are not justified by the evidence, the hearing officer shall review the sufficiency of the evidence.

- D. Time for motion for rehearing. A motion for rehearing shall be filed not later than 15 days after service of the decision upon the party.
- E. Time for serving affidavits. When a motion for rehearing is based upon affidavits they shall be served with the motion. The opposing party has 10 days after such service within which to serve opposing affidavits, which period may be extended for an additional period not exceeding 20 days either by the hearing officer for good cause shown or by the parties by written stipulation. The hearing officer may permit reply affidavits.
- F. On initiative of hearing officer. Not later than 15 days after the date of the decision, the hearing officer may order a rehearing for any reason for which it might have granted a rehearing on motion of a party. After giving the parties notice and an opportunity to be heard on the matter, the hearing officer may grant a motion for a rehearing, timely served, for a reason not stated in the motion. In either case, the hearing officer shall specify in the order the grounds therefor.
- G. Questions to be considered in rehearing. A rehearing, if granted, shall be only a rehearing of the question or questions with respect to which the decision is found erroneous, if separable. If a rehearing is ordered because the damages or penalties are excessive or inadequate and granted solely for that reason, the decision shall be set aside only in respect of the damages or penalties, and shall stand in all other respects.
- H. Motion on ground of excessive or inadequate damages. When a motion for rehearing is made upon the ground that the damages or penalties awarded are either excessive or insufficient, the hearing officer may grant the rehearing conditionally upon the filing within a fixed period of time, not to exceed 15 days, of a statement by the party adversely affected by reduction or increase of damages or penalties accepting that amount of damages or penalties which the hearing officer shall designate. If such a statement is filed with the prescribed time, the motion for rehearing shall be regarded as denied as of the date of such filing. If no statement is filed, the motion for rehearing shall be regarded as granted as of the date of the expiration of the time period within which a statement may have been filed. No further written order shall be required to make an order granting or denying the rehearing final. If the conditional order of the hearing officer requires a reduction of or increase in damages or penalties, then the rehearing will be granted in respect of the damages or penalties only and the decision shall stand in all other respects.
- I. Number of motions for rehearing. Not more than two motions for rehearing shall be granted to any party in the same action.
- J. Specifications of grounds of rehearing in order. An order granting a motion for rehearing shall specify with particularity the ground or grounds on which the rehearing is granted.
- K. Final decision.
  - 1. If a motion for rehearing is denied, the final decision denying the motion for rehearing shall be sent within five days after the denial to all parties by any means evidencing receipt. A final decision shall contain a paragraph substantially as follows:
 

"This is the final decision of the hearing officer in the matter of \_\_\_\_\_."

2. If the motion for rehearing was granted, after the rehearing is completed, a final decision shall be made and shall be sent within five days after the conclusion of the rehearing to all parties as required in subsection (K)(1). A final decision shall contain:
  - a. A statement of facts;
  - b. A statement of the decision with supporting rationale; and
  - c. A paragraph substantially as stated in subsection (K)(1).

#### **R7-2-1183. Judicial review**

Any final decision made as a result of a hearing held pursuant to Articles 10 and 11 are subject to judicial review in accordance with A.R.S. Title 12, Chapter 7, Article 6.

#### **R7-2-1184. Exclusive remedy**

Articles 10 and 11 (R7-2-1001 et seq.) provide the exclusive procedure for asserting a cause against the school district and its governing board arising in relation to any procurement conducted under Articles 10 and 11.

#### **R7-2-1185. Qualifications for hearing officers**

- A. A "hearing officer" means a person assigned to preside at a hearing held pursuant to Articles 10 and 11 and whose duty it is to assure that proper procedures are followed and that the rights of the parties are protected.
- B. A hearing officer shall be:
  1. Unbiased - not prejudiced for or against any party in the hearing;
  2. Disinterested - not having any personal or professional interest which would conflict with his/her objectivity in the hearing; and
  3. Independent - may not be an officer, employee or agent of the contractor or governing board, or of any other public agency involved in the dispute to be settled. A person who otherwise qualifies to conduct a hearing is not an employee of the contractor or governing board solely because he or she is paid by the parties to serve as a hearing officer.
- C. A hearing officer shall have:
  1. A minimum of three years of verified experience in the practice of law; or
  2. A minimum of three years of verified experience in school procurement or school facilities management and a minimum of one year of verified experience in conducting hearings. Completion of a course or program in conducting a hearing or arbitration may substitute for the one year of verified experience in conducting hearings.

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCUREMENTS**

#### **R7-2-1191. Cooperative purchasing authorized**

- A. A school district may either participate in, sponsor, conduct, or administer a cooperative purchasing agreement for the procurement of any materials, services, specified professional services, construction, or construction services with one or more eligible procurement units in accordance with an agreement entered into between the participants. An agreement entered into as provided in R7-2-1191

through R7-2-1195 is exempt from A.R.S. § 11-952(D) and (E). Parties under a cooperative purchasing agreement may:

1. Sponsor, conduct, or administer a cooperative purchasing agreement for the procurement or disposal of any materials, services or construction.
  2. Cooperatively use materials or services.
  3. Commonly use or share warehousing facilities, capital equipment and other facilities.
  4. Provide personnel, except that the requesting public procurement unit shall pay the public procurement unit providing the personnel the direct and indirect cost of providing the personnel, in accordance with the agreement.
  5. On request, make available to other public procurement units informational, technical or other services or software that may assist in improving the efficiency or economy of procurement. The public procurement unit furnishing the informational, technical, or other services or software has the right to request reimbursement for the reasonable and necessary costs of providing such services or software.
- B. The activities described in subsections (A)(1) through (A)(5) do not limit what parties may do under a cooperative purchasing agreement.
- C. A nonprofit corporation shall comply with Articles 10 and 11 in any cooperative purchasing agreement the nonprofit corporation administers in which a school district participates.
- D. Whether administering or purchasing from the agreement, this Section does not abrogate the responsibility of each school district to perform due diligence in order to ensure compliance with Articles 10 and 11 notwithstanding the fact that the cooperative purchase is administered by another eligible procurement unit.

#### **R7-2-1192. Contract provisions in a cooperative purchasing agreement**

Any contract entered pursuant to R7-2-1191 shall provide that:

1. Payment for materials and services and inspection and acceptance of materials or services ordered by an eligible procurement unit under a cooperative purchasing agreement shall be the exclusive obligation of such procurement unit;
2. The exercise of any rights or remedies by a using eligible procurement unit shall be the exclusive obligation of such procurement unit. The administering public procurement unit, as the contract administrator and without subjecting itself to any liability, may join in the resolution of any controversy;
3. Any school district may terminate without notice any cooperative purchasing agreement if another eligible procurement unit fails to comply with the terms of the contract;
4. Failure of an eligible procurement unit to secure performance from the contractor in accordance with the terms and conditions of its purchase order does not necessarily require any other eligible procurement unit to exercise its own rights or remedies; and

5. An eligible procurement unit shall not use a cooperative purchasing contract as a method for obtaining concessions or reduced prices for non-contract purchases of similar materials or services.

**R7-2-1193. Use of payments received by a supplying public procurement unit**

All payments received by a public procurement unit supplying personnel or services shall be available to the supplying public procurement unit to defray the cost of the cooperative program.

**R7-2-1194. Public procurement units in compliance with Article requirements**

- A. If the eligible procurement unit administering a cooperative purchase complies with the requirements of Articles 10 and 11, any public procurement unit participating in such a purchase is deemed to have complied with Articles 10 and 11. Public procurement units may not enter into a cooperative purchasing agreement for the purpose of circumventing Articles 10 and 11.
- B. A participating public procurement unit using a contract awarded by another eligible procurement unit shall only purchase awarded materials, services, specified professional services, construction, or construction services in compliance with the terms, conditions and prices in the contract.

**R7-2-1195. Contract controversies**

- A. Under a cooperative purchasing agreement in which a school district is a party, controversies arising between an administering public procurement unit and its bidders, offerors or contractors shall be resolved in accordance with Articles 10 and 11.
- B. Any local public procurement unit which is not subject to R7-2-1181 through R7-2-1185 may enter into an agreement with a school district to establish procedures or use such school district's existing procedures to resolve controversies with contractors, whether or not such controversy arose from a cooperative purchasing agreement.

**R7-2-1196. General Services Administration contracts**

- A. The governing board may authorize purchases under a current General Services Administration contract for materials or services without complying with the requirements of Articles 10 and 11 if the governing board determines in writing before proceeding with a General Services Administration contract procurement that all of the following apply:
  1. The price for materials or services is equal to or less than the contractor's current federal supply contract price with the General Services Administration and is fair and reasonable.
  2. The contractor has indicated in writing that the contractor is willing to extend the current federal supply contract pricing, terms and conditions to the school district.
  3. The purchase order adequately identifies the federal supply contract on which the order is based, including the name of the contractor, contract number and procurement description.
  4. The purchase contract is cost effective based on price, quality and other relevant factors, and is advantageous to the school district.

- B. The school district shall only purchase materials or services awarded under the applicable General Services Administration contract.
- C. The governing board shall comply with all federal requirements applicable to state and local government use of General Services Administration contracts.