

Business OperationsPurchasing Policies

The Superintendent shall ensure that all purchases are made in the interest of economy and efficiency. Where necessary, standards and procedures shall be established to accomplish the following policies of the Board of Education:

1. Purchases up to \$5,000. For the greatest efficiency in expediting purchases, the administration shall be authorized to purchase any item specifically budgeted which has a sale price within the established limit.
2. Purchases from \$5,000 up to \$90,000. The Superintendent shall request the submission of proposals for purchases which have a sale price within the established limit. The Superintendent shall receive and evaluate all proposals in making a recommendation to the Board of Education for acceptance. The Board of Education may review all proposals submitted relating to the recommended purchase. Since this is a proposal system, not a bidding process, the school district in no way shall be obligated to arbitrarily award the contract to the lowest proposal, but shall reserve the right to reject any and all proposals or to waive any informality in any proposal it deems advisable, and to award to the proposer which, in its opinion, is most desirable.
3. Purchases of \$90,000 and above. The Superintendent shall advertise for sealed bids which shall be opened in conformity with any applicable laws and in compliance with any procedures established by the Superintendent. The Board retains the right to determine the responsibility of the bidders, and shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications, be the bidder a member or apart from the local community.
4. The purchasing limits or requirements set forth in this policy may be waived in the event of an emergency or time-sensitive purchase where delay would materially disrupt District operations, threaten health or safety, result in the loss of services, or cause financial harm. In such circumstances, the Superintendent shall obtain prior approval from the Board President when reasonably practicable, and the Board of Education may ratify such purchase at a subsequent meeting.
5. Any school employee who orders any supplies or equipment outside of that which has been included in the annual budget and without written authorization of the principal or Superintendent shall be personally liable for payment for the supplies or equipment purchased.
6. School employees or students purchasing supplies and equipment out of an activity account must first secure a purchase order from the principal authorizing the purchase. Failure to do so will cause the person to be personally liable for payment for the supplies or equipment purchased.

7. The District need not comply with the bidding requirements if the District purchases property from the Nebraska State Purchasing Bureau, so long as the Nebraska State Purchasing Bureau competitively bid the purchase of property.
8. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, no employee may enter into any agreement or understanding on behalf of the District that may financially benefit the employee, member of the employee's immediate family, or a business with which the employee is associated, unless the Board of Education approves such contract or arrangement in advance.

Credit Card Purchasing Program

1. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or designee to contract with one or more financial institutions, card-issuing banks, credit card companies, charge card companies, debit card companies, or third-party merchant banks capable of operating a purchasing card program on behalf of the District.
2. The Board of Education delegates to the Superintendent or designee: (a) the determination of the type of purchasing card or cards to be utilized in the District's purchasing card program; and (b) the determination of which employees shall be approved or disapproved to be assigned a purchasing card in the District's purchasing card program. The Superintendent shall submit the approved names to the Board, from time to time.
3. The District's purchasing card program may only be utilized for the purchase of goods and services for and on behalf of the District. No officer or employee of the District shall use a purchasing card for any unauthorized use. For purposes of this policy, "goods" shall mean tangible supplies, materials, or equipment, and "services" shall mean professional services, contractual services, subscriptions, software or technology services, maintenance agreements, or other ongoing or time-based services. Purchases of goods shall follow the thresholds and procedures set forth above. Purchases of services may be subject to additional flexibility as set forth below, particularly when continuity of service is required.
4. An itemized receipt for purposes of tracking expenditures shall accompany all purchasing card purchases. In the event that a receipt does not accompany an authorized cardholder's purchase, the Superintendent or designee shall temporarily or permanently suspend said cardholder's purchasing card privileges.
5. Upon the termination or suspension of employment of an individual using a purchasing card, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately close such individual's purchasing card account and said employee shall immediately return the purchasing card.

Service Contract Renewals

When the Board of Education has previously approved a service, program, or contractual relationship, the Superintendent or designee is authorized to approve the renewal, extension, or continuation of such service without prior Board approval when:

- i. The renewal is consistent with the scope, purpose, and general cost structure previously approved by the Board;
- ii. The renewal is necessary to avoid an interruption of services or to meet a contractual or service deadline that occurs prior to the next scheduled Board meeting; and
- iii. The total cost of the renewal does not materially exceed the previously approved amount or includes only standard or customary increases.

The Superintendent or designee shall report any renewal to the Board of Education at the next regular meeting for review and ratification.

If a proposed renewal includes a material change in scope, pricing, or contractual terms, the renewal shall be submitted to the Board of Education for approval prior to execution whenever reasonably practicable.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 13-610
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 49-1401, et seq

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]