

PURCHASING POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL

OF THE

LEVITTOWN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Revised Purchasing Policy
August 15, 2018**

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PURCHASING POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

The objective of the Board of Education is to establish Purchasing policies and procedures for the procurement of goods and services economically and efficiently of the appropriate quality, in the appropriate quantity, from the most appropriate source, at the best possible price, in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local requirements, and to ensure that all purchases fall within the framework of budgetary limitations.

The Board seeks to purchase competitively, without prejudice, favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud or corruption. It is the policy of this District that all qualified suppliers shall have equal opportunity to bid on the requirements of the School District.

The Purchasing Manual has been prepared at the direction of the Board of Education as a statement of policy on which our purchasing practices and procedures are based. It will serve as a guide to the Board, to our staff and to interested residents of the District.

PURCHASING POLICY AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL

The Purchasing Agent shall be responsible for developing and administering the purchasing programs of the district. Yearly, the Board of Education appoints a Purchasing Agent for the district. In his/her absence, the Board has designated the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance to act as Purchasing Agent.

Competitive bids or quotations shall be solicited in connection with all purchases as defined by this policy and applicable law. Contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder complying with specifications and with other bidding conditions stipulated by Section 103, General Municipal Law, except as permitted by law.

All purchase contracts for materials, equipment, or supplies involving an anticipated expenditure of or over \$20,000 annually, and all public work contracts involving over \$35,000 shall be put out for bid and awarded on the basis of competitive bidding. Purchase contracts and public works contracts subject to competitive bidding will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, however, the Board authorizes that purchase contracts may be awarded on the basis of best value, as defined in State Finance Law §163. Other exceptions to competitive bidding are outlined below. The Purchasing Agent or her designated representative together with at least one other individual, is authorized to open bids and record the same pursuant to law, and will be awarded only after responsible bids have been received in response to a public advertisement soliciting formal bids. Similar procurements to be made in a fiscal year will be grouped together for the purpose of determining whether a particular item must be bid.

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

Where permitted by law, purchases will be made through available cooperatives, BOCES bids, or by "piggybacking" onto contracts of the New York State Office of General Services (OGS) departments or agencies of New York State, New York State county, or any state or any county or political subdivision or district therein, whenever such purchases are in the best interests of the District or will result in cost savings to the district. In addition, the district will make purchases from correctional institutions and severely disabled persons through charitable or non-profit-making agencies, as provided by law.

In accordance with law, the district shall give a preference in the purchase of instructional materials to vendors who agree to provide materials in alternative formats. The term "alternative format" shall mean any medium or format for the presentation of instructional materials, other than a traditional print textbook, that is needed as an

accommodation for a disabled student enrolled in the district (or program of a BOCES), including but not limited to Braille, large print, open and closed captioned, audio, or an electronic file in a format compatible with alternative format conversion software that is appropriate to meet the needs of the individual student.

The Board is also aware of the need to reduce exposure of students and staff to potentially harmful chemicals and substances used in cleaning and maintenance. In accordance with law, regulation and guidelines set forth by the Office of General Services (OGS), the district will purchase and utilize environmentally sensitive cleaning and maintenance products in its facilities whenever feasible. Cleansers purchased must, first and foremost, be effective so that the district may continue to purchase non-green products as necessary. Environmentally sensitive cleaning and maintenance products will be procured in accordance with standard purchasing procedures as outlined in this policy and regulation.

In order to ensure that the district avails itself of advantageous purchasing opportunities, the Board authorizes the Purchasing Agent to represent the district in applying for federal programs designed to discount prices for goods and services. Specifically, the Purchasing Agent will abide by the rules and regulations associated with applying for telecommunications service discounts through the Universal Service Fund (E-Rate), in addition to complying with the local purchasing policies set forth by the Board. As with all purchasing activity, appropriate documentation of the application and purchase through any federal program will be maintained by the Business Office.

PURCHASE CONTRACT is a contract involving the acquisition of commodities, materials, supplies or equipment.

PURCHASE WORK CONTRACT is a contract involving services, labor or construction and material.

PURCHASE ORDERS OVER -\$10,000 will be shared with the Board of Education prior to final approval. Any purchase order questioned will be held until sufficient information is presented to satisfy the question. If necessary, the purchase order will be presented for review to the School Board. Upon approval by the Board, the purchase order will be processed. A formal motion is not necessary unless specifically requested and seconded.

PURCHASING PROCEDURES

GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, SECTION 103

A. DETERMINING WHETHER PROCUREMENT IS SUBJECT TO COMPETITIVE BIDDING

1. The Purchasing Agent will first determine if a proposed procurement is a purchase contract or a contract for public work, and whether the amount of the procurement is above the applicable monetary threshold stated previously.
2. The Purchasing Agent will document the basis for any determination that competitive bidding as outlined above, is not required by law. The following are exceptions to the competitive requirements:
 - a. EMERGENCIES: Instances wherein the procurement of goods or services arises out of an accident or other unforeseen occurrence or condition whereby circumstances affecting public buildings, public property, the life, health, safety or property of inhabitants are involved. A Memorandum to the Superintendent and Board of Education shall explain how an emergency purchase meets the above criteria, and the Board of Education shall pass a resolution declaring an emergency prior to the purchase, if feasible. The district will make the purchases at the lowest possible costs, seeking competition by informal solicitation of quotes to the extent practicable under the circumstances. Records of verbal or written quotes will be maintained with the purchase requisition.
 - b. PURCHASES FROM PREFERRED SOURCES: These include NYS Department of Correctional Services - CORCRAFT, NYS Preferred Source Program for People Who are Blind (NYSPSP), New York State Industries for the Disabled Inc., Office of Mental Health and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - c. SOLE SOURCE ITEMS: These are procurements for which there is no possibility of competition. Documentation will be attached to the purchase requisitions indicating that two additional vendors have been contacted and were unable to provide the required items.
 - d. PURCHASES FROM GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: New York State Contracts, County Contracts, BOCES (after approval by Resolution by the Board of Education), Municipal Cooperative Agreements, Surplus and second-hand supplies, material or equipment purchased from the federal government, State of New York, or any other political subdivision within the State of New York.
 - e. INSURANCE: The district will adopt insurance practices that will obtain the best coverage for the lowest cost. The district has the option of requiring formal request for proposals (RFP);

documentation would include bid advertisements, specifications and awarding resolution. Written or verbal quotation forms could serve as documentation if formal RFP is not required. Contractors/Vendors shall not commence any work until all required insurance has been obtained and a Certificate of Insurance provided.

- f. PERISHABLE ITEMS: The following items need not be grouped – meats and provisions, fresh produce, frozen foods, milk, livestock, etc.
- g. UTILITIES: Gas or Electric (Monopolies)
- h. SMALL PROCUREMENTS: Purchases and/or contracts below New York State limits are also exempt but must adhere to all other policy and procedural guidelines.
- i. STATE-MANDATED OPERATIONS: Those that require certification of contracts, such as inspection of underground gas tanks.
- j. TESTING: The acquisition of products for testing evaluation purposes. Such testing will be coordinated and documented.
- k. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: Because of the confidential nature of these services, they do not lend themselves to procurement solicitation. For initial contracts, at least three professionals will be contacted and asked to provide proposals. Requests for proposals may be used to obtain the services of architects, engineers, accountants, lawyers, underwriters, fiscal consultants, energy performance contractors and other professionals.

B. INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACTS

Voter authorization is required for installment purchase contracting. Provisions of the law are as follows:

1. The Board of Education must approve the contract.
2. The contract is not exempt from competitive bidding.
3. If the district is financing the contract through annual budget appropriations payments, the down payment cannot be greater than ten percent (10%) of the full contract price.
4. The installment payments should be substantially equal to each other.
5. Payments under this type of contract may not be made with the proceeds of the municipal bonds or notes.

6. The contract must contain an executory clause to the effect that the contract will be in effect only when funds are available.
7. Such a contract cannot be considered as indebtedness under Section 20.00 or 135.00 of the Local Finance Law.

In excess of bid limits, the following is also subject to Municipal Law, Section 103 in procurement of equipment:

1. LEASE/RENTAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY: Section 1725 of the Education Law provides that:
 - (a) The Board of Education may enter into an agreement for the lease of personal property.
 - (b) The Board of Education must adopt a resolution stating the reason why such agreement is in the best financial interest of the district.
 - (c) The agreement may not exceed the current year unless the voters approve such agreement.
 - (d) Such agreements are subject to competitive bidding requirements if the total amount over the term of the contract exceeds the \$20,000 limit for purchase established by Section 103, General Municipal Law.

Note Related Regulations: Sec. **16-1725**, **16-1950(4)(y)**
 Sec. **23-101**, **23-103(1)(2)**, **23-103(2)**, **23-119**

2. LEASE / PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT:
 The Board of Education may only enter into a lease purchase agreement for personal property as provided for in Section 1725-a of the Education Law which:
 - (a) Authorizes such agreement for instructional equipment
 - (b) Are subject to written approval of the Commissioner
 - (c) Require formal bidding if the total amount over the term of the contract exceeds \$20,000
3. INSTALLMENT PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY AND APPARATUS: Section 109(b) of the General Municipal Law enables school districts to enter into installment purchase contracts for data processing and office copying and other equipment, machinery and apparatus. The intent of the legislation is to:
 - (a) Allow school districts to acquire ownership of the equipment upon completion of the contract.
 - (b) Effect economies when the annual payment under an installment contract is less costly than an annual lease.

C. SPECIAL AREAS

1. COOPERATIVE BID ARRANGEMENTS:

School districts may enter into contracts with BOCES to furnish hardware, software, training and maintenance of instructional services for a period not to exceed five (5) years under Education Law (1950 Subdivision 4 JJ). This Law allows school districts to enter into such contracts, executed by the Boards of Trustees of the school districts and the Board of Cooperative Education Services. Contract is subject to the approval of the Commissioner.

2. STANDARDIZATION: Makes it possible for the governing board to standardize a particular type of material or equipment, but does not eliminate the necessity to conform to competitive bidding requirement. There is no longer a need for the inclusion of the term “or equivalent” after make or model. Where there are reasons of efficiency or economy to standardize, the Board of Education will determine by resolution (by 3/5 vote) there is a need to standardize purchase contracts for a particular type or kind of equipment, material or supplies.
3. TRANSPORTATION AND CAFETERIA CONTRACTS: Covered by “Education Law” are subject to the same limits as “Purchase Contracts” except that transportation contracts may be entered into through an RFP instead of by competitive bid and, under special circumstances, may be renewed for up to five years.

GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, SECTION 104-b

D. PROCUREMENT OF MATERIAL UNDER BID LIMITS

Whenever feasible “Preferred Sources” and “Government Contracts” shall be used for purchases that are not required to be bid. When items are being purchased using “Preferred Sources” or “Government Contracts” and the amount of the purchase is greater than \$5,000, the procedure below “Purchase of Commodities, Equipment of Goods” must be followed.

Although formal written quotes are not required on purchases below \$1,000 total, every attempt should be made to contact the vendors to procure the lowest prices possible. Written quotations must be on the vendor’s letterhead. Faxed quotations are acceptable.

Quotations are to be obtained based on the unit cost of the item(s). If increased quantities of an item are being purchased, but the total cost of the purchase is still under \$20,000, additional quotations may be requested at the discretion of the Purchasing Agent to ensure that the District is receiving the best possible pricing.

The following procedure will be followed for all other procurements not required to be bid:

PURCHASE OF COMMODITIES, EQUIPMENT OR GOODS

Dollar Limit

\$1,000 – 5,000

Procedure

Documented verbal quotations from at least three separate vendors must be attached to the requisition.

\$5,001 – 15,000

Formal written quotations from three separate vendors must be attached to the purchase requisition.

\$15,001 – 19,999

Formal written quotes from five separate vendors must be attached to the purchase requisition.

\$20,000 and above

Formal sealed bids are required, in conformance with General Municipal Law, Section 103.

PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS/CONTRACTS

\$1-1,000

At the discretion of the Purchasing Agent.

\$1,001-5,000

Verbal quotations from at least three separate vendors.

\$5,001 – 15,000

Written quotations from at least three separate vendors.

\$15,001 – 25,000

Formal written quotations from at least five separate vendors.

\$25,001 – 34,999

Formal Request for Proposal (RFP) with a response from at least three vendors.

\$35,000 and above

Formal sealed bids in conformance With General Municipal Law, Section 103.

Copies of quotations and/or associated bids or contracts referenced should be attached to purchase requisitions and sent to the Purchasing Department for a Purchase Order to be processed. When the Purchase Order is generated, the voucher package attached to the Purchase Order will be sent to the Accounts

Payable Department for later review by the Claims Auditors. Such quotations will include the name, address and phone number of the vendor contacted, name of the contacted person, item to be purchased specifying quantity, brand name and model number, the unit price of each item, the extended price, and the total price of the order.

NOTE: In instances wherein the procurement of goods or services arises out of an accident or other unforeseen occurrence or condition whereby circumstances affecting public buildings, public property, the life, health, safety or property of the inhabitants are involved, the Assistant Superintendent for Business may authorize an expenditure without regard to the above. Immediately following, a memorandum to the Superintendent and Board of Education shall explain how an emergency purchase meets the above criteria.

E. REJECTION OF LOW BIDDER

The district will provide justification and documentation, and the Board of Education will approve such documentation of any Bid awarded to other than the lowest responsible bidder (i.e., lowest dollar offer), setting forth the reasons why such award is in the best interests of the District, and otherwise furthers the purposes of Section 104-b of the General Municipal Law. The reliability and/or past performance of the bidder providing the offer is a factor in determining the lowest responsible bidder. Unacceptable performance or products may include prior and/or current circumstance. The following list is provided for clarification only and is not intended to be all-inclusive. Any or all items may apply in a given case.

1. Inability to provide items as specified.
2. Inability to deliver materials or services in a timely fashion.
3. The substitution of alternate items to those bid without informing the district.
4. Varying from prescribed procedures and/or specifications for the performance of the service or contract without expressed permission of the district.
5. Failure or difficulty in providing proper certificates of insurance or performance bonds when required.
6. Failure to provide samples of alternate bid items when requested.

ALSO:

Any bids submitted past the required bid opening time will be returned to the vendor unopened as per NYS regulations. Any bids submitted without proper bid deposit security specified in the General Conditions will be disqualified but may be reviewed at the discretion of the Purchasing Agent.

F. SAFEGUARDS

1. INTERNAL CONTROL

The Superintendent together with the Assistant Superintendent for Business and District Treasurer, will establish and maintain an internal control structure to ensure, to the best of their ability, that the district's assets will be safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, that transactions will be executed in accordance with the law and district policies and regulations, and recorded properly in the financial records of the district. Internal controls will be reviewed annually by the external auditor.

THE UNINTENTIONAL FAILURE TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 104-b OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW OR THE DISTRICT'S REGULATIONS REGARDING PROCUREMENT WILL NOT BE GROUNDS TO VOID ACTION TAKEN OR GIVE RISE TO A CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST THE DISTRICT OR ANY OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE DISTRICT.

2. REVIEW

The policies and procedures shall be reviewed and adopted annually at the District Reorganization Meeting, by the Board of Education. Comments concerning the policies and procedures shall be solicited from Administrators, Supervisors, Directors and Principals annually.

PURCHASING PROCESS

Requisitioner: Official, Supervisor, Director, or Principal initiating a request for goods or services.

The forms used in the purchasing process are:

Requisition: A written (or electronic) request for one or more items or services necessary to carry on or improve a particular function.

Purchase Order: A formal notice/contract to a vendor to furnish the supplies or services described in detail thereon.

All locations throughout the district complete requisitions prior to the printing of purchase orders signed by the Administrator requesting goods or services, and forwarded to the Purchasing Department where it is proofed for accuracy and budget codes. Each department head is responsible for compliance with the purchasing procedures adopted.

All purchase orders are approved by the appropriate Central Office designated Administrator and signed by the Purchasing Agent prior to mailing to vendor, thus certifying that money is available and that the appropriation has been encumbered.

Purchase Orders shall include the following essentials:

- a. A specification which adequately describes the characteristics and the quality standards of the item required.
- b. A firm, quoted, net delivered price, whenever possible. Prices shall be shown per unit and extended.
- c. Corresponding Bid, RFP, or contract number where applicable
- d. Clear "Send To" instructions including location, department and person.
- e. Signature of Purchasing Agent.
- f. Budget account code number.

Request for Transfers:

In the event sufficient funds are unavailable in one code, a Request for Transfer of funds from one code to another should be in writing and directed to the Assistant Superintendent for Business. Budget transfers will be made in accordance with Policy 5330 Budget Transfers.

Blanket Orders may be issued to various vendors for the purpose of consolidating items that are purchased frequently from the same vendor, i.e., automotive supplies.

Confirming Purchase Orders will be used only in emergencies and kept to a minimum. All confirming purchase orders require prior administrative approval through the Business Office.

Quotations and Requests for Proposals will be adhered to as stated in the Policy Section under 104-b, General Municipal Law.

PURCHASES DIRECTLY CHARGED TO A FEDERAL AWARD

To the extent that its requirements are not already included in this Policy, the District will comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, ("Uniform Guidance") when making purchases directly charged to a federal award. The District's contracts with respect to these purchases will contain the applicable provisions set forth in Appendix II to Part 200, Contract Provisions for Non- Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, the below provisions apply only to procurements for goods and services that are directly charged to a federal award and are to be applied in addition to all other provisions set forth above in this Policy. The below provisions do not apply to indirect costs.

A. GENERAL PROCUREMENT STANDARDS

- (a) The District will maintain oversight to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders.
- (b) (1) The District will maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a Federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. A conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization that employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract. The officers, employees, and agents of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, the District may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. The standards of conduct will provide for the possibility of disciplinary action for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the District.
- (c) The District's procedures will avoid acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items. Consideration should be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase. Where appropriate, an analysis will be made of lease versus purchase alternatives, and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach.
- (d) The District will maintain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited, to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price.
- (e) (1) The District may use a "time and materials type contract" only after it determines that no other contract is suitable and provided that the contract includes a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. "Time and materials type contract" means a contract for which the cost to the District is the sum of:
 - (i) The actual cost of materials; and
 - (ii) Direct labor hours charged at fixed hourly rates that reflect wages, general and administrative expenses, and profit.
- (2) Since this formula generates an open-ended contract price, a time-and-materials contract provides no positive profit incentive to the contractor for cost

control or labor efficiency. Therefore, each contract will set a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Further, the District will assert a high degree of oversight in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the contractor is using efficient methods and effective cost controls.

- (f) The District alone will be responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes and claims. These standards do not relieve the District of any contractual responsibilities pursuant to its contracts. The Federal awarding agency will not substitute its judgment for that of the District unless the matter is primarily a Federal concern. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or Federal authority with proper jurisdiction.

B. COMPETITION

- (a) All procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with the standards of this policy and applicable law. In order to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals will be excluded from competing for those procurements. Some of the situations considered to be restrictive of competition include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Placing unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business;
 - (2) Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding;
 - (3) Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies;
 - (4) Noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts;
 - (5) Organizational conflicts of interest;
 - (6) Specifying only a "brand name" product instead of allowing "an equal" product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement; and
 - (7) Any arbitrary action in the procurement process.
- (b) The District will conduct procurements in a manner that prohibits the use of statutorily or administratively imposed state, local, or tribal geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals, except in those cases where applicable Federal statutes expressly mandate or encourage geographic preference. Nothing in this section preempts state licensing laws. When contracting for architectural and engineering (A/E) services, geographic location may be a selection criterion provided its application leaves an

appropriate number of qualified firms, given the nature and size of the project, to compete for the contract.

(c) The District will have written procedures for procurement transactions. These procedures will ensure that all solicitations:

(1) Incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured. Such description will not, in competitive procurements, contain features that unduly restrict competition. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the material, product or service to be procured and, when necessary, will set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it will conform if it is to satisfy its intended use. Detailed product specifications should be avoided if at all possible. When it is impractical or uneconomical to make a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements, a "brand name or equivalent" description may be used as a means to define the performance or other salient requirements of procurement. The specific features of the named brand which will be met by offers will be clearly stated; and

(2) Identify all requirements which the offerors will fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

(d) The District will ensure that all prequalified lists of persons, firms, or products that are used in acquiring goods and services are current and include enough qualified sources to ensure maximum open and free competition. Also, the District will not preclude potential bidders from qualifying during the solicitation period.

C. CONTRACTING WITH SMALL AND MINORITY BUSINESSES, WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (SMWBE) AND LABOR SURPLUS AREA FIRMS

(a) The District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.

(b) Affirmative steps will include:

(1) Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;

(2) Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;

(3) Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises;

(4) Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises;

- (5) Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce; and
- (6) Requiring the prime contractor, if subcontracts are to be let, to take the affirmative steps listed in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this section.

D. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY OR PASS-THROUGH ENTITY REVIEW

- (a) The District will make available, upon request of the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity, technical specifications on proposed procurements where the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity believes that review is needed to ensure that the item or service specified is the one being proposed for acquisition. This review generally will take place prior to the time the specification is incorporated into a solicitation document. However, if the District desires to have the review accomplished after a solicitation has been developed, the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity may still review the specifications, with the review usually limited to the technical aspects of the proposed purchase.
- (b) The District will make available upon request, for the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity pre-procurement review, procurement documents (for example, requests for proposals or invitations for bids, or independent cost estimates).
- (c) The District is exempt from the pre-procurement review in paragraph (b) above if the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity determines that its procurement systems comply with the standards of the Uniform Guidance.
 - (1) The District may request that its procurement system be reviewed by the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity to determine whether its system meets these standards in order for its system to be certified. Generally, these reviews will occur where there is continuous high-dollar funding, and third party contracts are awarded on a regular basis;
 - (2) The District may self-certify its procurement system. Such self-certification will not limit the Federal awarding agency's right to survey the system. Under a self-certification procedure, the Federal awarding agency may rely on written assurances from the District that it is complying with these standards. The District will cite specific policies, procedures, regulations or standards as being in compliance with these requirements and have its system available for review.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING EITHER THESE POLICIES OR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE PURCHASING AGENT OR THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR BUSINESS AND FINANCE.