



ACTION REQUIRED!
Due Date: January 29, 2022

October 29, 2021

Re: Membership and Participation in the Region 10 ESC Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative

Dear Food Service Director Addressed:

Beginning with school year 2022-2023, Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative (hereinafter "R10MRPC") will require all Interlocal Agreements (hereinafter "Agreement") to be approved by each Contracting Entity's Board of Trustees. Completed Agreements must be submitted with proof of Board approval. R10MRPC is also utilizing an annual, single-year agreement that encompasses both membership roles and responsibilities along with bid participation for the Agreement term.

This packet includes the complete Interlocal Agreement for Contracting Entities (hereinafter the "CE") participating in the School Nutrition Programs that wish to purchase foodservice products through the R10MRPC formally procured and awarded bids. If the CE does not plan to purchase from any of the awarded bids, there is no need to complete an Interlocal Agreement.

The **Interlocal Agreement** (pages 3-10) is both a "membership and participation" agreement that commences on July 1st and extends through June 30th of the following calendar year. By signing the Agreement, you are agreeing to the General Provisions of Member Roles and Responsibilities along with your bid participation selection(s) indicating your entity's purchasing commitment. Members are now required to provide estimated quantities for each product planned on each bid category selected. This is done through a specialized software created by R10MRPC.

The Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative is a fully self-funded entity through a Vendor Participation Fee. This fee is collected directly from the awarded commercial-only vendors. Fees are used to cover expenses related to the administration and operation of R10MRPC. Studies indicate that school districts benefit through cooperative participation with a considerable cost savings. While the purchasing power of the R10MRPC is significant, the costs of goods and services continues to rise annually. Even while industry costs have increased approximately 15 percent over the past two years, the MRPC has experienced only a 9 percent or less increase for the same time-period. Additional benefits of participating in the R10MRPC include reduced costs associated with advertising, paperwork, reduced time, and worry spent on the bidding process, as well as Industry-specific workshops, trainings, and technical support for child nutrition programs.

If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact me at 512-487-4597. I am available to talk to your school board if needed. Thank you for your consideration for participation in the SY 2022-2023 R10MRPC.

Sincerely,

Keri Warnick
Program Coordinator

Enclosures

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

The following Interlocal Agreement (pages 3-12) is to be completed by all contracting entities (CE) that wish to participate in Region 10 ESC Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative (R10MRPC) and purchase from formally procured bids.

This Interlocal Agreement is a one-year agreement for school year 2022-2023, i.e., July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. If completed, a fully executed copy will be returned to the CE and kept on file with R10MRPC.

Each CE wishing to purchase from any procured and awarded bids must complete and sign all required pages. Each CE is asked to seriously consider which bids best fit their needs. R10MRPC requires forecasting of each product planned for purchase through a customized software program prior to all bid renewals or releases.

The fully completed and signed Interlocal Agreement must be approved by your school Board of Trustees and returned no later than January 31, 2022. Please note that Interlocal Agreements received after the due date or later after bids have been released may not be approved due to forecasting requirements and procurement regulations.

Region 10 Education Service Center
Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

This Interlocal Agreement (hereinafter the "Agreement") is entered into by and between the agencies shown below as contracting parties for a single-year term, in accordance with the section entitled "Membership Term" below. The Member Contracting Entity (CE) shall be responsible for paying any vendors invoices for goods and services purchased by CE through the effective termination date.

Contracting Parties

Region 10 Education Service Center Fiscal Agent/Coordinating Entity	057-950 County District Number	
Buckholts ISD District/Contracting Entity (CE)	00814 CE County District Number	TX-UNPS CE ID

STATEMENT OF SERVICE'S TO BE PERFORMED

The Region 10 Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative (hereinafter the "R10MRPC") organizes and administers the child nutrition cooperative purchasing and commodity processing program for CEs located in the state of Texas. Authority for such service is granted by Section 8.053 of the Texas Education Code, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, and Chapter 271, Subchapter F, of the Texas Local Government Code. The goal of the cooperative is to obtain substantial savings on food service items through volume purchasing. The R10MRPC does not charge a membership fee.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is a single-year term in the R10MRPC. The R10MRPC procures a variety of formal, competitive requests for proposals (RFP's) to assist CEs with their fiscal budgetary needs. CEs have the option to commit to any bid(s) that best fits their needs. Members are required to select from a list of offered bids, which is seen as a commitment to purchase from the R10MRPC awarded vendor(s). Prior to the release of any formal solicitation, members are required to provide estimated quantities/forecast each product they plan to purchase on each bid selected, although R10MRPC makes no guarantees of quantities to any vendor. Currently the following formally procured bids are offered:

1. USDA Food for Further Processing (USDA Processed Commodities)
2. Full-Line Grocery Distributor (to include processed commodities)
3. Manufacturer Direct-to-District Delivery (commercial foods; approval required)
4. Small Wares
5. Kitchen Chemicals & Cleaning Products (products)
6. Sanitation System and Safety Training (services)
7. Fresh Meats and Produce
8. Fresh Bread
9. Milk-Full Service Delivery
10. Ice Cream Novelties
11. Chips and Snacks
12. Beverages (contained)
13. Dispensed Fruit Beverages

LIMITATION OF AGREEMENT:

The R10MRPC reviews this Agreement each year to ensure compliance with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) regulations. If, following such review, the R10MRPC discovers that any provision contained herein is not in accordance with USDA and TDA regulation, R10MRPC will have 30 days to make all necessary updates and require that each CE sign a new Agreement. If R10MRPC does not amend the provision within the given timeframe, the CE may terminate this agreement on 10 days' written notice to R10MRPC. Child Nutrition Federal Funds are governed by USDA and TDA, therefore, if any conflicts between the procurement requirements set forth in EDGAR and those required by TDA/USDA exist, those required by TDA/USDA will apply to any solicitations when CN Federal Funds will be used for purchasing.

GENERAL PROVISIONS:

1. The Parties agree to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations in connection with the procurement activities and programs contemplated under this Agreement. This Agreement is subject to all applicable present and future valid laws governing such programs.
2. This Agreement shall be governed by the law of the State of Texas and venue for any dispute resolution shall be in the county in which the administrative offices of Region 10 ESC are located, which is currently Dallas County, Texas.
3. The R10MRPC reserves the right, but is not obligated, to add additional members and allow participation, because adding a CE may "materially changes the existing contract(s)" and, thereby, require rebidding of said contract(s). Consequently, the CE may not be permitted to participate in those affected contracts to avoid rebidding and possibly negatively affecting the membership in place at the time of the current contract(s) award. The membership of a new CE may become effective upon any new bids or rebids being awarded or as permitted at the sole discretion of the R10MRPC.
4. This Agreement and any addenda executed by the parties contains the entire agreement of the Parties hereto with respect to the matters covered by its terms, and it may not be modified in any manner without the express written consent of both Parties. Modifications may be required by law or regulation, which shall require action by the R10MRPC and the CE. Failure to act by either party, within a reasonable period, on legally required modifications shall constitute good cause to terminate this Agreement effective upon written notification to the other party.
5. If any term(s) or provision(s) of this Agreement are held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remainder of the provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
6. Before any Party may resort to litigation, any claims, disputes, or other matters in question between the Parties to this Agreement shall be submitted to nonbinding mediation. The selection of the mediator shall be mutually agreed upon, and the costs for such mediation borne equally between the Parties.
7. No Party to this Agreement waives or relinquishes any immunity or defense on behalf of itself, its trustees, directors, officers, employees, and agents, because of its execution of this Agreement or the performance of the functions and obligations set forth herein.

8. All parts of this Agreement, when executed by both Parties, are binding upon the Parties, and may be changed only by written agreement executed by authorized representatives of the Parties.

9. In accordance with USDA Federal Regulations and TDA Administrator's Reference Manual (ARM) Section 17, the R10MRPC is a Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Operator-Only Cooperative that is categorized as a "for profit cooperative". Per ARM Section 17, R10MRPC is required to return "unanticipated profits" to the CE. This Agreement allows R10MRPC to deduct the cost of services from the collected vendor fees and pay any remaining amount to members on a regular basis. The R10MRPC's "profit margin", for purposes of this Agreement, shall be defined as the revenue received by the R10MRPC through the charging of the vendor fees set forth in the "Membership Fees" section below minus the expenses to the R10MRPC to operate the cooperative. The Coordinating Entity shall retain the profit margin; however, any revenue received more than the profit margin ("unanticipated profit"), if any, shall be distributed to the R10MRPC's participating members by the Fiscal Agent.

10. This Agreement and any modification(s) may be executed in separate copies; however, the Agreement must be Board of Trustee approved and physically signed by both participating parties using a "physical signature." Electronic or typed signatures will not be accepted. This Agreement may be exchanged and/or transmitted electronically via fax or scanned email. Proof of Board approval acceptable to R10MRPC must be submitted along with completed and signed Agreement.

Membership Term. This Agreement shall be for a one-year term unless sooner terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. The conditions set forth in this Agreement shall apply to this single-year term. The Agreement year for each purchasing cooperative program commences on July 1st and will extend through June 30th of the following calendar year.

Membership Fees. No membership fee shall be directly charged to participating members of the R10MRPC.

The United States Department of Agriculture does not allow federal funds received by ESC Child Nutrition components to be used to support purchasing cooperatives. Therefore, the R10MRPC is a fully self-funded entity through a "Vendor Participation Fee" on all commercial sales. This fee is collected directly from the awarded vendors in the fixed amount of .0085 for every \$1.00 of revenue. R10MRPC "does not charge" any fees to the Commodity Processors. All fees are used to cover expenses related to the administration and direct operation of the Cooperative. CEs, even though they may incur these fees indirectly, pay no direct fee to R10MRPC for participation.

The parties agree that the payments under this Agreement and any related exhibits and documents are amounts that fairly compensate Coordinating Entity for the services or functions to be performed under the Agreement.

Authorization to Participate. The R10MRPC and each CE represents and warrants, by the execution and delivery of the Interlocal Agreement, that they have obtained all requisite authority through governing board action to enter and perform the terms of this Agreement. Proof of Board approval acceptable to R10MRPC is required.

Cooperation and Access. Each party agrees that it will cooperate with any reasonable requests for information and/or records made by the other party. Each party reserves the right to audit the relevant records of the other party during

normal working hours. Any breach of this Article shall be considered material and shall make the Agreement subject to termination on ten (10) days written notice to the CE.

Primary and Secondary Contact. The CE agrees to appoint a primary and secondary contact who shall have express authority to represent and bind the CE, and R10MRPC will not be required to contact any other individual regarding program matters. Any notice to a primary or secondary contact shall be binding upon the CE. The CE reserves the right to change the contacts as needed by giving written notice to R10MRPC. Such notice is not effective until actual receipt by R10MRPC.

Defense and Prosecution of Claims. The CE authorizes the Fiscal Agent, only with respect to matters arising out of or contemplated by this Agreement: (1) to control the commencement, defense, intervention or participation in a judicial, administrative or other governmental proceeding; (2) to represent the R10MRPC in an arbitration, mediation, or any other form of alternative dispute resolution; (3) to represent the R10MRPC in any other appearance necessary to protect the rights of the R10MRPC relating to actions concerning any past or current CE, including any appearances and actions in litigation, claim or dispute; and (4) to engage legal counsel and appropriate experts that, in the Fiscal Agent's sole discretion, will assist with such defense or prosecution of any action or claim in matters arising out of this Agreement. The CE does hereby agree that any suit brought against R10MRPC, the Fiscal Agent, or a R10MRPC or Fiscal Agent employee or agent may be defended in the name of R10MRPC, Region 10 Education Service Center, or the CE by the counsel selected by the Fiscal Agent, in its sole discretion, or its designee, on behalf of and at the expense of the R10MRPC as necessary for the prosecution or defense of any litigation or claim. Full cooperation by the CE shall be extended to supplying any information needed or requested by the Fiscal Agent or R10MRPC in such prosecution or defense. Subject to specific revocation, the CE hereby designates the Fiscal Agent to act as a class representative on its behalf in matters arising out of this Agreement.

Governance. R10MRPC shall be governed by the Fiscal Agent's Board of Trustees (hereinafter the "Board") in accordance with applicable law and regulation. Procurement processes and procedures are governed by applicable law and regulation.

Limitations of Liability. The Fiscal Agent, its endorsers and servicing contactors, do not warrant that the operation or use of R10MRPC services will be uninterrupted or error free. The Fiscal Agent, its endorsers and servicing contractors, hereby disclaim any and all warranties, express or implied, regarding any information, product or service furnished under this Agreement, including without limitation, any and all implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. The Parties agree that regarding all causes of action arising out of or relating to this Agreement, neither Party shall be liable to the other under any circumstances for special, incidental, consequential, or exemplary damages, even if it has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

Notice. Any written notice to the R10MRPC or the Fiscal Agent shall be made by: first class mail, postage prepaid and delivered to the Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative, Region 10 Education Service Center, 400 E Spring Valley Rd, Richardson, TX 75081-1300; faxed to 972 348-1449, Attn: Keri Warnick (contact person); or emailed to keri.warnick@region10.org with a copy to sue.hayes@region10.org.

Acceptance of USDA Foods Sent for Further Processing. The R10MRPC, through the Fiscal Agent, is granted the right to issue a cooperative bid/proposal for the processing of selected commodity foods donated by participating members.

The R10MRPC, through the Fiscal Agent, is further granted the right to enter into a Contract for Services with the processor(s) receiving the processing award(s) for agreed upon processed end-products, for the purpose of executing a service agreement on behalf of participating members. Participating members will have the right and responsibility to accept the processed end-product(s) for the life of the contract between R10MRPC, through the Fiscal Agent, and the processor for all commodity foods donated to, and for which processing was subsequently procured through, the R10MRPC. Excess commodities may be distributed according to USDA or TDA regulation and guidance.

Certificate of Authority/FND-101 Form. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) now requires each participating Contracting Entity (CE)/School District that plans to commit entitlement to the USDA processed commodity program, to submit an FND-101 form to allow their purchasing co-op access to view and enter commodity pounds into the participating member's TX-UNPS Food Distribution Program (FDP) account. An FND-101 form must be signed by the Superintendent or Authorized Person of the CE for each employee of the co-op. An FND-101 form needed for each R10MRPC/Fiscal Agent employee will be included with the Interlocal Bid Participation Agreement. Previously signed FND-101 forms signed and currently held at TDA are still active until the R10MRPC employee is no longer employed. At that time, R10MRPC will send a form to remove that employee from the CE's TX-UNPS file.

Payment for Goods. Each Party, paying for any goods or services under this Agreement or related to this Agreement, must pay for such goods and services from available current revenues only.

PARTY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Role of the R10MRPC, through the Fiscal Agent:

1. Provide for the organizational and administrative structure of the program.
2. Provide staff time necessary for efficient operation of the program.
3. Provide procurement trainings as group or on an individual basis if requested.
4. Provide guidance and assistance or templates for the school's Procurement Procedures Manual and Code of Conduct Manual if requested.
5. The R10MRPC shall coordinate the Competitive Procurement Process for all Awarded Contracts through use of the Formal Procurement method of Requests For Proposals (RFP).
6. The R10MRPC shall follow the local, State, and Federal procurement guidelines as listed below:
 - a. United States Department (USDA) Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR) parts 200.318-200.327 and Appendix II
 - b. Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) Administrator's Reference Manual (ARM) Sections 16 and 17, 17a, 17b, and 17c
 - c. Requiring Board of Directors' approval on all R10MRPC bid award recommendations.
 - d. Texas Education Code 44.031 relating to purchasing contracts.
 - e. Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) as the guidelines pertain to Purchasing Cooperatives' procuring on behalf of its CEs. Currently EDGAR refers and requires Child Nutrition Food Purchasing Cooperatives to adhere to 2 CFR 200.318-200.327
 - f. Form 1295 will be required to be filled out and filed with the Texas Ethics Commission by all awarded vendors and will be managed by the Fiscal Agent's Business Office.
7. Send solicitations for the Further Processing of USDA foods to all companies found on the TDA "Approved List of Vendors" without limitations.
8. Enter into a detailed agreement with distributors that provide the distribution of processed end-products containing USDA Foods that includes language to ensure proper resolution of errors such as data, pricing, product, reports, etc.
9. Do the following regarding USDA Foods:
 - a. Track and assist CEs with management of their USDA Foods inventory balances to ensure compliance with TDA and USDA Foods inventory requirements.
 - b. Assist CEs with Sales Verifications of end products sold through a distributor, including but not limited to verification of rebates, discounts, and credits.
 - c. Assist CEs with the utilization of carryover pounds to avoid swept inventory.
 - d. Provide CEs with information on commodity processing, including, but not limited to, anticipated delivery dates, product recalls or production issues, discontinued products, and replacement recommendations.
 - e. Make all surveys open to the CEs as surveys are opened by TDA.
 - f. Provide the list of commodity items to CEs for purposes of obtaining quantity requests. This is done using an online software program.
 - g. Receive quantity requests from CEs for commodity processing through district entries into the online software and prepare appropriate quantity totals by item.
 - h. Provide a delivery schedule, on behalf of each CE, for all selected USDA Foods for Further Processing to each processor and distributor based on information collected from each CE.

10. The R10MRPC assumes no responsibility for failure of delivery by vendors, however, the R10MRPC will assist all CEs with service and product quality issues to ensure all vendors adhere to the terms and conditions of the awarded contract.
11. Initiate and implement activities related to the bidding and vendor selection process. Competitive bidding procedures for Texas public schools using Child Nutrition federal funds will be strictly followed.
12. Provide CEs with procedures for ordering, delivery, and billing.
13. Mediate problems/concerns between vendors and CEs.
14. Provide CEs access to all records, reports, and documents to ensure rebates, discounts and other applicable credits will accrue to the CE.
15. Make available or provide easy access to all procurement documents created and received for each awarded RFP and vendor, as required and in compliance with State Agency Administrative and Procurement Reviews.
16. Act ethically always and in accordance with all federal, state, and local guidelines.

Role of the CE:

1. Commit to the General Provisions and Roles and Responsibilities of this Agreement by authorization of its governing body (School Board of Trustees) and by execution by an approved foodservice employee in the appropriate spaces on the attached form (physical signature copy must be provided to R10MRPC promptly following CE execution).
2. Designate a primary and secondary contact.
3. Commit to purchasing on selected bid categories on an as needed basis.
4. Provide an estimated quantity for each of the products desired through use of the online required software or as requested by the Program Coordinator during any single-year term of Participation.
5. Comply with all USDA and TDA regulations, including, but not limited to, Roles and Responsibilities for Further Processing of USDA Foods or any other Annual Agreement per USDA or TDA.
6. Prepare purchase orders issued to the appropriate vendor from the official award list provided by R10MRPC.
7. Accept shipments of products ordered from vendors in accordance with standard purchasing procedures.
8. Address product warranties and product qualities with manufacturer.
9. Pay vendors net amount due within agreed upon terms after receipt of a correct monthly statement.
10. Participate in bid evaluation committees for the bid's that the CE is utilizing. Evaluation committee meetings will include, but not be limited to, face-to-face group meetings, online voting, or any other form of participation as requested by the R10MRPC.
11. Act ethically always and in accordance with all Federal, State, and local guidelines, as well as R10MRPC Member Roles. The R10MRPC shares information with participating members that at times is considered confidential and proprietary. Members may be asked to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements and agree to adhere to the terms set forth in those agreements. Future membership in the R10MRPC may be jeopardized based on unethical handling of sensitive R10MRPC and/or vendor information.
12. Attend R10MRPC meetings and training classes to stay informed of the cooperative's processes and services offered. Training classes are specific to some of the "tools" offered by R10MRPC. Attending meetings and classes helps ensure your success as a CE in the R10MRPC.
13. Participates in a Member Advisory Committee through selection or appointment. The Member Advisory Committee is a small committee of R10MRPC participating members formed every 2 years. The Advisory Committee serves as the liaison for all participating members when a conflict or concern arises regarding R10MRPC, and annually reviews all procurement practices by the R10MRPC to ensure compliance in all areas.
14. The following roles will apply to participating members who commit entitlement dollars for the USDA processed commodity foods:
 - a. The CE shall access the Texas Unified Nutrition Program System (TX-UNPS) Food Distribution Program (FDP) Module on a regular basis to effectively manage USDA Foods entitlement, food requests, allocations, and as applicable, storage and delivery of USDA Foods from assigned state-contracted warehouse.
 - b. The CE shall track and manage USDA Foods inventory balances to ensure compliance with TDA and USDA Foods inventory requirements, i.e., inventory levels shall not exceed a six (6) month supply at any given time; access processor tracking systems (K12, ProcessorLink, Lunchline Inc., or other) on a regular basis; and report inventory issues to R10MRPC.
 - c. The CE shall conduct Sales Verifications of end-products sold through a distributor, including but not limited to verification of rebates, discounts, and credits.

- d. The CE shall maintain copies of the original Child Nutrition ("CN") Label from the product, carton; or a photograph of the CN Label as it appears on the original product carton if available.
- e. The CE shall attend and/or access online trainings provided by TDA on the management of the USDA Foods program to obtain the latest information on the program.

BID PARTICIPATION SELECTIONS for SY 2022-2023

The following Bid Participation agreement, as an integrated part of the Agreement, is entered into by and between the District/CE, as indicated below, and Region 10 Multi-Region Purchasing Cooperative (R10MRPC) for participation in one or more of the R10MRPC awarded bids. This agreement is a single-term agreement effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

The R10MRPC formally procures several competitive RFPs (Request For Proposal) on behalf of all participating members. Each CE member is required to complete this Bid Participation Agreement and forecast all planned products if they wish to purchase from any MRPC awarded bid during the term of this agreement.

To help the R10MRPC represent the most accurate information to potential bidders, ***please place a check mark to the left of each bid listed below that you “plan” to use during the SY 2022-2023.*** Each RFP is explained on the next page to assist you in the best decision as to which bid(s) best fit your needs. The R10MRPC does not guarantee any vendor that any item will be purchased, however, CE members should seriously consider each selected bid as member forecasting of each product planned is required prior to each bid release.

✓	Full-Line Grocery, NOI/FFS Distributor
	USDA Foods For Further Processing
✓	Milk: Full-Service Delivery
	Fresh Bread
	Ice Cream Novelties
	Beverages - Contained
	Manufacturer Direct-to-District (commercial foods) – requires MRPC approval

	Dispensed Fruit Beverages
	Chips & Snacks
	Fresh Meats and Produce
	Small Wares
	Kitchen Chemicals & Cleaning Supplies
	Sanitation Systems & Safety Training

Please attach a complete list of all campus sites that will receive delivery:

1. Campus name **Buckholts ISD**
2. Campus Address **203 S 10th Street**
3. Campus Phone Number **254 593 2744 ext 1501**
4. Campus County **Milam**