



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

memo

To: The Board of Education and Dr. Patrick Broncato, Superintendent
From: Curt Saindon, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO
Date: October 24, 2025
Subject: Recommendation to Join the Illinois Together Purchasing Cooperative

Last month, I provided you with information about a new purchasing cooperative organized by the Illinois Association of School Business Officials, with the help of Bespoke Communities. I designed specifically for school districts in Illinois. This new purchasing cooperative, Illinois Together, was launched this fall with two new, initial cooperative contracts (one for copiers put together by Worth School District #127 and one for paper put together by Barrington School District #220). As more Illinois school districts join and the list of contracts and items available through the cooperative grows, we will not only begin to see potentially better pricing for more goods and services, but we will also start to see the advantages of enhanced purchasing power and better economies of scale, as the Co-Op hopefully develops a comprehensive list of goods and services bid out by Illinois School Districts for Illinois School Districts.

There is no cost to join the cooperative, and there is no obligation to use it (if you can find better pricing or contract terms on your own or through other purchasing cooperatives or channels, that is fine). The only obligation is to register with Bespoke Communities and then sign the Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (MICPA). This will allow you to participate in the cooperative if you want. Furthermore, if you are doing a Bid or RFP, and you would like it to potentially become a contract available to other school districts through the cooperative, then you just need to let Bespoke know and work with them as you bid out the goods or service and get proposals, to make sure that the proposals allow for scalable sales to other cooperative members. If your bid is successfully submitted to and accepted by the cooperative, then you will also earn a small percentage of all sales generated, as the originating entity for the contract. As Illinois School Districts are the entities completing the Bid/RFP process and submitting contracts to IL Together, we should be confident that all Illinois School Code provisions have been followed and all applicable State purchasing requirements have been met. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know. Thank you.

memo

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board approve joining the Illinois Together Purchasing Cooperative, as offered by the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO) and administered by Bespoke Communities. There is no cost to join or obligation to participate, and with Board approval, we would simply register through Bespoke Communities with the cooperative, sign the Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (MICPA), and then begin using the cooperative terms and pricing for various contracts as a resource for applicable purchasing decisions. We might also submit future Bids or RFP's to the cooperative for consideration, as a way to both grow the cooperative's list of available goods and services and also earn some commissions by contributing a contract(s) to the cooperative database.