

Section: Fiscal Management

Title: Federal Programs and Projects

Number: DJFA - Critical

Legal Refs: Sections 8.285 - .291, .675 - .687, 34.073 - .080, .350 - .359, .375, 105.450 - .458, 162.301, 170.041, 171.181, 177.082 - .086, 285.530, 292.675, 393.310, 432.070 - .080, RSMo.  
20 U.S.C Part 6321  
5 C.S.R. 30-4.030, 680.010  
2 C.F.R. Parts 200.22, .23, .38, .92, 112, .113, .317, .318, .338  
7 C.F.R. Parts 210.16, .21, 220.16  
40 C.F.R. Part 247  
47 C.F.R. Part 54.503

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The purpose of this policy is to ensure that federally funded programs and projects in the district are administered in accordance with federal laws. Specifically, this policy governs all purchases of goods and services using federal funds and reflects federal conflict of interest rules applicable to Board members, employees and agents involved with the selection of contractors and the approval and administration of contracts for federal programs and projects.

### **Definitions**

*Agent* – A person or entity acting on behalf of the district who is not an employee of the district.

*Contract* – As used in this policy, a legal instrument by which the district purchases property or services needed to carry out a program or project funded by a federal award.

*Contractor* – A person or entity with which the district has an executed contract to carry out a federal program or project. A contractor does not include an entity with which the district contracts that received a federal award or subaward directly from a federal or state agency.

*Gratuity* – A favor, gift or anything of monetary value.

*Immediate Family* – A spouse or dependent child of a Board member, employee or agent or any person living in the household of a Board member, employee or agent.

*Labor Surplus Area (LSA) Firm* – A business located in a civil jurisdiction, such as a county or city, which is designated as an LSA by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

*Real, Apparent or Potential Conflict of Interest* – A situation in which a Board member, employee or agent; any member of a Board member's, employee's or agent's immediate family; any business partner of a Board member, employee or agent; or any organization that employs or is about to employ a Board member, employee or agent has a financial or other interest in a firm the district is considering contracting with or would receive a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered by the district for contracting. A financial interest does not exist if the value of the interest is less than \$25.

### **Federal Programs Administration**

The superintendent shall be responsible for coordinating and administering federally funded programs and projects. The superintendent will ensure that the various departments operating these programs and projects do so in accordance with the requirements of the federal award and keep accurate and separate records, as required by Board policy and in accordance with administrative procedures. The superintendent may delegate one or more of his or her duties to appropriate employees.

If the superintendent is not the purchasing officer for the district, the superintendent will work with the purchasing officer to ensure that goods and services purchased through federal awards comply with state and federal requirements.

### **Procurement**

In addition to following the requirements of state law, Board policy and district procedures, the purchasing officer will ensure that all supplies, equipment and services purchased with federal funds are purchased in accordance with federal law. No purchase will be made unless the purchase was authorized in the approved budget for administration of the grant. Every purchase will be identified in district accounts in accordance with the federal program under which the purchase was made.

### ***Bids and Requests for Proposals***

Bid specifications and requests for proposals will include a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product or service desired and will identify all requirements and all other factors that will be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

Bid specifications will not 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, must set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it must 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 to define the performance or other requirements. The specific features of the named brand that must be met must be clearly stated.

Pursuant to federal law, the district will not use local or state purchasing preferences when purchasing goods or services related to a federal contract.

Contractors who develop or draft specification requirements, statements of work or invitations for bids or requests for proposals for the district must be excluded from bidding on the project.

In addition to the purchasing preferences required or permitted pursuant to state law, when making purchases with federal funds the district will:

1. Take all necessary affirmative steps to ensure that small businesses, minority businesses, women's business enterprises and LSA firms are used when possible. To that end, the district will:
  - Place qualified small businesses, minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists.
  - Solicit bids from small businesses, minority businesses and women's business enterprises when they are potential sources.
  - Divide total project requirements into smaller tasks or quantities, when economically feasible, to permit maximum participation by small businesses, minority businesses and women's business enterprises. This provision shall not be used to artificially divide purchases to avoid bidding requirements or design bid specifications to favor a particular provider.
  - When conducive with the program or project, establish performance and delivery schedules that encourage small businesses, minority businesses and women's business enterprises to participate.
2. Purchase only items that contain the highest practicable percentage of recovered materials, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or the value of the quantity acquired during the preceding fiscal year exceeded \$10,000.
3. Use solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery.

The purchasing officer or designee may search state and federal surplus property offerings to determine whether any items the district needs are available at a lower cost without sacrificing quality.

### **Contracts**

When making purchases using federal funds, the district will not use a time and materials contract unless there is a determination that no other contract is suitable and the district includes a ceiling price and oversees the project to ensure efficiency.

The district may use value engineering clauses in contracts for construction projects of sufficient size to offer reasonable opportunities for cost reductions.

The purchasing officer or designee will resolve contract and procurement disputes in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment. The purchasing officer is authorized to contact the district's legal counsel for assistance in resolving disputes.

### **Title I Comparability**

Federal law requires districts to ensure that schools that receive Title I funds receive the same level of services and resources from state and local funds as schools that do not receive Title I funds. If the district has school buildings with more than 100 students and more than one building for each grade span, the district is required to annually conduct a comparability study between buildings of more than 100 students. If all the district's schools receive Title I funds, the district must determine that services are, taken as a whole, substantially comparable in each school. The district may meet these requirements by comparing either grade spans or schools. The district will establish comparability by ensuring:

1. That it has adopted a districtwide salary schedule;
2. Equivalence among schools in teachers, administrators and other staff; and
3. Equivalence among schools in the provision of curriculum materials and instructional supplies.

Alternatively, the superintendent or designee will complete an annual comparability study using the procedures and forms provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). If the superintendent or designee determines that services and resources are not comparable, the superintendent will notify the Board and take steps to rectify the situation.

The data collected and compiled in the determination of comparability will be retained in accordance with the Public School Records Retention Schedule. The district will provide DESE with the appropriate assurances that the district is in compliance with the federal law.

### **Conflict of Interest**

In addition to acting in accordance with Missouri laws governing conflicts of interest and financial disclosures, Board members, employees and agents participating in the procurement of property and services using federal funds must comply with federal requirements. In cases where federal requirements are more restrictive than state requirements, federal requirements will be followed.

1. Board members, employees and agents who are or may be involved in the selection, award or administration of a contract supported by a federal award will submit, in writing, any real, apparent or potential conflict of interest to the superintendent or designee or the Board secretary. The recipient of the report will forward any disclosures to the awarding state or federal agency in accordance with the reporting policy of the agency.

2. No Board member, employee or agent will participate in the selection, award or administration of a contract supported by a federal award if he or she has a real, apparent or potential conflict of interest.
3. Board members, employees and agents will not solicit or accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from contractors, parties to subcontracts or any vendor who is attempting to be a contractor for a federal program or project, but may accept unsolicited gifts of nominal value. For the purposes of this policy, a gift of nominal value is defined as an unsolicited gift of \$25 or less.

### **Consequences**

Board members, employees and agents are required to immediately report any violation of this policy to the superintendent or Board president. In accordance with federal law, Board members, employees and agents will, within five days of the violation, report all violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery or a gratuity violation potentially affecting the federal award, even if no charges have been filed, to the superintendent, designee or Board president. The superintendent, designee or Board president will submit information about the violation to the federal awarding entity and will contact the district's attorney for assistance in making that report. See 2 C.F.R Part 200.113.

Board members who violate the provisions of this policy will be prohibited from holding a Board office or representing the full Board, as an official spokesperson or otherwise, in the community unless excused by the Board. Employees who violate this policy will be disciplined or terminated, and the district will reconsider and potentially end business relationships with agents who violate this policy. In addition, violations of this policy or the laws it references may be reported to law enforcement, the Missouri Ethics Commission, the Attorney General's Office or DESE and other applicable funding agencies.

**Park Hill School District, Platte County, MO**