

LOUISIANA AUTHORITY

Louisiana Revised Statute § 38:2212.1(N) provides that, “Notwithstanding any provision of this Part to the contrary, any public school district or public school may enter into an agreement with one or more qualified group purchasing organizations for the purchase of materials, equipment, and supplies, including any installation thereof.¹ A “Qualified group purchasing organization” is defined as, “an organization, whether for profit or not for profit, of which two or more public school districts are members and which solicits proposals or bids from vendors of materials, equipment, or supplies of the type and nature as may be purchased by a public school district or public school.”² The Interlocal Purchasing System (“TIPS”) is a division of Region 8 Education Service Center which is a political subdivision of the state, and TIPS is an organization with more than two public school members which solicits proposals from vendors of materials, equipment, and supplies of the type and nature as may be purchased by a public school district or public school.³ Thus, TIPS is a Qualified Group Purchasing Organization. Upon request from a Louisiana school board, a Vendor(s) awarded by the qualified group purchasing organization shall submit a price list for materials, equipment, and supplies offered by it and the prices quoted on the list shall remain in effect for a stated period of time of not less than three months. Any such price list shall be considered, for all purposes, to be a valid and binding bid by the qualified group purchasing organization vendor during the effective period of the agreement, and no additional bid by the qualified group purchasing organization is necessary.⁴ A school board may purchase materials, equipment, or supplies from or through a qualified group purchasing organization if:

- (1) The price is less than that for the same or substantially similar materials, equipment, or supplies on the state contract or bid list, or;
- (2) The same or substantially similar materials, equipment, or supplies are not under state contract or on the state bid list.⁵

¹ La. R.S. § 38:2212.1.

² See Id.

³ Tex. Educ. Code § 8.001 et. seq.

⁴ La. R.S. § 38:2212.1.

⁵ See Id.