

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
Region VIII Education Service Center
MARYLAND PUBLIC AGENCY
(School, College, University, State, City or County Office)

MARYLAND EDUCATIONAL OR GOVERNMENT ENTITY

Control Number (TIPS will Assign)

and

Region VIII Education Service Center
Pittsburg, Texas

225 - 950
Region 8 County-District Number

The Texas Education Code §8.002 permits Regional Education Service Centers, at the direction of the Commissioner of Education, to provide services to assist school districts, colleges and universities in improving student performance and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of school, college and university financial operations.

Government Authority:

Authority for such services in MARYLAND is granted under MARYLAND Government Code §§ 13-110 *et seq* as amended. These competitively bid cooperative purchasing services are extended to all MARYLAND State, City and County Government Agencies.

Interlocal contracts are authorized by the Maryland law. MD.CODE ANN.STATE FIN. & PROC. § 13-110, *et seq*. Maryland law provides that purchases through an intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreement are an acceptable alternative to procurement through competitive bids. MD.CODE ANN.STATE FIN. & PROC. § 13-102 (a) (6). An intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreement means a contract entered into by at least one governmental entity, that is available for use by the governmental entity entering into the contract and at least one additional governmental entity which may or may not be the original party, and that is intended to promote efficiency and savings that can result from intergovernmental cooperative purchasing. MD.CODE ANN.STATE FIN. & PROC. § 13-110 (a) (4). A governmental entity includes a county, municipal corporation or other political subdivision of Maryland or another state. MD.CODE ANN.STATE FIN. & PROC. § 13-110 (a) (3). Pursuant to the TICA, a Texas regional education service center is considered a political subdivision of the state of Texas; thus, a Texas regional education service center would be considered a public agency for the purposes intergovernmental cooperative purchasing in Maryland. See TEX.GOV'T CODE § 791.003 (5)

An entity of Maryland government may enter an agreement for the administration of the purchasing programs with one or more State or local entities. MD.CODE ANN.STATE FIN. & PROC. § 13-110 (d) (!). However, a purchasing agreement does not relieve any participant of the agreement from any obligation or responsibility imposed on the entity by law. MD.CODE ANN.STATE FIN. & PROC. § 13-110 (d) (3). Therefore, as long as the cooperative follows Maryland procurement laws and regulations, Maryland school districts and other local governmental entities may participate in the TIPS program.

Vision:

TIPS will become the premier purchasing cooperative in North America through developing partnerships with quality vendors, school districts, universities, colleges, all governmental entities, and public and private industry.

Mission:

Our mission is to provide a proven purchasing process through quality customer service including timely response, legal support and effective recruitment by providing sufficient resources to include personnel.

Purpose:

The purpose of the TIPS program shall be to continue providing substantial savings and best value for participating educational entities or public agencies through cooperative purchasing.

Effective:

This Interlocal Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "*Agreement*") is effective _____ and shall be automatically renewed annually unless either party gives sixty (60) days prior written notice of non-renewal. This Agreement may be terminated without cause by either party upon (60) days prior written notice, or may also be determined for cause at anytime upon written notice stating the reason for and effective date of such terminations and after giving the affected party a thirty (30) day period to cure any breach.

Statement of Services to be Performed:

Region VIII Education Service Center, by this *Agreement*, agrees to provide competitively bid cooperative purchasing services to the above-named public entity through a Program known as The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Program.

Role of the TIPS Purchasing Cooperative:

1. Provide organizational and administrative structure of the TIPS Program.
2. Provide Administrative and Support Staff necessary for efficient operation of the TIPS Program.
3. Provide marketing of the TIPS program to expand membership, awarded contracts and commodity categories.
4. Initiate and implement activities required for competitive bidding and vendor award process including posting, advertising, collecting proposals, scoring proposals, and awarding of vendor contracts.
5. Provide members with current awarded vendor contracts, instructions for obtaining quotes and ordering procedures.
6. Maintain filing system for all competitive bidding procedure requirements.
7. Provide Reports as requested.
8. Maintain active membership database for awarded vendors.
9. Provide TIPS training to members and vendors upon request.

Role of the Education or Government Entity:

1. Commit to participate in the TIPS Program.
2. Designate a Primary and Technology Contact for the entity to be responsible for promoting TIPS within the organization.
3. Commit to purchase products and services from TIPS Vendor Awarded Contracts when in the best interest of the entity. **PURCHASE ORDER MUST ALWAYS BE MARKED TIPS and EMAILED to TIPSPO@TIPS-USA.COM for processing.**
4. Accept shipments of products ordered from Awarded Vendors in accordance with standard purchasing procedures.
6. Pay Awarded Vendors in a timely manner for all goods and services received.
7. Report any vendor issues that may arise to the TIPS Cooperative Coordinator.

General Provisions:

Both Parties agree to comply fully with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations in connection with the programs contemplated under this Agreement. This Agreement is subject to all applicable present and future valid laws governing such programs.

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas and venue shall be in the county in which the administrative offices of RESC VIII are located which is Camp County, Texas.

It is the responsibility of the Entity purchasing from TIPS to insure that the respective State purchasing laws are being followed.

This Agreement 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 the Parties.

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

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

No Party to this Agreement waives or relinquishes any immunity or defense on behalf of themselves, their directors, officers, employees, and agents as a result of its execution of this Agreement and performance of the functions and obligations described herein.

This Agreement may be negotiated and transmitted between the Parties by means of a facsimile machine and the terms and conditions agreed to are binding upon the Parties.

Authorization:

Region VIII Education Service Center and The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Program have entered into an Agreement to provide competitively bid cooperative purchasing opportunities to entities as outlined above.

This Interlocal Agreement process was approved by the governing boards of the respective parties at meetings that were posted and held in accordance with the respective STATE Open Meetings Act, for Texas it was Government Code Ch. 551.

The individuals signing below are authorized to do so by the respective parties to this Agreement.

Membership Entity-

Region 8 Education Service Center

By: _____
Authorized Signature

Title: _____

Date

By: _____
Authorized Signature

Title: Executive Director Region VIII ESC

Date

Public Entity Contact Information

Primary Purchasing Person's Name

Primary Person's Email Address

Mailing Address

Telephone Number

City, State Zip

Fax Number

Secondary Contact Name

Secondary Contact's Email Address

Instructions:

If your entity does not require you to have an Interlocal Agreement, please go to the TIPS website under Membership and take advantage of online registration. The states of Texas and Arizona **do** require all entities to have an Interlocal Agreement. Email completed Interlocal Agreement to tips@tips-usa.com.