



A Department of Education Service Center Region 8, 4845 US Highway 271 North, Pittsburg, Texas 75686, (866) 839-8477

To: All TIPS Members

Re: TIPS Federal Funds Disclaimer and Information Sheet

To whom it may concern:

You have clicked on a link or otherwise sought to determine whether a specific TIPS Vendor on a specific TIPS Contract is EDGAR compliant. If the website states “No” to EDGAR compliance for that specific Vendor Contract, then the specific TIPS Vendor on that specific TIPS Contract is ***not EDGAR compliant***. If the website states “View Doc” to EDGAR compliance and you are linked to this letter, then TIPS has ensured the specific TIPS Vendor’s compliance with 2 CFR 200 on the specified contract ***to the extent a cooperative can do so***, as described below.

Region 8 Education Service Center (Region 8 ESC) is a Texas Education Service Center which operates The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), a purchasing cooperative and department of Region 8 ESC. This document certifies that Region 8 ESC and TIPS made every effort to comply with the most restrictive requirements of 2 CFR 200, identified for educational purposes as the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (“EDGAR”). Please note that federal funds not sourced from the US Department of Education are likely regulated by 2 CFR 200 but are not technically “EDGAR.” Each federal agency and its corresponding state “pass-through” agency may interpret 2 CFR 200 differently. TIPS certifies that it competitively procures all awarded contracts pursuant to § 44.031 of the Texas Education Code, or Texas Government Code § 2269, as applicable, the most restrictive procurement method, and performs the most restrictive procurement method required by law and regulation, including all of the necessary steps outlined in 2 CFR 200, except the Price or Cost Analysis for purchases of \$250,000 and greater. (See below). ***This letter certifies that the Vendor agreed to those 2 CFR 200 contract provisions for the specified contract.***

However, this TIPS certification cannot relieve Members of federal requirements that cannot reasonably be performed by cooperatives. For example, 2 CFR 200 requires a cost or price analysis for purchases over \$250,000.00, a threshold adopted by TEA and the US Dept. of Education. TIPS does not perform a formal cost or price analysis because TIPS is not the entity making the actual purchase of goods or services. If a Vendor is awarded then TIPS has determined that the pricing is within the competitive range for the Vendor’s offering. However, when required by law, the TIPS Member must perform the required analysis on the specific goods or services before seeking TIPS pricing/purchasing from the TIPS Vendor and then upon completion of the purchase process.

Additionally, due to the Texas Department of Agriculture Guidance ARM Section 17 (“ARM Section 17”), relating to Federal Child Nutrition Program Funds (Primarily Texas Public School Fund 240), requirement that all solicitations include specific quantities of goods or services purchased, TIPS Contracts are not in compliance with ARM Section 17 as a **stand-alone** purchase contract. This is because TIPS has no way of predicting which Members will purchase specific quantities of goods and services. However, for Federal Child Nutrition Fund purchases in which the ARM Section 17 required cost or price analysis has been performed by the Member, TIPS contracts may be used in conjunction with the Member’s three quote process ***unless labeled with “No” as to EDGAR compliance***. See also ARM Section 17.84 addresses purchasing through a **“Third Party Cooperative that does not follow USDA Procurement Regulations”**. This will include TIPS and possibly other cooperatives that do not specify the exact quantities and line items procured by the cooperative. See the latest ARM Section 17 [here](#).

If this letter was linked or provided in relation to a specific Vendor Contract then the Vendor has agreed to the 2 CFR 200 Contract provisions. For our Members’ benefit, we encourage you, when expending federal funds, to make certain that you understand and comply with any other 2 CFR 200 requirements that cannot necessarily be met on your behalf by a cooperative. We also encourage you to incorporate all 2 CFR 200 TIPS Contract provisions agreed to by the Vendor into all supplemental agreements you enter into with the TIPS Vendor, if any. While TIPS works very hard to ensure legal purchasing compliance on Members’ behalf TIPS does not provide legal counsel to its Members. TIPS recommends that you consult your legal counsel when executing contracts with TIPS Vendors. TIPS reserves the right to change its process as necessary in relation to updated guidance. Thank you for being a Member of TIPS and for letting us assist with your procurement needs.