



## Alabama Association of School Business Officials



Alabama Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) is pleased to announce our new partnership arrangement with U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance. AASBO chose U.S. Communities as our partner because of its long history of working with school districts; saving thousands of districts nationwide time and money. US Communities is a national non-profit cooperative, instrumentality of government, and is jointly sponsored by the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), the National Association of Counties (NACO), the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM).

**Act 2006-279, amended the Code of Alabama 1975, Section 41-16-51**, to allow school boards to utilize purchasing cooperatives sponsored by the National Association of Counties. All US Communities contracts are competitively solicited by another governmental entity which allows our school districts to piggy back on the contracts. We have verified with the Alabama Department of Public Examiners that this type of arrangement is permissible under Alabama school purchasing laws. Therefore, school districts may enter into contracts with U.S. Communities and save significant time and advertising costs, while also generating bid competitive pricing. Furthermore, the online system is easy to use, and the prices are the lowest that will be offered by participating companies to government entities nationwide.

We encourage you to register with US Communities so that your district will have access to the thousands of quality products from multiple vendors available through its contracts. Then check US Communities pricing against your other sources before making your purchase decisions. **(The law does require that you purchase off state bid contracts that boards are eligible for when their prices are lower than US Communities.)** By registering for the program, you are neither committing to participate nor binding the district in any manner; your district will still have the ability to make choices outside of US Communities.

The process is simple:

Register with U.S. Communities **(no cost – no obligation)**, so district personnel can access the U.S. Communities website where vendors, products and prices are available for review. Registration with U.S. Communities (which you can do online at their website at [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org)) is to ensure that your school district is provided the Master Intergovernmental Co-Operative Purchasing Agreement. This is necessary for your records and audit. Registration does **not** obligate you to purchase through the program, but it does introduce you to a wide-range of quality products at outstanding prices. Compare the U.S. Communities contracts with the contracts your district currently has in place. Go online to

request contact from a U.S. Communities vendor, that vendor's local rep will contact you to review their offering and **bid prices**.

While Alabama law permits participation in purchasing cooperatives such as US Communities, you need to review your board policy to make certain it is consistent with this type approach. In particular, the approach used by US Communities should be summarized in your school district's purchasing policy with an accompanying statement indicating that the process constitutes a competitive bid for the purposes of board policy and state law.

**Benefits:**

Saves time and advertising costs

Best in class products

No cost to participants

No obligation

Deliveries made to multiple sites –warehousing and district in-house delivery is not needed

**Contracts Offered:**

Office and School Supplies-**Office Depot**

School Furniture-**Virco**

Electrical Data- **Graybar**

Office Furniture – **Haworth, Herman Miller, Knoll, KI and All Steel**

Technology Products-**Tech Depot**

Technology Solutions-**GTSI Corp.**

Janitorial Supplies -**ZEP**

Carpet and Flooring-**Milliken Carpet**

Office Machines- **Savin, Ricoh, Lanier, and Gestetner**

Park and Playground-**Gametime, Landscape Structures and Little Tikes**

P.E. Supplies- **Sportime**

Homeland Security Solutions- **Hagemeyer NA**

Maintenance, Repair and Operations- **Home Depot Supply/ The Home Depot**

Roofing Supplies and Services-**HCS**

Auto Parts and Accessories-**Auto Zone**

For additional information, go to the following website: [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org).