

TIPS is a **LEADING** National, Purchasing Cooperative with over a decade of experience. TIPS offers LSBA Members access to competitively bid contracts. All TIPS contracts are awarded by Region 8 Education Service Center, the lead public agency.



TIPS contracts save LSBA Members **TIME** and **MONEY** by streamlining the process and leveraging the purchasing power of more than 4,900 member agencies from Louisiana and all over the United States.

*"Connecting LSBA Members and Vendors Together"*



TIPS MEET THE NEW STATE REQUIREMENTS THAT ALLOW LOUISIANA SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO NOW BENEFIT FROM PURCHASING COOPERATIVES.

*This is a win-win for local school districts and businesses.*



#### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ★ No Cost - No fees ever
- ★ No Obligation
- ★ Extra Volume Discount
- ★ Simple Purchasing Process
- ★ Publicly Solicited Contracts
- ★ Over 1,000 Vendor Contracts

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— *Connect with TIPS* —



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# LSBA and TIPS



## “Cooperative Purchasing for Louisiana Schools”

### 1) What is TIPS?

TIPS is an acronym for The Interlocal Purchasing System. TIPS is a national purchasing cooperative that offers access to competitively procured purchasing contracts to its membership. TIPS is housed at and managed by the lead agency, Region 8 Education Service Center, located in Pittsburg, Texas.

### 2) Does TIPS meet the requirement in the new Louisiana Cooperative Purchasing Law LRS 38:2212.1 (N)?

TIPS meets the new requirement as defined in the act: “Qualified Purchasing Cooperative Organization” This means 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 services, materials, equipment, or supplies of the type and nature as may be purchased by a public school district or public school.

### 3) How much does it cost to be a member of TIPS?

Membership in The Interlocal Purchasing System is free to the schools of Louisiana.

### 4) How does my organization benefit from using a purchasing cooperative like TIPS?

For LSBA member schools, membership in a purchasing cooperative offers the following benefits:

- Access to competitively procured contracts with quality vendors
- Savings of time and financial resources necessary to fulfill bid requirements
- Assistance with the purchasing process by qualified TIPS staff
- Access to pricing based on “national” high-profile contracts

### 5) Where are TIPS solicitations advertised?

TIPS solicitations (RFP’s/RFQ’s) are advertised for 2 consecutive weeks in the Pittsburg Gazette in Pittsburg, Texas as well as on a national scope in the USA Today. Copies of these advertisements are also available to view on the TIPS website.

### 6) How does my organization become a member of TIPS?

The TIPS website offers step-by-step instructions on how to become a member. The process is fast, and it’s free. It is, however, specific to the state of Louisiana. Please visit this link to access the membership instructions and documents: <https://www.tips-usa.com/LSBA.cfm>

### 7) How can my business become an Awarded Vendor to sell products or services through TIPS?

The only way a vendor can sell products or services through the TIPS cooperative is to be awarded a contract by TIPS. This can only happen when a vendor responds to a TIPS solicitation (RFP/RFQ) for their specific product or service and meets the scoring requirements to receive an awarded contract from the Region 8 ESC Board of Directors (which serves as the governing board of TIPS). For further information, please visit the following link: <https://www.tips-usa.com/becomebidder.cfm>