



January 11, 2021

Dear MRPC Vendors,

On December 16, 2020, the Board of Directors of Region 9 Education Service Center voted to dissolve the Multi Regional Purchasing Cooperative and to withdraw as the fiscal agent of the MRPC as of August 31, 2021. This decision was made after much consideration by the Executive Directors of Regions 9, 11, 14 and 15, along with members of the governing committee, which is made up of members from the four service centers and representatives from member school districts.

The discussion among this group addressed how different the purchasing opportunities are now from when the cooperative began 25 years ago. The state and federal legislative changes have also been significant during this time. The main concern among all ESC members was that their member school districts be able to get the products they need while meeting any applicable state and federal law. It was agreed that due to the abundance of purchasing cooperatives, of which most school districts are already members, this need could still be met.

**PLEASE NOTE: The current approved catalog contracts have not been affected by this change, and are still effective through August 31, 2021. Our member school districts may still use the contracts through that time. However, the MRPC will not issue any bids/Requests for Proposals this spring as is our usual process to extend those contracts any further.**

We would encourage you to investigate some of the other purchasing cooperatives throughout the state that serve school districts (see list on next page). If you work closely with particular school district members who have been using your services through the MRPC contract, you may want to contact them to see what avenue might be best to continue to serve them after August 2021.

It has been the pleasure of Region 9 ESC to serve you all as the fiscal agent of the MRPC. We appreciate the support you have shown to our member school districts. If you have any questions about this decision, please feel free to contact me by email at [dana.parrish@esc9.net](mailto:dana.parrish@esc9.net) or phone at 940-322-6928.

## **OTHER PURCHASING COOPERATIVES**

This is a list of purchasing cooperatives that are also used by school districts who have been members of the MRPC. This is not an exhaustive list, and the MRPC is not recommending any cooperative over another. It is simply meant to give information to vendors for alternatives to be able to continue serving our member districts through cooperative purchasing.

We do not have any information on the process or requirements for vendors to become approved through these cooperatives. Websites are listed for you to retrieve contact information and/or further details.

- BuyBoard – [www.buyboard.com](http://www.buyboard.com)
- Omnia Partners – <https://www.omniapartners.com/>
- TIPS (The Interlocal Purchasing System) – [www.tips-usa.com](http://www.tips-usa.com)
- NCPA (National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance) – [www.ncpa.us](http://www.ncpa.us)
- TETPC (The Texas Educational Technology Purchasing Consortium) – Digital Café - <https://www.esc11.net/tetpc>
- TexBuy – [www.texbuy.net](http://www.texbuy.net)
- PACE (The Purchasing Association of Cooperative Entities) – <https://pace.esc20.net/>
- Region 7 ESC Purchasing & Vendor Services – <https://purchasing.esc7.net/>
- GoodBuy (Purchasing Program of the Education Service Center, Region 2) – [www.goodbuy.esc2.net](http://www.goodbuy.esc2.net)
- Texas DIR (Texas Department of Information Resources) – [www.dir.texas.gov](http://www.dir.texas.gov)
- Texas Smart Buy – <http://www.txsmartbuy.com/>