

**PART A -
Instructions and General Terms and Conditions
AEPA SOLICITATION #021.75**

Notice to Respondents

Solicitation offers will be received by the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA) on behalf of its Member Agencies until:

May 28, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. ET

For Solicitation: 21.75 – HVAC and Mechanical Products and Solutions

Each package consists of multiple parts:

Part A – Terms and Conditions

Part B – Technical Specifications

Part C – Member Agency (State) Terms and Conditions

Part D – Questionnaire

Part E – Signature Forms

Part F – Discount & Pricing Workbook

All offers shall be submitted online via the Public Purchase website by the due date and time listed above. AEPA solicitation documents can be downloaded after registering, at no cost, on Public Purchase at www.publicpurchase.com.

AEPA and/or the respective Member Agencies reserve the right to reject any or all offers in whole or in part; to waive any formalities or irregularities in any offers, and to accept the offers, which in its discretion, within state law, are for the best interest of any of the AEPA Member Agencies and/or their Participating Entities. Respondents must be able to provide their proposed products and services in up to 29 states including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Note that not all states participate in each solicitation. The complete list of participating states is found in Part B for each category.

Solicitations will be opened, and an opening record will be posted to Public Purchase. Solicitations will be opened online on **May 28, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. ET**

Bid & Contract Timeline:

May 3, 2021	Notification will also be posted to the AEPA website, www.aepacoop.org .
May 11, 2021	Pre-Solicitation Conference Call (optional)
May 14, 2021	Deadline for questions from Respondents
May 28, 2021	Deadline for Submittals via Public Purchase
June 17, 2021	Opening Record posted on the AEPA website, www.aepacoop.org
June 24, 2021	AEPA Approval of Offers
July 1, 2021	Vendor Partners submit required documentation to AEPA Agencies
July 1, 2021	Initial contract term begins– See Term of Contract and Extensions in General Terms & Conditions. Annual contract renewal dates subject to approval by AEPA

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I. About AEPA

Welcome to The Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA) annual solicitation. AEPA is a unique school procurement consortium established in 2000 and incorporated in 2007 under the state laws of Nevada. We are a consortium of non-profit public agencies representing twenty-nine (29) states. We joined to issue simultaneous Invitations for Bids (IFB), or Request for Proposals (RFP), generating sales for vendor partners in all fifty (50) states. AEPA’s mission is to cooperatively serve our members through a continuous effort to explore and solve present and future purchasing needs. Our goal is to secure multi-state volume purchasing contracts with benefits for our public members that are measurable, cost-effective, and exceed members’ expectations for customer service and value. AEPA is committed to accomplishing this mission lawfully and ethically, using leading-edge technology and contemporary business practices.

The advantage for vendors to work with AEPA is that you respond to one bid or proposal that is legally performed across as many as 29 states, which have the potential to sell nationwide. You are working with up to 29 agencies with a long and trusted history with their public membership. Through our partnerships, AEPA vendors have access to thousands of public agencies across the country. We are a multi-million-dollar procurement group through our current awarded vendors and are growing.

AEPA designates one Member Agency per state that is operating legally under the rules and regulations of that state. Any additional agencies that wish to participate will negotiate with the authorized Member Agency and participate through them in a manner in which they mutually agree is not in conflict with AEPA procedures. The Member Agency will be the only agency allowed to represent that state at AEPA and will be the only communication link between AEPA and that state.

Each Member Agency, along with the awarded Vendor Partner, represents, supports, and promotes the AEPA contracts within their respective state. While the consortium was initially created to support educational entities, the Member Agency for each state determines which public entities (higher educational institutions, cities, counties, townships, states, etc.) can utilize the competitively solicited contracts (see the Summary of State Participation by Solicitation Category Table). Participating entities may include Public and Private School Districts, Educational Service Agencies, Intermediate School Districts, Higher Education Institutions, Federal Agencies, State Agencies, Local Public Bodies,

and Nonprofit Non-Public Corporations, Organizations, other entities contracted to conduct business on behalf of a participating entity provided they are required to follow member state and local procurement regulations, etc. that have authorizations to utilize the AEPA Member Agencies' Awarded Contracts.

AEPA has an elected President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Operations are overseen by the Executive Director. The AEPA Board representing member states meets twice per year and operates otherwise through a sophisticated committee structure.

AEPA Member Agency Information

State	Member Agency Name	Contact	Email	Students
California	Monterey County Office of Education d/b/a CalSAVE	Ted Witt	twitt@epylon.com	6,000,000
Colorado	Colorado BOCES Association	Tim Sanger	tim.sanger9@gmail.com	889,000
Connecticut	Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)	Cara Hart	chart@crec.org	538,000
Florida	Panhandle Area Education Consortium	Larche Hardy	larche.hardy@paec.org	2,700,000
Georgia	Cooperative Purchasing Agency	Kevin Benson	kbenson@cpa4schools.com	1,600,000
Indiana	Wilson Education Center	Pam Clover	pclover@wesc.k12.in.us	1,046,026
Illinois	Illinois Learning Technology Purchase Program	Hope Hardin-Borbely	hhardinborbely@iltpp.org	2,001,548
Iowa	AEA Purchasing	Joni Puffett	joni@aeapurchasing.org	510,010
Kansas	Southeast Kansas Education Service Center	Tina Smith	tina.smith@greenbush.org	468,510
Kentucky	Green River Regional Educational Cooperative	Ann Burden	ann.burden@grrec.org	675,000
Massachusetts	The Education Cooperative	Joan Preble	jpreble@tec-coop.org	955,739
Michigan	Oakland Schools	Anna Marie Hollander	AnnaMarie.Hollander@oakland.k12.mi.us	1,550,802
Minnesota	Cooperative Purchasing Connection	Melissa Mattson	mmattson@lcsc.org	842,932
Missouri	EducationPlus	Steve Griggs	sgriggs@edplus.org	885,204
Montana	Montana Cooperative Service	Dave Puyear	dpuyear@mrea-mt.org	144,129
Nebraska	ESU Coordinating Council (ESUCC)	Craig Peterson	craig.peterson@esucc.org	325,000
New Jersey	Educational Services of New Jersey	Pat Moran	pmoran@escnj.us	1,369,000
New Mexico	Cooperative Educational Services	Gustavo Rossell	gustavo@ced.org	338,307
North Dakota	North Dakota Educators Service Cooperative	Jane Eastes	jeastes@lcsc.org	106,863
Ohio	Ohio Council of Educational Purchasing Consortium	Tamra Hurst	tamra.hurst@apps.sparcc.org	1,700,000
Oregon	Intermountain ESD	Rob Naughton	rob.naughton@imesd.k12.or.us	570,857
Pennsylvania	Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit d/b/a Keystone Purchasing Network	Mark Carollo	mcarollo@csui.org	5,700,000
South Carolina	Carolinas Alliance 4 Innovation (CA4I)	Fred Payne	fred.payne@ca4i.org	787,000
Texas	Region 16 Education Service Center d/b/a TexBuy	Andrew Pickens	andrew.pickens@esc16.net	5,232,065
Virginia	Fairfax County Public Schools	Michelle Pratt	MRPratt@fcps.edu	1,249,000
Washington	King County Directors Association	Dave Mahalko	dmahalko@keda.org	1,000,000
West Virginia	Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative	Jan Hanlon	jhanlon@k12.wv.us	299,899
Wisconsin	Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) #2	Jane Wynn	jane.wynn@cesapurchasing.org	873,000
Wyoming	Northeast Wyoming Board of Cooperative Educational Services	Nita Werner	nwerner@newboces.com	91,000

II. Solicitation Procedures

A. Issuing Agency

The great benefit to the Vendor is that one response may be prepared for approval by AEPA and awarded by multiple AEPA Member Agencies and utilized by their Participating Entities located throughout many states. Solicitations may be issued as an IFB or an RFP depending on the category of goods/services being solicited. Respondents to a solicitation will submit their response in the required formats (PDF, Word, Excel) of all files requested along with complete catalogs via Public Purchase, a free online bidding platform, by the published due date and time. Respondents selected in response to this solicitation have the potential to provide products and services to local education agencies serving over 36,000,000 (excludes non-represented AEPA states) students, with additional local government agencies as permitted by state law.

Each AEPA Member Agency will individually publish notice of the solicitation. Respondents will submit responses online, electronically via Public Purchase (www.publicpurchase.com). Instructions on registering for AEPA solicitations on Public Purchase can be found on the AEPA website, www.aepacoop.org. Responses will be evaluated by solicitation category committees comprised of AEPA Member Agencies representatives who have indicated they will participate in the category of products and services being solicited, and after AEPA approval, individual AEPA Member Agencies may award contracts to the AEPA Approved Vendor Partners or reject their offers.

The procurement activities of AEPA are limited to document preparation, distribution of the solicitation, initial evaluation, and recommendation for possible approval to AEPA Member Agencies. AEPA consists of agency officials who have agreed to assist one another in meeting the public purchasing needs of local school districts and other political subdivisions.

Contracts awarded through cooperative purchasing must meet the procurement laws of the states of each AEPA Member Agency. When these laws are satisfied, an individual entity using these contracts is deemed in compliance with competitive procurement regulations. As allowed by specific state statutes, they can issue purchase orders for any amount without the necessity to prepare their own solicitation, Request for Proposal (RFP), or Request for Quotations (RFQ). This saves the entity time and allows for economical and efficient purchasing.

AEPA requires that Respondents only respond if they can offer prices equal to or better than what they ordinarily offer to individual entities or cooperatives with equal or lesser volume. State laws that permit or encourage cooperative purchasing contracts do so in the belief that it saves the participants both time and money. Time is saved by having access to volume discounted contracts publicly solicited and being able to purchase what is needed without having to wade through the solicitation process (write solicitation, advertise the solicitation, open each response, evaluate and select). Money is saved in procurement cost and lower prices will be the result of volume purchasing. Therefore, a contract issued by a cooperative can be used by hundreds of separate political units; but if it has the same or higher prices than what a single agency or state contract can get through its own solicitation, a cooperatively solicited contract may not be attractive to these members. **We request that Respondents respond with advantageous pricing and package so that together we can attract members to prefer the cooperatively awarded contract.**

The AEPA policy for membership permits new agencies to become AEPA Member Agencies upon approval of existing members. If additional Agencies are added, they and their members may procure from existing contracts upon approval of the awarded Vendor Partners and in accordance with their state laws.

B. Questions

All questions from Respondents must be submitted online through Public Purchase, AEPA will not accept questions in any other format during the solicitation process. All questions received during the solicitation process will be available via Public Purchase. All Respondents will be

automatically notified through email when AEPA responds to a question asked by a potential respondent. It is the Respondent's responsibility to check Public Purchase for any questions and answers before the deadline. Questions received after the question deadline date will not be answered.

Should AEPA issue addenda during the solicitation process, all Respondents will be automatically notified through email of the released addenda. AEPA is not responsible for Respondents not acknowledging the issued addenda and not submitting a response according to those changes.

Questions regarding this solicitation after Opening, but before the approval of the contract, should be submitted to questions@aepacoop.org.

Questions regarding this solicitation after Notification of Approval should be submitted to bid-committee@aepacoop.org.

C. **Respondent Qualifications**

An essential part of the solicitation process is an evaluation to qualify the company being considered. All solicitations must contain answers, responses, and/or documentation to the information requested in the documents. Any Respondent failing to provide the required information/ documentation may be considered non-responsive, this includes submitting a response not in the proper format.

Respondents must demonstrate their ability, capacity, and available resources to provide the proposed products and services to 90% of the AEPA Member Agencies indicating an interest in participating in the categories being solicited unless otherwise noted in Part B – Technical Specifications of the category being solicited. The Respondents are required to communicate and demonstrate within their response they have extensive knowledge, background, and at least five (5) years of experience with manufacturing, obtaining, delivering, installing, maintaining, and/or supporting the product lines of products, equipment, services or software offered. AEPA and/or its Member Agencies reserve the right to accept or reject newly formed companies or companies failing to demonstrate their abilities or capacity solely based on information provided in the solicitation response and/or its own investigation of the company.

D. **Bid/Proposal Security**

If required, bids or proposals shall be accompanied by a satisfactory security bond. **This will vary by the goods/services requested and will be noted in Part B, Technical Specifications for that category.**

If a security bond is required, a hard copy of the security must be in the actual possession of AEPA at Lakes Country Service Cooperative, ATTN: Purchasing Dept, 1001 E Mt Faith, Fergus Falls, MN 56537, on or before, the exact due date and time and a copy must be submitted via Public Purchase. Original copies of the security must be submitted in a sealed envelope properly addressed to the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies, with the Solicitation Number, Solicitation Category, and Respondent's name and address clearly indicated on the envelope or box. AEPA will not reject a response from a Vendor whose bid bond has not arrived by the due date and time as long as a scanned copy of the bid bond dated prior to the due date is uploaded with their response and the actual bond is in transit.

An acceptable bid/proposal security will have the principal being the Respondent and the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies listed as the Agency of Record. The Security may be a one-time bond underwritten by a surety company licensed to issue bonds in the state of Nevada and said surety to be approved in federal circular 570 as published by the United States treasury department or the equivalent in cash or an irrevocable letter of credit from a FDIC financial institution. The security bond shall remain in force for one hundred twenty (120) days of the solicitation opening.

E. Solicitation Submittal

1. Preparation of the Response

- a. The solicitation is published in multiple parts.
 - i. Part A contains the general terms and conditions that apply to all solicitations.
 - ii. Part B is the technical specifications or proposal request for the individual commodity or service requested.
 - iii. Part C includes specific state terms and conditions. This is where you will find information about each AEPA state member and any specific procurement rules of each state.
 - iv. Part D, E, and F are to be filled out in their entirety and submitted online via Public Purchase in their required formats with the Respondent's offer. Some categories may contain additional Parts or Forms. All Forms must be uploaded before the published solicitation due date and time of opening.
- b. All responses must be on the forms provided by AEPA for each solicitation found in Public Purchase unless otherwise noted. Respondents will submit all documents, in their required formats, online via Public Purchase by the due date and time of the solicitation.
- c. Forms requiring signatures shall be submitted by the person authorized to sign the bid or proposal response. Failure to properly sign the solicitation documents will result in the offer being deemed non-responsive.
- d. In case of an error in extension of prices in the solicitation, unit prices shall govern.
- e. Periods of time stated as a number of days shall be in calendar days, not business days.
- f. It is the responsibility of all Respondents to examine the entire solicitation package, to seek clarification of any item or requirement that may not be clear, and to check all responses for accuracy before submitting an offer. Negligence in preparing an offer confers no right of withdrawal after due time and date.
- g. The Respondents' ability to follow the preparation instructions set forth in this solicitation will also be considered to be an indicator of the Respondents' ability to follow instructions should they receive an award as a result of this solicitation. Any contract between the AEPA Member Agency and a Respondent requires the delivery of information and data. The quality of organization and writing reflected in the offer will be considered to be an indication of the quality of organization and writing which would be prevalent if a contract was awarded. As a result, the offer will be evaluated as a sample of data submission.

2. **Document Development:** Forms for this solicitation are published in Public Purchase, in Word, Excel, and PDF formats. Respondents may download the documents once they are registered with AEPA on Public Purchase. All documents must be titled properly and submitted in their required format as noted in the Solicitation Checklist. Respondents must scan and upload all documents to Public Purchase following the Solicitation Checklist, along with any additional documents or files other than those listed below that may be requested and/or related to the solicitation.

- a. **Part C – Member Agency (State) Terms and Conditions:** Some states require additional documentation and signature forms. Review Part C and submit the required state documents with your offer. Submit all state-specific forms as one (1) form in PDF format.
- b. **Part D – Questionnaire:** Complete the form provided. The questionnaire seeks information about the Respondent's pricing structure, service areas, financial status, past performance, and commerce processes. The Company Information form provides background information on the Respondent's company. Submit the form as one (1) individual form.

AEPA requires reports that describe the financial soundness of your organization. You will be asked to include a third-party report or reports that demonstrate your firm's strength. Accepted financial reports include balance sheets and Profit & Loss statements for the past three years, a Letter of Credit or Line of Credit from a bank or lending institution indicating the line of credit limit and the average outstanding

balance, Dun & Bradstreet reports, a complete Annual Financial Report (for publicly traded companies). Reports must be for the three years prior to this solicitation. Scan the report(s) into a PDF document and title as per the instructions. **For confidentiality, Respondents may choose to send the report(s) by email directly to the AEPA Executive Director, George Wilson at georgewilson.aepa@outlook.com. The reports will be held through the end of the protest period for the solicitation after which they will be destroyed. The pdf report(s) must be received by the AEPA Executive Director before the due date and time of the solicitation opening.**

- c. **Part E – Signature Forms:** Complete the forms provided. The signature form includes multiple areas where signatures are required. Submit the form as one (1) individual form in PDF format.
- d. **Part F – Discount & Pricing Schedules Workbook:** Complete the Excel workbook provided. Title the Excel document as per the instructions in Document Development above. Be sure to complete the required tabs as outlined in Part F.
 - **Warranties, Additional Services:** In response to Part F, the Respondent may be asked to provide a price schedule for warranties, or additional services, if applicable. This document is created by the Respondent (it is not provided by AEPA) and should be presented in an Excel workbook and titled as per the instructions in Document Development above.
 - **Additional Discounts:** In response to Part F, the Respondent may select to offer additional discounts/bonuses to AEPA members based on a dollar volume, sizes of orders or other criteria, and must state the formula for arriving at these discounts. This document is created by the Respondent (it is not provided by AEPA) and should be presented in an Excel workbook and titled as per the instructions in Document Development above.
 - **Price Lists and/or Catalogs:** For catalog bids, PDFs of the Respondent’s most recent published catalog(s) or price lists must be included. Each PDF document must be titled as per the instructions.

3. **Solicitation Transmittal**

- a. It is the responsibility of the Respondent to be certain that its submittal has been uploaded in its entirety to Public Purchase, on or prior to the exact published due date and time.
- b. If a security bond is required, a hard copy of the security must be in the actual possession of AEPA at Lakes Country Service Cooperative, ATTN: Purchasing Dept, 1001 E Mt Faith, Fergus Falls, MN 56537, on or before, the exact due date and time and a copy must be submitted via Public Purchase. Original copies of the security must be submitted in a sealed envelope properly addressed to the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies, with the Solicitation Number, Solicitation Category, and Respondent’s name and address clearly indicated on the envelope or box. AEPA will not reject a response from a Vendor whose bid bond has not arrived by the due date and time as long as a scanned copy of the bid bond dated prior to the due date is uploaded with their response and the actual bond is in transit.
- c. If the designated location for receiving the bid or proposal security is closed due to an unforeseen circumstance on the day the security is due (due date), the security will be due at the same time on the next day the building is open. Responsive offers will be opened, and the name of each Respondent and other appropriate information will be posted to Public Purchase and the AEPA website.

F. Solicitation Evaluation, Approval, and Award: Solicitation responses received will be evaluated in accordance with acceptable standards of cooperative procurement, set forth in and governed by the Procurement Codes of AEPA Member Agency’s states; AEPA by-laws, policies, and procedures; AEPA Member Agencies’ policies and procedures.

For IFB categories, approval of prospective Vendor Partners and recommendation of contracts will be made to the lowest responsive and responsible Respondent utilizing the criteria listed in Part B of the solicitation. As a reminder, AEPA recommends offers to Respondents. Final contract awards are subsequently made by individual AEPA Member Agencies.

1. **Responsive Offer:** A responsive offer reasonably and substantially conforms to all material requirements of the solicitation. Offers must be responsive and approved by AEPA to receive award consideration by AEPA Member Agencies. To be determined responsive, the response must meet all of the requirements below:
 - a. Submitted on time.
 - b. Materially satisfy all mandatory requirements identified throughout the solicitation.
 - c. Must substantially conform to all of the specified requirements in the solicitation in the judgment of AEPA and its AEPA Member Agency representatives.
 - d. Any deviation from requirements indicated herein must be stated, in writing, and included with the offer submitted. Otherwise, it will be considered that responses are in strict compliance with all requirements, and any successful vendor will be held responsible, therefore.
 - e. Deviations or exceptions stipulated in response may result in the offer being classified as non-responsive. Language to the effect that the Respondent does not consider this solicitation to be part of a contractual obligation will result in that Respondent's offer being disqualified. Terms of the solicitation that any Respondent considers particularly unwarranted, and to which that would have to take significant exception in his/her offer, should be stated clearly and concisely as exceptions and/or deviations.
 - f. In preparing a proposal, the Respondent's inability to follow the proposal preparation instructions set forth in this solicitation and its inability to provide written responses, narratives, requested and support documentation relating to the Respondent's qualifications; abilities; capacity; products; specifications; delivery, installation, setup, maintenance; support services and pricing utilized by AEPA evaluators may result in the Respondent's offer to be deemed non-responsive.
2. **Non-responsive Offer:** Any offer that does not conform to all material requirements of the solicitation including, but not limited to: offers received after the deadline; offers that do not contain required items and/or provided in the format required, such as proper and/or signed forms, pricing, catalogs, electronic files; offers that do not contain the proper security bond where required; failure to meet the specified qualifications, product specifications, stipulated documentation or pricing equal to or better than individual entities or cooperatives with equal or lesser volume. AEPA reserves the right to request documents that do not affect pricing, waive minor irregularities, and/or seek clarification following its Board approved procedures. Offers deemed non-responsive will not be considered for approval and award.
3. **Responsible Respondent:** A responsible Respondent is a firm or person with the qualifications, capability, and capacity to perform the contract requirements with integrity and reliability, which will assure good faith performance. AEPA's approval of a response will make the Respondent available for consideration to the AEPA Member Agencies for contract award. If a Respondent is approved by AEPA, the AEPA Member Agency reserves the right to determine if said Vendor Partner is responsible in their respective state. Factors to be considered in determining whether the standard of responsibility has been met may include but is not limited to whether a Vendor Partner has:
 - a. Submitted a responsive offer;
 - b. The qualifications stipulated herein that may include but are not limited to adequate financial resources, production or service facilities, personnel, service reputation and experience to make satisfactory delivery of the products, services, or construction, described in the solicitation to those AEPA member states who have indicated their participation;

- c. A demonstrated and documented satisfactory track record of performance in the national market place;
- d. A satisfactory record of integrity and a reputation of responding to and meeting educational and local government institutions' needs, adherence of and compliance with federal, state, local and industry standards, rules, regulations, and codes;
- e. Quality and suitability of products and services offered to meet and perform to the specifications, expectations, and requirements identified in this solicitation;
- f. Supplied all necessary information and data in connection with determining whether a Respondent meets the standard of responsibility.

4. Cost Evaluation:

- a. Cost and price schedules conform to and provide the information required in Part B – Technical Specifications of the bid or proposal;
- b. Pricing offered that is equal to or better than what they ordinarily offer to individual entities or cooperatives with equal or lesser volume;
- c. Methodology used by AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies to approve prospective Vendor Partners and award contracts;
 - i. Line Item Bid: Lowest responsive, responsible Bidder(s). Based on the cost evaluation, a recommendation will be made to approve a single Bidder or make a multiple Bidder award. The evaluation committee may consider such factors as life-cycle costs, total cost of ownership, quality, and the suitability of an offering in meeting AEPA members' needs; or
 - ii. Catalog Bid: Lowest responsive, responsible Bidder(s) is/are determined based on the price evaluation criteria; and by a "Core List" and/or by creating a "Market Basket Study" to compare overall pricing between Respondents. A "Market Basket" is a list of items typically purchased by AEPA Member Agencies and their Participating Entities that represent a cross-section of the types of those items purchased. The selection and quantity of line items evaluated will be at the sole discretion of the AEPA evaluators. Based on the cost evaluation, a recommendation will be made to approve a single Bidder or make a multiple Bidder award. The evaluation committee may consider such factors as life-cycle costs, total cost of ownership, quality, and the suitability of an offering in meeting AEPA members' needs.
 - iii. Proposal: Identified weighted criteria for evaluation, including pricing, published in Part B of the solicitation.

G. Contract Award and Implementation

An AEPA category committee will perform initial response review and evaluation and will prepare and make a recommendation to AEPA for its consideration and approval. Those selected Respondents who are approved by AEPA will then be considered by the individual AEPA Member Agencies for contract award. It should be noted that once AEPA has approved the response, a Respondent becomes a "Vendor Partner" for AEPA.

Recommendations for approval by AEPA will be posted to Public Purchase and the AEPA website.

Once the approved Respondents have been notified, it is their responsibility to contact those AEPA Member Agencies (up to 29) who had indicated an interest in participating and send Part C (if applicable), Part D, E, and F to each of the participating AEPA Member Agencies. Each AEPA Member Agency will review, evaluate, and determine which, if any, it will award contracts to.

The approved Vendor Partner and the AEPA Member Agency will hold final contract negotiations, if necessary, to work out state-specific details of contract implementation including:

- 1. Acquiring additional information and having discussions on how the awarded contract will be executed.

2. Signing the contract with the AEPA Member Agency.
3. Jointly develop marketing strategies and a plan for contract roll-out activities to the AEPA Member Agency's Participating Entities (Advertising, flyers, website access, etc.).
4. Establish how orders will be processed, handled, and reported.
5. Contract management: Establish how and by whom the day-to-day contract management will be handled and who will be the AEPA Member Agency's representative.

It is not guaranteed that each AEPA Member Agency will enter into a contract with AEPA approved Vendor Partners. The final decision as to the appropriateness of a contract for a Member Agency rests solely with that AEPA Member Agency.

III. Responsibilities of A Vendor Partner

- A. As an approved AEPA Vendor Partner, the following is expected in support of the contract:
 1. Designate and assign a dedicated senior-level contract manager (one authorized to make decisions) to each of the Member Agency accounts. This employee will have a complete copy and must have a working knowledge of the contract.
 2. Train and educate sales staff on what the AEPA cooperative contract promised, including pricing, who can order from the contract (by state), terms/conditions of the contract, and the respective ordering procedures for each state. It is expected that Vendor Partners will lead with AEPA contracts.
 3. Develop a marketing plan to support the AEPA contract in collaboration with respective AEPA Member Agencies. The plan should include, but not be limited to, a website presence, electronic mailings, sales flyers, brochures, mailings, catalogs, etc.
 4. Create an AEPA-specific sell sheet with a space to add a Member Agency logo and contact information for use by the Member Agencies and the Vendor Partner's local sales representatives to market within each state.
 5. Quarterly, complete the sales and administrative fee report (see attached PDF example) and submit to each Member Agency along with the respective administrative fees to be paid. If there are no sales, a \$0 report is required.
 6. Report sales and administrative fees by participating state if requested by AEPA.
 7. Have ongoing communication with the Category Committee Chairperson, AEPA Member Agencies, and the Member Agencies Participating Entities.
 8. Annually attend two (2) AEPA meetings: Annual meeting which is typically in April and the Winter Meeting which is typically the end of November or early December and has historically been held in conjunction with the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs) annual conference. At the Annual Meeting, Vendor Partners participate in a round table meeting with each of the AEPA Member Agencies. Vendor Partners that have paid the registration fees can participate in the meetings.
 9. Trade show support: Strongly encourage participation in national and local conference trade shows to promote the AEPA contracts such as, but not limited to, the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO), the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), and the National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP).
 10. Increasing sales over the term of the contract with all participating AEPA Member Agencies.

IV. Responsibilities of AEPA Member Agencies

- A. In support of the Vendor Partner and respective contract, each AEPA Member Agency should provide the following support:
 1. Designate a staff member(s) that will serve as a point person for the AEPA program within that state.
 2. Provide a staff member to work collaboratively with the Vendor Partner to determine the best marketing plan for the respective Member Agency state. Marketing efforts may include but not be limited to the education and use of sales force, a website presence, electronic mailings, brochures, mailings, etc.
 3. Develop marketing materials for the Member Agency to use that would include representation of the awarded contracts. Materials may include, but not be limited to,

- a website presence, electronic mailings, sales flyers, brochures, mailings, catalogs, etc. as determined by the respective Member Agency and what works best within their state.
4. Assist the Vendor Partner to jointly market the contract to potential Participating Entities within the state.
 5. Work with the Vendor Partner to identify eligible Participating Entities within the state possibly including providing a list of potential customers.
 6. Work with the Vendor Partner to identify and help manage costs associated with fulfilling this contract.
 7. Attendance at the two (2) AEPA meetings which provides for an opportunity to interact with Vendor Partners.

V. **General Terms and Conditions for All Agencies**

For the purposes of this Solicitation, the following terms shall be defined as indicated below, and constitute the general terms and conditions for all AEPA Member Agencies:

Administrative Fee: The percentage of sales that each Vendor Partner pays the Member Agency for sales in their respective state or states that they extend the AEPA pricing to. Administrative Fees shall be paid to each Member Agency quarterly. See the Summary of State General Overview for the administrative fees by Member Agency (state).

Advertising: Vendor Partner shall not advertise or publish information concerning this contract prior to the award being announced by the AEPA Member Agencies. Once the award is made, the Vendor Partner may advertise to the individual Participating Entities that products/services are available. Vendor Partner shall submit ad copy to the AEPA Member Agency for review and approval prior to issuing the advertisement.

AEPA Bi-Annual Meetings: AEPA holds two general meetings each year: one in the Spring (usually in April or May) and the other in the Fall (currently the week after Thanksgiving). AEPA requires that all successful contract holders attend both meetings and participate in the vendor round tables at the Spring meeting. AEPA requests that all vendor partners register in advance and stay at the AEPA official hotel if rooms are available. All registrations for the meetings are required by the official registration due date as announced by AEPA.

AEPA Member Agency: Refers to the entities identified in the table in Part I of this document who are approved as AEPA members. Member Agencies participating in a particular category are listed in Part B - Specifications, Item 3: Anticipated Member Agency Participation. "Direct or Indirect Participation" may include their involvement through the formulation of any part of a procurement activity; the influencing of the content of any term, condition and/or specification; the evaluation, investigation, auditing and/or the rendering, of advice, recommendation, decision, approval, disapproval and the award and implementation of procurement contract. Not every listed entity may elect to participate in a solicitation once the responses are reviewed and approved.

Affirmative Action: An Affirmative Action Plan, Certificate of Affirmative Action, or other documentation regarding Affirmative Action may be required by AEPA Member Agencies. Vendors must comply with requirements and/or requests for information regarding Affirmative Action by Member Agencies.

Amendment of Solicitation: A solicitation may be amended up to the time of opening.

Applicable Law: The laws of the state of the respective AEPA Member Agency shall govern any resulting contract of this solicitation. Suits pertaining to this contract may be brought only in courts in the County and State as prescribed by the AEPA Member Agency. Both parties agree that the Uniform Commercial Code, as adopted by the State of the AEPA Member Agency, shall fully apply. The Vendor Partner shall comply with any and all laws, whether local, state, federal or otherwise, applicable to any aspect of the work to be performed in relation to the resulting contract. It shall be

the Vendor Partner's responsibility to identify, make themselves aware of, and determine the applicability and requirements of any such laws and to abide by them.

Approval and Awarding of Contract: AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right to approve and award a contract to one Vendor Partner, to make multiple approvals and awards, to reject any or all offers in whole or in part, to waive any minor formalities or irregularities in any offers, and to accept offers, which in its discretion and according to law may be in the best interest of the AEPA Member Agencies and their Participating Entities. A response to this solicitation is an offer to contract with the AEPA Member Agencies based upon the terms, conditions, and scope of work and specifications contained in this invitation. A solicitation does not become a contract unless and until it is accepted, recommended, and approved by AEPA and awarded by the individual AEPA Member Agency. A contract is formed when an AEPA Member Agency administrator and, if required, an AEPA Member Agency Board approves and signs the Acceptance of Solicitation and Contract Award Form (see Form E) document, eliminating the need for a formal signing of a separate contract.

Assignment: No right or interest in this contract shall be assigned or transferred by the Vendor Partner without prior written permission by AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies, and no delegation of any duty of the Vendor Partner shall be made without prior written permission by the AEPA Member Agency. AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies shall not unreasonably withhold approval and shall notify the Vendor Partner within fifteen (15) days of receipt of written notice by the Vendor Partner.

Audit Rights: In accordance with applicable law of the State of the AEPA Member Agency, the Vendor Partner's books, and pertinent records related to this contract may be audited at a reasonable time and place.

Authority: This solicitation, as well as any resulting contract/agreement, is issued under the general authority of the State laws of the AEPA Member Agency and those identified within the AEPA Member Agencies' Specific Terms and Conditions, Part C, (see also Procurement Code below). Internal or external Cooperative Purchasing Agreements between the AEPA Member Agency and Participating Entities may exist.

Respondent/Bidder/Vendor Partner Definitions:

Bidder, Respondent, Offeror, and Vendor Partner are interchangeable and are used to identify the person(s) or firm(s) submitting a response to an Invitation for Bid or Request for Proposal.

1. Prospective Respondent/Bidder/Offeror: has notified AEPA of a desire to bid by registering on the AEPA website. "Bidder" has submitted an offer to AEPA in response to an AEPA solicitation.
2. Recommended Respondent/Bidder/Offeror: has been approved by AEPA for its AEPA Member Agencies for contract consideration.
3. Vendor Partner: has entered into a contract with a participating AEPA Member Agency or subsequently a Participating Entity.

Respondent Acceptance Period: To allow AEPA Member Agencies the opportunity to evaluate the offers, AEPA requires that an offer in response to this solicitation be valid and irrevocable for one hundred twenty-days (120) after opening time and date.

Performance Bonding (required for construction projects): Performance bonds are completed after the contract and at the time a member authorizes a project. The Vendor Partner agrees to provide all performance and payment bonds for individual projects executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the individual AEPA Member's state and said surety to be approved in federal circular 570 as published by the United States treasury department, the state or the local governing authority, in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the price specified

in the contract; when required by an AEPA Member Agency or Participating Entity at the time a contract is executed. If the Vendor Partner fails to deliver any required performance or payment bonds, the AEPA Member Agency or Participating Entity shall not execute the contract or terminate the contract with the Vendor Partner and the appropriate AEPA Category Committee shall be notified of such failure and shall take the appropriate action.

Brand Names: The use of the name of a manufacturer, brand, make or catalog number does not restrict the Respondent. Brand names and model numbers are used to indicate the character, quality, and/or performance equivalence of the commodity on which offers are submitted. Respondents may submit alternates. However, the AEPA reserves the right to decide whether alternatives to the identified manufacturer and brand are equal to the product, equipment, and/or service described in the invitation. AEPA's decision shall be final.

Buyer: Identifies the AEPA Member Agencies and their Participating Entities that acquire and purchase commodities, supplies, materials, equipment, and services under AEPA Member Agencies' awarded contracts.

Captions, Headings, and Illustrations: The captions, illustrations, headings, and subheadings in this solicitation are for explanation only and in no way define, limit or describe the scope or intent of the request.

Certification: By signature in the solicitation section of the Contract Award page, the Respondent certifies: the submission of the offer did not involve collusion or other anti-competitive practices; the Respondent shall not discriminate against any employee, or applicant for employment in violation of Federal and State Laws (see Federal Executive Order 11246); the Respondent has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give at any time hereafter any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor or service to a public servant in connection with the submitted offer; and the Respondent agrees to promote and offer to AEPA Member Agencies and Participating Entities only those materials and/or services as stated in and allowed under resultant contract(s) awarded.

Christian Doctrine: Any federal, state and local governing authority's/jurisdiction's statutes, codes, rules and regulations referenced and/or govern the products, services, and activities relating to and are part of this solicitation, whether or not physically noted or included, shall be complied with and adhered to as required. It is the sole responsibility of the Respondent to perform and complete any necessary research and investigation required to make themselves aware of and comply with this item.

Clarification: As used in this solicitation, clarification means communication with a Respondent for the sole purpose of eliminating minor irregularities, informalities, or apparent clerical mistakes in the solicitation. It is achieved by explanation or substantiation, either in response to an inquiry by the AEPA Member Agency or as initiated by the Respondent. Clarification does not allow the Respondent to revise or modify its solicitation.

Commercially Available Catalog: A published paper catalog or an online website that is widely distributed or accessible. It is made available to the general public, public or nonprofit entities and contains a verifiable price, along with product descriptions, SKU numbers, and photographs. A commercially available catalog is distinct from a custom catalog or website, whose prices and offerings are tailored to niche audiences.

Competitive Range: AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right to establish a competitive range of acceptable responses as part of the evaluation process as defined herein. Responses below the competitive range will be determined to be unacceptable and will not receive further consideration.

Contract Documents: AEPA Member Agency will review proposed contract documents. Vendor Partner's contract document shall not become part of AEPA Member Agency's contract with Vendor Partner unless and until an authorized representative of an AEPA Member Agency reviews and accepts it.

Construction: Each AEPA Member Agency within their state statutes defines what constitutes construction, identifies the policies, rules, regulations, and codes that govern construction projects. AEPA has defined construction as building, altering, repairing, installing or demolishing in the ordinary course of business any road, highway, bridge, parking area or related project; building, stadium or other structure; airport, subway or similar facility; park, trail, athletic field, golf course or similar facility; dam, reservoir, canal, ditch or similar facility; sewage or water treatment facility, power generating plant, pump station, natural gas compressing station or similar facility; sewage, water, gas or other pipelines; transmission line; radio, television or other towers; water, oil or other storage tanks; shaft, tunnel or other mining appurtenance; electrical wiring, plumbing or plumbing fixture, gas piping, gas appliances or water conditioners; air conditioning conduit, heating or other similar mechanical work; or similar work, structures or installations. Construction shall also include leveling or clearing land; excavating earth; drilling wells of any type, including seismographic shot holes or core drilling; and similar work, structures, or installations.

Cooperative Procurement: Some individual state procurement codes may contain cooperative purchasing statutes that state any state agency or local public body may either participate in, sponsor or administer a cooperative procurement agreement for the procurement of any services, construction or items of tangible personal property with any other state agency, local public body or external procurement unit in accordance with an agreement entered into and approved by the governing authority of each of the state agencies, local public bodies or external procurement units involved. The cooperative procurement agreement shall clearly specify the purpose of the agreement and the method by which the purpose will be accomplished. Any power exercised under a cooperative procurement agreement entered into according to each state's procurement code shall be limited to the central purchasing authority common to the contracting parties, even though one or more of the contracting, parties may be located in different states.

Cooperative Purchasing Contracts: The Vendor Partner agrees that all the prices, terms, warranties, and benefits granted by the Vendor Partner to AEPA Member Agencies or Participating Entities through this contract **will be equal to or better than** those offered to any individual entities or cooperatives that have equal or lesser volume. If the Vendor Partner shall, during the term of this Contract, enter into arrangements with any customer or cooperative providing greater benefits or terms that are more favorable, the Vendor Partner shall notify the AEPA category committee chairman and offer said prices, terms, warranties and benefits to all AEPA Member Agencies. The following shall be noted:

1. AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right to accept or reject the Respondent's offer if it is determined it does not comply with the above based on their knowledge, investigation, review, and findings of Respondents' submitted prices.
2. In the event the Vendor Partner offers lower prices to another customer or cooperative, AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies shall notify the Vendor Partner of the deviation and request written justification. Based on AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies' investigation, review and findings, AEPA reserves the right to take the following actions: to request the Vendor Partner to immediately adjust its AEPA's offered prices to match the lower prices offered, to work with the Vendor Partner to mediate and resolve the situation; or to notify the Vendor Partner that it intends to suspend and/or terminate their contract.

Cost of Preparation: Neither AEPA nor any AEPA Member Agency shall reimburse the cost of developing, presenting, or providing any response to this solicitation.

Credit Hold: The Vendor Partner must agree not to place the AEPA Member Agency and/or its Participating Entity on "credit hold" without 10-days advanced notice in writing, either by letter, facsimile or email to the AEPA Member Agency and the Participating Entity. The AEPA Member Agencies believe it is better for the Vendor Partner if the AEPA Member Agency places the slow-

paying Agency Member on “credit hold;” if a Vendor Partner places the Participating Entity on credit hold, agencies that pay promptly are penalized. If, on the other hand, the Member Agency places the offending Participating Entity on “credit hold”, payment is more likely to result and only the offender is disciplined.

Delivery Terms, Conditions, and Requirements

1. **Delivery:** is to be made within the specified time identified in Part B Specifications for each solicitation category, unless otherwise stipulated in writing and accepted by all parties (Buyer placing order and Vendor Partner). The Vendor Partner agrees to notify the Buyer if an order cannot be processed within the specified period and/or the agreed-upon timelines.
2. **The title and risk of loss of material or service:** shall not pass to the Buyer purchasing the material or services until it receives the material or service at the point of delivery (FOB Destination) and they have been accepted, unless otherwise provided within this document or individual project’s contract.
3. **Ownership of products and services** happens only after receipt and acceptance of delivery by the Buyer. The Buyer will be the determining judge of whether materials and services delivered under the purchase order/contract satisfy the specifications and requirements as identified in the contract/order.
4. **Fungible Goods:** Title to an undivided share or quantity of an identified mass of fungible goods will not pass to a Buyer until the separation of the purchased share has been made, delivered, and received.
5. **Shipping Terms:** (See Part B Specifications for specific instructions on shipping and handling costs for the individual category you are responding to.) Vendor Partner shall retain the title and control of all goods until they are delivered and received. All risks of transportation and all related charges shall be the responsibility of the Vendor Partner unless other arrangements have been made between the vendor partner and the AEPA Member Agency. Shipping shall be FOB destination. The Vendor Partner shall file all claims for visible or concealed damage. AEPA Member Agency, or the receiving Buyer, will notify the Vendor Partner and/or Freight Company promptly of any damaged goods and shall assist the freight company/Vendor Partner in arranging for inspection. No FOB vessel, car, or other vehicle terms will be accepted.
 - a. **Shipping Costs:** Products may be shipped without separate shipping costs. If shipping is allowed as a separate line item per Part B Specifications and charged, the actual cost of delivery may be added to an invoice. No COD orders will be accepted unless specifically requested by the AEPA Member Agency.
 - b. **Shipment under Reservation:** Vendor Partner is not authorized to ship materials under reservation and no tender of a bill of lading will operate as a tender of the materials.
 - c. **Shipping Errors:** Vendor Partner agrees that shipping errors will be at the expense of the Vendor Partner. For example, if a Vendor Partnerships a product that was not ordered, it is the responsibility of the Vendor Partner to pay for return mail or shipment.
6. **Stored Materials (vendor managed inventory):** Upon prior written agreement between Vendor Partner and Buyer, payment may be made for materials not incorporated in the work but delivered and suitably stored at the site or some other location, for installation at a later date. An inventory of the stored materials must be provided to the Buyer prior to payment. Such materials must be stored and protected in a secure location and be insured for their full value by Vendor Partner against loss and damage. Vendor Partner agrees to provide proof of coverage and/or addition of Buyer as an additional insured upon Buyer’s request. Additionally, if stored offsite, the materials must also be clearly identified as the property of the Buyer and be separated from other materials. The buyer must be allowed reasonable opportunity to inspect and take inventory of stored materials, on or offsite, as necessary. Until final acceptance by Buyer, it shall be the Vendor Partner's responsibility to protect all materials and equipment. Vendor Partner warrants and guarantees that title for all work, materials, and equipment shall pass to Buyer upon final acceptance. Payment for stored materials shall not constitute final acceptance of such materials.
7. **Improper delivery:** Unless contrary to other parts of this solicitation, if the goods, services, or tender of delivery fail in any respect to conform and adhere to the terms, conditions, specifications of the resulting contract based on this solicitation and/or the individual Buyer’s

- contract/order. The Buyer may reject the whole, accept the whole, or accept any commercial unit or units and reject the rest.
8. **Defective Goods:** Vendor Partner agrees to pay for return shipment on goods that arrive in a defective or inoperable condition. Vendor Partner must agree to arrange for return shipment of damaged goods.
 9. **Liquidated Damages:** The Buyer may suffer financial loss if the project is not substantially complete or products or services are not delivered on the established date. The Vendor Partner (if applicable surety) shall be liable for and shall pay to the Buyer, not as a penalty, the sums that may be hereinafter agreed upon as liquidated damages per calendar day of delay until the work and/or delivery is determined by Buyer to be complete and/or delivered. Liquidated damages will be determined on a project-by-project basis.
 10. **No Replacement of Defective Tender:** Every tender of materials must fully comply with all provisions of this contract. If tender is made which does not fully conform, this shall constitute a breach, and Vendor Partner shall not have the right to substitute a conforming tender without the written consent of all parties involved.
 11. **Default in One Installment to Constitute Total Breach:** Vendor Partner shall deliver conforming materials in each installment or lot of this contract and may not substitute nonconforming materials. The AEPA Member Agency reserves the right to declare a breach of contract if the Vendor Partner delivers nonconforming materials or services to any Buyer under this contract.
 12. **Restocking Fees:** A restocking fee may only be charged on products ordered and delivered to the Buyer's site in accordance with the order/contract. Restocking fees in excess of 15% will not be allowed. Restocking fees may be waived, at the option of the Vendor Partner. The Vendor Partner must identify, specify, and justify any exceptions or deviations taken.

Deviations or Exceptions to Requirements: Deviations or exceptions stipulated in a Respondent's proposal may result in the rendering of the response non-responsive. AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right to determine whether the deviation or exception does or does not serve the interest of or is not advantageous or acceptable to AEPA, its AEPA Member Agencies, or Participating Entities.

Disbarment and Suspension: By signature accepting Terms and Conditions, it is certified on behalf of the company and their key employees that neither the company nor its key employees have been proposed for debarment, debarred, or suspended by any State or Federal Agency within the last five (5) years. If within the past five (5) years, any Respondent has been disbarred, suspended or otherwise lawfully precluded from participating in any public procurement activity with a federal, state or local government, the Respondent must include a letter with its response that includes the name and address of the public procurement unit, the effective date of the suspension or debarment, the duration of the suspension or debarment, and the relevant circumstances relating to the suspension or debarment. Any failure to supply such a letter or to not disclose in the letter all the pertinent information may result in the cancellation of any resulting contract. By signing the solicitation section, the Respondent certifies that no current suspension or debarment exists.

EDGAR (2 CFR 200) Compliance: Respondents are required to complete Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) compliance certification. EDGAR regulations govern all federal grants awarded by the U. S. Department of Education on or after December 26, 2014.

Eligible Entities: The individual AEPA Member Agency's state procurement code and statutes provide for cooperative procurement and identifies those types of agencies, entities, and organizations that are allowed to participate in and take advantage of cooperative procurement contracts solicited and approved by AEPA and awarded by AEPA Member Agencies. Therefore, depending on the individual state procurement codes and statutes federal agencies, state agencies, local public bodies, and Non-Profit/Non-Public entities may be allowed to participate in and utilize AEPA solicited, approved and AEPA Member Agency awarded contracts.

Estimated Quantities: In Part B: Specifications of this solicitation, AEPA, and AEPA Member Agencies have indicated their anticipated volume for the products and services requested. It is anticipated that a considerable amount of activity will result from this solicitation; however, there is no guarantee of future order quantities since this is an indefinite-quantity contract. Usage depends on the actual needs of the AEPA Member Agencies, their Participating Entities, and the marketing by the Vendor Partner.

Experience, Proven Track Record and Past Performance Information: it has been determined by AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies to be a major factor in consideration if a Respondent possesses the ability, capacity and resources to acquire, manufacture, deliver, construct, install, services and support all of the procurement functions and activities involved in a national contract of this nature. AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right to accept or reject an offer if, in its judgment, the Respondent failed to demonstrate the following: a proven track record in the products and services offered (qualifications, knowledge, and background); is willing and able to deliver the proposed products and/or services to ninety (90%) percent of those participating AEPA Member Agencies identified in Part B (unless otherwise noted in Part B): Specifications; and has provided relevant information regarding its actions under previously awarded contracts to schools, local, state, or federal agencies. It includes the Respondent's record of conforming to specifications and standards of good workmanship; the Respondent's record of containing and forecasting costs on any previously performed cost-reimbursable contract schedules, including the administrative aspects of performance; the Respondent's history for reasonable and cooperative behavior and commitment to customer satisfaction; and generally, the Respondent's businesslike concern for the interests of the customer.

External Procurement Unit: means any procurement organization not located in a current AEPA Member Agency state which, if located in the state, would qualify as a federal or state agency or a local public body. Various state procurement codes allow external procurement units to offer their contracts and for agencies within those states to utilize those contracts to acquire goods and services.

Federal Agency [25] USC 3001 (4): Is defined as any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, any executive department, military department, government corporation, government-controlled corporation, or other establishments in the executive branch of government, including the Executive Office of the President or any independent regulatory agency established through legislative and/or administrative action.

Federal Requirements: Vendor Partner agrees, when working on any federally-assisted projects with more than \$2,000 in labor costs, to comply with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 329 et seq.) and all applicable sections of the act and the Department of Labor's supplemental regulations (29 CFR parts 5 and 1926), the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Davis-Bacon Act (Section 29, CFR Part 5), the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (18 U.S.C. 874) as supplemented in the Department of Labor regulation (29 CFR part 3), and the Equal Opportunity Employment requirements of Executive Order 11246 as amended by Executive Order 11375 (Labor regulations (41 CFR Part 60)). In such projects, the Vendor Partner agrees to post wage rates at the worksite and submit a copy of their payroll to the AEPA Member Agency for their files. Also, to comply with the Copeland Act, the Vendor Partner must submit weekly payroll records to the AEPA Member Agency. The Vendor Partner must keep records for three (3) years and allow the federal grantor agency access to these records, upon demand. All federally assisted contracts to an AEPA Member Agency that exceed \$10,000 may be terminated by the federal grantee for noncompliance by the Vendor Partner. In projects that are not federally funded, Vendor Partners must agree to meet any federal, state, or local requirements, as necessary. Also, if compliance with the federal regulations increases the contract costs beyond the agreed-on costs in this solicitation, the additional costs may only apply to the portion of the work paid by the federal grantee. On all other projects, the prices must agree with this contract. Vendor Partner shall comply with all applicable standards, orders, or requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C.) 187 [h], and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et. Seq.); and, Executive Order 11738 and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations (40 CFR Part

15), which prohibit the use under non-exempt federal contracts, grants, or loans of facilities included in the EPA list of violated facilities

Force Majeure: Except for payments of sums due, neither party shall be liable to the other, nor be deemed in default under this contract, if, and to the extent, that such party's performance of this contract is prevented by reason of force majeure. The term "force majeure" means an occurrence that is beyond the control of the party affected and occurs without its fault or negligence, including, but not limited to the following: acts of God; acts of the public enemy; war; riots; strikes; mobilization; labor disputes; civil disorders; fire; flood; blizzards; earthquakes; tornadoes or violent winds; hail storms; lockouts; injunctions-intervention-acts, or failures or refusals to act by government authority; and other similar occurrences beyond the control of the party declaring force majeure, which such party is unable to prevent by exercising reasonable diligence. The force majeure shall be deemed to commence when the party declaring it notifies the other party of the existence of the force majeure and shall be deemed to continue as long as the results or effects of the force majeure prevent the party from resuming performance in accordance with the contract. Force majeure shall not include late deliveries of equipment or materials caused by congestion at a manufacturer's plant or elsewhere, an oversold condition of the market, inefficiencies, or similar occurrences. If either party is delayed at any time by force majeure, the delayed party shall notify the other party in writing of such delay within forty-eight (48) hours.

Form of Contract: The form of contract for this solicitation shall be the published solicitation, the awarded Vendor Partner's response, and properly issued purchase orders and/or contracts in accordance with this solicitation. If a firm submitting an offer requires AEPA Member Agency and/or Participating Entities to sign an additional contract, a copy of the proposed contract must be included with these.

Gratuities: AEPA Member Agency may, by written notice, cancel this contract if it is found that gratuities, in the form of entertainment, gifts or otherwise, were offered or given by the Vendor Partner or any agent or representative of the Vendor Partner, to any employee of the AEPA Member Agency with a view toward securing a contract or with respect to the performance of this contract. However, paying the expenses of normal business meals, which are generally made available to all eligible school and government employees, shall not be prohibited by this paragraph. Samples of software, equipment, or hardware provided to the AEPA Member Agency for demonstration, evaluation, or loan purposes are not considered gratuities.

Indemnification: Vendor Partner will indemnify, defend and save harmless AEPA, its Members, Participating Entities, its employees from any and all claims, demands, suits, proceedings, loss, cost and damages of every kind and description, including any attorney's fees and/or litigation expenses, which might be brought or made against or incurred by AEPA, its Members, Participating Entities, its employees on account of loss or damage to any property or for injuries to or death of any person, caused by, arising out of, or contributed to, in whole or in part, by reasons of any act, omission, professional error, fault, mistake, or negligence of Vendor Partner, its employees, agents, representatives, or Subcontractors, their employees, agents, or representatives in connection with or incident to the performance of this agreement, or arising out of worker's compensation claims, unemployment compensation claims, or unemployment disability compensation claims of employees of Vendor Partner, and/or its Subcontractors or claims under similar such laws or obligations. Vendor Partner's obligation under this section will not extend to any liability caused by the sole negligence of AEPA, its Members, participating Entities, its employees. The liability of AEPA, its Members, Participating Entities, or its employees will be subject in all cases to the immunities and limitations of Nevada or the AEPA Member Agency's state laws. Installation: Equipment and items of construction shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, specifications, in accordance with any federal, state, local rules, regulations, codes, and the schedule determined by the AEPA Member Agency and/or Participating Entity.

Insurance: Prior to executing a contract with the AEPA Member Agency or a Participating Entity under this solicitation, if required, the Vendor Partner shall procure, maintain and provide certification from insurer(s) for minimal coverage during the life of any resulting

contract/agreement, to include but not limited to comprehensive public and/or commercial liability, errors and omissions, workman's compensation, unemployment and other insurance coverage required by and applicable to each AEPA Member Agency state's statutes and federal laws in which proposed products and services will be offered and provided. Evidence of the required insurance for each of those AEPA Member Agencies' state, who indicated an interest to participate in this solicitation, identified in Part B: Specifications by providing written evidence and/or documentation from your insurer(s) indicating your firm has in place the type and amount of coverage required by each of the states. The Bidder has the sole responsibility to conduct and perform the necessary research to make themselves aware of and to understand each state's requirements.

1. **Certificate of Insurance:** The Vendor Partner shall provide, as required, a certificate of insurance for commercial liability insurance naming the AEPA Member Agency and or its Participating Entity as the certificate holder (co-insurer). All insurance policies are to be executed by an insurance company authorized to do business in those AEPA Member Agencies' states participating in this solicitation.
2. **Subcontractor's Insurance:** Prior to commencing any work, any Subcontractor shall procure and maintain, at its own expense until final acceptance of the work, insurance coverage in a form, and from insurers acceptable to the prime Vendor Partner. All Subcontractors shall hold the appropriate type and amount of insurance coverage required by the AEPA Member Agency state in which the work is being done and will provide insurance, which waives all subrogation rights against the prime Vendor Partner, AEPA Member Agency and its Participating Entities.

Invalid Term or Condition: If any term or condition of this solicitation and any resulting contract shall be held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this solicitation and any resulting contract shall not be affected and shall be valid and enforceable.

Late Responses: Late responses will not be accepted. All offers must be submitted online via Public Purchase by the due date and time of this solicitation.

Leases and Rentals: Vendor Partner may allow AEPA Member Agency or Participating Entity to rent, lease, or lease-purchase. The buyer must receive a copy of the executed leasing documents prior to processing a purchase order. Vendor Partner agrees that leases will comply with the Uniform Commercial Code and the Buyer's individual state laws. All terms of leasing must be included in the offer, with interest rates described as related to a published government standard. Vendor Partner must indicate in their response to this solicitation and in any leasing/rental agreement, all costs (must be itemized) associated with early termination and/or the returning of leased or rented equipment that are the responsibility of the Buyer. No sale of a contract to a third party will be made without informing the Buyer of the transfer. If Vendor Partner sells a lease contract to a third party, the cost of return of the product must not be greater than the cost of return to the original Vendor Partner.

Legal Remedies: All claims and controversies shall be subject to the Procurement Code of the state in which the AEPA Member Agency or Participating Entity resides.

Licenses and Registration: Each state and local jurisdictions in which a transaction may occur may require various types of licenses and/or registrations (business, construction Vendor Partner, etc.). Likewise, there are various policies, procedures, rules, regulations, codes, and laws that govern such licensing/registration within federal, state and local jurisdictions, therefore, it is the Respondent's/Vendor Partner's responsibility to be aware of, obtain and maintain in current status all federal, state and local licenses, registrations and bonds required for the performance and delivery of any and all products and services offered in its response to this solicitation. It is also the responsibility of the Respondent/Vendor Partner to ensure that any Subcontractors performing under this solicitation hold and maintain the appropriate licenses/registrations. The Respondent will submit copies of licenses, registration, and/or other documentation to substantiate they hold the appropriate licenses/registration required by individual jurisdictions covered by this solicitation.

Liens: All materials and services shall be free of all liens.

Local Public Body: A political subdivision of the state and the agencies, instrumentalities, and institutions thereof. Such agencies may include but are not limited to two-year and four-year post-secondary educational institutions, pre-k-12 institutions, counties, cities, and municipalities, except as exempted pursuant to the Procurement Code within each state. Entities within these groups may include but are not limited to political subdivisions, administrative units, councils, commissions, boards and organizations that either by federal, state or local legislative or administrative action or appointment and have been established or given the responsibility and authority to act, conduct and perform various activities on behalf of the federal or state agency or local public body.

Manufacturer's Representative: Dealers, distributors, and installers of specialized facility technology, electrical, mechanical systems and equipment, who, if permitted by the Scope of Work, submit an offer as a manufacturer's representative, must be able to provide documented evidence from and/or between it and the manufacturer certifying that the Respondent is a bona fide manufacturer's agent for the specific products/services proposed, the Respondent is authorized to submit an offer on such products/services, and a guarantee that, should the Respondent fail to satisfactorily fulfill any obligations established as a result of the award of contract, the manufacturer will either assume and discharge such obligations covered by warranties or provide for their competent assumption by one or more bona fide representatives for the term of the contract/warranty period. Respondents of software, mechanical devices, electrical products/systems, and other commodities that makeup systems/networks must be able to provide the same information from a manufacturer.

Modification by Buyer: Vendor Partner shall have no obligation with respect to any patent and copyright infringement claim based upon Buyer's modification of the equipment and/or software, or its operation or use with apparatus, data or programs not furnished by Vendor Partner. However, one Buyer's action will not preclude Vendor Partner's obligation to others not having modified their equipment or software.

Money: All transactions are payable in U.S. currency only. Multiple Approvals and Awards: throughout the United States, AEPA Member Agencies have a large number of Participating Entities who take advantage of and utilize awarded contracts. To assure that any issued contract will allow these entities to fulfill current and future needs and requirements, AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right at its discretion to approve and/or award one contract, multiple contracts or no contracts. The actual use of any contract will be at the sole discretion of the AEPA Member Agency or the Participating Entity.

Nonexclusive Contract: Any contract resulting from this solicitation shall be approved and awarded with the understanding and agreement that it is for the sole convenience of the AEPA, its AEPA Member Agencies, their Participating Entities and they reserve the right to obtain like goods and services from another source.

Nonprofit, Non-Public Educational Institutions and other Nonprofit Organizations (Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, Federal Tax Code): is defined as charitable, religious, educational, public service, support, and scientific organizations, entities, corporations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of the Federal Tax Code.

Notice: Notices under this solicitation/contract will be in writing and will, for all purposes, be deemed to have been fully given when sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, an email with appropriate verification, properly addressed to the respective parties as specified herein or at such other address as may be specified by either party from time to time.

Novation: If the original Vendor Partner sells or transfers all assets or the entire portion of the assets used to perform this contract, a successor in interest must guarantee to perform all obligations under this contract. AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserves the right to recommend approval, acceptance, or rejection of the new party. A simple change of name agreement will not change the contractual obligations of the Vendor Partner.

Ordering Procedures: AEPA has established a standard and special ordering process as defined below. Additionally, some AEPA Member Agencies also prefer or utilize electronic ordering as the method for the transactions. For details on the ordering processes utilized for each AEPA Member Agency, please reference the Summary of State General Overview.

1. **Standard Ordering Process:** Buyer will select items for purchase from provided published catalog/price list or Vendor Partner will issue a quote upon request; the vendor will also send a copy of their quote to the state AEPA Member Agency for all construction-related bids. The buyer will prepare and issue a purchase order to the Vendor Partner based on the product catalog, price list, or Vendor Partner's quote. Vendor Partner will deliver and invoice the Buyer; Buyer will acknowledge delivery and acceptance by issuing the Vendor Partner payment. Vendor Partner, based on the agreed-to process, will report and submit payment for the AEPA Member Agency's administrative fee to the AEPA Member Agency (quarterly). The vendor Partner shall provide the transaction and volume reporting in the AEPA report format.
2. **Special Ordering Process:**
 - a. Buyer will select items for purchase from provided published catalog/price list or Vendor Partner will issue a quote upon request;
 - b. Buyer will prepare and issue a purchase order to the AEPA Member Agency based on the product catalog, price list or Vendor Partner's quote;
 - c. Vendor Partner will deliver the goods and/or service to the Buyer and will invoice the AEPA Member Agency;
 - d. AEPA Member will invoice the Buyer and add their administrative fee to the invoice price;
 - e. AEPA Member will pay Vendor Partner for the goods and/or service once the Buyer has confirmed acceptance.
 - f. The vendor Partner shall provide the transaction and volume reporting as stipulated quarterly in the AEPA report format.
3. **Electronic Ordering (Optional by AEPA Member Agency):**
 - a. When a Vendor Partner based online ordering system is available, the following functionality is preferred:
 - b. Electronic ordering systems shall be secure, and password protected. Entering the system with the designated password shall automatically send the user to AEPA contract pricing.
 - c. When the Buyer requires purchase orders, electronic ordering system shall require the entry of a purchase order number, credit card, or purchasing card prior to accepting an order.
 - d. Electronic ordering systems shall block excluded items not covered by the AEPA contract from any order.
 - e. Electronic ordering systems shall automatically assign correct contract prices to applicable orders.
 - f. Electronic ordering systems that list catalog price and AEPA discounted price.
 - g. Electronic ordering systems shall track orders and purchases covered by the AEPA contract for reporting and audit purposes. The vendor Partner shall provide the transaction and volume reporting in the AEPA format.
 - h. Electronic ordering systems' pricing shall include the AEPA Member Agencies administrative fee required by the AEPA Member Agencies.
 - i. Electronic ordering systems that allow AEPA Member Agencies to print an archived (historical) copy of a Buyer's order.

Order of Precedence: In the event a conflict occurs the following order of precedence shall prevail:

1. Member Agency specific terms and conditions

2. Specifications and scope of work
3. General terms and conditions
4. Attachments and exhibits
5. Documents referenced or included in the solicitation

Overcharges by Antitrust Violations: Member Agency maintains that, in actual practice, overcharges resulting from antitrust violations are borne by the Buyer. Therefore, to the extent permitted by law, the Vendor Partner hereby assigns to the Member Agency any and all claims for such overcharges as to the goods or services used to fulfill the contract.

Parole Evidence: This contract represents the final written expression of agreement. All agreements are contained herein and no other agreements or representations that materially alter it are acceptable.

Participating Entity: Those Public and Private School Districts, Educational Service Agencies, Intermediate School Districts, Higher Education Institutions, Federal Agencies, State Agencies, Local Public Bodies, and Nonprofit Non-Public Corporations, Organizations, other entities contracted to conduct business on behalf of a participating entity provided they are required to follow member state and local procurement regulations, etc. that have authorizations to utilize the AEPA Member Agencies' Awarded Contracts.

Patent and Copyright Indemnification: To the extent permitted by law, Vendor Partner shall indemnify and hold harmless Member Agency and its Participating Entities against any liability, including costs and expenses, for infringement of any patent, trademark or copyright arising out of contract performance or use by Member Agency and its Participating Entities of materials furnished or work performed under this contract. Member Agency and its Participating Entities shall reasonably notify Vendor Partner of any claim for which it may be liable under this paragraph.

Piggy Back Contracts: In the event a new Member Agency joins AEPA, the Member Agency may elect to award any and all existing contracts if permissible by their State laws.

Prevailing Wage: Where applicable, the Vendor Partner must comply with prevailing wage legislation in effect in the jurisdiction of the awarding AEPA Member Agency.

Pricing: AEPA has identified and stipulated the type of bid and the pricing methodologies that are to be utilized to price and submit bid or proposal prices. The Vendor Partner agrees that the cost for any item bid or offered on this contract will be uniform for all states and that any differences in pricing are due to state-specific installation and labor costs, AEPA Member Agency's Administrative Fee, or other approved reasons. The Respondent must provide their pricing as requested utilizing the various pricing methodologies specified. **The Respondent/Vendor Partner must agree that they will not offer or provide a better price to any individual entities or cooperatives with equal or lesser volume than that through AEPA.** Please note the following that relates to pricing:

1. **Primary Pricing Strategies:** All Respondents will be required to submit "Primary Pricing" in the form of either "Catalog Pricing" or "Line-Item Pricing" or a combination of these two pricing strategies, or Proposal (RFP) pricing as defined in Part B, solicitation specifications. Respondents are also encouraged to offer OPTIONAL pricing strategies including "Hot List" and "Volume Discounts".
 - a. **Catalog Pricing:** Catalog pricing is utilized when the products and/or services solicited are clearly identified with set and specific characteristics, attributes, and configurations that are identifiable as a stand-alone single unit and can be listed and priced as a single unit with options that can be added to enhance and/or improve its operation and functionality. The Respondent offers a fixed discount(s) off the retail price, catalog price, published price, or list price. The discounts may be for the entire commercially available catalog, for specific products, product lines, manufacturers, or category of products as determined by the Respondent and in conformity with the scope of the solicitation.

- i. **Discounts:** Discount offers must clearly identify the percent of discount to apply to a commercially available catalog, manufacturer, manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP), retail, or nationally published price lists. Respondents shall identify and stipulate if the discounts apply to the entire catalog/price list, specific product lines, manufacturers, and/or categories of products. Respondents shall agree that there will be no reduction in discount(s) during the term of the contract.
 - ii. **New Catalogs/Price Changes:** New catalogs and corresponding nationally published price lists may be submitted throughout the term of the contract and shall be submitted to the AEPA Category Committee for review prior to release to all AEPA Member Agencies. Prices may change based on manufacturer's price changes, newly published pricing, or price lists, but the original discount bid shall remain firm for the duration of the contract. New catalogs/products must conform to the scope of the solicitation.
 - iii. **Core List:** In a Catalog Priced solicitation, a category (i.e. office supplies) may include a "core list" which contains a selection of the most commonly used products/services with the expectation that a deeper discount would be bid for these items. If a new catalog and price list are published during the contract term, the original discounts shall be applied to the newly published prices to establish the AEPA price for these core items.
 - iv. **Product Addition/Discontinuation:** New products, within the same scope of work, may be added at the established percentage discounts at any time. Discontinued products may be dropped at any time during the year. In the event a Core item is discontinued by the manufacturer during the term of the contract, Vendor Partner is required to add a functionally equivalent substitute at the same discount structure.
- b. **Line-Item Pricing:** Line-item pricing is utilized when products and/or services that are broken down in detail by element, component, product categories, product type, and each product and/or service is presented as an individual item which needs to be combined with other items to make up a final project or solution. The Respondent offers firm pricing for specific line items in response to this bid; a project's cost is derived by the Vendor Partner preparing and providing a quote based on the project's terms, conditions, and requirements based on the line item pricing provided in the bid. The information provided in this bid for each item includes: Product Category, Product Description, Manufacturer, Manufacturer SKU, Vendor SKU, Unit of Measure, Item List Price, AEPA Bid Price.
- i. **Fixed prices:** Prices bid shall be firm until each anniversary date of the contract, unless there is an occurrence of one or more economic price adjustment contingencies outlined in the bid. Fixed price offers shall include prices for any and all items.
 - ii. **Routine Price Adjustments (Without Economic Price Adjustment):** Vendors may request adjustments to the prices by submitting a fully documented written request to the AEPA Category Committee Chairperson. The request must specifically detail and document the cause and/or reason for price changes and include any supporting documentation (manufacturer's letter, indexes, etc.). All price changes require approval by the AEPA Category Committee and Member Agencies.
 - iii. **Unpredictable Economic Price Adjustment:** If economic price adjustment contingencies occur, Vendor Partner may submit a fully documented request (manufacturer's letter, indexes, etc.) for a price adjustment to AEPA Category Committee for review and approval by the committee and the AEPA Member Agencies. The documentation must substantiate the cause and/or reason for the requested price increase and demonstrate that it was unpredictable at the time of bid submittal and/or contract renewal and out of the Vendor Partner's control. Pricing will take effect thirty (30) days after approval and acceptance.
 - iv. **New Products/Services:** Vendor Partner may submit new products or technologies that are within the original scope of work for the bid, to be added

to the contract pending review and approval of the AEPA Category Committee. Requests should be submitted to the AEPA Category Committee for review and written approval.

- c. **Automated System for Pricing (ASP):** The method consisting of an ASP and/or software application (e.g. RSMeans) that is self-contained and consists of a turn-key solution that includes a complete line-item listing of all of the products, supplies, materials, equipment, services, accessories and options with their description, specifications, terms, conditions and associated pricing for each item, sub-assemblies and/or assemblies. The Bidder provides a percent of discount or fixed multiplier/factor to be applied to total project cost to allow for individual state conditions and requirements and to arrive at the AEPA price.
- d. **RSMeans (Construction Related Bids only):** It is important for Vendor Partners to breakout all costs (quantity and price) of all items listed under RSMeans or an Alternative Pricing method. This includes all quoted items not on the approved AEPA bid submittal. The following are minimum requirements for using RSMeans for quoting projects to AEPA Member Agencies:
 - i. The Contractors must use the current year and standard cost data. Only the following cost data titles will be excepted:
 - a. Building Construction Cost Data Book
 - b. Facilities Construction Cost Data
 - c. Facilities Maintenance & Repair Cost Data
 - d. Site Work & Landscape Cost Data Book
 - ii. All work proposed under RSMeans must use RSMeans format, even if subcontractors are used.
 - iii. An RSMeans spreadsheet must be submitted to substantiate the quote given to the AEPA Member Agency. The spreadsheet columns must reveal the full RSMeans number and a sufficient amount of the description. This also applies to change orders.
 - iv. Pricing must be done by Location codes. National Average will not be allowed. To choose the “closest” location code, the first three (3) numbers of the zip code will be used to determine the city location index in the AEPA Member Agency State.
 - v. The AEPA contract holder factor, bonding cost, AEPA discount, and taxes if applicable must be shown as separate line items at the bottom of the RSMeans spreadsheet. This information can be shown on a separate summary sheet. The summary sheet must start with the RSMeans spreadsheet total and show the detail for each of the items stated above. This detail will be provided to that AEPA State Agency and the AEPA Buyer as required.
 - vi. All change orders which list items covered by RSMeans must be supported by an RSMeans spreadsheet.
- e. **Alternative Method of Costing:** This method covers any product and/or service not covered by catalog pricing, published price list, line-item price list, automated system for pricing, or is a product and/or service due to the projects or applications specifications, conditions and /or requirements that need to be custom-designed, developed, manufactured and/or produced to meet the requirements of an individual, project or sole source. The alternative pricing is calculated as follows:
 - i. The Bidder must prepare, issue and receive three written quotes from available suppliers and select the supplier that offers the products and services that meet the stipulated requirements and specifications, offers the best value, and the most cost-effective solution.
 - ii. All quotes must be made available upon request.
 - iii. The Bidder must indicate the percent of overhead and /or markup as part of their response to be added to these costs to obtain the normal and customary retail price.
 - iv. The AEPA price is calculated by taking the product and services to cost to the

Contractor plus the indicated percent of profit/overhead to equal the normal and customary retail price. The Contractor will then subtract the approved AEPA discount to obtain the AEPA price. Example: item cost \$1,000; percent of profit/overhead of 20% equals retail price of \$1,200; less the AEPA discount of 10% or \$120 equals the AEPA price of \$1,080.

2. **Secondary Pricing Methods (Catalog based solicitations only, see Part B for category designation):** Respondents are required to offer Customized Price Lists (Catalog solicitations ONLY) and encouraged to offer Hot Lists and Volume Discounts as follows:
- a. **Customized Price List:** Respondents are required to offer customized price lists to Participating Entities for items within the Vendor Partner's Commercially Available Catalog for Catalog solicitations ONLY (not pertinent to Line Item Bids). Customized price lists shall be allowed under the following conditions:
 - i. Items within the Vendor Partner's Commercially Available Catalog may be included on the customized price list providing they are not already on the Core Item list.
 - ii. Items are to be determined by the Participating Entity; Vendor Partner may object to up to ten (10) of the suggested items proposed by the customer and must offer substitutes until an agreement of the customized list is reached.
 - iii. Items on the customized price list shall be sold with an additional discount (deeper than what was originally bid on the non-core or catalog discount)
 - iv. Items may not include special order or customized service products unless agreed to by the Vendor Partner.
 - b. **Short Term Pricing Reductions/Incentives and Regional Promotions:** Respondents are invited, at their option, to offer a selection of products/services at greater discounts than those listed in the standard catalog or core list discounts. Special time-limited reductions are permissible under the following conditions:
 - i. The price reduction is for a specific period, no less than thirty (30) days.
 - ii. The reduction/incentive may be used to discount and liquidate close-out and discounted products/services if those items are clearly labeled as such.
 - iii. The original price for products/services is not exceeded after the time limit.
 - iv. The AEPA Category Committee and any affected AEPA Member state shall be notified of any special or time-limited price reduction.
 - v. New prices must be on record fifteen (15) days prior to any offer of the new priced being proposed or offered to AEPA Member Agencies and Participating Entities.
 - vi. Pricing for all items must be submitted to all affected AEPA Member Agencies in an electronic format so that specials can be posted to websites, emailed, and shared with Participating Entities/Buyers.
 - c. **Volume Price Discounts:** Respondents are encouraged to offer additional pricing discounts that may be offered for a group of agencies in a local geographic area that desire to combine requirements (one-time purchase or annual spend), i.e. local city, county, school district(s), etc. and/or for large one time purchases. Additional volume price discounts are permissible under the following conditions: Discounts should be tiered and based on spend ranges as established by the Bidder on the Pricing Forms. Volume determination shall be determined between the Vendor Partner and the individual Buyers on a case-by-case basis. All additional discounts are to be offered equally to all AEPA Member Agencies and Participating Entities and be based on the Volume Price Discounts originally bid providing the same or similar volume commitment, specific needs, terms and conditions, a similar time frame, seasonal considerations and provided the same manufacturer support is available to the Vendor Partner.

Prime Vendor Partner: For the purpose of this solicitation, a Vendor Partner will be considered a prime Vendor Partner and not a Subcontractor. Any Vendor Partner paid directly by the AEPA Member Agency or Participating Entity is a prime Vendor Partner; a Vendor Partner pays a Subcontractor. Prime Vendor Partners using Subcontractors are responsible for all actions of its Subcontractors.

Procurement Code: All Respondents/Vendor Partners must make themselves aware of and comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations.

Products and Services

1. **Product Line:** If applicable, contracts will be awarded to Respondents able to provide their complete product line(s) of commodities, supplies, equipment, software, and services that meet the scope of work and specifications of this solicitation. Respondents with a published, priced catalog may submit their entire catalog; AEPA reserves the right to select or reject products within the catalog for recommendation without having to award all the contents.
2. **Serial Numbers:** Offers must be for equipment on which the original manufacturer's serial number has not been altered in any way.
3. **Current Products:** All offers shall be for commodities, supplies, equipment, supplies, and software in current production; meet or exceed commercial and industry standards; and marketed and provided nationally to the general public and/or educational/governmental agencies.
4. **Construction Products and/or Services:** Are associated with building, erecting, altering, repairing, installing or demolishing in the ordinary course of business any: (1) road, highway, bridge, parking area or related project; (2) building, stadium or other structure; (3) airport, subway or similar facility; (4) park, trail, athletic field, golf course or similar facility; (5) dam, reservoir, canal, ditch or similar facility; (6) sewage or water treatment facility, power generating plant, pump station, natural gas compressing station or similar facility; (7) radio, television or other tower; (8) shaft, tunnel or other mining appurtenance; (9) electrical wiring, plumbing or plumbing fixture, gas piping, gas appliances or water conditioners; (10) air conditioning conduit, heating or other similar mechanical work; or similar work, structures or installations; (11) leveling or clearing land; (12) excavating earth; (13) drilling, wells of any type, including seismographic shot holes or core drilling; and similar work, structures or installations.
5. **Services:** Are defined as the furnishing of labor, time, or effort by a Vendor Partner not involving the delivery of a specific tangible product other than reports and other materials which are merely incidental to the required performance.
6. **Professional Services:** Services relating to architects, archeologists, engineers, surveyors, landscape architects, medical arts practitioners, scientists, management and systems analysts, certified public accountants, registered public accountants, lawyers, psychologists, planners, researchers, educational specialist, construction managers and other persons or businesses providing similar professional services, which may be designated as part of this solicitation.
7. **Peripheral & Optional Items:** Respondents can include various peripheral products, equipment, accessories, services, deliverables, and related items that are associated with and function with the primary offering. Optional equipment or products may be added to the contract during the term of the contract. AEPA reserves the right to accept or reject such offerings under the following conditions: the enhancement is recommended by AEPA and approved by the Member Agency; the option is priced at a discount similar to other options; and the option is an enhancement to the unit.
8. **Descriptive Literature and Brand Names:** All offers are to include a complete set of the manufacturer's descriptive literature regarding the commodities, supplies, materials, equipment, and software offered. Brand names, trade names, and/or catalog numbers used in the solicitation will be intended to describe and identify the type, level, and quality of products, equipment, and software being requested.
9. **Discontinued Products:** If a product or model is discontinued by the manufacturer, Vendor Partner may substitute a new product or model if the replacement product meets or exceeds the specifications and performance of the discontinued model and if the discount is the same or greater than the discontinued model.
10. **Product Specifications:** This solicitation is designed to enable a Respondent to satisfy a requirement for a commodity, supply, material, equipment, software, process, or service. A specification may be expressed as a standard, a part of a standard, or independent of a standard; by specifying a manufacturer's brand and model. No specification is intended to unnecessarily limit competition by eliminating items capable of satisfactorily and/or meeting the actual needs of the procurement. When a brand name product is specified and is only available for a single

source, Respondents are encouraged to offer alternative products that they believe to adhere to and comply materially, functionally, and operationally equal to or better than the brand name product specified. **Any Respondent believing a specification is unnecessarily restrictive, shall indicate such in the form of a question during the solicitation process and prior to solicitation due date.** The fact that a manufacturer or supplier chooses not to produce or supply the commodity, supply, material, equipment, software, or services to meet these specifications will not be considered sufficient cause to adjudge these specifications as restrictive. If the Respondent deviates from these specifications, reasons must be stated for such deviation and state why, in their opinion, the commodity, supply, material, equipment, software, or services they bid will render equivalent reliability, coverage, performance, and/or service. Failure to detail all such deviations may comprise sufficient grounds for rejection of the entire offer.

11. **Quality:** Unless otherwise modified elsewhere in this solicitation, Vendor Partner warrants the commodities, supplies, materials, equipment, and services delivered as stipulated in the Buyer's purchase order/contract, shall be: of quality to pass without objection in the industry and professional standards normally associated with them; fit for the intended purpose(s) for which they are used; of even kind, quantity and quality within each unit and among all units, within the variations permitted by the contract; adequately offered, presented, delivered, accomplished and complete as the contract may require; and conform to the written promises and/or oral affirmations of fact made by Vendor Partner.

Product Information, Catalogs, and Price Lists: Respondents shall include an electronic copy of the latest edition of the commercially available catalog and price lists that the discount will be applied to with the response. Throughout the term of the contract, Vendor Partner(s) shall furnish all AEPA Member Agencies and their Participating Entities with copies of approved commercially available catalogs and price lists in the format desired (electronic, paper, online shopping cart, etc.).

Progress Payments: Progress payments are allowed on purchases for goods and services under the following conditions: The Buyer and the Vendor Partner agree to the terms of the progress payments prior to issuing a purchase order; the purchase order describes the amounts to be paid and the date of payment; the Buyer has a satisfactory method of verifying progress described in writing in a letter or on the purchase order; that payments will only be made when actual goods and/or services are verified/received; and that any such payments be made in full compliance of Buyer's local board rules and any and all other applicable state rules and regulations.

Protests: Under this public procurement and AEPA's Solicitation, any Respondent who is aggrieved in connection with this procurement, can file a protest in accordance with (1) AEPA's Solicitation Document; (2) AEPA's Policies and Procedures; and (3) AEPA Member Agency's State Procurement Code and Board Policies. Venue for any and all legal actions regarding or arising out of the transactions covered herein shall be solely in the court of jurisdiction located in the state and county of the AEPA Member Agency and will govern any resulting transactions.

1. **Procurement Phases:** AEPA's solicitation process is broken down into three (3) phases. Any Respondent who is aggrieved in connection with any of the three (3) procurement/solicitation phases listed below and/or any functions or activities associated with each shall file their protest with the AEPA representative indicated below.
 - a. **Solicitation Due Date:** The preparation and contents of the solicitation, its terms, conditions, and specifications, the notification, distribution of solicitation documents and addendums (date published through the solicitation due date and time).
 - b. **AEPA Approval:** The receiving, opening, recording, evaluating, recommending, and approving Respondents to be considered for AEPA approval and/or actions relating to contract renewal and extension. (Date received and opened through the date of individual contract award and future renewals).
 - c. **Contract Award:** The awarding, implementing, and administering of resulting contracts and the disclosure of confidential data. (Date individual contracts awarded by AEPA Member Agencies or 120 days from AEPA approval).

2. **Protest contents:** Protests shall be in writing and must be filed with the appropriate AEPA represented below. A protest must include:
 - a. The name, address and telephone number of the protester;
 - b. The original signature of the protester or its representative;
 - c. Identification of the procurement function and/or contract activity with the solicitation or the contract number;
 - d. A detailed statement of the factual grounds or legal basis for the protest;
 - e. Supporting exhibits, evidence or documents to substantiate any claim unless not available within the filing time, in which case, the expected availability date shall be indicated; and
 - f. The form of relief requested.
3. **Protest Submittal:** Protester shall submit the solicitation protest in accordance with the requirements of the above three (3) procurement functions immediately or within ten (10) days of the date the protester knows or should have known the basis of the protest per the following:
 - a. Solicitation Due Date: Knows or should have known the basis of the protest upon the solicitation due date or ten (10) days after the due date, send a protest to Solicitation Question Coordinator (bid-committee@aepacoop.org).
 - a. AEPA Approval: Knows or should have known the basis of the protest upon notification from AEPA of the solicitation category approval, send a protest to AEPA President (protests@aepacoop.org).
 - b. Contract Award: Knows or should have known the basis of the protest or ten days after the notification from the AEPA Member Agency award, send a protest to Individual AEPA Member Agency; see AEPA Member Agency information sheet.
4. **Protest Resolution:** Protest shall be resolved, in accordance with AEPA's Board Policies, Procedures and/or the appropriate state statutes where the AEPA Member resides. AEPA intends that all solicitation protest decisions from the point a solicitation has been published through contract approval or rejection will be resolved by AEPA. Protests concerning contract award by AEPA Member Agencies will be resolved by the respective AEPA Member Agency.
5. **Protest Costs:** The losing party to the protest shall be responsible for the reasonable and justifiable costs of the protest. The protest costs shall be based on the costs and expenses incurred by the AEPA and its Member Agencies, including but not limited to staff salaries, attorneys' fees, hearing, reproduction, transcription, and travel costs.

Provisions Required by Law: By submitting a response to this solicitation, Respondents are acknowledging they have conducted and performed the required research to make themselves aware and knowledgeable of all federal, state and local laws/statutes that are referenced herein, may pertain to and/or govern the procurement activities and transactions covered by this solicitation. These provisions of law and any clause required by law that is associated with and relates to this solicitation and any resulting contract will be read and enforced as though it were included herein.

Public Purchase: An easy-to-use platform that provides Respondents with the automatic notification of open solicitations, automatic notification of answered questions and issued addenda, and a way to electronically submit an organization's solicitation response. All changes, updates, uploads, and downloads are time-stamped and logged as part of the solicitation process.

Public Record: All offers submitted to this invitation shall become the property of the AEPA and will become a matter of public record, available for review, subsequent to the solicitation due date. Offers may be viewed, by appointment only, at the Oakland Schools, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48329, under the supervision of the AEPA Executive Director or his designee, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Within fifteen days, the Solicitation Receipt Summary Report will be posted to the AEPA website (www.aepacoop.org).

Questions: Inquiries and questions related to this solicitation, must be submitted online in Public Purchase per solicitation and be submitted as follows:

1. From the time the solicitation is published until the deadline for questions for Respondents, questions should be submitted online via Public Purchase.

2. Questions regarding this solicitation after Opening, but before the approval of the contract, should be submitted to questions@aepacoop.org.
3. Questions regarding this solicitation after Notification of Approval should be submitted to bid-committee@aepacoop.org.
4. Once a contract has been awarded by an individual AEPA Member Agency any inquiries and questions relating to contract implementation, execution, transactions, and/or concerns/issues occurring within that state should be addressed to the individual AEPA Member Agency.

Reporting: Vendor Partners are required to submit quarterly detailed sales reports to all AEPA Member Agencies. Access to reports will be granted after contract approval. If there are no sales, \$0 reports are required.

Right to Assurance: Whenever one party to this contract in good faith has reason to question the other party's intent to perform, he/she may demand that the other party give written assurance of this intent to perform. In the event that a demand is made, and no written assurance is given within ten (10) days, the demanding party may treat this failure as an anticipatory repudiation of the contract.

Right to Request Additional Information: AEPA, and its respective representatives, reserves the right to request any additional information during the procurement process that might be deemed necessary to better understand the submitted solicitation response including, but not limited to, clarifying questions. Respondents may be requested to submit such answers in writing but will not be allowed to change or alter their offer.

Safety Measures: Vendor Partners shall take all necessary precautions for the safety of employees on the worksite, and shall erect and properly maintain at all times, as required by job conditions and progress of the work, all necessary safeguards for the protection of the workers and public. They shall post danger-warning signs against the hazards created by their operation and work in progress. Proper precautions shall be taken pursuant to state law and standard construction practices in order to protect workers, the general public, and existing structures from injury or damage.

Safety Standards: All items supplied on this contract shall comply with the current applicable Occupational Safety and Health Standards, the National Electric Code, and the National Fire Protection Association Standards.

Severability: The provisions of this contract are severable to the extent that any provision or application held to be invalid shall not affect any other provision or application of the contract that may remain in effect without the invalid provision or application.

Substance Use & Conduct: All Vendor Partners and Subcontractors must adhere to the local substance (alcohol, drug, smoking, etc.) and conduct (dress code, language, parking, etc.) policies while on AEPA Member Agencies and Participating Entities premises.

State Agency: means any department, commission, council, board, committee, institution, legislative body, agency, government corporation, educational institution, or official of the executive, the legislative or judicial branch of the government of this state.

Survival: All applicable software license agreements, warranties, or service agreements that were entered into between Vendor Partner and Buyer under the terms and conditions of the Contract shall survive the expiration or termination of the Contract. All purchase orders issued and accepted by Vendor Partner shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract.

Tare: If the Vendor Partner requires the Buyer to pay for shipping, the weight of the empty container and any material used for packing shall be of the lightest weight practical for safe delivery of the contents.

Taxes: Different jurisdictions taxing authorities have different tax laws, rules, regulations, and processes, therefore, prices offered will not include applicable federal, state, and local taxes. All applicable taxes must be listed as a separate item on all cost proposals, invoices.

Term of Contract and Extensions: The initial term of the contract shall be for up to fifteen (15) months and will commence on the date as indicated by each Participating Member Agency on the Acceptance of Solicitation and Contract Award (Form B). The contract shall continue in accordance with the dates stipulated in the solicitation and Timeline schedule located in Part A of this solicitation unless terminated, canceled, or extended. By mutual written agreement, the contract may be extended for three additional 12-month periods, ending on the last day of February. AEPA may choose to recommend the contract extension. If so recommended, an individual Member Agency may choose, at their sole discretion, to extend the contract. In the event AEPA does not recommend or approve a contract extension, a Member Agency reserves the right to offer month-by-month extensions not to exceed six (6) months until a new contract is awarded by that Member Agency.

Termination by Non-Approval of AEPA: AEPA Member Agencies on annual basis assess, evaluate and review existing AEPA vendors to determine if the organization as a whole desire to extend its approval of those vendors. If an existing AEPA vendor's approval is not extended for an additional term, the AEPA Member Agencies can not extend the dis-approved vendor's contract. (See Term of Contract and Extensions)

Termination by AEPA Member Agency: An AEPA Member Agency may cancel any contract secured by the solicitation without any further obligation if any person significantly involved in initiating, negotiating, securing, drafting, or creating the contract on behalf of the AEPA Member Agency is or becomes, at any time while the contract or any extensions of the contract is in effect, an employee of, or a consultant to any other party to this contract with respect to the subject matter of the contract. Such cancellation shall be effective when the parties to this contract receive written notice from the AEPA Member Agency unless the notice specifies a later time. Cancellation by one AEPA Member Agency does not require other Agencies to cancel their contracts.

Termination for Convenience: AEPA Member Agency reserves the right to immediately terminate this contract, without penalty or recourse, in whole or in part, if the AEPA Member Agency determines that termination is in the best interest of Participating Entities. The Vendor Partner, after receipt of a "Notice of Termination," shall not accept any new orders after the termination date specified in the notice. Any termination shall not affect projects that are in progress at the time the cancellation is received by the AEPA Member Agency. Vendor Partner shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation in accordance with applicable contract pricing for work in progress, work completed, and materials accepted before the effective date of the cancellation. The Vendor Partner will not be reimbursed for any anticipated profit. The AEPA Member Agency reserves the right to cancel, or suspend the use thereof, any contract resulting from this SOLICITATION if the Vendor Partner files for bankruptcy protection or is acquired by an independent third party. Vendor Partner may cancel this contract upon written notice to the AEPA Member Agency prior to the intended termination date (or on the yearly anniversary of the solicitation). Any termination shall not affect projects that are in progress at the time the cancellation is received by the AEPA Member Agency.

Termination for Default: If either party is in default under this contract, it shall have an opportunity to cure the default within the time indicated (ten business days in most states) after it is given written notice of default by the other party, specifying the nature of the default. Upon receipt of the notice of default, the defaulting party shall have ten business days to provide a satisfactory response to the AEPA Member Agency. Failure on the part of the defaulting party to adequately address all issues of concern may result in contract termination. If the default is not cured within the time specified in the notice of default, the non-defaulting party shall have the right, in addition to all other remedies at law or equity, to immediately terminate this contract. Failure to complain of any action, non-action or default under this Agreement shall not constitute

a waiver of any of the parties' rights hereunder. The AEPA Member Agency reserves the right to terminate this contract, or any part hereof, for cause in the event of any default by the Vendor Partner, or if the Vendor Partner fails to comply with any contract terms and conditions, or fails to provide the AEPA Member Agency, upon request, with adequate assurances of future performance. In the event of termination for cause, the AEPA Member Agency shall not be liable to the Vendor Partner for any amount for supplies or services not accepted, and the Vendor Partner shall be liable to the AEPA Member Agency or any Participating Entity for any and all rights and remedies provided by law. If it is determined that the AEPA Member Agency improperly terminated this contract for default, such termination shall be deemed a termination for convenience. The AEPA Member Agency will issue written notice to the Vendor Partner for acting or failing to act in any of the following:

1. The Vendor Partner provides material that does not meet the specifications of the contract;
2. The Vendor Partner fails to adequately perform the services set forth in the specifications of the contract;
3. The Vendor Partner fails to complete the work required or to furnish the materials required within a reasonable amount of time;
4. The Vendor Partner fails to make progress in the performance of the contract and/or gives the AEPA Member Agency reason to believe that the Vendor Partner will not or cannot perform to the requirements of the contract;
2. The Vendor Partner fails to extend lower pricing that has been offered to another customer or cooperative that have equal or lesser volume.
3. The Vendor Partner fails to observe any of the terms and conditions of the contract;
4. The Vendor Partner fails to follow the established procedure for purchase orders, invoices, and receipt of funds as stipulated by the AEPA Member Agency.

Termination for Non-Appropriation: Any individual Buyer's procurement/contract covered by this solicitation and executed in accordance with the resulting contract may be terminated if insufficient appropriations and/or authorizations do not exist due to changes in state or federal law, or because of a court order, or because of insufficient appropriations made available to the Buyer's governing board and/or its State Legislature. Such termination will be effected by sending fifteen (15) days written notice to the Vendor Partner. The Buyer's decision as to whether sufficient appropriations and authorizations are available shall be accepted by the Vendor Partner and shall be final.

Title and Risk of Loss: The title and risk of loss of material or service shall not pass to the Buyer purchasing the material or services until it receives the material or service at the point of delivery unless otherwise provided within this document.

Trade-in Equipment: Equipment for trade-in shall be dismantled by the Vendor Partner and removed at its expense. The conditions of the trade-in equipment at the time it is turned over to the Vendor Partner shall be the same as when the original agreement was made, except as affected by normal wear and tear from use between the time of the solicitation and the trade-in. Values placed on trade-in products are between the Buyer purchasing the new unit and the Vendor Partner.

Type of Solicitation: Due to the various types, kinds and levels of products and services solicited by AEPA in its solicitations; the various pricing methodologies and/or methods utilized and offered to price the various products and services offered; and the type of contracts that results from any one of AEPA's solicitations, AEPA has established the following two (2) types of bids.

1. **Catalog Bid:** A catalog bid is utilized when the products and /or services solicited are clearly identified with set and specific characteristics, attributes, and configurations that are identifiable as a stand-alone single unit and can be listed and priced as a single unit with options that can be added to enhance and/or improve its operation and functionality. The Bidder offers a fixed discount(s) off retail price or prices in a Commercially Available Catalog. The discounts may be for the entire Catalog for specific products, product lines, manufacturers, or category of products as determined by the Bidder. See the Pricing section for detailed information on Catalog pricing.

2. **Line Item Bid:** A Line-item bid is utilized when the products and services solicited cannot be identified or listed as a single unit; consists of a number of different variable and configurations, it is necessary to identify the specific project or application; the end product or solution is made of individually priced elements or components and the end product's or solutions' cost is derived by the Vendor Partner specially prepared and providing a quote based on the project's terms, conditions and requirements. See the Pricing section for detailed information on Line-Item pricing.
3. AEPA also uses Request for Proposal (RFP) for certain service/goods categories in accordance with AEPA bylaws and procedures.

Vendor Partner: Respondent who has been approved and awarded a contract for the delivery of construction, tangible personal property, supplies, or services in response to this solicitation.

Vendor Partner Contact: Vendor Partner will designate one individual who will represent them to the AEPA, its AEPA Member Agencies during the contract period. This contact person will correspond with each AEPA Member Agency for technical assistance, problems, or questions that may arise. If other staff, distributors and/or independent Vendor Partners will be performing the sales or support functions for different geographical areas (states), Vendor Partner shall include instructions and contact information that can be distributed to AEPA Member Agencies upon approval of this bid.

Warranty: Vendor Partner warrants that all commodities, supplies, materials, equipment, software, and service delivered under this contract shall conform to the specifications of this contract. All items should carry a warranty equal to the intended life cycle or a minimum 12-month manufacturer's warranty that includes parts and labor unless otherwise specified and agreed to. The manufacturer has the primary responsibility to honor a manufacturer's warranty; a distributor or dealer agrees to assist the purchaser to reach a solution in a dispute with the manufacturer over a warranty's terms. Any extended manufacturer's warranty will be passed on to the Buyer. For example, if a voice board has a three-year warranty, but the board is in a turnkey system that has a one-year warranty, the voice board's three-year warranty must be honored by the manufacturer and the Vendor Partner. All extended warranties must be passed on, without exception. If upon discovery, the Vendor Partner charges a Buyer for a replacement part that the Vendor Partner actually received at no cost under a warranty, the Vendor Partner will rebate the amount billed and the Buyer reserves the right to cancel the contract.