



State of Alabama
Department of
Examiners of Public Accounts

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Chief Examiner

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**This has been revised by a
memorandum dated June 13, 2016**

Location:
Gordon Persons Building
50 North Ripley Street, Room 3201
Montgomery, AL 36104-3833

October 19, 2015

Alabama City and County Boards of Education

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 16-13B-2, we have reviewed the competitive bidding process used by E&I Cooperative Services ("E&I"), a national purchasing cooperative, and their participating awarding authorities for the contracts awarded as of the date of this letter. We noted no matters we felt were contrary to proper purchasing procedures or routine governmental procurement practices. These contracts were awarded by various governmental entities, based on competitive bid requirements of their respective local governments.

Based on our review, we approve the competitive bidding process used by E&I through November 30, 2017, for the purchase of goods.

The *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 16-13B-2 only authorizes the purchases of goods utilizing purchasing cooperatives when certain conditions are met. However, it **does not** authorize purchases of services. Therefore, you are not authorized to use this purchasing cooperative for the purchase of services.

Prior to utilizing this purchasing cooperative, you must ensure your entity's compliance with the Alabama Competitive Bid Law. The *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 16-13B-2, requires that you verify that the goods are not at the time available on the state purchasing program, or that they are available at a price equal to or less than that on the state purchasing program. Additionally, you must verify that the purchase is made through a participating Alabama vendor holding an Alabama business license if such a vendor exists.

Note – This approval does not apply to State Public Four-Year Universities within the State of Alabama, Alabama Municipalities, Alabama County Commissions, Alabama Community College System, or Other Entities subject to the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-16-50.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Jones
CHIEF EXAMINER

RLJ/jh