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Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner

Act 2018-413 provides for certain exceptions to the Alabama Public Works Law. As a result, effective June 1, 2018, air conditioning and heating units and systems may not be purchased from this cooperative until further notice.

October 30, 2019

Alabama Community College System
Alabama County Commissions
Alabama Municipalities
City and County Boards of Education
Other Entities subject to §§ 16-13B-1, et seq. and 41-16-50, et seq., *Ala. Code* 1975

To Whom It May Concern,

In accordance with Sections 16-13B-2(a)(13) and 41-16-51(a)(16), *Ala. Code* 1975, the Department has reviewed the competitive bidding process used by The Interlocal Purchasing System ("TIPS"), a national, governmental purchasing cooperative, for the contracts awarded as of the date of this letter. The Department did not identify any matters that were contrary to proper purchasing procedures or routine governmental procurement practices. Each contract was awarded by a Texas Region Education Service Center pursuant to the competitive bid laws in the State of Texas.

Based on the Department's review, the competitive bid process used by TIPS is approved for use through **December 31, 2020**. This approval authorizes the **purchase** of certain goods or services, other than voice or data wireless communication services, when certain statutory conditions are fulfilled. See Sections 16-13B-2(a)(13) and 41-16-51(a)(16), *Ala. Code* 1975. This approval does **not** apply to State Public Four-Year Universities within the State of Alabama.

Prior to utilizing TIPS, each governmental entity must verify that the goods or services to be purchased are not at the time available on the state purchasing program or are not available at a price equal to or less than that on the state purchase program. *Id.* Further, any such purchases must be made through a participating Alabama vendor holding an Alabama business license if such vendor exist. *Id.*

Should the Department receive notice that TIPS, its awarding authorities, or its awarded vendors are allowing Alabama governmental entities to make unauthorized purchases or other unlawful business transactions, TIPS's competitive bid process approval will subject to immediate revocation by the Department.

If the Department can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Rachel Laurie Riddle
CHIEF EXAMINER

RLR/jcp