

**Policy**

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ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING (GREEN PURCHASING POLICY)

The board is committed to educating students to be conscientious stewards for their environment. To reinforce this commitment within the school culture the board shall endeavor to:

- A. Institute practices that reduce waste by increasing product efficiency and effectiveness, and
- B. Purchase products that minimize environmental impacts, toxics, pollution, and hazards to workers and the community to the greatest extent practicable, and
- C. Purchase products, when and where possible, that include recycled content, are durable and long-lasting, conserve energy and water, use agricultural fibers and residues, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, use unbleached or chlorine free manufacturing processes, are lead-free and mercury-free, and use wood from sustainably harvested forests (FSC).

Purchasing Objectives

The board shall, within the constraints of the district budget and when cost comparative, financially support facility improvements and purchase products or services that:

- A. Conserve natural resources;
- B. Minimize environmental impacts such as pollution and the use of water and energy;
- C. Eliminate or reduce toxins that create hazards to workers and our community;
- D. Support strong recycling markets;
- E. Reduce materials that are routinely land filled or disposed of;
- F. Increase the use and availability of environmentally preferable products that protect the environment;
- G. Identify environmentally preferable products and associated distribution systems;
- H. Contract with manufacturers and vendors whose practices reduce the environmental impacts of their production and distribution systems or services;
- I. Collect and maintain up-to-date information regarding manufacturers, vendors and other sources for locating/ordering environmentally preferable products;

Through consistent and successful application of environmentally responsible purchasing practices, the board shall strive to become a model that encourages other purchasers in the community to adopt similar goals.

Research and Evaluation of Purchasing Options

Each individual is responsible for seeking and requesting environmentally preferred products.

Board Approval of Purchasing Options

The business administrator in consultation with the superintendent shall recommend, and the board shall approve, only those options that are within the means of the district budget and do not incur undue expenses

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or otherwise impose on district staff or other resources.

Implementation

The business administrator/purchasing agent shall implement this policy in coordination with other appropriate personnel.

Upon request, the board shall provide the reasons for product choices that do not meet the environmentally preferable purchasing criteria in this policy.

Vendors, contractors and grantees shall be encouraged to comply with applicable sections of this policy for products and services provided to the board.

Any products that do not perform adequately for their intended use, exclude adequate competition, or are not available at a reasonable price in a reasonable period of time shall not be considered for purchase.

The board shall purchase products and enter into service agreements or other contracts in strict accordance with policy and law for accountability in business practices. Further, the board shall not knowingly purchase any product or enter into any agreement that conflicts with board, state or federal requirements for the health and safety of the students and school community.

Adopted: 1/2/2024

NJSBA Review/Update: 11/20/2023, 12/11/2023

Readopted:

Key Words

Purchasing Procedures, Green Purchasing, Bio-Based, Conservations, Sustainable

<b><u>Legal References:</u></b>	<u>N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.</u>	Law Against Discrimination
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.S.A. 10:5-31</u>	
	through -35	
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.</u>	Public School Contracts Law
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1 et seq.</u>	Expenditure of Funds; Audit and Payment of Claims
	<u>N.J.S.A. 52:32-44</u>	Business registration for providers of goods and services (definitions)
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.8</u>	Equity in employment and contract practices
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2</u>	Definitions
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.5</u>	Supplies and equipment
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-20.4</u>	Ownership and storage of textbooks
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-21.1 et seq.</u>	Management of Public School Contracts
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:27-9.1 et seq.</u>	Contracting for Transportation Services
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts

20 U.S.C.A. 1681 et seq. - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

42 U.S.C.A. 2000e et seq. - Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunities Act of 1972

29 U.S.C.A. 794 et seq. - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

**Possible**

<b><u>Cross References:</u></b>	*2224	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
	3300	Expenditures/expending authority
	*3320	Purchasing procedures

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- \*3326 Payment for goods and services
- \*3327 Relations with vendors
- \*3570 District records and reports
- 3571 Financial reports

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.