

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Procurement Directors

FROM: Jeff Molloy
Director of Procurement

DATE: June 30, 2026

RE: Interlocal Cooperative Purchasing Pilot Program – Application to Participate

Program Overview

Subject to final passage of the FY2026-27 General Appropriations Act (H.5126), Proviso 1.121 would establish a one-year pilot, effective July 1, 2026, through which the South Carolina Department of Education will extend interlocal cooperative purchasing to ten PK-12 school districts. The proviso language is included in the versions passed by both the House and the Senate and is currently before the budget conference committee. While final adoption remains pending, we view inclusion in the ratified budget as highly likely and are issuing this notice now so that interested districts have time to prepare.

If enacted as drafted, selected districts will be able to procure goods and services through existing cooperative contracts advertised on South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO), the same mechanism currently available to local governmental entities, rather than conducting separate solicitations.

The pilot focuses on "*maintenance, operations, component replacement, restoration or repairs of existing facilities and grounds in addition to other supplies, services, and technology.*" It concludes with a report to state leadership by June 30, 2027, summarizing outcomes related to procurement efficiency and administrative savings. Participating districts will be asked to contribute data and feedback to inform that report.

How to Apply

Because the application window is short once the new fiscal year begins, we are opening applications now on a conditional basis. Applications are due July 24, 2026. If Proviso 1.121 is enacted substantially as drafted, selected districts will be notified by July 31, 2026. Selection will prioritize geographic and size diversity, as well as readiness and anticipated procurement volume. If the proviso is not adopted in the final budget, or if the conference report materially changes the program parameters, we will notify all applicants and adjust the process accordingly.

To apply: [SCDE Interlocal Cooperative Purchasing Pilot – District Application](#)

Questions: Contact Jeff Molloy, Director of Procurement at jamolloy@ed.sc.gov.

Proviso 1.121

1.121. (SDE: Interlocal Cooperative Purchasing Pilot Program) (A) For the current fiscal year, the Department of Education may pilot test an interlocal cooperative purchasing method at the request and on behalf of the state's PK-12 school districts by entering into contracts to allow selected participants the option to choose the same procurement method currently afforded to South Carolina local governmental entities by allowing cooperative contract holders the ability to advertise on South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO).

(B) The pilot program shall support ten diverse PK-12 school districts in order to obtain materials, labor, and services used for maintenance, operations, component replacement, restoration or repairs of existing facilities and grounds in addition to other supplies, services, and technology related procurement.

(C) A report detailing the pilot program's success related to expediting procurement and reducing the administrative cost and resource burden of acquisition and utilization of local contractors shall be provided to the Governor, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Superintendent of Education by June 30, 2027.