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ACES INSIGHTS FEBRUARY 2026

Note from Executive Director, Christy Takacs

We are wrapping up our RFP for Dual Language Program Supports and anticipate sending an e-blast next week announcing our contract awardees—so stay tuned!

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we will soon be re-soliciting the following contracts:

- Bulk Food
- SPED Support Services
- On-Call Preventative Maintenance (including HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and refrigeration)
- Energy, Security, and Life Safety Systems

If there are vendors you would like us to notify about these upcoming opportunities, please let us know so we can ensure they receive the information.

As you prepare your budgets and evaluate services and products for the upcoming year, please keep ACES in mind. We are here to support you every step of the way.



Employment Services Program

As we move into the spring season and begin planning for the upcoming school year, I want to remind you that ACES offers an Employment Services Program designed to help schools recruit top talent. Our Program Manager, Sharon Myers, partners with school leaders to post positions across multiple platforms to generate a broad and qualified applicant pool.

Participants in the Employment Services Program receive:

- Secure portal access with unique login credentials to review applicants
- The ability to browse and contact all candidates listed in the portal
- Pre-screened resumes, reviewed by Sharon and forwarded directly to you
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If you would like more information about the Employment Services Program, please contact Sharon at jobs@nmaces.org.

PROCUREMENT CORNER

E-PROCUREMENT UPDATE

ACES has just recently switched e-procurement systems and has moved over to using Beacon Bids to post and manage solicitations, contracts and suppliers. We feel this system is easy to use, provides great tools and aligns well with ACES mission of supporting both vendors and agencies. We are excited about this change as we continue to grow!

Benefits for ACES suppliers/contractors and those interested in doing business with ACES include that registration is 100% FREE of charge and provides notification for matching solicitations, access to documents, and alerts. It also provides a more seamless experience, with viewing and downloading open solicitations able to be done directly from the [ACES website](#).

For agencies who may not be familiar with the benefits of E-Procurement Platforms

E-procurement tools offer several universal advantages:

- **Improved Transparency and Audit Readiness:** Digital records create a clear trail of decisions, communications, and documents.
- **Reduced Administrative Burden:** Automation replaces manual email lists, paper tracking, and repetitive vendor outreach.
- **Broader Vendor Participation:** Online posting and automated notifications expand access to opportunities, especially for small and disadvantaged businesses.
- **Consistent, Compliant Processes:** Templates, workflows, and built-in controls help agencies stay aligned with procurement laws and internal policies.
- **Better Data for Planning:** Reporting tools provide insights into vendor activity, timelines, and procurement trends.

How to Choose the Right E-Procurement Platform:

Every agency's needs are different, but a few criteria can help guide the selection process:

- **Alignment** – Choose a platform that best suits the agency's needs, goals, policies, requirements and mission
- **Ease of Use for Vendors** - A system is only as strong as its vendor participation. Look for intuitive registration, clear navigation, and mobile-friendly access.
- **Cost Structure** - Compare subscription models, vendor fees, and any limits on postings or users. Transparent pricing is essential to best base decisions on.
- **Integration Capabilities** - Consider whether the platform can connect with your finance, contract management, or ERP systems.
- **Support and Training** - Look for responsive customer service, onboarding resources, and training opportunities and resources for staff and vendors.
- **Scalability** - Choose a platform that can grow with your agency's needs—more users, more solicitations, or more complex workflows.

E-procurement isn't just a technology upgrade, it's a strategic investment in transparency, efficiency, and community engagement, making it easier for agencies to modernize their processes while supporting local vendors and strengthening public trust.

Why did the procurement officer switch to e-procurement?



Because every time they used paper bids... the competition got shredded.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH COMMUNICATION

At NMACES, we value the relationships we've built with our schools and vendors. These partnerships are essential to ensuring high-quality service and support for students and staff across our network.

We understand that, at times, challenges may arise—whether it's a vendor not meeting expectations or a school environment presenting unforeseen obstacles. What's most important is how we respond. We encourage open, timely communication from both our schools and vendors when things aren't going as planned. The sooner we're aware of concerns, the sooner we can work together to resolve them constructively and effectively.

Please know that we are here to help! Whether it's through mediation, clarification of expectations, or additional support, our role is to facilitate solutions and maintain strong, productive partnerships. **If something isn't working, don't wait—reach out.** We're committed to supporting success on both sides of every agreement.



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