



State of Alabama  
Department of  
**Examiners of Public Accounts**

Telephone (334) 242-9200  
FAX (334) 242-1775

**Ronald L. Jones**  
Chief Examiner

*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 302251  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2251

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

August 8, 2012

To: Alabama City and County Boards of Education

The Alabama Legislature passed Act No. 2012-557 (the (“Act”)) allowing local boards of education to purchase items through certain purchasing cooperatives. The provisions of the Act have been codified in the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 16-13B-2. Among other things, the Act provides that the purchases of goods may be made if they are part of any purchasing cooperative sponsored by the National Association of Counties, its successor organization, or any other competitive bid nationwide cooperative purchasing program, or other national or regional governmental cooperative purchasing program. The competitive bid process used by the cooperative must be approved by the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts (“EPA”).

In order to receive this approval, the local board wishing to purchase from one of the cooperatives not already approved and posted on the EPA website should send a letter to EPA requesting approval. The letter should reference the cooperative program and the type of items to be purchased. The EPA will then review the cooperative program’s purchasing procedures and determine whether it is approved. It should be noted that there are other provisions with which the local board wishing to make purchases utilizing a purchasing cooperative should also comply. These additional provisions are contained in the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 16-3B-2.

Note: These provisions do not currently apply to State Public Four-Year Universities.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Jones  
CHIEF EXAMINER

RLJ/SR