

## Appendix J: USETPA Summary

### US Educational Technology Purchasing Alliance

#### Summary

**Mission:**

To aggregate the demand for technology goods/services on behalf of K12 public and private schools, Head Start organizations, libraries, local government entities and all other public agencies and private PreK-12 schools to bargain for lower prices and better terms than most of these entities can achieve on their own and to lessen the time and expense of conducting local bids for good/services.

**Subscriber status:**

USETPA has issued RFPs and awarded convenience/master contracts to multiple vendors for the same service in order to achieve wide geographical coverage and to allow for vendor preference. Subscriber status is open to all eligible schools, libraries and public agencies at no cost. There is no legal obligation on behalf of any Subscriber to the alliance and there is no mandatory requirement on behalf of any Subscriber to use the contracts offered by the Alliance. Initially, bids were conducted in association with numerous professional organizations on behalf of all North Carolina K-12 public and private schools, Head Start organizations, and public libraries. The contracts have since been expanded to include local government agencies and used in 25 separate states. This RFP is specifically targeted to expanding the number of qualified vendors in additional sales territories as well as provide terms and conditions that comply with additional state purchasing laws.

When using USETPA contracts, (optional), Subscribers/Members will not have to conduct their own bids for goods/services and will not have to file their own E-Rate Form 470's. This will save them considerable time and insure local boards that all proper bidding requirements have been met, including the best possible pricing for goods/services. Non-Subscriber entities are eligible to use the contract and be in compliance with the terms and conditions of the convenience contract providing that the sale is registered with the USETPA on the USETPA website and copies of all purchase orders are remitted to the USETPA. Only formal Subscribers/Members may use the USETPA Form 470 for E-Rate purposes.



USETPA RFP Number:

**Products:**

USETPA issues bids on behalf of its Subscribers for a comprehensive array of technology goods/services that include both E-Rate eligible and non-eligible goods/services.

The items covered include telephone, cellular, internet access, wide area network, hosted email, web hosting, and hosted VoIP telephone recurring services as well as equipment including computers, servers, switches, wireless and wired local area networks, cabling/wiring, tablets, and maintenance.

Individual RFP(s) have been issued to cover a broad category of products. Vendors are encouraged to respond to all or parts of each RFP. USETPA expects demand to be in excess of \$10,000,000 for most categories. Additional goods/services will be added as Subscriber status identifies new products for which they would like to receive bids. Future RFPs are planned for other goods and services including Office Supplies and Furniture.

To be apprised of future opportunities and receive RFP notifications, vendors are encouraged to register at [www.usetpa.org](http://www.usetpa.org).