

160-5-3-.01 PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES.

(1) REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Local school systems shall ensure that any school bus body and chassis purchased and/or used for the purpose of transporting public school students of Georgia to and from school conforms to the current Georgia School Bus Specifications, available from the department.

(b) In the purchase of school bus bodies and chassis local school systems shall:

1. Invite at least three bus chassis vendors who represent at least two manufacturers to bid on bus chassis.

2. Invite at least three bus body vendors to bid on bus body.

3. Open all submitted bids in public. These bids shall be treated as public records, preserved for at least six years and shall be available to the public for inspection. The results of the bid shall be filed with the Georgia Department of Education on forms provided by the department.

4. Accept the low bid unless the local board of education determines that the lowest bid should be rejected and another bid accepted based on past experience with the bidding vendors concerning delivery, maintenance and/or cost of delivery.

(i) The minutes of the local board meeting at which a bid other than the lowest bid is accepted shall reflect, in detail, the reason(s) for not accepting the lowest bid.

(c) Waivers.

1. When there is only one vendor for a product to be purchased under these rules, the purchase may be negotiated and no bid need be solicited. In the event only one vendor and one manufacturer are available or in the event fewer vendors are available than required by these regulations, the minutes of the meeting at which the local board approves the purchase shall reflect this.

Authority O.C.G.A. § 20-2-188; 40-8-112; 40-8-113.

Adopted: May 9, 1996

Effective: June 5, 1996