



Personal Protective Equipment and Supply Vendors for 20/21 School Year

Over the past several weeks, the work that Idaho school districts and charter schools have performed under the strangest of conditions has been nothing less than heroic. The agility and effort have been monumental, and I'm proud to be associated with a group of Board members, superintendents, business managers, clerks, and educators that have shown such extraordinary ingenuity. As we have somewhat worked out the basic details of remote learning and realize that any summer school will also likely be remote, we are all rightfully looking toward the fall semester and what that will look like. As we look to close out this very challenging 19/20 school year, 20/21 is right in front of us.

We are working with the Governor's Office and other education stakeholders to look at the operational needs for school districts and charters. That committee and the work they will do is still in the very beginning stages. In the meantime, the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) is looking at the potential need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies for the upcoming school year. We know the need for these products will be enormous and the ability of the supply chain to meet a need that is, at the moment, unpredictable. We know the supply chains are currently sporadic but will get better as we move forward. I would encourage every district to think about procurement of these items sooner rather than later.

In an effort to assist you with these purchases, I wanted to remind you that ISBA partners with the [BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative](#). BuyBoard has 75 different numerous contracts available for members to use. Some of those include contracts for PPE products. I have attached three (3) documents that will assist you with purchasing your PPE products:

- The BuyBoard Online Membership Instructions.
 - In order to purchase products from BuyBoard approved vendors, you must be a member. This document will assist you in signing on with BuyBoard.

- A PPE supply list.
 - These are the items you will most likely need to purchase for next year.
- A list of PPE vendors that BuyBoard has under contract and the products they provide.
 - Please note there are several tabs at the bottom of the document, one for each vendor.
 - Once you become member (or if you already are a member), you can make purchases under any of these contracts.
 - I think it is important to note that all of these contracts have already been competitively bid so the requirement for you to do so has already been met.
 - Finally, in most cases, the published costs can be negotiated. I would encourage you to contact the vendor and attempt to negotiate prices just like you would with any other vendor.

If you have any questions, please contact Morgan Garcia in our office at morgan@idsba.org, or you can contact David Ricketts from BuyBoard at David.Ricketts@buyboard.com.

It doesn't have to be mentioned, but the last few months have been pure stress. I strongly encourage each leader to build in some time for personal relaxation and regeneration. You can't lead an organization if you are weakened or distracted. Please take care of yourself as so many others are depending on your leadership going forward.

Until we meet again in person, please be well and take care.

Karen

Links:

BuyBoard Online Membership Instructions

COVID Vendor Supply Data

PPE Supply List

